



The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man

W. Bruce Cameron

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“The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man introduces my favorite kind of flawed cynical protagonist in Ruddy McCann, former football star, now Repo Man in a small town full of memorable weirdos. It's suspenseful, action-packed, romantic, and above all, truly funny. I loved it.”—Nelson DeMille, New York Times bestselling author

Ruddy McCann, former college football star, has experienced a seismic drop in popularity; he is now Kalkaska, Michigan's full-time repo man and part-time bar bouncer. His best friend is his low-energy Basset hound Jake, with whom he shares a simple life of stealing cars.

Simple, that is, until Ruddy starts hearing a voice in his head.

The voice introduces himself as Alan Lottner, a dead realtor. Ruddy isn't sure if Alan is real, or if he's losing his mind. To complicate matters, it turns out Katie, the girl he's fallen for, is Alan's *daughter*.

When Alan demands Ruddy find his murderers, Ruddy decides a voice in your head seeking vengeance is best ignored. When Alan also demands he clean up his act, and apartment, Ruddy tells him to back off, but where can a voice in your head go?

With a sweet romance, a murder mystery, a lazy but loyal dog and a town full of cabin-fevered characters you can't help but love, New York Times bestselling novelist W. Bruce Cameron's *The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man* is yet another laugh-out-loud, keep-you-up-late, irresistible read.

The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man Details

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Author : W. Bruce Cameron

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From Reader Review The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man for online ebook

Karen says

How fun to find a recreational read that grabs the best elements from Carl Hiaasen for his nutty socially challenged characters; Michael Connelly for his down-on-his-prospects persona-as-protagonist; Garth Stein for giving a dog a porthole view of our self-deprecating character (albeit not in dog-speak); and even Tom Robbins for back/foreground characters like a stuffed bear, a guard goose and not least of all, a central character who is only alive in someone's head.

If you enjoy any of those authors for sleek, smart style with a good dash of frivolity to tell a tale of mystery and mayhem with a crime-solving agenda by a flawed yet compassionate character, read this book.

I'm out to scout more of Mr W Bruce Cameron's works which historically seem to have a dog in the title. I'm assured they promise to be anything but.

Allen Adams says

<http://www.themaineedge.com/buzz/a-re...>

The hero's journey is one of the oldest stories that we tell. There have been endless variations on that theme; a multitude of takes on the idea. And yet, so many storytellers find ways to keep that seemingly ageless idea fresh.

Introducing a flawed hero into the equation is one way to do it. Finding a way to put a kink in the paths usually traveled is another. And if you can do both, well...then you've got something interesting.

That's what W. Bruce Cameron has done with his new novel "The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man".

Ruddy McCann is a classic example of a small-town might-have-been. A high school and college football star, Ruddy's life instantly came unraveled following the events of a single tragic night. His NFL dreams crushed, Ruddy makes his living as a repo man in his tiny hometown of Kalkaska, Michigan; he's also the part-time bouncer at the local bar that his parents owned and his sister runs. It's not a great life, but it's a life with which Ruddy has come to terms.

Everything changes, however, when the voices start.

One voice, actually - a voice that introduces itself as Alan Lottner and claims to be a real (albeit dead) person, a realtor from a nearby town. Alan also believes that he was murdered and demands that Ruddy track down his killers.

Meanwhile, there's a new girl - and potential love interest - that has entered the picture. Additionally, Ruddy is having some issues at work; he's training the boss's nephew in the business and dealing with a particularly elusive target. He's even feeling some friction between himself and his sister. And all the while, there's a voice in his head telling to clean up his act, deal with his issues and, oh yeah, solve a murder.

But hey – at least he’s got his dog.

There’s a wonderful sense of expansiveness that permeates this book, despite its small scale. On paper, the distance traveled is fairly minimal - the action takes place in a relatively tiny chunk of central Michigan. But that small-town feel is a large part of what makes this book tick; anyone who has lived in a small town – especially an isolated small town – understands how that sense of isolation can steadily elongate the miles and warp one’s perception and perspective.

