



The Dead Room

Chris Mooney

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When Special Investigator Darby McCormick is summoned to search for a missing teenage boy, she has no idea the case will come to haunt every waking moment. The boy had been in the care of a man whose fingerprints reveal him to be long-dead gangster, Frank Sullivan, killed by the FBI some 20 years earlier.

The Dead Room Details

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Author : Chris Mooney

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Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Suspense

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From Reader Review The Dead Room for online ebook

Brian says

Ok, so he's not just an author, he's a friend.

Very good thriller/mystery. His best since "Remembering Sarah".

Chris' last couple have not been published in the US, and that's a damn shame for someone on the short list for the Edgar Award. If you can find it, read it. You'll stay up late.

Winna says

I'm a huge fan of crime drama series and movies. Despite my love for procedural drama and mysteries, I've never really read crime fiction before, except for a glimpse of Mary Higgins Clark. This is my first official crime mystery book, also my first Darby McCormick and the first glimpse of Chris Mooney book. With a title like that and a synopsis that compelling, I couldn't resist this book when BookDepository offered a 60% deal.

At first I thought the back story would be SWAT, with Darby undergoing SWAT training. And then it switched to a gruesome murder scene, reminding me of Beckett and Castle with unsolved murder mysteries and often gory scenes such as this one. The mystery went deeper as Darby encountered problem after problem, but readers got little breadcrumb clues and a different perspective.

minor spoiler

The pace is quick and comfortable, the mystery is complicated and keeps us guessing, the characters are kick-ass and likeable enough. I just wish Darby has a better sidekick. Her co-worker Coop is missing from important scenes, and only shows up in the scenes related to him. And then we don't know if we can trust him. It's hard to tell.

As bad guys turn to good and good guys turn out to be bad, it's a fun mystery that gets more intricate the more the story progresses. I am in awe of how crime writers work - they need to do lots of research to make the scenes feel so authentic.

That being said, I feel like the ending falls flat. We're not sure about Darby's future, we don't really get a full satisfying conclusion, there's hardly any good romance, and there's a lot of action but it's a lot more fun in the first half. It gets a bit boring after that, as soon as we're introduced to Jamie's perspective. That also means Darby gets less pages and as we lose her, we find her fading away till we get to her next scenes.

While I had fun flipping through the pages to see what would happen next, I'm thinking I might enjoy it more if it's shown in visual - as in a movie.

miteypen says

The main character of this series, Darby McCormick, has come a long way in three books. But this book

isn't only about her and the bad guys. There's another woman who is bent on revenge and she'll do anything to protect her family. Darby and she don't know of each other till close to the end and don't realize that they're after the same people.

This is the most violent book yet. It's also more complicated. There are so many players it's a little hard to keep track of them all. There's a lot of action toward the end which really kept me turning the pages. All in all, a satisfying thriller. I already have the next book in the series on my nightstand.

Kelly says

As a Crime novel I thought that this was a cut above others that I have read recently for a number of reasons, and yet there was something about it that just failed to make me go crazy over it.

Darby was a strong character and yet - unlike some other long standing Detective series - she didn't dominate the novel with her theories, observations and thoughts. She was a subtle voice which led us through, and yet she was established to us as the Leading character. Very clever writing.

The constant interweaving of old and new cases and the witnesses and victims with criminals and police could have been really confusing, but for the most part, I managed to follow. Where I struggled was the amount of characters and the variations of their names. Policemen who had criminal names and then nicknames appointed to them by other characters throughout the book... I had to keep flicking back to clear their names up in my mind.

The pacing was brilliant, considering it is a substantial book, the plotline was always progressing and developing, and yet nothing felt rushed and most aspects were explained.

The only thing that I would class as a negative was the FBI/Police corruption. I felt that it was *too* big and therefore bordered on unbelievable. That everyone in the FBI and lots of the Boston PD were not only corrupted in the 70s and 80s but still remained in seats of power just felt a bit too much. Could there have been local Police who were corrupted? Yes. And could the criminals have originally been FBI agents? Yes. But there didn't still need to be this wide spreading corruption thirty years later.

Still, I read it in a day and would definitely read more!

