



## Desert Son

*Glenn Maynard*

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Carter Spence is a 26 year-old accountant out of Boston who has an out-of-body experience following a car accident that kills his parents. He views the chaos from above the scene of the accident, then passes through the tunnel and reunites with relatives who have long been dead. A woman he does not recognize approaches him and says, "Welcome, son." Her message to him is that he needs to be aware of his true identity and should follow signs that will lead him there. She mentions mountains, but Carter is jolted back into his physical body before she can finish. After burying his parents, Carter heads west and meets a free-spirit named Brenda, whom he is drawn to on many levels. She becomes his travelling companion and leads him to Boulder, Colorado, and to an old white house of an old man named Martin. Diaries, hypnosis, and past-life regression reveal a bizarre connection between these three. Carter discovers that the truth to his identity can only be found by pursuing the answer to whether he is the reincarnation of his biological father in what is shaping up to be a love affair rekindled beyond the grave.

## Desert Son Details

Date : Published February 13th 2014 by Black Rose Writing

ISBN : 9781612963129

Author : Glenn Maynard

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### Heidi Sturgess says

This was given to me by TNT reviewers in exchange for my honest opinion

Meet Carter, recent college graduate, who's dabbled in binge drinking as would be expected of any college student, but more often than not he's the designated driver, he's the responsible one. Then you realise he's actually telling you about himself and this leads up to the accident where he loses both his parents and he survives. I appreciated the depth author went into where Carter's character was concerned.

At times I found Carter to be a confused and sad character. He questions himself, his existence even his ability to love. He goes through the motions of laying his parents to rest and then wonders how he should mourn them? ?? I was like WTH you sob dude!

After the funeral he heads West to "find" himself, on his travels he meets up with Brenda and now it becomes "their" journey.

The ending was a bit of a surprise and is not quite what I expected. When you're given a second chance in life, take it and LIVE it!

To sum it up.....Desert Son was a bit like fishing :D you bait, cast and wait. You get a nibble then the fish starts to tease you, nibble, let go, nibble, let go and then all of a sudden BAM! You've got it! Hook line and sinker! You reel it in and feel satisfied with yourself! And that my friends is exactly what this book did!

★★★★

Sent from Samsung Mobile

★★★★

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Reviewed by Heidi

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### **Christina Torretta says**

The beginning of this reminds me of What Dreams May Come. There's a small portion about heaven and I just kept seeing Carter and thinking he would see Robin Williams any time! I loved the imagination that this took especially since everyone has their own ideas about where we go when we die, and it didn't take away from the story but added to it. In fact Carter is given a mission to go back to the world, something that he wants to fight against after seeing how wonderful the afterlife really is!

Carter's situation is pretty intense and would catch anyone off guard and I enjoyed seeing his ascent to heaven, however, the beginning of the book was actually really slow. The beginning 30 or so percent was really long and it took everything in me not to put this down. I think a lot of this could have been revised. Some of the information is needed though and it's all from Carter's perspective.

The actual plot itself is quite interesting and different. I did really enjoy Glenn's scope of imagination and the characters surrounding Carter. Once the plot picks up it's a brilliant read and becomes much more understandable when the pieces start to fit together.

All in all, if you enjoy paranormal romance and want to pick this one up and find yourself slowing at the beginning, skim a bit and get to the good stuff, you'll be glad you didn't put it down!

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### **Glynis Rankin says**

Desert Son begins with an out- of- body experience of Carter Spence, after a tragic accident that calms the lives of both his parents. We soar about the scene and in the between of heaven. Once in heaven he meets a woman that makes him rethink his entire life. Returning to earth, Carter sets out on a journey to find and perhaps fulfill his destiny. There are a few mishaps along the way, but when Carter meets Brenda, a woman that captives him, things start to progress quickly, putting Carter on the right path that will change his life forever.

This story drew me in slowly with the repetitiveness of Carter's experience, and feelings. I was bored during the first chapters. Maynard gave us too much of Carter's background as well as introducing characters and history, that had little to do with the story. Although, others might like the long drawn out history, I didn't.

