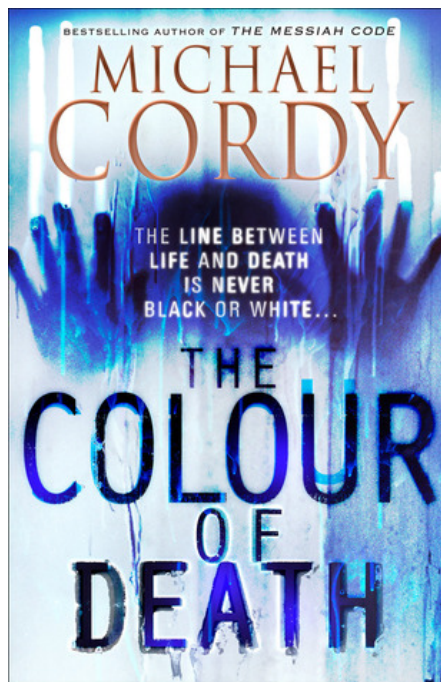




The Colour of Death

Michael Cordy

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In a residential neighbourhood of Portland, Oregon, an unknown young woman uncovers a shocking crime scene by inexplicably sensing the evil within its walls. To the police, she is a mystery. She can't even tell them her own name. They christen her Jane Doe.

Suffering terrifying hallucinations, Jane is assigned to Nathan Fox, a forensic psychiatrist struggling with his own demons. Together they must piece together the jigsaw that is Jane's identity.

Then a sequence of brutal killings terrorizes the city and Fox learns Jane is the only cryptic link between the unrelated victims. To solve the murders, Fox must discard his black and white preconceptions, look beyond the spectrum of normal human experience and confront the dark truth of her past...and his own.

The Colour of Death Details

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Author : Michael Cordy

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From Reader Review The Colour of Death for online ebook

Jirinka (sony08) says

I am part of the Transworld Book Group

Crime novels and thrillers are not my usual cup of tea but I will certainly look out for the other books by Michael Cordy as I absolutely loved The Colour of Death.

Starting with a mysterious girl sensing devil's work going on behind closed doors, breaking in and saving numerous girls from a Russian sex trafficking gang, the girl, named Jane Doe by the authorities, ends up in the care of a psychiatrist Nathan Fox.

Jane chooses Nathan to look after her as he is the right colour! Whilst finding out that Jane has a very rare form of synaesthesia and helping her to cope with it, things get out of hand in the Old Town part of Portland, Oregon. A killer is on the loose leaving a carnage behind him and somehow linking Jane to the crime scenes.

Jane's father then appears to claim her as his daughter Sorchia. He is a leader of a cult called the Indigo Family and Sorchia chooses to go back with him so she can find out about her past. Nathan though senses that some things don't add up and seeks more information about the cult and then believing that Sorchia is still in danger from the killer decides to find the cult and warn her.

Of course by then Sorchia realizes that not everything is so perfect in the big happy Indigo Family and things go from bad to worse.

This is a great story, full of twists and big characters. This would make a great movie!

Ellie says

Read as part of the Transworld Book Group:

A woman is found at the scene of a crime with no memory of who she is or how she came to save the lives of eleven girls sold into slavery. In order to help retrieve her identity, the police bring in psychiatrist Dr Nathan Fox who has no memories of his own childhood trauma. Fox has a form of synaesthesia in which he feels other people's physical contact and pain, and he soon realises Jane Doe has the same sensations and more. When the police connect her to a series of murders, Fox is more determined to find out who the mystery woman is.

The condition is synaesthesia is fascinating and probably more common than you may think. The best known form is that of perceiving colours for letters and numbers but the term covers a wide range of interconnected senses. The premise of The Colour of Death is that a person that shows all forms is hyper-sensitive to their surroundings and may come across as being psychic. Sounds good? I found that in trying to explain Jane Doe's visions with quantum physics, Cordy made the whole thing a lot less believable to me than if it had just been something supernatural that we could choose to believe or not.

On the other hand, the idea of synaesthesia being something spiritual is also explored yet I found this got a bit repetitive and somewhere in the second half it just got a bit too weird. I wasn't sure if I was meant to be believing what was going on or if they were just delusions of a psychopath!

