



Stalking You Now

Jeff Strand

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The reprehensible man sits in the restaurant. Laughing with his friends. Entertaining them with a story about his wretched behavior.

He doesn't know that somebody at another table is watching him. Somebody filled with hatred. Somebody waiting for him to be alone. Somebody with duct tape and a gun.

It's a night for vengeance. And a hell of a lot more.

Stalking You Now Details

Date : Published February 26th 2013 by DarkFuse (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Jeff Strand

Format : ebook 140 pages

Genre : Horror, Thriller, Fiction, Short Stories, Humor

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From Reader Review Stalking You Now for online ebook

Paul Nelson says

A serial killer returns from an enforced absence with murderous plans of revenge on the man responsible for his sabbatical. Things take a turn when the killer is confronted and an almost surreal exchange results in the totally unexpected. This is a macabre situation handled in a delightfully comical way, it's not all laughs due to the proposed end game but the shift in dominance from the strong to the weak and some persistent laugh out loud moments make this a highly enjoyable read. The stories short, easily read in a couple of hours and doesn't take itself too seriously, and I will definitely read more of the authors work.

Bill says

This is classic Strand! Fast reading, dark and humorous. Jeff takes us on a quick journey to see what happens when revenge goes wrong...really wrong. A fun, short read that I wish was a wee longer. 4 Stars. Recommended.

George Billions says

Nasty people coming together in disharmony

Terrible people make for great stories. You immediately want the piece of work being stalked in the opening to get some sort of comeuppance. There's a twist when we find out why the narrator is so mad at this dude, and then another twist during delivery of said comeuppance. Lots of twists and turns and daaaaaamns. It's a quick read so I can't say too much, other than it's a fun little ride about nasty people coming together in disharmony. As always, Strand's writing is engaging and flows easily, his characters are believable, and the story kept moving — no fluff or filler here!

Bark says

Stalking You Now is a novella and will be easy to spoil if I get all long-windy so I'll be keeping it short. When it begins a stalker is doing what stalkers do best. He is following around a loud mouthed man who deserves a beating just because he's so obnoxious. Whoops, did I say that out loud? Anyway, the stalker (whose real name is never revealed) has a history with this lout and plans to mete out his revenge tonight.

But things go . . . awry.

Turns out Stalker Man is quite possibly the most inept killer on the planet. Instead of playing out his lovely little revenge scenario on the man he believes ruined his life his night takes a turn into Cuckoo Land. Nothing goes as planned and humor and pain ensue.

"We struggle. She has the advantage of my pain and disorientation, and also her vicious fingernails. But I'm stronger and have murdered people. She's winning. I'm no sexist, but how the hell is she winning?"

There is a very small cast of characters here, none you'll fall in love with but that's not the point. Read it for the humor, the tension, the small moments of gore and the twisty turns. As with most novels by Jeff Strand you never know where he's going until he gets there and it's never where you expected him to go. There are some eye squinting scenes and plenty of morbid humor and the dialogue is mostly good and snarky. And the ending? Well, I thought it was pretty great. Check it out if you need a little humor in your day.

Dan Schwent says

The Flatside Killer stalks the man who blundered upon the bodies of his victims 25 years ago and ended his rampage. He captures the man and it would have gone perfectly but he didn't count on the man having another stalker; his girlfriend Mindy...

This is the twenty-third book in my Kindle Unlimited Experiment. For the 30 day trial, I'm only reading books that are part of the program and keeping track what the total cost of the books would have been.

I have a confession to make. One of the reasons I jumped on board the Kindle Unlimited free trial was because DarkFuse has a ton of stuff that's part of the program. Stalking You Now might be the best DarkFuse novella I've read yet.

Jeff Strand's Wolf Hunt was a gore-strewn dark humor tale and I liked it quite a bit. This one didn't have as much gore but I thought the dark humor was even better. Once Mindy shows up and Flatside has to improvise, the book is one of the funniest things I ever read in a dark sort of way, mostly in Flatside's internal monologue.

One of my favorite lines was "For a split second I'm offended she would suggest I'm the one responsible for the problems in my relationship with my completely fabricated girlfriend."

I know I shouldn't have felt sympathy toward Flatside but I felt sorry for him close to the end. He was just trying to get revenge when Mindy blundered upon the scene and was surprisingly capable. Cut a poor killer some slack...

