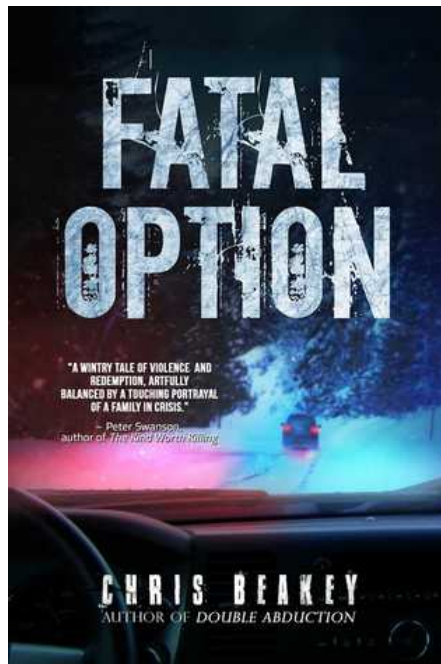




Fatal Option

Chris Beakey

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"A WINTRY TALE OF VIOLENCE AND REDEMPTION, ARTFULLY BALANCED BY A TOUCHING PORTRAYAL OF A FAMILY IN CRISIS" - Peter Swanson, author of *THE KIND WORTH KILLING*

On the coldest night of the year, Stephen Porter is pulled from a restless sleep by a midnight phone call. His 17-year-old daughter Sara is stranded in a blizzard near the top of a mountain beyond their suburban home. She's terrified and unable to stop crying as she begs him to come to her rescue.

Unfortunately Stephen went to bed just an hour before after a night of binge drinking. With his blurred vision and unsteady balance he knows it's dangerously irresponsible to get behind the wheel. But he heads out into the snowstorm to bring Sara home.

High school teacher Kieran O'Shea is also behind the wheel, searching for his autistic younger brother Aidan, who is wandering aimlessly through the storm on that same mountain. Kieran is also terrified—of the voices in his mind, of the possibility that Aidan will be taken from him, and of the certainty that he will soon be arrested for murdering three women.

In a matter of minutes Stephen will encounter Kieran and drive headlong into a collision that will force him to unlock the secret of his wife's death, avoid prosecution, and protect his children from violence that hits all too close to home.

Fatal Option Details

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From Reader Review Fatal Option for online ebook

Lynn J says

Great Read!!

WOW! This complicated book was a joy to read!!

Karen Kay says

I received this ARC from netgalley.com in exchange for a review.

After an evening of binge drinking, Stephen gets a call from his 17 yr old daughter Sara that she is stranded in a blizzard and needs a ride. No one else can help her, not even the police. So Stephen gets in his car and sets off a chain of events.

We know who the bad guy(s) is throughout the story, the tension is built by the cat and mouse games everyone is playing with everyone else including the police. Everyone is hiding something really awful about themselves. The book has its ebbs and flows which kept me reading to the end but I didn't feel the thriller excitement.

2.5? rounded up to 3?

Stephanie says

Stephen Porter has just heard some terrible news about the insurance claim concerning his wife's death. He begins a night a binge drinking knowing that his son, Kenneth is safely in his room nursing a black eye after upsetting the school the school hot-head and his daughter, Sara is supposedly a few houses away in their cul-de-sac sleeping over at her friend Madison's house. However, when the weather begins to turn and the roads turn to ice, Stephen receives a call from Sara saying she is stranded on Rolling Road at a teacher's house and near the site of her mother's death, Stephen begins to panic. Eventually, he decides to go save his daughter himself even though he is a little buzzed. Stephen doesn't know that Aiden, the autistic younger brother of the teacher she was visiting is lost outside in the dark that night. When the collision inevitably happens, Stephen opens up a can of worms concerning the death of his wife, the death of three other women that died similarly, and the troubled mind of teacher, Kieran O'Shea.