Miss Jinxed says

Excellent book!

This might sound weird but I admit that I cried at the end. I had grown to respect Jamie's character for her struggles and how she led her life. The ending felt like I was hit by a truck.... it was so sad.

Maybe it affected me more because I was listening to the audiobook instead of reading the paperback.

All in all a very clever story ...maybe a little far fetched with Fed theorybut hey that's why it's called fiction right?

Sheila says

Yet another great book in the Darby McCormick series. This one involves corruption within the Boston Police and the FBI that covers up the actions of a mob boss supposedly killed years before.

At the same time Darby is trying to figure out what is wrong with her friend Coop that he is acting so bizarre.

This one kept me guessing the whole way through and ended with a great cliffhanger as to Darby's future with the Forensic Lab. Gotta read the next one soon.

Paula Brandon says

I'm giving 4 stars because it kept me gripped from start to finish, and I read it in two sittings! What's remarkable about my score is that the book contained a lot of elements that really frustrate me: too much description over unimportant details, such as house layout etc, and what roads a character takes to get to a destination (a particular pet hate!) Also, the plot heavily features a mob-related storyline, something that doesn't generally interest me. (I stopped reading Mark Billingham because of too much gang warfare stuff).

However, the plot had a lot of other things going on, most of it quite interesting and gripping. The plot has lots of twists and turns. It involves crime scene officer Darby McCormick arriving at a homicide in which a woman has been murdered and her son injured. The case soon starts turning up fingerprints of people who are supposed to be dead. Several leads trace back to the death of head Irish mobster Frankie Sullivan, who was supposed to have died in an FBI raid 26 years prior, along with several FBI agents. There's a side plot involving Jamie Russo, a woman who survived an attack, seeking revenge on those who murdered her husband.

You can tell this was written when "CSI" and "The Sopranos" were the big things on television, with the strong mob connections, and some dry descriptions of various crime scene technologies. But it still moves at a breakneck pace and delivers an exciting, if a bit far-fetched, conspiracy at the heart of things, linking all the way back to the murder of Darby's father. There is a particular plot twist that I didn't see coming, even though it's quite overused these days. It was a bit upsetting, however. (view spoiler)

This is turning out to be quite a good series, even if Darby is a bit too much good-at-everything (she's practically Rambo in the finale). I look forward to reading the other books.

John says

Good 3.5 stars ... woops, sorry wrong book.

This one has darby being more superhero than Rambo's older richer brother with even more superhero balls. WAY OVER THE TOP. Still ok, but next book is probably going to be the dreaded backpack nuke .. and the one after something to do with the safety of the solar system.

Emma says

The Dead Room has been sat on my kindle for a while, a long while (around about five years) and was released earlier than that (2009). I have to say, finally opening it up I was feeling rather guilty about having waited so long to read it and I was also rather nervous. I had it in my head it wouldn't be any good or I would have read it by now. Thankfully, whilst the guilt didn't go away, the nerves did after a few pages because this was a pretty good read.

Darby is the type of strong female character I like – determined, driven, incredibly smart and incredibly loyal to her partner (and best friend) Coop, who finds himself in the middle of her investigation and not in a good way. This is because it takes place in the Boston suburb he was born, raised and still lives – a suburb that was once run by Irish gangs and has never quite gotten over it. There is still a code of silence that it's residents live by, even when the bodies of dead girls are found buried in the basement of a house, and secrets that not even Coop are willing to share.

How these bodies link to the murder of a young mother in another part of Boston and the trail of destruction being left by a mystery gunman is for Darby to figure out, whilst trying not to get killed. She does manage it but not before heading down more than one dead end and getting into more than one dangerous situation. Thankfully, she's pretty handy with a gun as well as a forensic kit and can take care of herself.

Because I haven't read the first two books of this series (this is the third) I am not sure how Darby got to be so handy with a gun or why a crime scene investigator also seems to be in charge of the investigation of a murder (people seem to defer to her at each stage). I have to say, I feel like I have missed something as a result, some part of her past which explains who she is and how she behaves.

