



Night Tide

Michael W. Sherer

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Blast from the Past ...

Blake Sanders thought he left his Midwestern past behind when he went to the University of Washington on a basketball scholarship more than 20 years earlier. But Keely Radcliffe drags it back into the present when she shows up on Blake's stoop one morning to ask for his help. Back then, Keely's sister was killed in a lab explosion on a university campus in southern Illinois.

Blake's best friend Perry Langford was arrested and convicted of murder for setting the charge, but Langford always maintained his innocence, claiming someone else blew up the building. Not even Blake knows what really happened, and he was there. This is a secret he's kept all this time. Now Langford is out of prison, and he's gunning for all those he holds responsible for his 20-year stint in jail, including Blake.

A week later, Blake's cop friend Charlie invites him to a backyard barbecue at his folks' house. Masked gunmen burst in on the festivities before the two of them can even open a beer. Charlie and Blake manage to hold off the marauders, but Charlie is wounded and when the smoke clears, Charlie's parents have vanished.

Events begin to snowball, putting Blake on the run from both the shooters and Langford, his childhood friend. Blake realizes they are all related. Soon the FBI and even naval intelligence officer Reyna Chase are on his tail, too. Whoever planted the bomb 20 years ago is cleaning up loose ends, and the prize they're still seeking after all this time - a revolutionary battery design - is worth a fortune, even worth selling out one's own country ... and killing for.

Night Tide Details

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From Reader Review Night Tide for online ebook

Barbara Hardy says

Good Story

I really enjoyed this book. Plenty of interesting characters and the storyline is interesting and moves quickly. If you enjoy a good mystery this is a book for you.

Brenda says

Blake Sanders and best friend Perry Langford were up to mischief once again. But Blake didn't want to join Perry when he went into the laboratory on the university campus to "borrow" some items he needed – Blake decided to keep a watch out. So it was that in the middle of that night, with the darkness complete, Blake and Perry's lives changed – the explosion made sure of that.

Twenty years later and Blake didn't think about those days all that often. He didn't know that Perry had been released from prison until he was informed Langford was out to get revenge on everyone involved, including Blake. For Langford had claimed he was innocent right from the beginning; did Blake know what had *really* happened?

When policeman friend Charlie invited Blake to his parents' house for a barbecue one weekend, they hadn't even opened their first beer when all hell broke loose! Holding off the black-clad masked gunmen, both Charlie and Blake thought their days were numbered, but when it was all over, Charlie was the one with a bullet in his side, and his parents were both missing. When the police and ambulance arrived, Charlie was rushed to hospital while Blake was questioned relentlessly.

When events began to escalate, the connection to the past and Langford seemed to be clear. But why? What was going on; why had Charlie's parents vanished; what had they to do with the explosion twenty years ago? When the FBI plus Naval Intelligence's Reyna Chase became involved, and the gunmen appeared once again, gunning specifically for Blake, he knew he had to vanish himself. He was over getting shot at; he needed to unravel the secrets from the past if he was going to stay alive.

Keeping one step ahead of everyone was proving to be a problem – would he manage to stay alive as well as solve the mystery? Who was on his side? There was exhaustion, murder and treachery in the mix – the speed of events was threatening everything....

This was a brilliant thriller, the second in the Blake Sanders series. I found it hard to get into at first, but once I did, the pace was fast! The twists and turns were gripping, the plot involved. My one complaint of the repeated error of e.g. "sixty"60, "ninety-seven"97 all the way through the book was a little off-putting, but that could be corrected with editing. A great thriller, one I have no hesitation in recommending.

With thanks to NetGalley and the author for my copy to read and review.

Heidi says

Blake Sanders is the main character of the book and he has ADHD and works two jobs. He delivers papers and does dishes at a small diner even though apparently he doesn't need the money (from what I recall from the book).

When Blake was younger his buddy, Perry, goes to jail when a building explodes. Blake doesn't stand up and tell the cops what really happens so his buddy goes to jail for 20 years. When Perry gets released, through the grapevine, it is stated that Perry is going to get revenge on all the people who were involved in the explosion to include Blake.