This is the type of thriller where you just have to go along for the ride. Every time that I thought I had an idea of where the author was going with the story, there was a new twist. The suspense of the story is layered through carefully guarded secrets of many of the town's inhabitants. Secrets, the fact that we will do anything for our children and the struggle between good vs. evil were central themes. I do like that in many of the characters, there was a grey area between good and bad. Characters that I thought that I had pegged turned out to be someone different. Sara's teacher, Kieran turned out to be one of the most interesting characters, he was not exactly who I thought, but still harbored evil within. His relationship with Sara was something I'm still having trouble with, it seems like either Sara or Kieran should be smart enough to stop a romance that is asking for trouble. I also wish that Kieran's life was explored a little more; there was some back story, but it seemed like his story could have gone further. I can't say much more without giving things away, but in the

end I was thoroughly surprised at how everything came out with a bang. I do wonder if anyone else in the town is alive afterwards and I truly wondered about the fate of Kieran and Stephen. Overall, an intense thriller that has a lot going on and will keep you guessing until the end.

This book was received for free in return for an honest review.

Laura says

I received an advance copy of this book and LOVED it! It was the first book I've read by this author and am hungry for more. Fatal Option was really hard to put down. It was full of suspense from the start and it was this that gripped me. I thought I had figured out "who done it" and was very surprised by the identity of the "real" perpetrator. And I loved that the ending left a little bit of doubt about the fate of the main character.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

If I had to pick just one word to describe Chris Beakey's novel Fatal Option, it would be seedy.

To paraphrase Dr Seuss in The Cat in the Hat, 'I did not like it, not one little bit.'

After abandoning it at 71% (WHY did I bother to read so far....?) I feel quite drained. I could not read one more word.

The characters are all angst-ridden. They are all either alcoholic or drug users or both; abused or abusers. I liked none of them. I care about none of them. Fatal Option should come with a health warning 'reading this book may induce depression'.

I am off to find a very large block of chocolate, my 'blankie' and a copy of 'The Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh' to restore my equilibrium.

Thank you to Post Hill Press via NetGalley for a digital ARC of Fatal Option by Chris Beakey for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review of FATAL OPTION by Chris Beakey

What a thrilling mystery! A one-session read because you just can't stop! Author Chris Beakey introduces multiple tangled plot lines, admirably maintains all, and leavens them with a sizable dose of humanity: emotions, mistakes, failings, success, regrets. Overarching are events that change lives, the kind of events about which reader and characters both ponder "if only--." My heart stayed in my throat the entire reading, and many times I wished I could reach into the story and shift the characters out of danger, or stop villains. Even the "bad guys" have their own backstory here, so that behavior which is not admirable is at least comprehensible.

I will definitely be anticipating more novels from author Chris Beakey and enjoying rereading FATAL

OPTION.

Anne Allen says

When I sat down to read this book, I didn't expect to almost finish it in one sitting. With the suspense building, I was hooked after only a few pages. I knew something bad was going to happen, and I couldn't wait to find out what. The writer has a gift for keeping the fast, thrilling pace throughout the story.

Barbara says

This book brings to mind the outcome of standing dominoes on end and then pushing the first one to see them all tumble down. The story shows how one person's actions causes another's to follow. It is a really involved story of a family trying to come to grips with bad happenings in their life. The character development is excellent and I found myself feeling empathy for even the bad characters once I found out the reasons for their actions. Very fast paced and a really great read. I .recommend it highly.

Thanks to the author for sending me an ARC.

Linda Strong says

There is a consequence for every decision you make. The Porter family is finding that out for themselves.

Stephen Porter is dealing with the death of his wife ... was it suicide or an accident .. or something more sinister?

His 17-year-old daughter, Sara, calls her dad in the middle of the night. She's stranded in a blizzard at the top of a mountain. She's supposed to be spending the night with a girlfriend who lives just a few blocks away. She decided to spend the night with her boyfriend .. who happens to be a teacher and is 10 years older than she. She made her choice.

Stephen has been binge drinking and he's only had one hour of sleep. He knows how dangerous and irresponsible it is to be driving under the influence in such bad weather ... but it is his daughter. He makes the choice to drive anyway.

To give him credit, though, he does call the police and report that his daughter is stranded. If the dispatcher had listened more carefully, she might have made a different decision. But she ends the call by saying everyone is busy with emergencies and hanging up on him. That was her choice.

In a short amount of time, all these choices will come to the forefront and unhinge a killer ... a psychotic an autistic child two cops, one of which is not what he seems.

