



Time Crawlers

Varun Sayal

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Alien Invasion, Dark Artificial Intelligence, Time-Travel, High-Tech Mythology, Djinn Folklore, Telekinetics, and life-consuming Cosmic Entities are some major themes in this book which has six tightly-knit, fast-paced Sci-Fi stories.

1. Nark-astra, The Hell Weapon

The weapons he possesses make him the destroyer of worlds, and he burns for revenge. A high-tech take on ancient Indian mythology.

2. Death by Crowd

The dark desires of the masses; darknet websites fueled by a crypto-currency. What lurks in the background – an advanced artificial intelligence?

3. Genie

He rubbed a lamp alright, but what he got was the shock of his life. An entirely sci-fi take on the djinn myth.

4. Time Crawlers

There are individuals who exist in multiple time periods at once, and there are those who know about them....

5. Eclipse

No attacks, no blood-shed, yet there was an invasion and a conquest. Who are these shapeshifter aliens being hounded by an eclipse?

6. The Cave

The fate of an advanced imperial race hangs in balance as a dark celestial entity meets a legendary protector.

Time Crawlers Details

Date : Published June 15th 2018 by Kindle Direct Publishing

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Author : Varun Sayal

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Genre : Science Fiction, Short Stories, Fantasy

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From Reader Review Time Crawlers for online ebook

Darinda says

A collection of six short science fiction stories. The stories concern parallel universes, aliens, and technology.

The stories:

1. "Nark-astra, The Hell Weapon" – Apocalyptic revenge using high-tech weapons.
2. "Death by Crowd" – A disturbing darknet world and artificial intelligence.
3. "Genie" – A guy meets a genie, and gets a quick intro to parallel universes and technology.
4. "Time Crawlers" – Time travel and those who know about it.
5. "Eclipse" – Aliens amongst us.
6. "The Cave" – An apocalyptic alien presence.

An imaginative and engaging collection. Several of the stories use dialogue, in fact, some were all dialogue. I enjoyed the humor used in some of the stories. "Genie" was an especially humorous story. Overall, a good collection of short stories. "Death by Crowd" and "Time Crawlers" were my favorites. A quick, fun read for fans of sci-fi.

I received a PDF of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Vishnu Chevli says

I have read Scifi novels either as whole books or box set. This genre needs space to get developed, because you need to explain age/time for which the story was conceptualized, technologies of the age, geographical/astrological information, science (only a few of the authors try it, others just assume it fantasy genre and leave it) So when I saw this book was collection of 6 short stories, I was confused about how an author is gonna do all these things in a few pages. Well, I added the book to my kindle shopping list.

As per Forward of this book, there are millions of universe in parallel to each other. And millions of civilization thriving in each of these universes. The stories, covered in this book, are for those places where space-time travel is possible. Each story is based on one of the controversial scientific mystique concept starting from alien intrusion in culture, telepathy, telekinetics to time travel.

Four reasons why you should read this book

- 1) In love with sci-fi concept - The author has taken the time to explain his imagination of sci-fi concepts to readers with whatever scientific bases available without killing interest that too within 100 pages.
- 2) Action Packed Drak Theme - If you love to read some sci-fi war stories, you have stories for you. If you want to read some dark theme stories they are also present in the book.
- 3) To the point Description - No rubbish.
- 4) Light Read - Yes you can finish it in one sitting. But can give your imagination to another level for the next few days.

I personally feel that Varun has just given seeds for testing. Whichever story gets more feedback, he should make a full-fledged book on that topic. I would really love to read a full-fledged novel on "The Cave" and "Nark-Astra"

Detailed Book Review - <http://chevusread.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

Author Interview Link - <http://chevusread.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

Montzalee Wittmann says

Time Crawlers by Bar in Sayal is a book I requested and the review is voluntary. The book is a handful of short science fiction and fantasy stories. There was one 4 star story and the rest I felt were all 5 stars. They were very unique stories. I think Death By Crowd was my favorite although it was very dark. It was a story that wouldn't surprise me in this day and age! I also liked the humorous story Genie!