The whole story revolves around what happened 20 years ago with a mixture of fitting in Blakes issues and flaws. There were a lot of characters in this book and I had a hard time following at times. I would recommend reading the first book as I am hoping it would answer the questions that I now have because I read this book.

Michael says

Great story, flowed well. This really kept my attention and I did not want to put it down. This is the first book I have read by this author. My I am looking for more to read. I won this book on Goodreads.

Lynda Birch says

This is a thriller and a page turner with commandos, disgruntled FBI agents, unhappy exes, some American history from the 60's and a very sought after revolutionary design worth killing for. The plot is credible and well constructed with a myriad of twists and turns that will keep you up at nights wondering what's next. A great engrossing read!

Read my full review at <http://birch-bark.blogspot.ca/>

Laura says

Night Tide is an awesome, fast-paced page turner of a book. It kept me up past my bedtime on more than one occasion just to see what would happen next. It is part of a series that I did not read the previous book of... but it stands alone perfectly well.

Witchypoo says

Enjoyed this story, lots going on, interesting characters. Don't think I would like to have leg's head or life.

Phil says

A very good read!

Suspenseful and interesting enough to hold your attention. An aggravating ADD main character who has trouble stringing two thoughts together keeps the suspense going.

Linda Look says

Blake Sanders is a likeable main character, although a pretty confusing one. A twenty-year old murder comes back to haunt him as he was a witness and could have saved his friend from going to prison. The ending was intense and I couldn't put it down until I finished the book (at 1:30 a.m) I rate this a 4.8

P.e. lolo says

This is a fast pace book from the beginning. The main character is still trying to get his life in order from the last ordeal but people won't let him. His best friend is being released from prison for a bombing that happened 25 years ago that he does not think his friend did. He was outside that night when it happened but he has told no one, yet there are multiple people trying to kill him. He survives all of the attacks and has to start to put the pieces together into what happened all of those years ago. That puts him at odds with his best friend, his ex-wife and just about anyone else that knows him. The only one that works with him and starts to believe him is a naval intelligence officer. She at first does not but when things start to go a certain way she goes with the flow to see where it will lead. This is a fast pace book with a lot of action and multiple characters. But it makes for a go story and the story line is believable. I really enjoyed this book. I got this book from net galley.

Theresa Needham fehse says

Free book for free review

Blake Sanders is trying to live his life. He works two jobs, delivering papers and washing dishes. Blake just tries to get thru living life one day at a time. He is still dealing with his losing his son, being divorced and dealing with ADD.

Blake has not thought about his life in the midwest since he left college. Now, 20 years later his friend, Perry Langford, aka Wink, is now out of prison for causing an explosion and murder in a university lab. Perry is released and soon comes up missing. this is where Blake's life gets a little crazy !!!

Perry is seeking revenge and wants justice for all involved. He is still claiming his innocence. Not only is Perry looking for this justice so is Keely Radcliffe. Keely knows Perry spent time for a crime he did not commit. She, to is looking for justice. Keely's sister was killed in that explosion and now its time for

answers.

As Keely shows up on Blake's door he gets tangled into a game of cat and mouse. Answers do get answered but the twist and turns they take to get them is scary ! Its a nail biter and will keep you asking who, what and why ???

Its a great novel ! It is the second in a series and is a good stand alone read.

Wende

Willa says

I received this book from NetGalley in return for a review; I was not paid for this review, nor required to post a positive review.

I really enjoyed this one. Blake Sanders suffers from ADHD, his son recently committed suicide, he lost his job and divorced his wife, and is now working two somewhat menial jobs -- washing dishes in the evening and delivering newspapers at night -- to make ends meet. He's no hero, just a regular guy. Oh yeah, he used to play basketball, but had to have a hip replacement due to a bone disease. So he doesn't exactly blend into a crowd.

This is the second book in a series, but can be read as a standalone novel. I had not read the first one (Night Blind), but went back and bought it after I read Night Tide so that I could have the benefit of the backstory.