The DarkFuse novella series continues to kick ass by the truckload. Five out of five stars.

Current Kindle Unlimited Savings Total: \$124.87.

Lisa Sandberg says

This is the second book I have read from Jeff Strand, I will continue to read more from him.

This is a very good short read. My how the tables turned.

This is about a serial killer that gets revenge on someone he feels ruined his life. Then the guy's girlfriend shows up and all hell breaks loose.

Very nice twist.

Angel Geliue says

Terrence is at a restaurant with a few of his friends, insensitively complaining to them about his girlfriend. Terrence is what most people would call a douchebag (or something similarly demeaning). He's taken aback when a man sends him a glass of wine. A short while later, when he and his friends are at a bar, the same stranger takes a seat at their table. Terrence wastes no time dispensing his disparaging remarks and sending the guy out of there. But he'll soon realize that he has a dangerous stalker.

And he's not the only one....

Strand has such an incredible way words. His great sense of humor adds so much to his compelling stories. There was a nice twist in this one and I thought the characters all got exactly what they deserved.

Mike says

Finished *Stalking You Now* last night, great read as always from Jeff. Gave it 4 stars. I always enjoy books like these that read fast and your not quite sure what going to happen next. Keeps you on the edge of your seat and waiting for the other shoe to drop. Even though I enjoyed the story alot, I just couldn't give it 5 stars. Because I didn't think it was as good as *Dweller* or *Pressure* that I did give 5 stars to. I might be a little jaded since I read *Dweller* and *Pressure* first and it kinda set the bar high.

Char says

This novella was so good, I read it all at once in about an hour.

It showcases Jeff Strand's comedic style, while also being as serious as death. It sounds kind of crazy but somehow Mr. Strand pulls it off.

The story involves a serial killer stalking his victim and somehow evolves into something else entirely.

I loved it and if you're a fan of Mr. Strand, you will too! Highly recommended.

Marvin says

Jeff Strand writes killer dialogue...pun intended. No, seriously. Strand is a great storyteller but his talent at writing tight, and in this case funny, dialogue slays me..also intended. *Stalking You Now* is not only a great example of his execution (cough!) of dialogue but also his ability to knock off (gag!) a frightfully funny

suspense tale that doesn't leave the reader hanging (cough, cough) at the end. At 50 plus pages, it is either a long short story or a short novella, But either way it is just the right length to give you an hours worth of dark comedic entertainment. By the time it is terminated (cough!) and finished off (zap!) you will agree that it was not time wasted (ka-ching!).

Good. I got that out of my system.

So what is *Stalking You Now* about? Therein lies the problem. In 50 pages, a lot happens and there is one great little twist not too far into the story. So saying too much will ruin the ride. It is a story of revenge although whose doing the revenge and why may leave you pleasantly disoriented. The story begins as our revenge minded protagonist is stalking his victim. The author gets into the story running and doesn't let up. It's that dialog thing happening. There is also a another little twist involving a third character. Let's just say tables are turned often.

I've always enjoyed Strand's ability to find the humor in the darkest situations and this story is no exception. Good dark humor elicits laughs of the type that may make you feel guilty but...hell! It is only a story. So get this story and enjoy a few evil laughs at characters who may (or may not) end up deserving it.

Frank Errington says

When you visit Jeff Strand's website at jeffstrand.wordpress.com, the first thing you notice is the greeting "Welcome to Gleefully Macabre!" And that phrase pretty much describes the work of this writer who is as popular with other horror writers as he is with his growing fan base. As he did last year, Jeff will once again emcee the 2013 Bram Stoker Awards® Banquet and act as Toastmaster at the World Horror Convention 2013. Both of these events are part of the Bram Stoker Awards Weekend, to be held in New Orleans from June 13-16, 2013.

His latest release is the Novella, *Stalking You Now*. A demented little tension builder, told effectively in the 1st person. It's the story of a deranged madman who stumbles over someone even crazier than he is.

When you pick up a Jeff Strand book, you know it's going to be a fun read and that's just what this is. Plus, he uses one of my all time favorite words, "discombobulated." Oh, it's a real word, go ahead and Google it. I'll wait.

Subject matter and some colorful language makes this one for adults. But I think even some of my non-horror frends will enjoy *Stalking You Now*, available now for the Kindle and in other digital formats soon.