Dianne says

Science fiction, the one frontier where there are no limits to the “what ifs” and where a tiny seed can plant a bumper crop of creative thinking by a reader even after the story has ended.

TIME CRAWLERS by Varun Sayal is a fascinating and varied collection of short stories that are like those seeds, because: WHAT IF?

Parallel universes, human-like beings on other worlds, aliens among us, wish granting genies, why not? Who can say there aren't universes running alongside the one we exist in? It isn't like we really know what the human brain is capable of, let alone the brains of others. Sit back, open your mind and enjoy the worlds and words of Varun Sayal, I did!

Each story is like a complete thought with just enough room to continue on our own path! Some are mildly entertaining, some are wickedly fascinating and some deserve an entire book of their own! Each is unique and well-written with their own atmosphere.

If you like science fiction, these short stories are like the perfect sampler of the power of imagination! Besides, who is to say there isn't at least a grain of truth here?

I received a complimentary copy from Varun Sayal!

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Genre: Science Fiction Short Stories

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Available from: Amazon

For Reviews, Giveaways, Fabulous Book News, follow: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Kat says

A debut novel and collection of six science fiction short stories. This was a unique, quick read that's perfect if you're in the mood for something different. Some of these have an otherworldly, folklore- and mythology-based sci-fi feel, while others feel more modern like they could happen in the not too distant creepy future.

My favorite two stories were “Genie” and “Eclipse.” I loved the Genie’s quirky personality and found the dialogue style in that one fresh and funny. “Eclipse” was just great and my very, VERY favorite because of the twists and turns, the clean story-telling style, and also the sarcastic voice of the “Fourdan” (particularly the line about the dinosaurs and the apes.) I liked the idea of what could really be going on in that world and found the premise clever. We are left to wonder somewhat at the end of each story what comes next, which I thought was a neat narrative choice. I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Trigger Warnings: (view spoiler)

Please excuse typos/name misspellings. Entered on screen reader.

RM(Alwaysdaddygirl) Griffin (alwayasdaddyprincess) says

Read this book

Are you looking for a good science fiction short stories? I would recommend the book Time Crawlers by Varun Sayal. The science fiction is outstanding with the creativity. It gets really deep.

The stories are more than just about aliens and robots, etc. These stories come alive in these six short stories. It like this book gives you a chance to see these things in a new enlightenment. I like how the stories make you not want to put it down.

I am only giving it four stars for some parts were hard for me to follow. I also wish the title was shorter. Regardless, I would recommend this book to anyone who like science fiction and anyone wanting to try science fiction.

Dana Ilie says

This is a book kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

A collection of 6 interesting short stories. I like the originality and the author tallent, but I'm a big book kind of girl. I like my books bigger then 400 pages. All in all the author has potential.

Thank you Varun for trusting me!

Khurram says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I have no connection to Varun Sayal.

This is an excellent collection of 6 short stories. There are a mix of darkness, humour, belief, science fiction/fact, religious mythology, and conspiracy theories. Each story is different and shows a different side of Varun's imagination.

The Hell weapon. A loan warrior walks out to face an army of thousands, carrying a bow and arrows.

Despite the old school sounding weaponry this future technology enhanced by "magic". What is magic but unexplained science. The story also contains a warning of the price and corruption of the path to vengeance.

Death By Crowd. I would rename this "An Interview with the Devil". On the Darknet people's darkest desires are available for a price. Here we see an interview of one remorseless and conscienceless peddler. The scary thing of this story is how much of the science is available today and As schooling as the story is, it probably could be happening today on the real world broadcast in dark cyberspace.

The Genie. This is a great humorous story, strategically well places to cut through the darkness of the last story. It show Varun's since of humour. I great sarcastic twist on terms and conditions. As well as a different way of looking at Genies.

Time crawlers. Is knowledge a gift or a curse? I bit of a twist of the reincarnation mythology. I can't day too much without giving away a spoiler.

Eclipse. You know the truth, or do you? This a choose your side story. Again a great twist at the end.

The Cave. When everything seem hopeless you have to turn to a higher power. Another great story.