There's a lot of stuff going on in this book, but I felt that the author handled the multiple storylines well, and was able to create a protagonist that I cared about, and was interested in. The story goes back twenty years to an explosion at a college laboratory. Blake's best friend was convicted of the crime and sent to prison, and has just been released. He blames Blake for some of his troubles, since Blake was there at the scene of the explosion, but never came forward. So he's looking for Blake, and so is the *real* perpetrator of the crime.

An interesting thriller, and an interesting protagonist. Very well worth reading.

Tania Godwin-evans says

This book is the second in the series and although it can be read as a stand-alone however, this reader felt as though I was missing something with the constant references to Cole.

Initially I found this book was confusing because the first chapter read like it related to a female where in fact the main character is in fact a male (confused you will be!). What did make a change to other books was that the main character was the only one written in the first person and the remaining characters were rightfully written in the third person.

The main characters and their relationships are detailed and the back story is revealed piece by piece as the lengthy detailed plot calls for it ... which is intriguing. There are many twists and turns before the culprit is revealed. Intrigue and danger are rife in this novel.

The principal character is not particularly likeable and he is complicated, certainly flawed making do by working two menial jobs. He suffers from ADHD which is only mentioned when it impacts on him and the story.

The author has a lovely turn of phrase but at other times was verbose, especially in the description department. There are also a great many characters which makes this book difficult to follow. So much so that at about half way through this reader felt as though there was very little happening and yet the story was still going strong. It seemed to this reader that it was taking ages to get anywhere with this novel.

Finally, answers to get answered but this reader found the ending rather a let-down after all that hard work.

Full Disclosure: ARC received from Netgalley for an honest review.

Veronica ?? says

Blake summed the story up himself very well here in this quote "Keely Radcliffe shows up out of nowhere and asks me to find my old pal Wink Langford because he might have spent twenty-plus years in jail for something he didn't do, only I find out Winks after Charlie's parents, and, oh-by-the-way, so is Keely. (leave out a few spoilers here). Plus come to think of it, I'm wanted by the FBI."

If you like your novels to be well researched and believable you will be happy with this one. Every detail was explained and obviously well researched.

This was the second book in the series. However, pre events were well explained so you knew exactly what was going on.

A lot of characters were introduced at the beginning of the story which was a bit confusing but I soon got used to who was who.

The book is hard to read if you have a lot of distractions around you (and I have many) and I had to keep backtracking to understand what was going on in the story. I found this made the story a bit too long for me. This is a novel full of intrigue and danger. Blakes ADHD was handled well during the story.

I didn't feel a connection with any of the characters. Blake was annoying in that he was so self centred but then again maybe that was part of his ADHD. When I thought about which characters I actually liked in the novel the two that came to mind were Perry Langford (who I thought was the true protagonist) and Chance Reno.

My rating 3.5 stars

I would like to thank Goodreads firstreads and Micheal W. Sherer for my copy of *Night Tide* in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah says

I received a free paperback copy of this book from the author, this has not compromised my ability to write an honest and critical review of the book.

1/12 - The above generic disclaimer that I use for all books that I receive free from the publisher or author

doesn't tell the whole story. I actually requested this book from Netgalley before I made the leap and bought a Kindle to read my many eBooks on (I was previously stubbornly sticking it out trying to read them on my laptop, not how I recommend reading an eBook unless you have no other choice). I bit off a little more than I could chew, request-wise, when I first found Netgalley, and ended up with way more books than I could manage before the archive dates cut me off. For those of us who went to Kindle reading willing, if you read Netgalley books on Adobe Digital Editions on your laptop (remember, no Kindle for me in those days) you don't get to keep the book once the archive date passes, they become no longer available, like an eBook borrowed from the library. I posted a short review explaining why I hadn't read the book and therefore couldn't rate or review it and thought nothing further of it, until I received an email from Mike offering me a free copy of *Night Tide* and an ARC of the newest book in his *Blake Sanders* series in return for an honest review (as if I could write anything else).

Finally got started last night (I was planning to start it last week, but other books got in the way). The first thing I noticed was the summary on the back of the book is quite detailed, possibly too detailed. As I was reading it I was thinking "Oh, don't tell me that, that's too much information for a summary, there should be some surprises left for me to find as I read." It felt like I was reading a spoiler-filled review instead of the teaser that I associate with the normal back-of-the-book summary. The end of the following sentence only added to the confusion

'...gunning for all those he holds responsible for his 20-year stint in stir, including Blake.'

