



Death Perception

Lee Allen Howard

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Nineteen-year-old Kennet Singleton lives with his invalid mother in a personal care facility, but he wants out. He operates the crematory at the local funeral home, where he discovers he can discern the cause of death of those he cremates—by toasting marshmallows over their ashes.

He thinks his ability is no big deal since his customers are already dead. But when his perception differs from what's on the death certificate, he finds himself in the midst of murderers. To save the residents and avenge the dead, Kennet must bring the killers to justice.

Death Perception Details

Date : Published May 15th 2013 by Three First Names (first published May 4th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Lee Allen Howard

Format : Paperback 310 pages

Genre : Horror



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Ron says

This is the first novel I've read by Howard, but it won't be the last. As a fan of creepy fun and metaphysical possibilities, I applaud Death Perception as a stunner work of fiction. Kennet is a fully realized protagonist, who reminds me of Koontz's Odd Thomas and any number of Coen Brothers movie characters. I laughed, felt the suspense of the next unpredictable plot element, and I even squirmed a bit. There's truly something creepy and cool about a crematorium worker who roasts marshmallows. You'll have a lot of fun with this read.

Carla Anderton says

This was my first exposure to Lee Allen Howard's work and I was definitely impressed. It is a rare book that has me so riveted I finish it in two sittings, but "Death Perception" dazzled me. This combination of pure, unadulterated horror, sprinkled with humor and heavy on human emotion was a delight to read from start to finish. The prose was tight and engaging, the descriptions appropriately vivid, and the characters were certainly memorable. I'll be reading more from this author in the near future.

Meg Mims says

I've read a few of Lee Allen Howard's other books, and I believe this is his best. They're all gritty, realistic and chilling -- not in a blood-and-guts way (although some details in Death Perception do spill out), but what I loved is Howard's more-than-heroic hero. Kennet Singleton has had a rough life, and things just get worse due to some creepy people in the town - his greedy funeral director boss, the cold-hearted owner of the home care place where Kennet's mother lives, and the half-stoned orderly who targets Kennet whenever possible. Howard does a masterful job peeling the layers in this deeply moving novel, revealing Kennet's unusual gift of perception, plus the evil surrounding him. I cheered for Kennet every step of the way. A great, satisfying read.

Jennifer says

I've always enjoyed a good underdog story and Lee Allen Howard delivers just that with Death Perception. Our protagonist, Kennet, has had a hard life so why shouldn't he enjoy some of the sweeter things? His boss may not like him roasting marshmallows on the job at the crematory but the dead don't seem to mind. In fact, Kennet isn't your average teen and that momentary pleasure brings him more than just a sugar rush. He soon finds he's able to make contact with the deceased, giving him knowledge no one else is aware of. Part ghost story and part murder mystery Howard's clean prose and spot-on timing make for a compelling read. The story is told with compassion for the less fortunate and insight into the way the world often torments the weak. But it also contains some truly laugh-out-loud scenes at the expense of the evil-doers and the ultimate triumph of the underdog. If you enjoy ghosts, revenge tales and mysteries this book is for you.

M.L. Roos says

Lee Allen Howard is quickly becoming a huge favourite of mine. He crafts his characters so well and gives them depth, flaws and realism that you expect from a much more seasoned writer.

DEATH PERCEPTION is a well thought out story about Kennet, a troubled, yet gentle young man who lives in a nursing home with his elderly mother. He has a job in a crematorium working for a profit-driven, moral-less boss, but Kennet does his job with dignity, and provides a graceful ending for all the people he deals with, regardless of cost.

Then, people start dying in the home where Kennet lives....and the death certificate doesn't quite match up with what Kennet sees, as the cause of death. Kennet's gift is to see how people die, and therein lies the problem.

DEATH PERCEOTION is smart, funny, engaging, and endearing. A true work of art. I love this book and I hope there will be many more Kennet stories.

Stephanie Wytovich says

Howard's approach to dark fiction combines horror and humor in a way that is both terrifying and light.

Death Perception was a fast-paced, entertaining read by an author who knows his way around nightmares and is no stranger to putting them on the page. This was a fascinating read with a plot unlike anything else that I've read, and I will never look at or eat another marshmallow the same way again. I hope to see more of Kennet Singleton's character in the future!

Trent Zelazny says

I love everything I've read by Howard, and Death Perception is unquestionably my favorite. Kennet Singleton is a fascinating character with a very unique talent, a young kid with a rough past who simply can't seem to catch a break. Then his talent is contradicted, and the story, as well as Kennet, alters and spins into completely new territory.

One part drama, one part horror, one part mystery and one part coming of age, Death Perception simply rocks. Howard is--always is--so good with character, and the story is filled with unexpected twists and turns, both frightening and tender. I'd recommend anything by Lee Allen Howard, but as an author myself, Death Perception truly made me envious. He's someone to admire, and every book of his is worth reading. This one, above all, however, I can't recommend enough.

Kristin says

Lee Allen Howard's DEATH PERCEPTION is at times wacky and at times sweet. It follows the story of Kennet (someone left off the "h" in the hospital when he was born), a 19 year old working in a crematorium who enjoys toasting marshmallows. Over the ashes of the dead. Not only are they delicious, but he can see how the people died. At first Kennet thinks this is a kind of lame talent, but when his death perceptions don't

match with the cause of death, he realizes there's something fishy going on. Howard gives Kennet a fun (for us, not so much for Kennet) cast of villains to vie against. He writes with a delightfully dark sense of humor which played nicely off the morbid subject matter, reminiscent of Jeff Strand's work. DEATH PERCEPTION is a quick, fun read which made me really want to toast some marshmallows.

Amanda Tanay says

From the moment I started reading Death Perception I was immediately intrigued by the main character and his supernatural adventure. It is sometimes difficult to find a novel that you can't put down, but Death Perception achieves this with terrific characters, great imagery, and a tone that makes you want to keep going until the end. Kennet is the type of character that is likable and makes you want to see him thrive. I would absolutely recommend this novel to anyone interested in supernatural thrillers.
