



## Mammoth: A Novel

*Douglas Perry*

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## **Mammoth: A Novel** Douglas Perry

Mammoth View, California is hit with the news of an attack on a summer morning. It's not clear what happened, but it's bad. And it's not over. As residents panic and leave town, the police chief and his deputy set off into the woods to investigate. The campsite attack is the perfect coincidence for Billy Lane. Looking for the biggest score of his career, he's targeted the local bank. The robbery does not go well and the aftermath goes even worse. Over the next twenty-four hours, chaos descends on Mammoth View. What really happened at that campsite outside of town?"

## **Mammoth: A Novel Details**

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Author : Douglas Perry

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## From Reader Review Mammoth: A Novel for online ebook

### Tim says

*I received a copy of this from the publisher through NetGalley to read and review.*

MAMMOTH by Douglas Perry is an interesting but at times difficult to follow novel that takes place in Mammoth View, California in the immediate wake of a suspected disaster possibly related to an earthquake causing civil unrest and uncertainty among the residents and visitors of the small community.

Several of the main characters take turns being the focal point of each chapter of the book, but the constant shift of focus creates difficulties in having a cohesive storyline for much of this story, although in fairness everything does come together eventually and the lives of all the characters intersect moving toward the conclusion that has an interesting revelation of the catalyst that created the mass panic.

While well worth the effort of reading, this novel definitely is requiring of patience on the part of the reader to stay with the story as it unfolds.

3 stars.

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### Lilly says

#### **I received this free copy for exchange of an honest review**

I am afraid I haven't previously read anything from Douglas Perry. Mammoth was engaging at first. The whole atmosphere and the feelings that surround you as you get to meet this small town's people are unique. First third of the book was captivating; you can't tell what's going on, you have no clue what is happening and you constantly feel like something is haunting you. I was delighted that this novel was getting my attention.

And then something happened. It threw me completely off. Maybe it was the amount of subplots of the numerous characters. Or probably, it had to do with the fact that the main theme [the earthquake or attack on Mammoth] somehow got irrelevant. I did not care for many of the characters. I admit that Torri was the only one that managed to hold my attention and I got bored.

Somehow this does not discourage me. I believe the author has proved that he has great potential. I really would like to read future works. If he can create such a captivating atmosphere once, I am sure he can do it again. His characters were complete -although their stories derailed the story from it's main plot and his style is good.

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### Sheila says

2 stars: It was okay.

This is a case of "wrong reader": This book reads quickly and is tightly written. It's gritty and unusual, but it just didn't work for me.

Partially the problem is I expected something else (I see many readers felt the same way), and partially I just couldn't connect with the book. I disliked all the characters (since they were mostly criminals, this is probably expected) and their homophobic/racist comments; I didn't enjoy the plot, which meandered in confusion as much as the characters did; and I didn't like the treatment of female characters. Finally, the big reveal at the end left me underwhelmed. To put it mildly!

If you enjoy grit lit and tales of criminals and their crimes, you might like this.

I received this review copy from the publisher on NetGalley. Thanks for the opportunity to read and review; I appreciate it!

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### **Chelsea Humphrey says**

Read this one a month ago but forgot to update on here? Mom brain! Review to come.

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### **Georgette says**

I'm more than halfway through but I feel that it's futile to cling on for any longer because I've long lost the plot. Something happens in the town of Mammoth View, causing an exodus. Those who were left behind react differently. There was a couple of bank robbers, two police officers, a teen girl, probably another handful of characters. I don't know. I lost track. There's far too much going on yet not enough to move action along. It felt like there were as many characters and elaborate back stories as Game of Thrones, cept less interesting.

At first I wanted to push through and see how it ended, but I'm starting to recognise how I'm putting it off more and more, while not starting a new book because of 'incomplete book' guilt. Enough of that. Life is too short.

*This copy was courtesy of NetGalley.*

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### **Sammi says**

I went into this book with very little expectations. The synopsis was vague and I avoided reading reviews. I found this book to be a great read that was hard to put down.

The story is told from multiple-POV. These seemingly unconnected stories, which leaves you guessing at what is actually occurring in the town of Mammoth Falls.

Due to the amount of POV's it would be easy to get confused between characters and remember exactly what role they play in the chaos. However I believe that the author has done a brilliant job at giving the characters their own voices and allowing the reader to easily differentiate them.