Ultimately, “The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man” belongs to Ruddy McCann. He’s an unconventional hero to say the least; he’s quick to anger and prone to rash decisions. Following the death of his singular dream, he has been content to simply float along in life’s current and travel the path of least resistance. He’s also smarter than he lets on, kinder than he’d ever admit and a hell of a lot of fun to get to know – but since he’s shut himself off from the world, no one ever meets the real Ruddy.

But when Alan Lottner moves in and a buddy comedy breaks out in his cerebral cortex, the interactions between the two of them bring out the best in Ruddy. The repo man is firmly pushed toward becoming the man he should be, despite his efforts to remain stagnant and static. Alan’s presence pushes and prods Ruddy toward a new life – a life he never would have considered without outside (or inside) intervention.

The cast that orbits Ruddy is made up of a wonderfully vivid assortment of oddballs; small-town weirdos who somehow manage to turn provincialism into kindness. So many of them are possessed of a gentle lunacy and/or an utter guilelessness that makes them all quite charming - the dim-witted ladies’ man; the goofy get-rich-quick scheming couple; the tack-sharp local lawman; you name it. More than anything, Kalkaska and its surrounding towns feel like a slightly skewed Lake Wobegone, populated with delightfully-tweaked archetypes and colorful characters.

All of this comes alive thanks to Cameron. His quirky characters bounce back and forth across the rural Michigan landscape with abandon, brought into vivid detail thanks to crispness of prose and clarity of voice – Ruddy sports a wonderfully idiosyncratic tone throughout. Cameron also shows a particular knack for capturing the nuance of interpersonal relationships, along with a keen sense of the absurd.

“A Midnight Plan for the Repo Man” is a lot of things. It’s a ghost story and a love story, a mystery and a comedy. It’s sharp and sweet and, ultimately, a very good read.

Rhonda says

I work in a public library and books I want and hope to read someday are always coming across my desk. On a whim I took this one home and, boy oh boy, what a find. This book was great...an easy and quick read, I wasn't ready for it to end. A refreshing mystery with a little family and romance thrown in...oh and don't forget Jake the dog!

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

4.5 stars

This book is so much fun.

Ruddy McCann was an all star football player destined for greatness in the big leagues..then a bad thing happened and he ended up as a repo man and part time bouncer in his co-owner bar.

The man has some crap luck..between getting his arse kicked during a repo by a goose named Doris.

He starts hearing what at first he thinks is the stuffed bear in the bar's voice.....

As it turns out somehow a dead realtor named Alan has ended up in his head. Alan wants Ruddy to find out who and why he was killed.

With a cast of..well weird characters this book doesn't slow down for a minute. I loved it.

Ruddy isn't a perfect guy, but to me he is frigging awesome. He has a sidekick of the world's laziest Bassett Hound for crying out loud. He is going on to my list of book boyfriends.

"So you punch the guy out a couple of days after his father died," Alan translated for me after we left Milt's office.

"Well I didn't know that at the time," I replied peevishly. "Otherwise I would have let him shoot me."

This book is first person narrative but it is actually perfect for this book. The dialogue between Ruddy and Alan in his head is done perfectly. I actually hope for a sequel on this one.

I've got to quit reading good books and rating them highly..People won't know who I am.

I received an arc copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Pamela says

Uber Awesome!!! The Midnight Plan of the REPO MAN: A fun, delightfully unique mystery ride. This is one of those zany-good drama/action/mysteries, if my pockets were lined with a plethora of green I'd buy oodles of copies to hand out to folks in need of a lift from the doldrums.

Ruddy McCann is a character whom I'd love to have as a friend. He's a down-to-earth affable guy who is patient with his quirky friends, long-suffering with his love-forlorn sister, and calculatingly sly boosting repos and serving writs. Though he has seen his share of misfortune, Ruddy presses on despite being the hometown hero who spiraled down from grace of the masses. He is most definitely remorseful and retentive, but not dismally self-loathing.

One bad choice when young can alter the course of one's life. But so can being in the wrong place at the 'ghostly' right time, and for mysterious reprisal reasons.