From what I believed was a slow beginning turned into quite the thriller. The author did a fine job of introducing all the characters in a factual way. I never saw where it was taking me.. until the suspense and

tension exploded. The characters were credible, especially the young ones who were rolling about in their teenage angst. The ending was explosive and lives are lost. Who lives and who dies?

Many thanks to the author / Post Hill Press / Netgalley for the digital copy of FATAL OPTION. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Dawnie says

Thanks to NetGalley, the publishers and the author for providing me with a free e-copy in exchange for a free and honest review!

This is a fantastically thrilling book all about how far a person can be pushed in order to help the people he/she loves.

I really enjoyed how Beakey managed to find this rather perfect balance between going just on the very edge of "i can see someone being pushed this far and doing that" without ever stepping into the zone of "okay now its just going crazy because that is not realistic in any way!"

And that might sound easy or as if it would be easy to accomplish in a crime book. But honesty i read a good amount of crime books where the author very quickly manages to go of and wide over the edge of realistic and just into crazy town of unrealistic of how far a person can be pushed -or lets say a normal person can be pushed.

But Beakey really found the perfect middle of going father than you think the character will manage to go, without going completely overboard and i LOVED that!

The writing style was nicely done as well, easy to read, fast to get through (perfect for this kind of book where you just want to go and go and go.... to see where this is going and how it was going to end!) without going to fast, or feeling rushed. So nicely done there as well.

The plot was very nicely done as well, how it build up and came to the big climax and how the ending was done, it all fitted very nicely together, made sense and worked very nicely. There was not one moment in the book where i was confused why something happened or why it happened during that specific time, rather the opposite really, since this book is one of those books where everything seems just rather natural. As strange as that might sound for this kind of psychological thriller book and saying about it how the plot was feeling very natural.

The only thing that bothered me a bit throughout this book, is that i could not connect to any of the characters in any way.

And i do not understand why that was.

But i just never cared about any of the characters. Not the father not the children. I didn't really care if they would survive or not... which is strange. Because the entire book is basically based around that you should care how much the father fights for his children and himself to survive what is going on. And here i am sitting reading this and am enjoying how the book is writing and how the plot is told, but not caring even a bit about the actual people in it.

I have no idea if that was because the author never really introduced them in a way that made me really understand them and get a feel for them, or if something about this book was just not right for me

personally... i really don't know what it was!

Even stranger the entire not caring about the characters didn't really make me enjoy the book less, even though it is practically character based and ... yeah you guys can see where this is going and why it confused even me!

All in all this was a great read, and i will defiantly recommend it to people that i know love and enjoy especially this kind of psychological thriller and rollercoaster ride this book was.
And i myself will definitely read what ever else i can get my hands on by this author!

If you want something great to read, something gripping and thrilling and at the same time fast paced and easy to read but will still be very enjoyable, read this and enjoy the ride!

Maha says

Fatal Option was a great option for me to read. I dived into this very gripping suspenseful thriller blindly without even reading the blurb and I am delighted I did.

To start with, Fatal Option is by all means a very gripping suspense novel. Although these words have been said a lot to describe thrillers before, but I truly couldn't put it down. However, this is not the best part. The best part is that it is a thought provoking book with a philosophical aspect.

"Would you break the law for someone you love?" That's the question at the heart of the novel. Please don't rush into answering that. We all would say "No". But to answer such a question properly and realistically, you should face the same situations.

Fatal Option has a very powerful opening where Stephen Porter, the main character, is awoken by a phone call in the middle of the night after spending a sad night drinking. In the blurred moments after sleep, he hears the voice of his teenage daughter over the phone desperately asking for his help. She's stranded on the mountain in the middle of a blizzard. Her voice is scared. Stephen should do whatever it takes to rescue her. There is a wide cast of characters. Each character fighting his/her own demons and agonies and each trying to do whatever it takes to make things better for himself. Teenagers trying to find their ways and to survive their desires, fights, hopes and even parents. Cops presented with the ever aching question "Would you do the right thing whatever the situation is?". Parents trying to cling to their growing teenagers who are slipping away from them. Tormented people trying to make things right and put their past behind.