Stuart Keane says

I'm fairly new to Jeff Strand. In hindsight, starting my Strand education with his addictive romantic adventure, *Kumquat*, might not have been a good idea. I disagree. Yes, Strand is known for his horror prowess, and I feel like a kid in a candy store with all of his books. However, *Kumquat* opened my eyes to his comedy persona, one so naturally unique and realistic that his books become effortless to read. And one thing I love is horror with a cheeky, funny side. Three lines in...and I come to a conclusion: I haven't enjoyed discovering a new horror author, and such a diverse back catalogue, this much since King or Laymon.

Told from the first person, a serial killer returns to his roots to find the man that forced him into exile some years before. His plan? Revenge. However, as he soon discovers, it's not all that easy. Killing is simple when you're unattached but when fuelled by a motive? Things start to unravel very quickly. To say any more would ruin a very taut, amusing thriller. Just be aware, this story has three main characters...that's it. It's a testament to the writing ability to keep you hooked to what is basically a two-sided conversation for most of the story.

SYN is an excellent short story, one that doesn't scrimp on the gore, funnies and moral advice. Fancy cheating? In Strand's dark, noir-like world, you'd be better off at home with the wife. Cheating is a base theme and the story hinges on the repercussions of such a thing. Revenge thrillers are plentiful - and we all love to read one - but SYN pulls off a rare feat: It switches genre mid-story. Again, not to ruin the story, but events in this menace laden tale turn it on its head. Some may predict where it's going, but when the story is this razor-sharp, this darkly funny, you won't really care.

Strand's writing is excellent. And realistic. Horror is much scarier and poignant when the horror is authentic. Anything in SYN could happen. Seriously, when a horror author manages to place you in a gritty world, one that sits outside your window on a daily basis, one that we take for granted, you know you're reading something special. Yes, some may find this uncomfortable - who needs social problems rubbed in their face - but there's no arguing it will keep you hooked. I read SYN in one sitting and I would again, it's that engaging.

5* - A great start to my Jeff Strand horror journey. After this, I downloaded two more books. As I contemplate reading Dead Clown Barbeque - awesome name - next, I have a huge grin on my face. Horror is a genre that speaks to me, provokes a passion within me, and when I find an author that makes me comfortable in my reading, it's a special feeling. Some write horror off as the weak genre and I've heard people say 'anyone can write it'. Okay, so prove it? Horror is not an easy genre to write but Strand proves that, with a love for the genre (evident in the writing), you can create a smart, funny and very thrilling tale. And all that with three characters. Amazing read!

Bandit says

Jeff Strand could quite possibly rewrite a phone book into something entertaining and fun to read. He's just that kind of writer. Highly entertaining, funny and fun to read. This novella's no exception, a story of a clumsily named serial killer who comes out of exile for some revenge and ends up getting way way more than he bargained for. Good for your inner serial killer. Very quick read. Recommended.

Selene says

The way this story unfolded was similar to watching an SNL skit. It was sort of funny and cringeworthy, and the revenge theme opened the door for so many silly errors to be made by the narrator.

? Short and free story with entertaining bits.

Kaisersoze says

Jeff Strand writes in a very familiar kind of way. Almost all of his MCs have the same slightly cynical, vaguely amusing view of the world (much like Strand himself I would assume). It doesn't matter if those MCs are good people with the best of intentions, or despicable people who fail to give a shit about anything other than their own (insane) ends. So it's fortunate that Strand writes so engagingly well that I find all of his works to be comfortingly good.

The protagonist in **Stalking You Now** is one of Strand's insane characters. He has an axe to grind with a person who wronged him in the past, and this 57 page story picks up with him observing said person while seated a couple of tables away from him at a restaurant. Things progress from there in typically Strand-esque fashion - which is to say, unpredictably - with his MC quipping away through it all.

So while this is still an easy and decent read, it is by no means Strand's best. The MC is too idiotic to be who he is after what he has done (he said, dancing around spoilers), and he's not "Strandy" enough to be likeable or empathetic. Which means being stuck with him for 57 pages starts to become a bit of a chore. The ending, though, satisfies.

All of which is to say: mark this one down as being middle of The Strand. (I can't be the first person to make that lame joke, but I don't care. I'm rolling with it.)

3 Reasons to Always Have a Foolproof Plan - Especially if You Are a Fool - for **Stalking You Now**.
