



Void

David Staniforth

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Memories define us, they tell us who we've been in the past and give insight to who we are likely to be in the future. But what if you wake with no memory? Tom Gardener faces this very situation when he wakes in a freezing car with no idea where or who he is. As memories emerge, fuelled by music and dreams, so too comes a sense of dread that there may be things he does not want to recall. Is his mind protecting him from something?

Who is he?

What has he done?

Where does he belong?

Why can he not remember?

VOID: a psychological journey of discovery that forces the question: To what extent can our memories be trusted?

Void Details

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From Reader Review Void for online ebook

Phrynnne says

There were two major high points for me in this book. Firstly the opening scene - what a great idea having a man waking up, freezing cold in his car with no memory of who or where he is. And then of course the event of finding the girl and the mother (not saying any more because I do not want to spoil the book for anyone). This was for me an enjoyable and very informative book and some of the discussion about how we retain memories and how accurate they are was extremely interesting. VOID (clever title) is certainly well worth reading.

Zoeytron says

Do not think for one minute this is just another amnesia tale. No sirree bob. I applaud the author for taking amnesia off the beaten path and doing something with it that I have never encountered. It worked.

A fleeting figment of a memory, a recurring nightmare, are they based on reality? Are they manufactured? What is the mind trying to share with its owner?

The opening is gripping, the pacing just right. Oh, and I loved the story behind the ugly monkey doll in old Mrs. Gaskell's home.

Maureen says

* Thank you to David Staniforth for gifting me a copy of 'Void' in exchange for an honest review*

Can you imagine the bone chilling dread on waking up, to discover, not only that you have no idea where you are, but also that you have no idea WHO you are? This is how we meet our protagonist, a young man who wakes up in his car one freezing cold morning, in a place he doesn't recognise. He finds a journal in the car that attempts to answer some of his questions, but he's not entirely sure he wants to find out, he has the feeling that he might have done something really bad in his past.

The mind is a tricky little devil at the best of times - can we know for sure, that something we thought we experienced in the far distant past, be really true? did it happen exactly as we remember it? Is it our memory playing tricks?

Void was the perfect title for this engaging mystery, it was impossible not to get caught up in who our protagonist was, where he had come from, and more importantly what secrets were lurking behind his memory loss.

I found this to be quite a page turner, and had no problem engaging with the characters, and of course it goes without saying that the plot just grabbed me right from page one. Would definitely recommend.

Lisa says

Void by David M Staniforth is a mystery thriller that was very well written it also had a lot of psychological aspects to it which made the whole read a bit more twisty it was a quick easy read that kept me turning the pages.

A man wakes up freezing in a car not knowing his name why he was there & what he had done he had a journal to which he could find out about his past BUT DID HE WANT TO FIND OUT THAT IS THE QUESTION?? he finds out that he was going to get engaged to Penny but has not committed to her yet WHY IS HE HOLDING BACK we find out about penny in the journal, she has a few secrets of her own.

I found the plot engaging it was sort of manic at times for me which made it a whole lot better as the man was torn & desperate to find out the missing 19 years he also disappeared for a week each January BUT WHY?? all the questions I was asking myself while reading this but it all came together, really loved this book would recommend for any one who likes a twisty read.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

What a great read!

I felt emotionally exhausted by the time I finished Void - in less than 24 hours because I simply could not put it down.

Void is one of those books that slowly ratchets up the tension until you find yourself completely immersed and oblivious to the outside world.

Trying to retrieve your lost memories is a bit (and I quote) 'like a lucky dip - you're always going to get something, but there is no guarantee that you are going to like what you get.'

Imagine waking up in the freezing cold, in a car, parked on an unfamiliar street, with absolutely no idea of where you are, how you got there, and even worse, who you are.

I have read one of David Staniforth's previous novels, Imperfect Strangers, which was a gripping 4* read for me. He has surpassed himself with Void.

Strongly recommended.