The story picks up once Carter was actually on his journey, yet, for me it doesn't really get going until Carter meets the mysterious Brenda. This encounter gave the story a sense of mystery that the beginning and most of the middle lacked. Their interaction and dialogue was entertaining and refreshing after so much introspect from Carter. I wasn't surprised with the end, but I was entertained with its collision of the past.

This was an interesting reincarnation plot twist, but given that slow start

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### **Hemantkumar Jain says**

The book starts out with an out-of-body experience and ends with the revelations of reincarnation of people revealing the past and present connections. The build-up of suspense is interesting.

The book kind of gets a slow start - a significant portion in the beginning describes the out-of-body experience of our 'dead' protagonist experiencing heaven and then returning for unfinished business with a message to discover his true identity from a lady who he does not recognize though she refers to him as her son - some readers may indeed enjoy the descriptive heavenly journey though.

The story soon catches pace and a few more characters are introduced. In the end the secrets are revealed and the dots are connected for the reader's.

The plot is interesting and the author attempts to captivate the reader with the out-of-body experience as well as the reincarnation plot twists and the inter-connected relationships between the different characters.

There were times in the first half when I found it too slow but once you hold on to it and read further, you are rewarded with an interesting climax.

Although a pretty interesting read ... I would still wish the first half was squeezed into just fewer pages and the book was no more than 125-150 pages long.

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### **Stacie says**

Desert Son is an intriguing paranormal romance that explores the out of body experience that forever changes the life of Carter Spence.

Carter and his parents are in a fatal car accident and Carter is the lone survivor. As rescue workers fight the save him Carter observes the mayhem from above. Realizing what is happening Carter has a sense of peace, he then begins meeting friends and relatives that have previously passed on. His life flashes before him, but there is one person whom Carter doesn't remember and she calls him "son." As Carter is pulled back to his body on earth the woman tells him to search for the truth. Eventually, Carter meets a woman named Brenda and the two set out for Colorado. Will Carter discover what he's looking for?

Desert Son is a riveting story that piques a reader's interest from beginning to end. The author goes into great depth creating his main character, Carter Spence and the details that surround his life and possible reincarnation. The author does a great job drawing his readers into the world he created.

I enjoyed Desert Son. It's a story that is sure to captivate any paranormal romance fan. I recommend picking up a copy.

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### **Fizza says**

This is a life or rather after-near-death life story of Carter. The story begins with an out of body experience he had following a tragic accident. Both his parents die in that accident and he miraculously survives. But everything changes for him. He can't stand to be in his house and now that he has a destiny to fulfil he must follow his heart. It seems right to him to leave and go west. So he does that. Then we see different experiences he has along the way. How he feels, what he thinks. His life might be never be the same once he finds out the truth about himself. It scares him and also encourages him to seek the truth about himself. Then he meets Brenda and a whole new chapter of his life begins.

The first few chapters are somewhat boring as the story develops slowly and there is much repetition about Carter's feelings and thoughts. Although some might enjoy minute details about his accident and the way he comes back to life.

Once he is on his journey to seek the truth and fulfil his destiny, whatever that might be, story becomes more and more interesting. There is a sense of mystery which will keep you on edge. Finally ending in a most epic way. In the beginning I never thought It'd end like that. But I am happy that I read it. It was refreshingly different from books I mostly read. It was entertaining and a fun read. Not quite a 5-star but definitely a 4-star book.

P.S. I want to thank the author for the ARC in exchange for an honest review. I enjoyed reading this not-quite-ordinary book.

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### **Kameron says**

(request submitted by author for an honest critique)

Many scenes were so vividly written it felt as if I wasn't just reading a story but actually there, living the ordeal with Carter. Case in point, the wreck - out of body experience - the reemergence into his body, watching his parents' spirits float onto Heaven.

Those of us who believe in Heaven and Hell assume Heaven would be beautiful so it didn't surprise me Glenn described it as such. I did like the idea of being able to think of a loved one left behind and POOF you

can see them in real time. Interesting concept and one I hope proves true when I reach the great beyond.