For my each of the short stories was a five star on its on its own for different reasons. This was a great debut book I can't wait to see what is next.

Roobie says

??4 stars??

***M:** Okay, for my third wish I want you to grant me one thousand wishes.*

***G:** Invalid request.*

***M:** Seriously now?*

I really enjoyed this!

A great collection of short stories, with Genie probably being my favorite of the six, and I really liked the interview/dialogue thing going on in most of them. The science parts were kinda tricky to follow at times but it didn't stop me from enjoying the book.

★Big thanks to Varun Sayal for a copy of his book.★

JV says

Hang on, this will be a slightly bumpy ride.

I love reading speculative fiction. When it comes to this specific genre, there are a few prerequisites that I take into consideration, whether be it a sci-fi anthology or a novel: (1) an immersive storytelling with enthralling prose and (2) a mind-bending experience that keeps me craving and thinking for more. Having read Ted Chiang's *Arrival* as well as Jeff Vandermeer's *Annihilation*, I didn't find this anthology quite as riveting as the former and the latter ones, although the concepts that Sayal has tackled here are interesting. However, my gripes about this collection of short stories are (1) the writing style which I noticed is "all-tell, no show" (it could have been crisper and sharper); (2) the dialogue is a bit clunky for my taste, although I have to admit that I'm a sucker for beautiful prose, but not that too purple-y; and (3) some of the stories are dialogue-based. I'm having a problem with this one for the fact that if this is to be considered a "play", it should sound natural and effective when it is read out loud (think of writing a script for stage or screenplay). But then again, I guess this is a case of "it's not you book, it's me" problem.

"Nark-Astra (The Hell Weapon)" - 2★

Science infused with mythology. Prayaschakit, a warrior hell-bent on vengeance, releases mythical arrows that have the capability of obliterating formidable armies and cause a cataclysm in epic proportions. Perhaps, the weakest story in this collection as I didn't find this as compelling as the others.

"Death By Crowd" - 3.5★

We delve into the world of darknet where death is legalized provided that the "performers" are considered terminally ill. A grim look at death/violence and how we find something macabre to be so amusing and entertaining that it dulls our sense of morality. Oh, it's pay-per-view and it's for hedonistic folks.

"Genie" - 4★

Rub a dirty lamp and voila — a genie! Well, except that he's a snarky "she"! Now, don't be so sexist. Genie Abuse Prevention is upheld. T&C's also apply. Make sure your wishes count. Hilarious, this one is!

"Time Crawlers" - 4.5★

Genius is just a matter of perspective. This is cray cray!

"Eclipse" - 3★

4D Aliens, also known as "Fordans", have taken the world by storm — blending in and shape-shifting into the human form. Indistinguishable by normal humans, it is up to the "Knowers" to hunt these extraterrestrials down, but what if all you believed in has been disproved by your own species and that you're just another biological entity that adapts to a transient phenomenon known as the "Eclipse".

"The Cave" - 3★

A psionic/paranormal entity lurks in the shadows of an ominous cavern. And if there's something strange in the neighbourhood, who you gonna call? Definitely not the Ghostbusters, but some awesome, legendary telekinetic who is able to perform 27 wormhole hops across the universe!

Overall, I liked it despite its flaws. Still a recommended read!

Miranda Reads says

Unexpectedly Delightful!

Sayal writes six short stories centered around alternate universes. The range from funny to thought-provoking to outright ludicrous (in a good way!). Without further ado:

Eclipse

'They' arrived very slowly and blended in very smoothly.

Our narrator is among the elite 'Knowers' - the only ones able to **track down and eliminate** 4D aliens (The Fordans). The Fordans completely blend in with the general population thus making the Knowers' jobs extremely difficult. Our narrator will have to face the toughest decision possible during the latest hunt.

Death by Crowd

Give me some rough numbers, how much do these performers sell their death for?

In a world where the dark net has become commonplace, "performers" are able to sell their deaths via pay-per view. We listen in on an interview with the sinister creator of this wildly popular web series. I really liked the way Sayal portrayed such a wildly evil world - this one definitely worked for me!