Debbie "DJ" says

Oh how I wish I liked this one more! It really did start off holding my attention, and I was excited as to where it could lead. However, the writing was flat, and often I found myself wanting the story to get on with itself. There are lots of theories as to why the main character suffers from amnesia and why he disappears once a week every year only to return home with no memories. Not only does he have no memories of this, but also the first 19-20 years of his life. I felt the strongest part of this book was his determination to uncover

what happens during these these missing weeks, as a lot of questions are slowly revealed. Unlike other thrillers though, where a couple holds completely different realities, both here were so similar I felt I was reading the same story twice.

Yes, the boyfriend suffers from amnesia and there are definitely some tense moments throughout. It felt as if the author had a great idea and wanted to keep reinforcing in it. Mainly that being, if we can't collaborate early memories, are they real? (I kinda hope so as an only child) To quote from the book, " Do we not over time believe those altered accounts and fix them to some form of false permanency in our minds? And once a false memory is fixed, how would we know it to be false without someone to corroborate or deny it?" See? Great premise, just didn't follow through for me.

Brenda says

Phenomenal!!

The man woke in the front seat of the car; behind the steering wheel – as cold as ice with frost on the windscreen and a deep chill inside the car. Obviously he had been there awhile – but where was he? For that matter, **who** was he? Starting the car and cranking the heat to high was his first priority – searching the vehicle for evidence was his next. And when he discovered the lilac coloured journal in the glove compartment with an unfamiliar scrawled note on it saying “*Read me – please*” he began a journey of discovery – but was it one he wanted to make?

Void by David Staniforth is an unbelievable psychological thriller that had me breathless with the suspense of it – unable to put it down, yet not sure I wanted to read on. At one stage I was laughing out loud, then not much further on I had tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat. My review is short as I don't want to give anything away, but I highly recommend all thriller fans read this book! It is fabulous! Thanks to the Goodreads friend who recommended it to me...what a read!

Norma * Traveling Sister says

4.5 stars!

Thank you so much to David Staniforth for providing me a copy of this book.

VOID by DAVID STANIFORTH is an interesting, moving, unique, and a suspenseful mystery/thriller that I thought was an absolutely fascinating look into a psychological journey of discovery from our main character's perspective through the help of journal entries and song.

The author does suggest that you listen to the lyrics of the songs that are mentioned within the book to enhance the journey you take with the main character but I didn't end up listening to the songs and I was still able to enjoy and connect to the narrative and the atmosphere through the author's descriptive and expressive writing style.

What really grabbed my attention when I first noticed this book on my feed was that great cover and the title which I thought were absolutely perfect and very fitting to this story!

DAVID STANIFORTH delivers a well-written and slow-burning read here where the story builds up slowly but in a way that grabs your attention right from the very beginning.

To sum it all up it was an extremely entertaining, refreshing, interesting, and steady-paced read with an ending that left me feeling totally satisfied. Highly recommend!!

All of my reviews and Brenda's can be found on our Sister Blog:
<http://www.twosisterslostinacoulee.com>

Sue says

VOID by David M. Staniforth is a psychological thriller/journey of one man's struggle to deal with his missing memories. The title and cover of the book are perfect for creating the atmosphere for this novel. Music adds another important element to the story. I went into this novel with no concept of what to expect...but have come out a different person. Can our memories be really trusted?

"The sense of being in the wrong place, with absolutely no idea where the right place might be, is an unnerving feeling that destroys any chance of rational thought."

Tom awakens in a freezing car, in a suit, on a hill in a place called Wincobank in the city of Sheffield, He doesn't know who he is. He can't remember anything. No memories at all. Where did he come from? Why can he not remember?

All he discovered is a lilac journal, black notebook and a pink envelope in the glove compartment, apparently written by him. The pictures are of Penny, Kaitlyn and himself.

So begins the journey, and Tom starts to read the journal, in hopes that it may trigger a memory. Penny, his supposedly live-in girlfriend suggested he keep a journal to invoke memories. Tom met Penny and her girlfriend, Kaitlyn, both studying nursing at the University, at a pub called "The Foundry" where he was playing guitar and singing. Penny indicates that Tom goes away every January for seven to nine days...but where? And when he comes back he doesn't remember where he has been! He is also not able to remember anything before the age of twenty. So strange?

This is a well-developed book, from the clever title and front cover, to the ending. Characters come alive as you read each small detail unfolding. The imagery is vivid and enables you to sense the atmosphere of the various places. The dialogue is so natural and well written, you can imagine the voices.