Ignoring my skepticism, it's a good pacy read and I liked the characters of Fox and Jane Doe (I won't spoil it by letting you know if we find out her real identity). I agree with other reviewers that Cordy has set it up nicely for a series, one that I would be interested in reading. I think the concept that is laid out in the final pages would be an intriguing one, if I can just get past the quasi-science.

Kell says

Abandoned unfinished.

James Dorse says

Admittedly, I've never been much of a reader. In the past ten years I have probably read no more than 5 or 6 full length novels that I did so for leisure and not school or study. I suppose I never really had the patience or attention span to commit to fictional narratives. I am currently between jobs and constantly looking for new hobbies to enjoy in my spare time, so I decided that I wanted to give reading another go and find a new book to sink my teeth into.

A couple of weeks ago I was at the store, browsing the shelves waiting for something to jump out at me. One book in particular caught my eye, its ghostly blue and white cover adorned with the words "The Colour Of Death" instantly creeping under my skin. The title alone intrigued me, so naturally I flipped the book over and read the blurb on the back cover, as you do. This only strengthened my interest so I went ahead and bought it.

This book has single handedly rekindled my addiction to reading. The term 'page-turner' is thrown around a lot these days, but to me, never more so has it applied so literally to one novel. Perhaps it is because I am an inexperienced reader and I have little to compare it to, or I'm just not yet at the stage where my standard is at the level of say, A Song of Ice and Fire, but I truly adore this book. Only one page in and my commitment was already sealed, as I discovered that one of the characters in the story has the rare mental ability, or as those with it would say, gift, of synaesthesia. My mother proudly possesses this phenomenon and some of it has worn off on me, so establishing this connection, the deal was sealed.

The main character (not the one with synaesthesia), forensic psychiatrist Dr Nathan Fox, is given a tremendously intriguing backstory, emerging through a brilliantly provocative and tension-filled prologue describing a traumatic event from his childhood. Straight away I became emotionally invested in Nathan as a character and wanted to follow his journey. When he happens across a unique young lady with an extremely rare form of synaesthesia who is involved in the exposure of a terrible crime, it is determined that she has suffered amnesia and the story becomes instantly complex and holds your attention in a vice-like grip, not letting go for a second. I found myself becoming quite emotionally attached to these two characters and the tender yet difficult relationship between them. Having lost her identity and being nicknamed Jane Doe by the police department, the girl struggles with her unique gift of sensing and envisioning past moments of death within the walls of the rooms in which they occurred. When she becomes the only link between several strategically planned and carried out murders, Dr Fox must help her make sense of her ability and uncover her past, while also unravelling the mystery of his own.

Where the story goes from here is best left to be discovered. Suffice to say, there are thrills and spills a plenty, twists and turns that will give you goosebumps and moments where you either gasp in shock or cheer with delight. I was up until 3am one night because I simply could not put the book down. Author Michael

Cordy's choice to write from the viewpoints of numerous characters, including the antagonists, is definitely polarising. I however believe this to be fascinating and perversely intriguing as these subtle, brief insights into the villains motives attempt to explain and justify their reprehensible actions. It provides a third dimension to the narrative, and reinforces your support of the two protagonists.

The Colour of Death is an absolute roller coaster ride of a read. It will make you think, it will make you learn, but most importantly it will make you feel. This is an exceptionally character-driven, high-concept novel, and one you simply must experience for yourself. A true gem.