As all the events throughout the book eventually link back together it reveals the cause of the twenty-four hours of chaos that descended on Mammoth View and the one person who caused it all.

I received a copy of Mammoth by Douglas Perry through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Stacey Bookerworm says**

Reading some of the other reviews I have noticed a lot of comments about the book not being what they expected and about there being too much of each characters past but these were both things I liked about it. I don't want to read a book where you only know the minimum about each character because then how do you know what drives them?

When I first saw the cover of the book my immediate thoughts were that it looked eerie and hauntingly beautiful. It was the cover that drew me to it and then when I read the blurb it was like a double whammy. It definitely intrigued me and I was very excited to read it.

<http://www.bookerworm.com/reviews/35-...>

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### **Douglas Perry says**

I wrote the novel, so of course I'm biased.

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### **karen says**

*"Like I said, people scared. Doesn't matter what about."*

i love the cover of this book. it's not staggeringly original or anything, but that's why i like it - it looks like 80% of the covers on my grit lit shelf, for example, so it makes me think i know what to expect:

and the description is so vague:

*The small, isolated town of Mammoth View is hit with terrifying news on a summer morning: a mysterious, large-scale attack is unfolding in the surrounding forest. It's not clear what happened, but it's bad. And it's not over. As residents flee in panic, Police Chief Hicks and his deputy set off into the woods to investigate.*

*The attack seems like the perfect coincidence for Billy Lane. Looking for the biggest score of his career, he targets the local bank. The robbery does not go well—and the aftermath is even worse, leading the robbers to a nearby running camp for teen girls.*

*Over the next twenty-four hours, chaos descends on Mammoth View as Billy, the police officers, and a courageous teen athlete at the camp face down murderous strangers and ghosts from their pasts—all leading back to what really happened outside of town.*

i wasn't sure if this was going to be grit lit or some sort of supernatural/rampant animal attack/apocalyptic weather disaster storyline.

turns out, it's none of those things. and it's not at all *bad*, but it's like when you see a mouthwatering picture of steak and french fries in your food network magazine:

and then it turns out to be an ice cream cake *shaped* like steak, and 'french fries' made out of pound cake, and you like ice cream and pound cake just fine, but your appetite was prepared for steak and french fries and now your tummy feels a little unsettled.

the beginning of this was great; i was getting a very strong Niceville vibe from it, because it is essentially the same exact setup: small town, bank robbery gone wrong, large cast of characters whose storylines contribute to an overarching narrative, atmosphere thick with tension and foreboding as the reader is dropped into something they don't understand but are digging their journey to the slow, spooky reveal.

unfortunately, this book is one long held breath. it's partially my fault for noting the similarities between this and Niceville and expecting the story to develop along a similar path, but reading this was a frustratingly long wait for explanations while the reader is shuttled back and forth between several different characters' backstories and present-day experiences, wondering when they will converge or when the real threat will manifest.

the writing is good; it's essentially a series of character studies that eventually provide satisfying closure to the events of the day, but i kept waiting for the other shoe to drop and become killer bats or earthquake-woken ancient evils, or a portal to dooom.

do not wait for these, estragon.

it's a smalltown crime story in which the most supernatural element is the ripple effects of coincidence and misinformation. the problem is that it wants you to *think* it might go supernatural at any moment, because it keeps dropping all these very ominous pronouncements that activate your spooky-detectors.

*"Something's happened," Lloyd said, looking up as he squeezed Jamison's wrists.*

*"I can see that."*

*Lloyd's eyes followed his boss's, landed on Jamison's contorted face. "Right," he said. "But, I mean...out there. In the world."*

and by out there, in the world, we really mean the small california mountain town of mammoth view, which a reader who is still thinking her ice cream is a steak cannot be blamed for noting has some characteristics similar to those small towns in the work of stephen king, or wayward pines, perhaps.