I loved this thought-provoking book and give it a well-deserved 5-Star rating.

Many thanks for an advanced copy of the book. Much appreciated and enjoyed!

Jan says

You won't just read this story-you will experience it!

David Staniforth has hit the ball out of the park once again with a book that will stir all your 'senses'. With such descriptive writing, my mouth still waters for the hot, salty chips that the protagonist craves. I can see the hills, the gun stand, the dark tunnel. I hear the tick, tick of the bike wheels on asphalt. And last-I can hear and feel the music that plays such an integral part of this story.

But all of this is just a bonus, as the real story here is about a man with a past that he can't remember. What secrets is his brain protecting him from? What happens when he finds out-will it destroy him or make him whole?

That's as much of the storyline that I am going to get into. It's best if the reader goes into this relatively cold to get the full enjoyment of Staniforth's writing style. His research and knowledge about this subject shines though, (I love a book that makes me smarter by the end of it) and as with his first novel *Imperfect Strangers*, the characters are well developed and memorable.

Top all this off with an ending that provides closure and emotional satisfaction and you have the markings for a well earned 5 star review.

This is a book I obviously recommend highly, and I can't wait to see what comes next from this author!

Brenda says

Right now, stop what you're doing, and go get *VOID* by David Staniforth! It is an extraordinary book!! And as the author suggests, listen to the songs he mentions in the book. Listening to the music adds another dimension to the story.

For 51 weeks in each of the last nine years, Tom has lived an ordinary life. For one week, he disappears and can't remember who he is, where he is, or what he's done. This year will be different, but can he trust his memories? Are they real? Are they from a dream or his imagination?

I love it when a book elicits an emotional response from me, and this book did that! From wonder, to dread, to sympathy, to shock and surprise. The author showed wonderful insight into his characters and their relationships. I loved feeling like I was part of the crowd in *The Foundry*.

I was entranced from the first chapter. I hated to put it down, so I carried my iPad around the house with me.

Brewing coffee? I'll read while I wait. Eating lunch? I'll read as I chew. I had to know what was going on and what had happened.

The cover artwork is excellent. There is a similar tunnel near my home, but it's not that threatening.

This will be one of my favorite books for 2016!

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

Going into this novel, I knew it dealt with amnesia, but had little knowledge of the entire premise of the book. I'm glad I went in somewhat blind.

When Tom wakes up in his car, he is freezing cold, unsure of where he is. Worse yet...he is unsure of **WHO** he is. He discovers a journal he hopes will help him piece together his missing memory and reclaim his life.

This book reads quickly as you travel alongside Tom, driven to put back the pieces of his life and perhaps fill in the missing gaps along the way. Again. Because strangely enough, this isn't the first time Tom has disappeared!

Well crafted, I was instantly pulled in and my attention held throughout. I thought I knew where this book was heading, but it quickly turned in a direction I never expected and totally enjoyed the deception.

Thank you to David Staniforth for providing me a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

WOW WOW and WOW

No Spoilers, you can read this review

WOW! OH WOW! I am left speechless. All I can say is to read this book you need to listen to the songs and read the lyrics while reading this book as the author asks, it will give you the true atmosphere in reading this book. It has given me goosebumps, and chills going right through me. I just want to thank David Staniforth for giving me this experience in reading this book. I am so touched how the music has moved me. I listened to every song right after it was mentioned. All I can say is Wow! Fantastic! I am so moved and you will be too. If you haven't read this book, you **NEED** to. This book is a must and I never tell anyone that they need to read a book but I want to share this with you. Its not a long book, its only 180 pages. I thought it would onlytake me a day to finish it but boy was I wrong, I had to listen to every song and read the lyrics over and over again. I was so moved and touched. It was such an awesome feeling and never felt this way in reading a book. I repeat its a must read.

The characters are done so well, I felt that I really got to know them
There was not one character that I disliked.

I repeat there is not one book that I have read that has touched me this much. If you read this book, please do come back to me and let me know how you felt, I would love to hear your thoughts. I know you will be moved and touched also, unless you are dead. I recommend this to everyone. All I got to say is this will give you the WOW factor that we look for in a book. It sure did it for me.