As good as the beginning of the story was though, I have to point out it begun to drag after the funeral of his parents. It really didn't pick back up until close to the end (during the hypnosis section).

As for this section, I didn't really believe a person could learn to hypnotize a person within minutes or it was as simple as following an instructional sheet. Man if that is the case, why aren't there more hypnotists in Las Vegas and where the heck is my cheat sheet. :)

I will say this and only this about that scene, Glenn created a nice twist and really didn't see coming at all.

I think you'll have to have a bit of faith to believe what he suggests is plausible.

Heart Rating System - 1 (lowest) and 5 (highest)

Score: ❤️❤️❤️ 1/2

Blog: [www.superkambrook.com](http://www.superkambrook.com)

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### **Margaret says**

by Glenn Maynard has all the makings of a good read, with a few caveats that threw me repeatedly across the road and down past Carter's last stop. As a main character, Carter feels disjoined and selfish to me. The lesson he learned during his out of body experience seemed to be one of self-traumatisation and building a shell against the other characters in the book. At points the book's pacing had me wishing for another of Maynard's many rabbit-holes and side soliloquies. There are many redeemable parts of Desert Son and Carter's quest for Brenda, but linking between them were skips and jumps I rather wonder if Maynard was best in creating.

Misuse of the actions of medical professionals, a more heaven-like western view of Nirvana and his lack of remorse in injuring another person with his car are a few of the oddities which hindered my complete enjoyment of what would otherwise have been a pleasant, if sombre read.

If you are looking for a read which curls and bends around the plausible, and flitters through pacing, love and healing into the story of a post-traumatic young man finding himself, then you would do well to buy Desert Son.

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### **K.C. Gray says**

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

This story is quite fascinating. The audience begins watching the main character, Carter, hovering high in the sky while watching as the police and fire department respond to a horrible wreck. Carter has no clue what's happening, but at the same time he doesn't care.

After a while, after the audience gets a better understanding of the situation, Carter moves on to the afterlife and gets a taste of what he can have, and then he's tossed out, back into his body and back to the pain of the world. From here, he continues on a journey to discover who he truly is and his purpose in this life.

The reason for the three stars is because there were so many elements I'm conflicted about. While I enjoy and appreciate the different ways Carter was pushed and pulled into the final understanding of what makes him special in unique, many of the things that pushed and pulled him were not explained and not "tied up" in the end.

Unfortunately, my explanation of what these things are include spoilers, so if you do not like spoilers, please stop reading here and understand that I did enjoy the read and recommend it for anyone who likes these types of novels.

\*\*\*SPOILERS\*\*\*

Shortly after leaving town, Carter stops at a gas station. On his way back to his car, he interrupts a young kid trying to steal the license plate from the back of the car using a screw driver. There is a struggle, and the screw driver plunges into the kid's chest. Carter does his best to hide the body and then flees.

There is nothing more about this for the rest of the book. We don't know if the kid dies, and Carter certainly doesn't have to face the consequences of his actions, which is a tough thing to pull off with him being the protagonist of the story. And if this was touched on later, it wasn't enough to resonate with me.

Another instance was Carter getting headaches whenever he looked at some mountains. This is shown as significant because these mountains are something that were a part of his past life. But, again, this didn't feel like it tied into the narrative, at all. It felt like a plot device rather than a natural extension of the laws within the novel.

And lastly, Carter starts off being a nice, normal guy, but in the end, he was more than willing to allow someone to die a painful death just because he wanted answers. I'm not going to go into specifics about the characters, but I will say this was an elderly man laying on the bed, sounding delusional, and there was no mention of anyone calling the police or an ambulance to get this man help. The only thing the characters wanted to do was interrogate him.

Aside from these plot devices feeling like the heavy hand of an author, the writing itself was decent and the plot interesting. I kept reading because I wanted to know what would happen, I wanted to explore more of the theories being explored within the text (existentialism, spirituality, and reincarnation being some of them), and I wanted to continue following Carter on his journey. In the end, keeping the reader reading is the author's main goal, and this author did just that.

