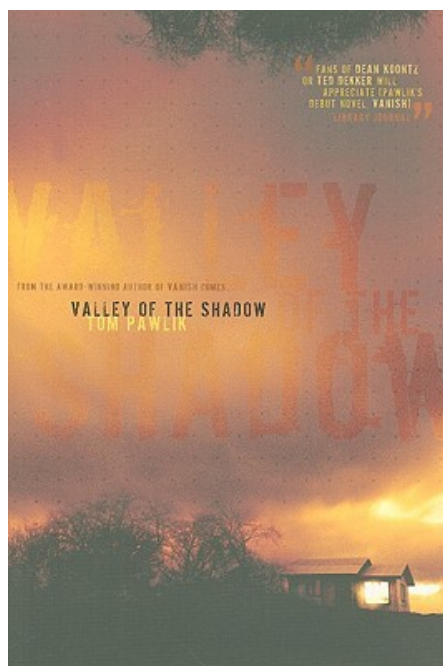




Valley of the Shadow

Tom Pawlik

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Conner Hayden is certain he survived his near-death experience for a reason. He thinks it's to save the life—and soul—of Mitch Kent. Mitch's body remains on life support while his spirit is trapped with the old farmer Howard Bristol in the Interworld—a strange and dangerous dimension that Conner narrowly escaped during his brush with death in Pawlik's award-winning debut novel, "Vanish." Meanwhile, in the Interworld, Mitch receives a warning from a mysterious stranger: Howard is not who he appears to be, and Mitch must flee immediately. Pursued by Howard and a terrifying creature, Mitch soon learns the truth about what happened to him and that his only hope of survival lies at the very edge of the Interworld.

Valley of the Shadow Details

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Author : Tom Pawlik

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Genre : Fiction, Christian, Christian Fiction, Mystery, Thriller

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From Reader Review Valley of the Shadow for online ebook

Nora St Laurent says

“There’s two guys—two kids in a car,” Jim’s voice was shaky. Out of breath. “I think they’ve just been shot...” Tom pulls you into his story quickly and he never stops drawing you deeper and deeper into his thoughtfully woven story.

Tom Pawlik has a very creative imagination and an exciting writing style that keeps you turning the pages to see what he’s created for you to experience next. Tom gives you a glimpse into a universe—interworld—beyond the physical, into heavenly realms and beyond.

I haven’t read anything this creative, refreshing and eye opening since Frank Peretti hit the book world with This Present Darkness. Tom Pawlik has a gift of lifting the veil for us so he can give us a peek into the spiritual struggle we can’t see here on earth.

The main characters thought of Eternity. “It was serious business after all. Eternity. Conner was surprised—and saddened—at how little thought most people seemed to give the topic. Death was the one thing they could be certain of, yet they acted as if ignorance would make them live forever.”

This author also has a good sense of humor, “Conner, you’ve gone from being a hard-core agnostic to the apostle Paul in a matter of weeks. Didn’t you think that might be a little disconcerting to some of your friends?”

This book is not for the faint of heart. Although there is a very powerful spiritual thread throughout the entire story the author reveals the evil side of this world and that of the next. It may make you feel uncomfortable, but it does make you think. There are haunting situations that are woven in the middle of some spiritually amazing scenes. Tom Pawlik stays away from being totally gruesome; I wouldn’t have been able to read this book if he would’ve gone over the edge.

I think Tom Pawlik has a good balance of good and evil portrayed in this novel. Please push through the parts that make you go ‘Hmmm,’ my friend, because this author also takes you to the mountain tops and your spirit will soar! It will give you hope, and a new perspective of just how much the Lord cares for you. You won’t stop thinking about this story after you’ve finished. You can count on it!!

Disclosure of Material Connection:

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255 “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising”

Nora St.Laurent

The Book Club Network www.bookfun.org

The Book Club Network blog www.psalms16.blogspot.com

Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com

Neil says

This is the sequel to 'Vanish' and re-introduces some of the characters from the previous novel as well as introduces a couple of new ones for this story. It moves at a decent pace. I did not 'know' how it was going to end until just before the very end. Actually, the way it goes about 'ending' completely shocked me, because, on the one hand, it was not 'the happy ending' readers would have liked. But from a Christian's perspective, it was a bittersweet ending.

My favorite scene from the book is:

"So what is it about this chalk? How does it work? Magic?"

"Not quite. It's a little technical, but in layman's terms, the chalk is made of inversely charged quantum particles in a state of temporal flux."

We are reintroduced to Mitch, Devon, Howard, and Connor [as well as Connor's wife and daughter, Marta and Rachel] from the previous novel. We also meet Jim and Annie (view spoiler), Nathan (view spoiler), and Owen and Mrs. Bristol (view spoiler). There are other 'minor characters' as well, but these are the main 'players' in this novel.

Mitch is running out of time. His dying father is thinking of pulling the plug. If that happens, he is lost for all eternity. Connor is having nightmares of his NDE while trying to find his place in God's world and at work as well as his repaired family. Jim is struggling with how God is pushing him to 'exercise' his faith. We find out Howard is not quite the man he seems to be. Connor tries to help Devon, but fails. He then thinks maybe God wants him to help Howard Bristol. He also wants to try and help Mitch make it back to physical reality lest he be lost for eternity. Devon is a haunted individual because of his NDE and not coming back alone. Jim and Annie also want to help Devon as well as try to help Connor. It was a crazy book, on the one hand. A lot of 'stuff' going on throughout, but still easily followed in the reading.