I'm guessing a 'stint in stir' has something to do with going to jail, but I've never heard that particular piece of slang before (if that's what it is). Is 'stir' the word that was intended to be used here? I'm not sure, but it doesn't make sense to me.

Upon actually starting on the internal words of the book I came to the conclusion that this should not be read as a stand-alone. I spent the first two chapters confused as to **why** this guy (who didn't have a name for a while, either) was outside the man's house in the early morning. Finally I worked out that he was there delivering the paper. The following sentence on page eight also left me scratching my head

'Dew on the tall grass in the weedy yard soaked through the mesh tops of my athletic shoes, spurring me to action.'

Umm, really? You decided to risk your life by running into a house with a serious gas leak because your feet were getting wet?! That makes no sense to me, at all. You rescue people from imminent gas explosions because you love them or you're a good person or you're paid to, not because your feet are getting wet.

I was getting ready to say that the editing had been good, but then on page 12

'And now it had cost her her marriage...'

I'm not sure if the 'a' is the typo or the second 'her' is. It could be either '...cost her a marriage...' or '...cost her her marriage...'. To be continued...

2/12 - This is going to be a long review :| Fifty pages in 24 hours, fifty pages since my last update, fifty pages which are full of post-its marking things that I felt needed to be included in my review.

On page 16 a sentence near the top of the page is started

'Literally--literally'

On page 19

*'...a sense of gratitude for whichever Fates had conspired to **delimit** flying glass and flames to the night air, not flesh.'*

Looking at the way the word is being used in the sentence, I'm guessing what Sherer means is 'restrict', but *delimit* doesn't mean restrict it means, according to Merriam-Webster, *'to fix or define the limits (of something)'*. If you swap 'delimit' for one of its synonyms, 'define' for example, the sentence makes even less sense. Clearly, *delimit* is not the right word for what Sherer is trying say.

On page 29

*'A collar pin in the **freshly- starched**, snowy white shirt pushed the knot of a regimental tie into the room like a signal flag.'*

I wasn't going to mention the extra space between the hyphen and *starched*, but then when I read about the phenomenon occurring in the same sentence between a collar pin and a tie I figured it wouldn't require much more effort on my part. Either I don't know what a collar pin looks like, or this particular one is behaving in a manner contrary to the norm. In fact, it kind of reminds me of a bad description of an erection from a Kindle freebie romance novella.

On page 33

*'Wink used one I cut for him in my father's hardware store, from a duplicate he'd fashioned out of a soda can. That made me **implicit**, an accessory.'*

Implicit and *complicit* do not mean the same thing. *Implicit* means 'implied though not plainly expressed', 'suggested' and 'insinuated' are both synonyms. *Complicit* means 'involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing', which is what I'm assuming Sherer was trying to convey in the above sentence.

On page 41 we meet a friend of Blake's, Charlie and Charlie's parents, Connie and **Clayt**. Clayt? That's a very unfortunate name. When I read it, it looks like it has a typo and when I say it out loud it makes me think of the word 'plate'. Is it short for Clayton? That would have been a better choice, it looks less like a spelling mistake.

On page 45

'Bright out here. Wish I'd brought shades. When had my future stopped being so bright I no longer had to wear them?'

Exaggerate much? I've only known Blake Sanders for 45 pages, but from what little I've read that seems way too dramatic for his personality.

On page 46 some black clad men burst in on Blake and Charlie's BBQ lunch. All very exciting, well it would usually be, except that Sanders spends all bar 1.5 lines of the following page **thinking** about taking action. In the time it would take to think all the things he thinks on that full page waffle, Charlie should have been dead many times over. While I was reading page 47 all I could think was "Stop analysing, remembering, and

mantra-ing and just shoot." He even tells himself to stop thinking and move, but it still takes another long paragraph before he manages to fire his weapon.

On page 55

'The chopper rose swiftly, nose dipping as it cleared the treetops, and zoomed out of sight, a giant dragonfly in search of prey.'