Genie

*"Hey, you're a ... a genie ... My life is all set now, sir ... Huh... you're a woman..."
"You are one sexist son of a bitch."*

This hilarious negotiation has to be read to be truly appreciated - suffice to say, Genies have updated their systems to include clauses written in legalese.

Time Crawlers

They actually experience time as bent tubes, or zig-zagging tunnels...

Another interview story, this time about "time crawlers" and how they exist in every-day society. I wish this one wasn't pure dialogue. That being said, I did enjoy it (especially that ending - wow!).

The Cave

All of them went in this cave and never came out

Short, sweet and entertaining. Just goes to show that sometimes it's better not to go poking the metaphorical bear in the cave. This was also told mostly through dialogue (like the previous two) and while it kind of worked, I think it would have benefited from some background details/actions.

Nark-Astra

Death is a very easy solution for the problem of your sins.

This one wasn't quite as gripping as the other ones but it still had some good moments. Sayal expertly combined Indian mythology with the future but I feel like I needed more than a rudimentary background to fully appreciate what he wrote.

I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review

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Whispering Stories says

Book Reviewed by Julie on www.whisperingstories.com

'Time Crawlers' is the first offering from Varun Sayal. It consists of six diverse sci-fi stories, concentrating on parallel universes and artificial intelligence.

The short story format is I believe the most difficult discipline to write and indeed to review. There is little time for descriptions, scene setting, misdirection or character development, so the author is relying on immediate impact to engage the reader.

I enjoyed the mix of emotions along with the moral messages and the author's cynical sideswipe at aspects of our own world. I particularly liked the idea that the concept of magic is actually just unexplained science.

The first story 'Nark-Astra – The Hell Weapon' is action-packed and sets the bar quite high for the subsequent tales. My particular favourite is the dark and disturbing 'Death by Crowd' as I fear just such a scenario could actually happen! After that, I appreciated the humour of 'The Genie' which is an excellent counterbalance to the previous story; definitely a salutary lesson in taking time to read terms and conditions before committing to anything!

Several of the stories are written in conversational format and read rather like a play script. This technique works reasonably well but the dialogue needs to be snappy to keep the reader's interest. One of the stories has similarities to a full length novel I reviewed last year, which was a shame because the twist would have been excellent if I hadn't come across it previously.

Varun Sayal has a vivid imagination and I think this collection of stories will appeal to its target audience. I confess to getting rather confused at times but overall enjoyed the book. At 100 pages it can be read in a couple of sittings. I think this author shows promise for the future and award four stars.

Dana-Adriana B. says

Reading these stories reminds me of the tv series 'Twilight zone', I was watching as a child. I liked some of the stories more than others. It's a mix of horror, science-fiction and comedy. Great reading!

Aakanksha says

Time Crawlers by Varun Sayal is a sci-fi book. There are six stories of parallel universe. This book is full of infinite possibilities. All the stories were different, but the core was the same. Something happening in the parallel universe, but their realities are different from our world in so many ways.

Let's talk about the six stories -

1. **Eclipse** - *"Tomorrow is a luxury no-one has."*

We have seen in movies that aliens attack our planet and government try to hide the presence of those creatures. This story told us that aliens living among us for a very long time. We are so distracted by world affairs that we didn't even notice their presence. According to this story, Aliens are the one who changes the climate of our planet and guides monkeys to civilization. But they have weaknesses too which is used by humans to destroy them.

2. Death by Crowd - *"All other species on this planet are simplistic, natural intelligence; they grow and learn at a limited pace, their evolution is gradual and well checked by nature. But we humans have grown unchecked."*

This story is a part of the interview over the black site about crypto-currency and the live show where people burn themselves. A hacker which is considered as an alien because no one ever saw him/her. This story focuses on Artificial Intelligence just like the movie Matrix. We humans don't know about our past clearly. This story left readers with a question of our existence. We are the one who creates AI or what if we are the AI?