It wasn't the end of the world but it did bring me up short a few times in reading the book and pull me out of it. I did find myself wishing I had started at the beginning of the series or had a cheat sheet of characters and their backgrounds. This probably wouldn't be the same for everyone but for me it meant it didn't quite stand alone. That said, it was the one downside in a well written, fast-paced, book which I had thought might feel a bit dated but wasn't at all. I liked it a lot and will definitely read Chris Mooney again.

LucyLui's Reviews says

The Dead Room by Chris Mooney

Title - The Dead Room

Author - Chris Mooney

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Darby McCormick is back in the third book of the series. When a mother and son are violently attacked, Darby and her team are called in to investigate. The further Darby digs, the more secrets come to the surface, with a dead man's fingerprints appearing at the crime scene, can Darby figure out the puzzle before it's too

late?

I am really enjoying this series, I love following Darby and her team. This series has quickly become one of my favourite series this year. I find myself unable to put the book down once I start it. I find the plot of each book to be really interesting, a new murder mystery in each book, but with smaller more personal stories for each character continuing from each book, linking them all together. I find myself getting really involved with the characters and also getting lost in the story which to me is the sign of a great read and an excellent book. As a reader you want to be sucked into the world of the book you are reading and transported there, you want to feel like your part of the story and for me, this series does just that.

I am really enjoying these books so much I have literally just spent my last £3.99 on the next book.

Rating - five stars

Would I Read Again? - Yes

Would I Recommend? - Yes

Would I read other books by the same author? - Yes

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Amazon under Lu's Reviews

Goodreads,

Net Galley,

My Blogs at www.lu-ellensreadingandreviewingblog...

www.lusreviewsblog.wordpress.com

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Carina says

I was wavering between two and three stars for this book, I opted for the higher of the two because for the most part this book I enjoyed reading it, but... there were quite a few bits that I struggled with.

The twists near the end, and there are two major ones, are very good. I never saw either of them coming (in hindsight one of them perhaps I should have been considering but the other I still think is one hell of a blinder). Our lead character is interesting, though she did seem very good at everything she did - she rarely put a foot wrong and there wasn't that much human emotion from her. This definitely reads as one book in a series though so perhaps this entry just didn't focus on that aspect...

The problem I had with the book was that there was a lot of characters introduced, some with multiple aliases in a very short period of time and I did struggle keeping them straight in my head. I imagine re-reading this, when you know who the main players are would make keeping track of the people easier as you could ignore the superfluous people (as you would already know who they are!)

Courtney says

I thought that it was very well written, but left us with some unanswered questions. This is my first McCormick book, so maybe it is continued in book four, but I don't think so. Mooney did a wonderful job of throwing twists and turns into the usual "mystery story". I was intrigued, but not a page turner which is why I gave it four stars. It took me a bit of time to read (but this is my own fault because I am not a mystery reader in the first place). Overall I would recommend this book to anyone, mystery lover or not.

Shiela says

Although I was kind of wanting to know what happened, by the end, I didn't really care. This is the book that Darby transformed from regular CSI to G.I. Joe Barbie and it was too over the top and unrealistic to be believable or even enjoyable for a couple of hours. This series has gotten out of control and it is time to end it.

Laura says

Audiobooks are starting to grow on me, I enjoyed this one a lot at work. This is the first book that I have read by this Author and in this series. So I went in with a completely clean slate. I didn't feel confused at all. It did give me some background questions, but they were more on the line of I wanted to know more. I wanted to read the other in the series that I had missed. Works fine as a standalone

I really like how it started off. The start was a great introduction to who the main character is as the core of her character. A hard-working, smart kick-ass woman. I also like how the Author didn't brush over the science of things, he went into detail and explained. It made you feel immersed in the environment.

That ending *claps* also that twist with the mother *claps*. Well done sir.

Lucy Oliver says

I have no words... I will try though! This book was absolutely bloody (wanted to swear but kept it PG) fantastic. An absolute work of genius. A fiction story about one detective not only trying to solve a murder but also trying to uncover secrets from her own past plus the corruption of the police force she works for. Vivid, gritty and downright gory. Everything a crime/thriller book should hold
5 stars all the way