*With all its quaintness - the brick facades and curlicue store signs - Mammoth View didn't feel like a real place when there wasn't snow on the ground. It felt like a mistake, a town removed from its proper time.*

and from another POV:

*The town made Billy uncomfortable, too. It had nothing to do with the fact that he'd left a dead man in the bank down the street, though that didn't help. It just felt creepy. The town was what snobs called picturesque, and what he called fake. Even the grocery seemed more like a gingerbread house. He wouldn't be surprised*

*if he peered behind the row of soda bottles in the refrigerated aisle and found elves back there stocking shelves and cackling.*

add to that the ambiguity and the oddness of the events as they unspool - and as the reader is exposed to them, where no single character has all the information, so we learn bits and pieces from people who only have part of the story - they see blood on a stone but don't know how it got there, they see smoke in the distance and do not know its source. these bits and pieces, taken singly, are commonplace, or at least explainable, but are rendered uncanny by juxtaposition and insinuation, by the author's sustaining that ominous tone and withholding all the information until the very end.

parts of the whole, in no particular order:

the town is evacuated suddenly after reports of an invasion, there is a small earthquake, gunshots are heard, a bank robbery goes sideways, there are several explosions and a large fire, stores are looted, people are killed, others are abducted, phones are down, radio stations spotty, there are many unconfirmed reports of attacks of unspecified origin, there are mysterious, half-glimpsed animal shapes in the woods, general panic, roadblocks, aggressive drivers, rumors, a missing police officer, miscommunication, smalltown bullies taking advantage of the confusion to go buck wild, etc...

and that's plenty to shape a regular crime story around, but then he'll write scenes like this:

*"I know you're all scared about what you're hearing on the radio," she said, her voice a little wobbly at first. "None of us is entirely sure what we heard. But this much we know for sure; you're safe here."*

*Tori glanced at Eileen, who had let her eyes drop to her shoes. Tori knew what Eileen was thinking. They weren't safe anywhere. They never had been.*

that imply SO MUCH DRAMA, potentially of the spookyspooky kind, but there's no payoff, in that particular case. that scene sets up a reader's expectations for some big freaking reveal like, "they had never been safe because of the annual piranha invasions" or "because they live in shirley jackson's lottery town," but no. they are just ordinary girls, leading ordinary lives (although one girl is infinitely cooler than the other). i'm just not sure what that set-up (and others like it) are meant to do, other than red herringly mislead the reader, and there are better ways to do that.

it's not always that clunky - there's nothing spookier than a deserted small town, and this scene of an empty diner, meals abandoned, food congealing, plays both sides well:

*He walked around the counter and pushed through the kitchen's swinging door. The grill had been turned off, but the food hadn't been put away. A mound of meat sat at the back of the grill, the bottom layer flattened out and stiff from overcooking. Uncracked eggs still patiently queued on the side table. There was a bowl of diced tomatoes. A block of cheese. Butter. Cooked fries sat in their baskets above the oil vat. The makings of a feast.*

wheeeeere did they gooooo?

i honestly don't know how i feel about this book. on the one hand, it's a well-told smalltown story with strong characters, an intricate plot, and it holds the reader's interest throughout.

on the other hand, it's this bewildering fermata whose tension is sustained far too long for the modest scale of

its conflict, so looking back at the plot after knowing everything kind of diminishes it.

he's absolutely an author i would read again, but not when looking for my spooky fix.

\*\*\*\*\*

huh.

i honestly don't know how to describe what i just read. i'm sure i'll figure it out, but right now i'm struggling with the chasm between what i thought this book was going to be and what it actually was.

review to come.

i assume.

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## **Zuky the BookBum says**

Also find my review here: <http://bookbum.weebly.com/book-review...>

### **NOW AVAILABLE IN THE UK!**

Thank you to Netgalley and Amberjack Publishing for giving me the opportunity to read this in an exchange for a review.

Not quite what I was expecting, which I think is the general feel judging by others reviews. Be warned, this isn't a creepy paranormal, alien type of thing. I don't think that's a spoiler either, I wouldn't want you to pick this up and be greatly disappointed. If you love character focused novels then this will be your kind of book! This gives you some really in depth information about each of the characters, but it can get confusing because there are *so* many characters! There are **eleven** main characters, plus more characters that relate to these characters in little sub plots.

#### Characters:

Tori

Billy & Becky

Jackson & Sam

Hicks & Lloyd

Oscar - "King"

Melvin & Gordon

Winnie Lloyd

If you find it difficult to keep up with lots of different people in books then this won't be for you. It can get a little confusing at times and I often forgot what was happening to one character by the time we got back to reading about them after having read about 4 characters in between.