3. Genie - *"I never heard of a female genie in any of the stories. Genie - You are one sexist son of a bitch."*

A man named Marco, lost in a jungle finds an old oil lamp. Suddenly, a female genie appears in front of him. The conversation between the two of them is funny and fascinating. We never thought of a female genie, how sad. But the author imagination is on the next level. This story told us that we humans always abuse the gifts we receive. The lamp is considered as a high-tech communication device that creates a momentary wormhole. The genie appears in nanoseconds from another planet.

4. Time Crawlers - *"Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music."*

This story is based on time travel. A person can co-exist in two moments at the same time. They experience multiple moments of time and can easily switch from one period to another at will. Who are they? Humans? Aliens? Strange humans? Those people who know about them are called time-readers. This story told a very different aspect of time travel.

5. The Cave - *"External senses may lie to you, but your brain always senses the true picture."*

The story starts when highly trained seventeen soldiers were found dead in a cave. Soon they realized that it's not just a cave, but an ancient warship. The dark lord of that ship which is a type of bacteria feeds on energy. They called a telekinetic, Kaaljeevi who is a living teleporter to save the planet. This story brings a scientific aspect of our planet.

6. The Hell Weapon - *"There is no such thing as magic. It's all science."*

The story is a perfect blend of scientific inventions and Indian mythology. It is about taking revenge. We heard the stories from Mahabharata and Ramayan, where bow and arrow can create mass destructions. What if those weapons are high-tech voice guided weapons? This story is about nuclear warfare techniques and lethal weapons.

The author did very well in his debut book. It's a short read. One can finish it in one sitting. The approach towards story is subtle. The stories are intriguing, convincing, and fascinating. There is a mix of humor and darkness. It is thought-provoking. I would recommend this book to those who like science fiction, these short stories are perfect for everyone.

Read more - <https://bookscharming.blogspot.com/20...>

Peter says

Multiverse

Time Crawlers is a highly imaginative, gutsy and spellbinding book of 6 stories that take us on a morally challenging ride through high-tech worlds and encounters that shock, terrify and enthrall us. Varun hasn't written stories with subtle moral messages, the moral core of the stories are explicit and dominate the context. Each has a theme of advanced science and technology in multiple universes and we wonder, are we being teased with the scenario that the more advanced we become with technology, the more we relinquish our hold on an ethical and moral society.

Nark-Astra, The Hell Weapon

Hatred and revenge can be blinding and when Prayaschakit comes for Dushtminhas, seeking revenge for brutalising and killing his family, he is armed with advanced deadly sci-fi weapons. If necessary will he use the ultimate hell weapon which will ensure death to everyone including his target, himself and all the innocents, what will his moral conscience allow him to do?

Death by Crowd

Delivered as an interview the discussion focuses on the darknet and a pay-per-view spectacle whereby participants are doused in jet fuel and set alight, and watched by millions until they are burnt to death. The owner of the game also owns the cryptocurrency which viewers use to purchase viewing rights. Is the owner human or an Artificial Intelligence entity? There is a great theory proposed on what constitutes humanity:

“Human beings are not the biological evolutionary species that we think we are. We are an advanced AI embedded in a simple biological wrapper.”

Genie, Time Crawlers and The Cave

Are delivered as a discourse between two characters and really challenge our perception of reality, the universe and time. There are some lovely twists in the stories.

Eclipse

Aliens that exist in the four dimensions have surreptitiously conquered the human race taking all positions of power and influence. The masses (humans) are controlled without their knowledge and fed direction as appropriate. Sound familiar? They feed off human emotions, and with so many wars, crimes, conflicts and broken hearts, humans are inherently and perpetually unsatisfied and hugely emotional.

This is a very well written and creative book with different structures to each story that deserves praise for their refreshing imagination. The stories delivered as a dialogue between two characters are very well written and manage to convey a supernatural and inquisitive theme. I love an author that trusts the reader to complete or finish their stories although some just end more abruptly than I liked.

I really enjoyed these short stories particularly the backdrop of high-tech, biotech and AI technology, which resonated with me on how this is evolving. I would like to thank Varun Sayal for a free copy of his book in return for an honest review.