



## Sleepwalkers

*Tom Grieves*

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Ben is your average married man: wife, two kids, steady job. Toby is your average schoolboy: fifteen years old, sweet-natured and shy. Two people, two separate, unremarkable lives. Except for their dreams. Dreams of violence. Dreams of rage. Dreams of torture. Dreams that are always followed – the next morning – by scratches, scars, pain. When their dreams and doubts become too powerful to ignore, one fact will become clearer than any other: that the truth they are running towards is the very thing that they should be running away from.

## Sleepwalkers Details

Date : Published August 2012 by Quercus (first published July 24th 2012)

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Author : Tom Grieves

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## From Reader Review Sleepwalkers for online ebook

### **Nick says**

Tom Grieves wrote a few episodes of Being Human which I liked so I downloaded to my Kindle his first novel. It originally started life as a TV project and I can see how this story would fit in just great on the BBC 3 of a few years ago schedules (it's all reality shows and youth programmes now).

It was well written with great characters. The book starts with numerous characters but the focus is on one man's journey of discovery about himself.

The main characters experience dreams, memories and injuries which they can not explain. What is happening to them? What is real? Who is in control? Why is this happening?

The characters seek answers to these questions. The book starts off at a great pace and then slows before picking up again. The ending of the book reveals that everything and everyone has a role, even those characters who may have appeared not central to the story. The twists and turns slowly reveal what is going on.

The ending of the book may be too vague for some readers but not for me. I prefer a sense of mystery and the book explains enough for me.

A great thriller/mystery read.

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### **Vanessa Dingle says**

I cancelled a night out so I could finish what I had started totally got into the twists and turns. Totally warped loved every page!

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### **Sarah says**

Ben is an ordinary family man who keep experiencing violent dreams and has unexplained gaps in his childhood and more recent memories. His wife, Carrie, is supportive and reassuring but he is plagued by the conviction that something is wrong in his psyche. As his paranoia increases he is forced to confront the veracity of his own identity. Toby is a schoolboy also experiencing violent dreams and missing pieces of his memory. His parents repeatedly change his school rather than confront his problems. However in his latest school, his teacher, Anna, decides to take an interest in his case and the complicated lives of Ben and Toby suddenly converge.

The book starts out in traditional thriller mode, with a strong sense of the sinister and the dream and memory elements of Ben and Toby possibly having a supernatural cause. Happily (without giving too much of the plot away) this doesn't turn out to be the case and the book explores instead the idea of a society within a

society where a mixture of Orwellian forces and medical advances make it possible for a smoke and mirrors deception on a grand scale. It's a very difficult book to review in detail without giving essentials of the plot away. However, I can say that although I'm not up on scientific processes I thought the whole concept fascinating and compelling.

The book is predicated on the idea that no-one is really who they seem. The writing and narrative style reminded me of the books of Michael Marshall (Smith) and I think this novel would appeal to his fans. Grieves, according to his biography, has worked in television as a script editor and producer and this novel started out as a script for TV that he couldn't sell. A quick scan through Goodreads and Amazon reviews reveal that many people, as I did, picked up the book and couldn't put it down which gives an idea of the compelling nature of the story. I hope that this will be the start of a successful novel writing career for Grieves.

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### **Jennifer says**

Big brother is watching you! The novel deals with the topic of manipulating the mind of traumatized people. The idea is intriguing, but frightening too. The author creates a lot of suspense through his stunning characters and open ends. Some parts of the novel are a bit boring, but after a slow start the story gains momentum. The end was a little disappointing because I had the feeling that the happy ending did not fit into the story. Nevertheless, the book is well-written and really entertaining.

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### **Gemma De-lucchi says**

Started off quite interesting and then just lost momentum and I had no idea what the hell was going on. Skim read the last 100 pages. Disappointing.

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### **Gary says**

Good Conspiracy thriller with some sci-fi elements. A entertaining read despite a few slow bits. More a 3.5/5 than 4/5

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### **Evelyn Doyle says**

Brian King's 'Cypher' meets Joss Whedon's 'Dollhouse'. I don't burn the midnight oil for many books, but I just had to know how this ended! I wasn't disappointed. It was thrilling right to the finish.

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### **Hayley Crandell says**

I picked this book up at 8.30 last night, hoping to get a couple of chapters in. Finally put it down at 12.30, finished, and mind-blown. This is a fantastic psychological thriller, with elements of The Manchurian

Candidate, and filled with so many twists that I just had to keep reading to find out what would happen next.

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### **Heather Markham says**

I skipped a few pages throughout the book because it seemed a bit long winded but I did want to find out what happened at the end so persevered.

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### **Herbie says**

best thriller i've read in years. fast paced, intense, delicately written. simply BRILLIANT.

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### **Lynn says**

Our lives are sometimes inexplicably linked, though most of us would never find out how or why. This is a story of epic proportions where we meet seemingly ordinary people who share dreams. Not unheard of, I suppose, but these dreams are generally violent and more often than not will leave scars, both mentally and physically. Set in a very American stylised Britain we are drawn into a world of corporate, Orwellian body-snatching.

Sleepwalkers is a fantastic read and one that kept me in bed hungrily wanting to know how the intricate mind-bending storyline will end. A completely unique thriller with filmic qualities. I LOVED IT!

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### **Kenneth says**

I'd just started an Ed McBain book when I was given this to read. Sorry Ed you were relegated to second place. I read the story in two days, quick for me. The book drew me in immediately. I found the story.

The plot moves on a pace and characters were well developed along the way. It twists back and forth and like the characters in the story, You never know who can be trusted. I found it a most entertaining read.

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### **Kevin says**

A very good, enjoyable book. I would have given it 4 stars but it lost a star due to the characters (intelligent characters) using the word 'cos' and on one page 'drawer' was misspelled as draw. Petty I know but these things annoy me.

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### **Rob Damon says**

Takes a while to get going but this story is compelling. The characters are drawn together like pawns, suffer dubious nightmares and have shared memories. The main character, Ben, is the most interesting and much of the book is about him trying to piece his life together. Other characters come into the story but their conclusions are not dealt with and as a reader I felt I was left in the dark about them.

Regarding the writing - great flow, at times it was effortless to read. However the writer kept switching from first to third person and this was annoying and made it seem as though he couldn't decide which viewpoint to go with. Although well written I think another review and rewrite would have sealed this novel.

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### **Janine says**

Was ok.

Easy to read.

Could've been made much better as to the reason behind it all.

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