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### **Rajalakshmi Prithviraj says**

What started off as a near death experience story, kept me hooked till the very end. Desert Son is one book which was eerie, captivating and full of suspense.

The plot is not very unusual- reincarnations and love triangles. However, the treatment definitely is, and it is the manner in which the storyline has been weaved that convinces its novel concept. Glenn has a way with words. There are breaks in the story with sudden twists and chapter endings. Yet, these add on to the appeal quotient.

The narration is flawless. The descriptions immediately trigger visualizations and imageries. Reading it was like watching a movie inside my head. The story unfolds in a language which can be easily understood by any reader not very familiar with the language.

As far as the characters are concerned, well, Carter and Brenda perfectly compliment each other. The story, in fact, unfolds through both of them. The way they find themselves, search for signs and answers together, is like the icing on a festive cake. Besides other characters, Martin is one man you would love to hate.

What I really loved about this book is that it addresses a concept which many find it hard to believe- that of reincarnation. The story would make many a disbeliever question whether it is really possible. The thought of a soul returning back to its family, is something acceptable by people in India. The descriptions regarding out of body near death experiences are so very realistic, similar to those undergone by people in real life.

To sum up, reading about the Desert Son has forced me to grab its sequel. The story is so compelling, I had no choice but to finish it in one single sitting. It is definitely a must read for lovers for supernatural and paranormal writings.

P.S- If you believe in reincarnations, the beliefs will get stronger thanks to this book.

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### **Anne (Angel Anne Reviews) Nelson says**

Thank you Author Glenn Maynard for the immense pleasure, and opportunity to read your newest novel "Desert Son".

This being my first read from Mr. Maynard I was eager to see what I'd find between the covers that held this novel, the words that were written awaited my eager mind!!!

I was blown away on and in the very intriguing journey as Carter (26) finds himself literally transported for a time in an out-of-body experience after the tragic car accident that claims the lives of his parents.

During his experience he travels through the tunnel of the after life, seeing some of his relatives that had passed away many years ago. (I would truly love to see mine again)

There's one surprising event though. Carter meets a women (he doesn't know her) who obviously knows him... she says "Welcome son". \*shivers with chills\* This part was mind blowing to me considering his

parents had just been killed in the car accident!!! And this was NOT his mom, or at least the mom that raised him. How can this be? Why did/does she call him SON?

During the short conversation with this women she tells him something even more bizarre - she says that he needs to be aware of his TRUE identity. Carter should "follow the signs" that will lead him there... Mountains.

Ughhhh, Carter is abruptly snatched back into his living body before the women could tell him anymore.

With a captivating, interesting, suspenseful storyline we travel along with Carter as he goes west. Colorado mountain bound here we come. During his adventure Carter meets Brenda, a connection is formed and Carter finds himself drawn to her in so many ways.

To follow is a mirage of bizarre events/things as the plot thickens. Carter comes to a white house that belongs to an old man named Martin. Oh my goodness, it gets intense as Carter is exposed to hypnosis, past regression and some diaries. (what is held in the diaries?) There is a connection between all three, what can it be?

Truths are found out about his own true identity - but how? Carter must find out by searching for the answers to see if he is in fact his biological father - reincarnated. A love affair rekindled way beyond the grave!!! Eeeek, it's so eerie, but you as the reader fly like crazy through the pages to find out the answers as whats to happen next.

Jump on board this phenomenal ride, experience the heavenly visit into the after life so full of twists that will leave you spinning trying to bring to life the connections, relationships between all the different characters throughout the story created by the amazing mind of Author Glenn Maynard..... believe me you won't want to miss this one!!

I highly recommend "Desert Son" to any lover of the paranormal and suspense!!!

I just found out that there's a pre-order available for "Desert Son", so I wanted to include it here in my review.

<http://www.blackrosewriting.com/roman...>

Recommend: YA and up

Rating: 4.5/5 angel stars

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### **Vanessa Kay says**

First of, I want to extend my gratitude to the author, Glenn Maynard, for providing a soft copy for this story in exchange for an honest review.