I am not going to put any spoilers in this review. I don't want to spoil it for you. This is about a man who doesn't know who he is and searches through his inner self to find out the person he really is and goes through a rough time in figuring it out.

I know we all like different things in reading a book but we all look for a book that Wows us and touches us and gives us total bliss. This book did all of this to me. I can't express enough how this book moved me and I want to share this with you. Enjoy!

Carol says

"He can't remember.....She yearns to forget."

Not just another psychological thriller here, but a uniquely told story of memory loss that kept me guessing about our protagonist's **real** life right from the **very enticing start** straight through to the revealing emotional conclusion.

Pretty freaky not knowing who you are, to go missing for one week each January plus not remember the first twenty years of your life, but combined with **fear** of the **unknown** and hints of wrong-doing, made for an entertaining and mysterious game of clue.

Told from two perspectives, there is a bit of clutter, but the story behind the **ominous** tunnel, the well-defined minor characters, and the bit of **creepy** we get from the 'lucky dip game' made **VOID** a memorable **4 Star** read for me, and ya know.....some questions **truly** are best kept unanswered.

Really enjoyed my first, but not last, David M. Staniforth novel.

Christine says

I want to extend my gratitude to David Staniforth for a copy of Void and the invitation to beta read the novel for him. The following review reflects my objective opinion of the book.

David Staniforth. People, remember this name. This one's authorship stock is rising exponentially!

Void is the newest creation from the pen of Mr. Staniforth. His previous books have included a fantasy trilogy, a two-book (so far) second fantasy series, and a psychological suspense read titled Imperfect Strangers. In my opinion, each novel he writes is better than the last. Considering I awarded his last 3 novels

a 4 star- and two 5 star ratings, Void is under real pressure to live up to these works, and to me it succeeds with flying colors.

This is a great book to go into cold, so I will strictly avoid discussing the plotline. I would characterize the read as a psychological mystery. To be a bit more specific, it is a fascinating psychological journey of discovery. The major theme is just how much can we trust our memories? Is what seems a recollection a real memory or is it invention? How can you really know?

There is so much to love about this novel! The premise is so different from the psychological suspense/psychological thrillers I have read over the last couple of years. And please note there is no reference to *Gone Girl* and no mention of *Girl* in the title. In my opinion, this is the book others should be compared to, not the *Girl* books. Another excellent feature here is that the majority of characters are actually very likeable. What a pleasure that is after recently struggling through so many psychological stories with despicable, loathsome characters. And Mr. Staniforth's prose. All my booklover friends know I am captivated by this author's lyrical, lilting, expressive style of writing. It draws me in like a magnet and enhances the storyline beautifully. I love his words, the phrasing, and the descriptive passages (which in general I am not a big fan of). I like to call it "literary light."

Mr. Staniforth brings a unique feature to *Void* with his significant references to actual musical compositions (including songs by Fleetwood Mac, Aerosmith and Derek and the Dominos) and his demonstration of how deeply emotional connections to music can lead to the unlocking of long-buried memories.

The story unravels slowly but steadily, with Mr. Staniforth dropping little clues here and there to tantalize us. It was great fun attempting to pick out the real clues from the innocent statements or observations. The story crescendos as we approach the end with some emotionally powerful revelations. The ending is done perfectly. Granted, there are a few intentional loose ends, not for the purpose of a sequel, this is NOT a cliffhanger, but to allow us to fill in the blanks on our own. I was highly satisfied with the ending.

Oh, and the title is PERFECT.

And just look at that cover!

What didn't I like? Not much. Early on, I was a little confused about the timeline of the narrative, but after just a little while, I caught on. The author has since rectified that issue. I also had some questions about the whereabouts of our protagonist during certain times of the year. Thirdly, I think there may have been a small liberty taken with a certain psychological diagnosis, but none of these issues were major to me and none changed my overall view of the story.

I highly recommend this psychological journey to everyone who enjoys a strong character study. I found the writing brilliant, ingenious, and oh so refreshing. If you have not read anything by David Staniforth, you are truly missing out. Do yourself a favor and give this book a try. Five giant stars from me.