The main question in Fatal Option is how far you can go to save yourself and your beloved ones. Are people really either "good" or "bad", and above all, what would a perfect person do when placed in the worst circumstances and can he still be the good person he used to be. And if not, will that make him a "bad person". The reader is compelled by so many questions.

One of the best things about Fatal Option from my point of view also is the grand opening. It was really very gripping. I always think that the way a book starts is very important. Also Chris Beakey has a remarkable writing style. His choice for the surroundings is more than perfect. The storm, the snow, the night, and even the dark. He weaved all of those into a perfect suspenseful stage and went on placing his characters and tracing them into an interlinked web of suspense and hidden motives.

Finally, for those who enjoy suspense novels, Fatal Option is a great book to read. I highly recommend it.

**** Special thanks to NetGalley & Post Hill Press for supplying my copy of this book in exchange for an honest and unbiased review ****

For all my reviews please visit <http://www.meshascorner.net>

Marjorie says

What would you do if your child needed you but you had to break the law in order to help her? Stephen Porter is faced with this moral dilemma when his teenage daughter calls him in the middle of the night. She's lied to him about where she was going and now her car has broken down during a blizzard on a mountain and she's begging for help. But Stephen, who is grieving for his wife who recently mysteriously died, has just had an evening of binge drinking and knows he shouldn't get behind the wheel. Little does he know how twisted and horrible a path his decision to go to his daughter will take him.

I read this book during a recent nor'easter here in NJ. With the cold wind howling around the house and the icy rain hitting the windows, it was a perfect setting for this dark tale. Be warned, this is a very violent story involving a large cast of messed-up, troubled people. But at the heart of the book is a loving father who only wants the best for his children. I cared about Stephen and his daughter Sara and son Kenneth and wanted things to turn out well for each of them. This book also has a clear tale to tell about the high cost of child abuse and its long-lasting effects. This is a complex thriller with plot twists galore. The touching ending was beautifully rendered. Mr. Beakey is an accomplished author and one to make note of.

Recommended.

This book was given to me by Smith Publicity in return for an honest review.

Warrengent says

Have plenty of time on your hands when you start this gripping novel as you won't be able to leave it alone gets your attention straight away and never lets up, a brilliant WOW moment when all is revealed

Dianne says

If you think you can dissect a thriller and beat the author to the finish, you need to pick up **FATAL OPTION** by Chris Beakey! If you have never read a dark thriller, you need to pick up **FATAL OPTION** by Chris Beakey! Dark, chaotic and rich with web-like plot twists, this is truly edge of your seat reading that will have your guts churning and your knuckles clenched.

Color me impressed. On one of the worst winter nights of the year, Stephen is awakened from his drunken sleep by the terrified voice of his teenage daughter, stranded on a back road, far from where she said she would be. Not fit to drive, but determined to help his daughter, the dangerous roads are deadly to drive on and even deadlier to walk on. What happens next will send one man into the hell of fear, regret and shame as he becomes a murderer and his daughter becomes the puppet to a twisted man she thinks she's in love with when she could actually become his next victim. A child is dead, and his brother loses his tentative hold on reality and someone has to pay.

Chris Beakey's tale is taut, dark and sinister from the first page to the last. Magnetic, dynamic and extremely

well-written, Suspense has a new artist on the block and a bold style to mesmerize readers!

I received an ARC edition from Post Hill Press in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Megan | A Page to Turn says

Just, Wow. This book - dark, twisty, and unpredictable!

I'm a HUGE thriller fan, so when I started this one, I was expecting a great story and Beakey didn't disappoint! I'm a greatly impressed!

On what is most likely the worst winter storm night of the year, Stephen is startled awake by a worried call from his teenage daughter. She's not where she was supposed to be, and she's stranded up on a mountain in bad weather... and Stephen is less than an hour from his last drink.... things get chaotic quick as life throws a wrench in things and Stephen has to break laws to save his daughter...

I really liked the characterization, as well as the tension created by these characters and the things they have managed to get themselves involved in. The scary part for me was that this book was real enough that it could happen!

Excellent story telling and an author to follow for sure! I look forward to more stories from Beakey!