Jerome Parisse says

I was looking forward to reading The Colour of Death, by Michael Cordy, as most reviews I had read were good or even very good. It goes to show that you can never take reviews at face value - or at least that it's not because most liked it that you will also like it. This novel didn't really work for me. It took me a long time to read it, and it may be because I was moving house (and country) while reading it, but to be honest if it had been riveting, I know I would have finished it a long time ago. The story could have been interesting, but it just didn't keep me on edge, and it was all fairly predictable. The characters felt a little like cardboard characters, their behaviours didn't sound true, and at times it wasn't moving much. Another problem I found is that you heard all the characters' voices - including those of the antagonists - and it took away some of the mystery, nothing was left unsaid. And the plot (in terms of the actions of the characters) was not always credible. Give it a try though if you like supernatural stories, as the premise is interesting. The novel is about a young woman who appears on the scene after saving several captive women from a horrible death. But she has no memory of who she is whatsoever, so the police, helped by a psychiatrist called Nathan, try to help her remember where she comes from. Nathan quickly discovers that Jane Doe (as she is called by the police) has the power to relive people's deaths, especially if they have been violent and painful. All of a sudden, Jane's father turns up to pick up his daughter and take her back to the sect that he leads somewhere in a forest far away from civilisation. Nathan can't help feeling something is wrong, and against his better judgement, decides to follow Jane and her father into the sect. What he discovers is a combination of lunacy, murders and sex, which he will help to bring to an end - saving Jane (whose real name is Sorcha) in the process. There you go... If you read it, I'd love to know what you think.

Kelly says

When a young woman breaks into a house and releases several trapped girls being held as slaves, she is hailed a hero. Only one problem though, not only does she not remember how she knew the girls were there, but she doesn't even remember her own name. Christened Jane Doe, she is taken to hospital where she is terrified by vivid hallucinations. Moved swiftly to a mental facility, she comes under the care of Nathan Fox, a man troubled himself by the murder of his family when he was a child. Together, Jane and Nathan start to unravel not only the mystery of her identity, but also the sudden spate of murders that seem to somehow link back to Jane.

Having heard of Michael Cordy before, but never having read any of his work, I was very interested to read The Colour Of Death. Not only because I love new authors, but because the synopsis sounded so intriguing! I can honestly say, I have never read anything like this story before, the content was completely new, to me anyway. I loved how you slowly found out about all of the fascinating details about Jane and Nathan, and the secrets they both held, and then how it all tied back to the murders that seem so random. I did figure out some of the ending pretty early on, but that didn't ruin any of the enjoyment or suspense for me. A thoroughly

enjoyable read, and a must for fans of thrillers with a science-y twist! I'm not only looking forward to reading the sequel, but also more books by Michael Cordy in the future.

catwoman says

Synopsis

In a quiet, residential neighbourhood of Portland, Oregon, an unknown young woman uncovers a shocking crime scene by inexplicably sensing the evil within its walls. To the police, she herself is a mystery. She appears on no government records, has no past and can't even tell the police her own name.

Christened Jane Doe and suffering terrifying hallucinations, she is assigned to Nathan Fox, a forensic psychiatrist struggling with his own demons after witnessing his parents' murder as a child. Together they must piece together the jigsaw that is Jane's identity.

Then a sequence of brutal killings terrorise the city and Fox learns Jane is the only cryptic link between the unrelated victims. To solve the murders, discover who she is and diagnose her condition, Fox must discard his black and white preconceptions, look beyond the spectrum of normal human experience and confront the dark truth of her past...and his own.

My Review:

I received this book as I am participating in the Transworld Book Group Reading Challenge. This is the sort of book that I would normally read. This is a first a thriller yet has a supernatural twist that gives this book an edge on other books in a genre that of late has been rather stagnant.

The book starts off nineteen years earlier where a family get caught in a cross fire in a gas station and get killed apart from the little boy. Who we find out later is one of the main characters Nathan Fox. The book then moves on to the present day to a woman who single handed brings down a Russian Slave Trade and saves the slave girls. But afterwards loses her memory. Why did she save the girls? What is her name? And who is the baby in the picture in the locket she is wearing? She hopes to find out these answers by talking to Nathan Fox, who uses different methods in trying to help her. You find out that she has a neurological condition called synaesthesia. Could this condition be the key in unlocking Jane Doe's past?...

The book really was a page turner. From ten pages in I was hooked and couldn't put it down. The characters were believable and loveable, really three dimensional.

A book I really would recommend and an author I will most definitely be looking in to invest in the rest of his works!

Carole says

I was really engrossed in this book at the start as we first meet Nathan Fox as a young boy when his mother, father and young sister are brutally murdered during a gas station robbery but Nathan can't remember anything about the traumatic incident or why his life was spared.