To be honest, this is actually the first time that I've got to read a book from the author so I really don't know what to expect; whether I'm going to like it or not. At first, he offered me to read and review the sequel of this book, the Wayward Soul, but I never read a sequel without starting with its first book even though the author already assured that it can be read standalone. And I'm a kind of person who never breaks her habits.

\*wink

I admit when I first read the preview of this book, I was really intrigued (to the highest level). I've read religious books before and stories that has heaven or even life after death, but this book is more than that. Imagine, "life after death" and "out of body" experience in just one book plus the addition of hypnosis, and past-life regression! Isn't that intense? And it was because of that, that it spiked my expectation too high that I'm afraid it reached the rooftop in heaven. \*lol

Desert Son started with an "out of body" experience by Carter (main male character) after an accident he's been through which resulting the death of both his parents. Considering the number of pages of this book, I really don't have any idea how's the author gonna end this story, because unfortunately for me, it started too slow that made this story too challenging for me to finish. It only comprises of 188 pages with 25 chapters. For normal circumstances, I could have finished it in just one sitting. But to my dismay, it took me 3 days!

On its first few chapters, we we're introduced to Carter (and should I say, was focused only to him); about his life before and after the incident. I'm never a fan of descriptive stories so no wonder I didn't enjoyed it as much, but there are ofcourse readers that enjoy descriptive stories, and I'm sure they would on the part of Carter's short journey to heaven.

The story soon catches up and new characters were introduced. Some of Carter's questions (including mine) were answered and all of those disheveled parts finally makes sense.

For the story's plot, I admit that the author had it big time! I love the idea of combining them all in just one book, though I admit that I wasn't that impressed at all on how it was written. I'm a sucker for suspense so I was really disappointed that I only had experienced a few of those in this story. Also, I just think that there's some scenes that doesn't need to be added or seem a bit questionable, but overall it was still a good read.

And for its characters, I applaud the author for making it brief yet understandable. It's not that too overwhelming descriptive that will leave you gasping for breath, though I admit that I had some hard time imagining what the characters would look like in real person especially, Carter.

Half of its contents started too slow but once you get on hold to it and pursue on reading, you will be rewarded with amazing discoveries and acquainted with intense revelations.

Even if this book didn't provided me with what I've expected, I'm still open to read its sequel. Why? Because in a series, it isn't the first book that has its treasure, but it's in the next and the next and the next, until you reach the last of it.

### **Rating: 3 out of 5 stars**

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### **Marbea E. Logan says**

You really have to have an open mind about different religion and spiritual manifestations also the paranormal to enjoy the entirety and karma of this book. You do not have to be a true believer or a total doubter to grab the key elements of the different series of psychological and spiritual events that coincide within this fictional drama. I truly loved the whole full circle vibe of life, and experimenting with death but I'm not about that life lol. The far depths and the imagination of the author taking it to that realm was crazy smart and fun to read at the same time! I just don't think that Martin was the complete villan in the story and shouldn't have been treated like a monster. He was a disturbed old man, but as a young man who killed his wife in a rage because she was fuckin another man in they house while the pregnant girlfriend suffers said adulterers abuse. I think that the evil one's was Shirley and Darren, and that with Martin and his broken heart and bitter mind from betrayal didn't have time to feel remorse for Alexandrea dying second hand from his actions. I'm sure after the body was found he had remorse, but he probably was too broken in the mind to care about anything anymore including the baby although he knew it survived that had to have eased his conscious through the years. But because he's the only one still alive doesn't Mean reincarnated Darren and Shirley get to play games with his life. They're the reason everything is the way it is. Nobody was happy in their relationships so they continued to stay miserable in them until that darkness latched onto someone else and it fed off each other. Misery loves company and comforts it as love when it's just carnal lust. Martin got screwed over in his past life and his present life, and the one who suffered in his past was Alexandrea for it. But because of all the drama and infidelity and spiritual foolery it all came full circle to Carter and Brenda getting revenge on Martin as Darren and Shirley. Because neither Darren or Shirley cared about innocent Alexandrea at all,nobody did except when it came to reincarnation that's a damn shame!

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