The late Alan Lottner, cold case murder-victim extraordinaire, is one such reprisal; the voice that has come to invade the space inside Ruddy's head seeking cold case justice. And, to complicate things further, the girl whom Ruddy fancies turns out to be related to the case; all of which might sound a bit lame or cheesy - but

not so. Cameron makes it all work brilliantly, on an eccentrically viable, simply hilarious, action-charged level. Movies such as “Harvey” with Jimmy Stewart and “Ghost Story” with Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze come to mind.

Despite a few editing hiccups, a couple incidences where sake of drama/suspense overplayed reality, and Ruddy’s sister being wishy/washy/mousy annoying, I immensely enjoyed riding with the REPO MAN. Truly, Cameron has a brilliant sense of hilarious wit and originality. I look forward to next in series.

“Suspenseful, action-packed, romantic, and above all, truly funny. I loved it.” – Nelson Demille

“A joy to read! At once original, absorbing, hilarious, gripping, and emotionally satisfying . . . I marveled at every page!” – Andrew Gross

Four – zany-good, mystery/drama/action - stars; a rare less-than-five-star Top Pick.

Phillis says

Since I read two of Cameron's other books, (A Dog's Journey, A Dog's Purpose), and liked both, I thought I would read this one. I certainly am glad I did. I really like the story line, the characters, and the some what humorous tale of the Repo Man. It starts out simple enough with Ruddy McCann trying to make a living stealing other peoples vehicles in the middle of the night. He strictly works on commission to the lien holders of said vehicles. Some repos give him more trouble than others. Take the one involving a goose named Doris.

One night Ruddy has a very disturbing dream where he witnesses a murder of a Real Estate Agent. He shakes it off as having eaten something that didn't agree with him, but a few days later the disembodied voice of said agent is now talking to him in his head. Said voice, Alan, wants Ruddy to help him find his killers. Alan has no idea who they are, only what they look like. Then there is Ruddy's sister Becky who owns a bar that Ruddy works part time as a bouncer. There is a cast of characters that visit the bar and cause their own brand of mayhem. Last but not least it wouldn't be a Cameron book if it didn't have a dog. Ruddy's dog Jake is a basset hound who's favorite thing is to lay around and sleep.

Dana Glossbrenner says

This is the warmest and most engaging and laugh-out-loud-funny books I've read since I don't know when. Main character Ruddy (short for Ruddick) is a former college football player who was on the verge of a Heismann Trophy before fortune flopped on him and he winds up being a bouncer in his sister's bar when he's not skulking about the woods looking for ways to earn bucks by towing away vehicles for the finance company. When he begins to hear a voice in his head, and that voice introduces himself as "Alan," I dropped my Kindle, I was laughing so hard. It's serious business, though, these brushes with people with guns while Ruddy deals with "Alan." Cameron skillfully manages this off-the-wall premise and weaves it into a delightful tale.

Melki says

Ruddy McCann's life was pretty sucky even *before* he started hearing a voice in his head. Since that career in the NFL thing didn't pan out, he's been working as a repo man and bouncer in his sister's bar. He didn't think it was possible, but things are going to get a whole lot worse.

The voice - who is it? What does it want?

Turns out, the voice has a name - Alan, and he's not any happier about the situation than Ruddy. As he astutely observes, "**I'm a man trapped in a man's body.**"

This, of course, turns out to be something akin to having Felix Unger and Oscar Madison try to inhabit the same brain, and translates into pages and pages of merriment for the reader.

There are a lot of things going on here. Ruddy's suddenly trying to solve a murder, while figuring out who's sending bad checks to his feeble-minded buddy AND dealing with his sister's new beau's shady credit card scheme. The author manages to keep all plates deftly spinning, so three cheers for that.

My favorite bits were the repos and even more, the attempted repos. As Ruddy puts it, being a repo man requires "**nerves of stupidity**", and that is well demonstrated here. One repo turns into a repeated gag which had one of THE BEST conclusions EVER. It also provided the BEST LAUGH I've had in ages!

Oh, yeah - there's also a lovable elderly dog (view spoiler)

Paws down, this is a winner.