I thought this novel was superbly written. Possibly one of the best written books I've read in quite a while! There is some really grotesque imagery in this book, not in a violent way though, so I wouldn't give it any trigger warnings, though rape is implied. My only problem with the writing was that sometimes it was really

difficult to understand where the characters were in Mammoth View or Bakersfield or what. That was my one annoyance, I wasn't able to keep a grip on where each character was.

In terms of the plot that there was, which wasn't much, it was an interesting storyline. Lots of things going on a once which could definitely add to the confusion. I feel as though Perry had created seven(ish) separate short stories and then tried to mash them into one... which in my opinion worked. I felt let down by the ending in a way but at the same time I thought it was really unique. You do find out why panic ensues in the small town of Mammoth View and I can bet you won't see it coming... Though now I've told you it's not paranormal or aliens then maybe you might...

If you like to really get to know a character and don't really care about a well developed plot then this book is a definite read for you, but if you're expecting something scary or creepy form this then don't bother as it isn't that kind of thing. I will definitely look out for more of Perry's work!

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### **Sarah Shaw-Stahlke says**

How can a book be so bad? It started out okay and was even engaging for the first 30 pages, but it quickly became frustrating and around 2/3 through I started skimming pages. I actually regret just not finishing it.

A small resort town and surrounding woods are hit with a large-scale disaster and the town residents flee in a panic as the town descends into an "every-man-for-himself" mentality. The problem is that no one knows precisely what the disaster is. It's up to the local law enforcement to decipher what happened and try to bring order to the madness.

Why did I dislike it? The book lacks momentum in the story line, or rather what masquerades as a story line, due to long ramblings about the character's pasts. And there are many, many characters. So many mundane and uneducated characters that it was difficult to keep track of them all, and their reflections were so pointless. It was trying to be psychologically clever, but it was distracting and disjointed.

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### **Louise Wilson says**

There is a lot going on in this book and there are too many to remember them. There is the background stories to the characters. See in the town of Mammoth View, California where there is news that an attack was happening. It's not clear what happened but it's bad .....

Things just go from bad to awful. A very confusing read.

I would like to thank Net Galley, Amberjack Publishing and the author Douglas Perry for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Malou says**

steady, slow, excellent. about lots but at the same time not a story with a defined start, journey or end. I felt like I was following the authors thoughspan. GREAT writing.

I got a bit thrown at the end.. Just because I didn't really get the punch. Didn't matter though, it held up fine.

Ok.. After some soul searching I have to ad that it left with too many loose ends. It was so many characters involved that only later did I realize that I didn't get closure for some of them. Janice and Jackson? Sam? Gordon and Melvin? Winnie and Lloyd? Still 4 stars for the unique writing.

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### **Cathy Geha says**

\* Thank you to NetGalley and Amberjack Publishing for an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest review \*

Told from the perspective of many varied individuals in or near Mammoth View, California this is a story of their world gone wrong and how they deal with what is happening. That said, I did not really relate to or like any of the characters in the story and wish that I could have. I thought the ending iffy at best and wonder at the naivety of the people in the town even if this took place sometime in the past when it was more difficult to get information easily. Mass hysteria is possible but I am not sure it would unfold as it did in this book. I was at times confused and ultimately believe that I was really expecting something else. I was looking forward to reading this book since I have been hiking and skiing in the area long ago. I guess I should say I was underwhelmed and wished for more but will also say that there are no doubt others who will really enjoy this book.

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### **Raven Tiger {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says**

**Disclaimer:** I received this book for free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I think, like a few people, we were expecting a more supernatural themed novel. My assumptions were based on the vague synopsis and the beautiful eerie cover. I also saw a *little* bit of Stephen King's style in his writing when it comes to the realistic eerie, but I was waiting for the unreal horror to kick in. It's not the novels or author's fault but my own expectations and hopes.

This book is predominantly character driven but still keeps the plot going. I kept wondering where the actual truth was with the novel. Unreliable narrators were abound in this novel.

The delivery of the twist didn't have as much oomph as I would have liked it to be. I actually didn't understand it completely until I put the book away and was doing something else, and then I connected the dots. I think that could have been done differently. Also a few threads of the plot were never solved or reached some resolutions, so it felt unfinished.

Over-all I did enjoy this book though. :D

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