Seeing as that 'giant dragonfly' is a medevac helicopter on its way to the hospital I don't think the description of it as being 'in search of prey' is very sensitive to its actual purpose.

This has started out very slowly. I'm really hoping the pace, and descriptive language, and editing, and well **everything** picks up quickly. To be continued...

10/12 - I had to force myself to read more of this, I almost certainly wouldn't have if it hadn't been generously given to me by the author (my only concession to receiving a free book). I am not enjoying this and don't foresee it getting any better - I don't feel like I understand Sanders at all, the plot has potential but misses the mark Sherer was aiming for, the action scenes (which I had been looking forward to) are lacklustre due to too much thinking by the main character, and every second page there's an editing problem that I can't just not see.

On page 78

"I think I quite literally went out of my head for a time."

No, you didn't, because if you had literally left your head you would be dead. This is a case of hyperbole gone mad, if the phrase 'quite literally' had not been added it would have been fine and taken as the exaggeration it's meant to be, but you add that phrase and it tells me the speaker means it **literally**, not figuratively.

On page 81

'He, too, wagged his head to and fro as if looking for something...'

First, why is everyone suddenly 'wagging' their heads? What's wrong with the word 'shake'? Wagging is for dog's tails and kids who don't want to go to school, not for people's heads. Second, if he was 'wagging' his head in the way a dog wags its tail he would never be able to find anything he might be looking for as his head would be moving too fast (when does a dog wag its tail slow enough to match the speed of someone scanning an area, looking for something?). Third, it says '*he, too...*', as if there is someone else with him who is also 'wagging' their head, there isn't, the only other person wagging their head on this page is Blake and he was in a previous scene, nowhere near this unnamed man.

On page 82

'...removed the M1911A1 Remington .45 automatic pistol...'

That's an overshare of gun identification information. Either 'Remington .45' or '.45 automatic' is plenty of detail, all those serial numbers made my eyes glaze over.

On page 83

*'...his sharp facial features softened by the **brume** hanging in the air...'*

I congratulate the author on knowing the word 'brume', but have to rescind that congratulations due to the fact that this isn't the book to parade your wide vocabulary. There are times (books) when it's great to have a thesaurus-like vocabulary and there are times (books) when it just comes off as trying too hard.

On page 86

*"...when he had so many **to** environmental beefs to choose from here..."*

Clearly that's an unnecessary 'to'.

On page 99

*"I did. Army. Arty METRO, over in 'Nam. 'Sixty-eight, 'sixty-nine' **69**. ..." "Enlisted. There was no draft until 'seventy. **70**."*

I'm not sure exactly what happened here, but obviously there's no need to repeat numerals in both words and digits. I would go with the digits as the more recognised way of abbreviating dates is '69, rather than 'sixty-nine.

Further down the same page

"Did that for the first month, twenty-four/seven."

You don't spell out 'twenty-four/seven', that's a phrase that's always written as 24/7.

I skipped a number of editing mistakes that are simply repetitions of what has already been mentioned in one of my earlier updates. There are so many problems with this book that even though it was free I don't know if I will be able to finish reading it, knowing that in order to write an honest review there is likely to be many more problems I have to get past to get to the end. If I do make the effort to keep reading to the end, and include all the errors in my review, I feel like I'll be getting the short end of the stick in this deal. I'll have spent quite a lot of time reading and reviewing a book that I'm absolutely not enjoying. If only another hour or so was needed to finish reading and writing the review that would be fine and I would be happy to do it, but the number of errors I've come across in just 100 pages makes that seem highly unlikely. I've got another 332 pages to go, which I can see taking me many, many hours to finish reading and reviewing and I'm not sure I want to make the effort. I'll take another couple days break, read some near-due library books and have another look at the situation after the weekend. To be continued...

1/1 - I planned to take the weekend off from this book, three weeks ago. Despite the book sitting on the corner of the dining table, where I walk past it multiple times a day, I've barely thought about it in those three weeks. *Night Tide* really isn't working for me on any level. I give it four stars for the original idea, minus three for the execution of that idea (see details above). DNF at page 103.