Lynn says

Full review at Smoke & Mirrors: <http://books-n-music.blogspot.com/201....> Excellent book! Great mystery! Nice little romance! Like Bruce, I will use as many exclamation points as I wish!! (From the acknowledgements section... :)) Ooh, the bad guys were really bad! There is a sequel in the works, too! I like Ruddy. I really liked Alan. Albert Einstein Croft and Doris! That was something similar to what I might find in a Stephanie Plum novel! :)

Cameron's humor appears throughout and really heightens the enjoyment of this book. Though there are many tense and suspenseful moments, it ends up okay in the end! Katie is quite the hero. I was glad I had read the introductory e-short story, The Midnight Dog of the Repo Man, so I knew a bit more about Ruddy and Jake. Very anxious to see where Katie, Jake, Ruddy, Becky, Kermit (no, NOT a frog!), and Jimmy all end up in the next novel! Fun stuff! Good read!

Brian says

I absolutely loved this book, which came as a total surprise to me. It was up there as one of the best books I

read this year. The plot is pretty odd: our main character, Ruddy, is a repo man who deals with some unsavory characters. He gives a lot of his earnings to the family bar that he and his sister Becky inherited after their parents passed away. One night, while in said bar, he begins to hear a voice in his head. The voice of a man named Alan who claims he was murdered. Ruddy decides to figure out who killed Alan and to try to bring this crime to justice. We are treated in this novel to a plethora of fun and lovable side characters. Almost every character is memorable and brought to life expertly by the author. In particular, I enjoyed the characters of Jimmy, as well as Katie. This is a good, solid read that I would recommend to anyone!

Aisling says

GO GET THIS BOOK! I loved it. A likeable, funny hero, heart pounding action, and surprisingly tender romance. One very unusual element (no spoilers) adds to a well plotted and multi faceted mystery. Just a highly enjoyable book by a great writer. I had picked up a second unrelated book by this author (the Dog Master) and began it the minute I finished this one...and ended up staying up waaay too late reading. Apparently I have found a new favorite author. And the movie based on his book A Dog's Purpose is coming to theatres soon. Don't miss out on this author! Five enthusiastic stars.

Debbie says

Want to read a funny suspense novel full of quirky, on the edge, good people characters, full of twists and turns, and you can't put it down? Read this! What a joy to read and so different from The Dog Master, which I also loved. Apparently, a sequel is planned, which is great news.

Danny Stevens says

Man I loved this book. I heard it was funny but people always say that and then I never laugh out loud even once. I laughed a TON at this, and was totally caught up in the story and the characters. Totally recommend this one and I'm in for the series, because I like to read that way. Jack Reacher is my favorite hero of these kinds of books, but I have to say, Ruddy McCann the Repo Man might give Jack a run for his money, because Jack isn't funny, and Ruddy is!

Rose says

I bought this book based on title alone. I just had a feeling about it. I wish I was as lucky with lotto tickets.

Ruddy is a repo man in a small town. His sister owns the local bar & grill where he also works as a bouncer. After a very vivid dream, Ruddy discovers he has a voice in his head. Not an inner dialogue but the voice of a murder victim. This voice ultimately gets him to discover what happened and who killed him.

It sounds far fetched when I tell it but it worked perfectly in the story. I torn through it in a day and was a bit sad that it ended. Ruddy is a good guy who's had some bad things happen to him. The cast of characters were a joy to get to know. What a crazy little town.

Bunny Sheperd says

LOVED this book. So funny and a true page turner. The characters seemed so real, and though it made me laugh out loud, I also found it deeply touching, especially the part where the father gets to hold his daughter. I won't plot spoil and say more than that but it was just beautiful. I love this writer and I love that he's in a new genre. There's a dog, so I was happy. It's perfect! Can't wait for this to be a series! This replaces Carl Hiassen for me, whom I loved, until he kept writing the same book over and over again.

Linda Johnson says

Murder, mystery, romance and throw in a lovable lazy dog and a stuffed bear and you have The Midnight Plan of The Repo Man! I especially enjoyed the small town setting and local characters! I really hope there is a sequel and definitely look forward to reading more from W. Bruce Cameron!