The story then moves 19 years to the present day as Nathan is now a psychiatrist helping people though he can't help himself with his loss of memory. He is detached and has learned to distance himself from pain and loss.

He is then entrusted to a young woman who has total memory loss and, because Nathan is the right colour of indigo, she trusts him and no-one else. I found this side of the story very intriguing as both the woman and Nathan shared a special kind of sense.....Nathan could feel someone else's pain and Jane Doe had other senses as well, which are slowly revealed and which could be the reason for her memory loss.

The story becomes even more intriguing when a series of murders occurs and Jane's picture is found with the victims and she is persuaded to use her other senses to help identify the killerthe police are sceptical..... but Nathan believes in her.

I liked Nathan and so did Jane who thought he was a hard man to get to know well even if you were a friend, though she doesn't find him aloof or cold, he was too compassionate. I liked their developing relationship, it seemed real and natural.

Up to this point in the book I was getting involved with the characters and enjoying the storyline but when it moved on to a cult who lived deep in the woods and who's charismatic leader has three beautiful devoted wives I'm afraid my interest started to wane a little.

It was still quite gripping but it wasn't the same book for me and I found myself not rushing to finish it to find out what was going to happen.

From Carole's Book Corner

Monica Blithar says

I started this book with a lot of excitement and momentum carried me through almost to the end. The start is interesting, it is a thriller with a twist and a lot of details about energy and Chakras thrown in.

Though I enjoyed the book, but towards the end, I found the book too predictable. Though the book started with a very interesting concept, But over the pages it became too predictable, almost like reading script of a mediocre reading a Bollywood thriller. The central characters could do no wrong and evil ones had no reason to do anything right.

I would recommend reading this book, though. The author apparently did good research to elaborate so well about ancient Indian healing, but still wish the end was different.

Lainy says

From the back cover

In a residential neighbourhood of Portland, Oregon, an unknown young woman uncovers a shocking crime by inexplicably sensing the evil within its walls. To the police, she is a mystery. She can't even tell them her own name. They christen her Jane Doe.

Suffering terrifying hallucinations, Jane is assigned to Nathan Fox, a forensic psychiatrist struggling with his own demons. Together they must piece together the jigsaw that is Jane's identity.

Then a sequence of brutal killings terrorizes the city and Fox learns that Jane is the only cryptic link between the unrelated victims. To solve the murders, Fox must discard his black and white preconceptions, look beyond the spectrum of normal human experience and confront the dark truth of her past...and his own.

My review

This is my second read from the Transworld book group and what a brilliant choice. The action starts right away in the prologue and by the first chapter I was hooked. Nathan Fox(Dr) and Jane Doe are our main characters and we are introduced to them straight away. For Nathan a doctor who is committed to his patients but won't let anyone get close to him after the horror he experienced as a child and losing his family.

Jane Doe we have to find out about her as she does herself, having no memory of why she saved the girls or even who she is or anything about herself except for a special genetic condition she has that scares her and shows her so much horror.

Between the two of them they work together to discover what is going on with Jane and her extraordinary "hallucinations" and before long they are tangled up in a web of murder and horror. Can Dr Nathan Fox find the key to helping Jane Doe remember who she is and what she has to do with these killings.

I loved this story, for a short while I thought I was going to not understand the condition Jane has as it is a bit complex but Michael Cordy explained it so easily in the book I got to learn about a new condition and understand it with ease. The book goes at a great pace and there is plenty of questions raised throughout the book. I love this with novels however hate that not every question gets answered, not in this case, Right up to the end you're kept in suspense and then everything is explained, with an opening for a follow up maybe. Some of the scenes (especially near the end) are quite horrifying and uncomfortable to read (Delaney and Jane Doe scene) but it does not take anything away from the story.

This was my first Michael Cordy book and it won't be my last, I hope they make this into a series! 5/5 for me, a fantastic read, fresh and different and I stayed up all night to get it finished as I couldn't put it down.