Spoiler alert!!!! (view spoiler)

At one point, it strongly reminded me of 'the matrix' what with the way some of the conversations were going, about how maybe the physical world is not what we think it is. Also, the talk that Morpheus has with Neo in the training room where they are sparring ['you think that is air that you are breathing?'] strongly came to mind in some of the conversations between Mitch, Howard (view spoiler). Part of me expected a man in black wearing sun glasses to step out from behind the curtain at one point! hahahahah On the one hand, it really brought to mind the verse where Jesus states that the eternal is more 'real' than the physical [or something like that; I might be paraphrasing it more than I realize].

The description of standing 'at the end of the world' and looking up at Heaven's realm was pretty amazing. It was beautiful, and I enjoyed reading it.

I cannot quite say in the end that everybody gets what's coming to them, because that would not be true. In one way, it was a powerful book [especially because of the ending, in my opinion]. It also serves to remind us that this planet, this realm, this physical reality is not our ultimate 'home' and that we were meant for more than what this life has to offer.

Ivy Manongdo says

I love the story, plot, morale, and the thrill. It is indeed page turner book. You can't keep your eyes of the book because you're rooting for what will happen next. I'm glad i bought this book in Logos Hope. It is not

only a great novel but also a great way to increase your faith with God. Everything really happens for a reason. You just have to trust God for whatever plans He has for you.

Cara says

Best two books I've ever read!!! I stayed up until 3 this morning reading; I couldn't put it down!! Extremely fast-paced supernatural thriller that delves deeply into the concepts of heaven, hell, and what the so-called "light at the end of the tunnel" that dying people experience could really be. Containing the themes of forgiveness, redemption, and true spirituality, this book along with its prequel, Vanish, will keep you guessing until the end. Be sure to read the prequel, Vanish, first.

Susan says

Excellent! Very powerful message about hell and Heaven. Hoping to find more by this author!

Beata says

Fast-paced supernatural thriller. It's a sequel to Vanish (And Vanish is an amazing book! I gave it five stars! Be sure to read it first!). For some reason Valley of the Shadow was somewhat too much for me... But don't get me wrong! It's a great story with even a greater Christian message!

Torie says

A little disappointed, it was really slow until end half of it.
I think the first one's my favorite, it was still very well written.

Averil Pesce says

Wow what a crazy ride. This book is a sequel to Vanish and I wasn't sure how I was feeling about it at first but once you got into it it was cool. It was neat how he developed the characters...how you got to dive more into their stories. The spiritual aspect of this story was amazing! It'll make you take a look at your own life! I loved it!

Alaina says

Loved this book

Honesty says

Honestly, I don't remember quite as much about this book as the first one, although the ending was pretty good.

Mollie McGrath says

This book was even more powerful than the first! Though it's a fiction book, it gives insight into how powerful the spiritual world really is, and shows we desperately need to be aware of it.
"Christians in America have been lulled into thinking demons aren't real. Satan is subtler here. He comes as an angel of light"

Nick Woodall says

Good, but not inspired like Vanish (his first novel). It seemed like he tried too hard and had to use some tricks to make the story flow. You did find out what happened to the characters in the Vanish. It helped conclude the character's stories.

Ian says

I think the sequel was much better with greater character development of Conner and Mitch, but also an enhancement of the spiritual element demonstrating how evil can pervade our lives and consume it, without us even really knowing it.

Tom - a super novel, I'll be recommending it to all my friends as it highlights the critical interplay between the spiritual and the physical worlds. Well done, be great as a movie. Can't wait for No.3

Heath Choate says

First let me say I loved this book. It only got a 4 because I liked Vanish more. I think this was because Vanish was filled with suspense and intrigue about what was happening.

With Valley that background is established and the narrative is more straight forward. The story is great.

Ellie says

Not as good as the first one, but it is still worth reading.

Becky says

3 1/2 stars. Interesting speculative story regarding the “in-between” time of life and death. The author identifies the failings of many who neglect the critical question of eternity, heaven, and salvation. There were quite a few characters, and references to previous events which took place in the first book in the series, so it was sometimes difficult to understand what was going on. Overall, an enjoyable read.

Glenn says

It was a bit hard at first to read this book as it was the second in a series, however I did catch on fairly quickly and could understand it. Great story with plenty of twists and surprises...

Scott says

When I was looking for a new book this one jumped out at me. I read Pawlik's first book Vanish a couple years ago and remember flying thru it over a summer week in Cali. The sequel did not disappoint! I had to remember what happened in the first, but caught on quick. The way that Pawlik can tell 5 stories simultaneously and switch between them kept the story rolling. This was a combo of a Ted Dekker story and the movie Inception with so called aliens. Can't wait for more!

TheReadingKnitter/ Kasey says

This book was a wonderful second book in the series. I loved figuring Mitch, Nathan and Conner out. Howard not so much. Ha. I understand why this is the last book but I do wish I could find out what happened with Mitch. I will be reading more from this author.

Valerie says

This is the follow up to Vanish. While I really enjoyed the first book it took a little more to really get into this one. Connor Hayden finds his way home after his near death experience in the first book. More questions are answered in this book I actually started it and put it down. Since I had it I decided to tough it out and finished it tonight. I'm glad I continued to read it.