Kate Ayers says

Five stars for absolute fun. Ruddy McCann, fallen football star, disappointment to his family and not real proud of himself, is eking out a living towing away bank repos. Unsurprisingly, he has to be quite creative in his tactics, since people who possess cars they quit paying for tend to be less than cooperative about giving them back. As if things are bleak enough for Ruddy, he starts hearing voices in his head. No, make that just one voice. And the voice has a name. Alan. Alan claims to have been a murder victim and wants Ruddy to find out who did it and bring them to justice. Well, isn't that just peachy? What unfolds from this unlikely scenario (I know, that's an understatement of the large kind) is nothing short of hysterical, but against all odds it's not silly. It's very funny, and at times even very touching. You'll just have to read it to find out what I mean.

Wart Hill says

Read this and other reviews at [Things I Find While Shelving](#)

I received a free ARC via NetGalley

Ruddy McCann, Repo Man (not as in Repo the Genetic Opera, but as in “You did not make the payments for that you do not get to keep it”), has a strange dream. In this dream, he gets killed. When he wakes up, he puts it out of his mind. Until he starts hearing a voice in his head. Initially, he just chalks it up to going crazy, but it turns out that voice is the voice of the man who died, one Alan Lottner.

The problem? No one knows Alan is dead. He disappeared without a trace eight years before, and now his consciousness has a time share in Alan's head. At first, Ruddy insists that he's crazy, but as more things happen to verify Alan's claim, Ruddy has to accept that he does, in fact, have a dead man in his brain.

So Ruddy sets out to find justice for Alan, thinking that maybe if they find his body and who killed him he'll leave Ruddy alone and finally pass on into whatever the afterlife is when it isn't in Ruddy's brain.

This was quite the story. I liked the characters - though Ruddy could be kind of an overbearing asshole sometimes. His sister rocks though. As does Kermit - the quirky nephew of McCann's boss who wouldn't define definition correctly even with a dictionary.

The plot is interesting, and watching the characters try to solve a crime that has no evidence and the only witness is a disembodied dead man's voice, was definitely a fun twist.

4/5 stars!

Mike French says

Thank you Pamela for the recommendation. I loved the quirks of this story. Different than any book I can recall reading before. Kept me interested from start to the finish! So far this my favorite book that I read in 2015. Took me longer than normal to read, because I only could get in small print and my tired, old eyes need bright light which I don't have at home! I highly recommend this book if you have a quirky sense of humor!

Kaylie says

The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man is the perfect rainy day book. It's filled with an odd cast of characters, dry humor, irony, cute romance, and packed with action. In my two sittings of reading, I burst out laughing multiple times.

Ruddy McCann's the star of the show. A former football player with high hopes for NFL fame, his life comes crashing down after an accident. His dreams of stardom evaporate, and he's stuck in the middle of nowhere, Michigan, as a repo man/bouncer for his sister Becky's bar. I related to his feelings of isolation as I'm from suburbia, Wisconsin. His life has made him cynical, until he begins hearing a voice who he begrudgingly befriends. The voice promptly tells Ruddy he's not psychotic, contrary to popular belief. The voice says he's really a person stuck inside him, a dead realtor named Alan who's seeking revenge.

Thus begins a whirlwind adventure. The first person narration works perfectly here, as Ruddy learns to let the past go while Alan clings on. As Alan and Ruddy banter throughout the book, so much happens, but W. Bruce Cameron balances his hefty plot with humor and heart. Ruddy attempts to train his boss's nephew Kermit the ways of getting people back on their feet (literally) through repossession, and the scenes between Katie and Ruddy as their friendship blossoms are thoughtful. Plus, dull-witted yet wise Jimmy and Ruddy's lazy but loyal dog Jake round out the cast.

Ruddy's not perfect. He angers easily, his filter is limited. Each character is flawed and therefore achingly real. I rooted for Ruddy, Katie, Jimmy, and Becky and thus could not put the book down. These oddball characters, along with the expansive yet sequestered setting and sometimes dark humor, reminded me of Fargo.

Life pushes Ruddy out of complacency, and he's one of the most complex characters I've read all year, making *The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man* one of my favorite books of 2015! Ultimately, we learn that heroes aren't always knights in shining armor. Sometimes, they take the form of the repo man.