Tony Talbot says

A woman with total amnesia and synaesthesia (The mixing of senses - colour as smell, touch as hearing, etc) falls into the care of a psychologist, Nathan Fox. Together, they unlock her amnesia and ease their own painful pasts.

For a book that started out with an interesting premise - synaesthesia - this fell apart very quickly. Cordy seems to have no idea what 'pacing' means, and the book is the same speed all the way through - generally, books accelerate as they reach the climax, but not this one. The pacing was constant, and at times it crawled.

The characters were two dimensional, and the villain a cardboard cut-out of a monster. Plot twists were easy to guess fifty pages before the reveal. Dialogue was clunky and clichéd. I mean who says to someone else in the last years of the 20th century (the setting), "Come." and not "Come on.". Who says, "Stop them, you fools!" and expects to be taken seriously?

Cordy's research into synaesthesia is solid enough (I asked my wife, who has it, and she agreed), but in other places it falls down. NO ONE puts tape around a body in a murder scene!

Marleen says

Received from and reviewed for Transworld Books

In Portland a young woman is irresistibly drawn towards a house. She can sense the evil in the house, but can't make herself turn away. Using an axe she breaks into the house and singlehandedly puts a stop to the evil lurking inside, injuring herself in the process.

When the police catch up with the young woman she turns out to be a mystery. Not only can she not explain how she knew what was going on in that house, she doesn't know who she is, where she came from or anything else about herself.

Dr. Nathan Fox, a forensic psychiatrist with violence in his own past, is asked to talk to the girl and see if he can help her retrieve her memories and find explanations for what she did. As he works with the girl, Fox finds himself fascinated, both by the girl and the powers she has.

At the same time, downtown Portland is rocked by the violent murders of underworld figures. And somehow the murders appear to be linked to the young woman the police have christened Jane Doe.

Now Dr. Fox not only has to treat the young woman, but also finds himself trying to keep her safe.

When somebody turns up claiming to know the girl and eager to bring her back home that should mean the end of Nathan Fox's involvement with her. However, it turns out that it is only the start. If past events were dark, what is yet to come is far darker still, and beyond anything those involved could have imagined.

This is a very interesting thriller. Since I don't want to spoil the story for anyone, I won't go into the concepts the author uses, but they are fascinating and original.

The book starts off as a very fast-paced thriller, and ends in the same fashion. I did find some of the parts in the middle a bit slow and drawn out.

Partly this is the result of the concepts the author uses, concepts which do require explanation and expanding upon, and as such to some extent necessary. However, it did mean that while I couldn't stop myself from turning the pages at the start and finish of the book, I had no such difficulties mid-book.

That's not to say that I would discourage anybody from reading this book. It is always good to come across a thriller with an original premise, and this book certainly has that. It also has nice characters and a mostly thrilling and gripping story.

The book ends in such a way that the author could easily revisit these characters again in the future. If he does, I will be among the first to read the sequel.

Ania Marci says

Un libro che mi ha lasciato poco per il tempo che mi ha preso. Scontato e privo di spessore. A tratti banale.

Curtis Fry says

Amazing

Sue Hunter says

"The line between life and death is never black or white ...". Jane Doe, so named as she suffers amnesia after her act of extreme bravery frees several people, has more than just 'sixth sense'. She has what appear to be hallucinations, and is able to pick up on violent deaths in rooms at the psychiatric retreat to which she is taken.

She refuses help from those at the retreat who she feels are the wrong colour, but accepts that Nathan Fox has the right colour aura.

Nathan Fox, psychiatrist, himself a survivor of a violent attack on his immediate family, and also with some similar traits, recognizes her as a fellow synaesthete, with crossed senses, and is determined to find out who she is and what terrible trauma has caused her amnesia. His medical and police colleagues are less convinced.

Several murders occur which seem to have a link to Jane Doe. Nathan seeks Jane Doe's help in solving them, using her exceptional skills. Nathan is convinced that her life is in danger.

Because of his own past Nathan is very prejudiced against religious cults. When it appears that Jane Doe has links to a cult, he is even more concerned for her safety. Again, his colleagues are not convinced.

This was fast-paced, suitably scary, interesting and believable. I was unable to put it down. A good read.
