



Vanished from Dust

Shea Norwood

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This is an ACE of ASIN:B00FBZXMHW Vanished from Dust, # 1

Vanished from Dust, Book 1

A CHILL RUNS THROUGH HIS SKIN AS THE PHANTOM APPEARS.

HE SEES THEM EVERYWHERE . . .

Eric Stark is not insane. Or at least he doesn't think so. He wishes everyone in Dust, Texas, felt the same way. But that's not going to happen since the whole town thinks he's crazy. Why didn't he keep his mouth shut?

No one understands. Eric is alone as he battles his sanity in a town of tormenters. Suddenly a new friendship emerges after the new kid, Kyle Barrett, moves to town.

Eric reluctantly reveals his secret. Is it a curse or a gift? He isn't certain, but with Kyle by his side he finds the courage to seek the truth.

They soon realize that something sinister is descending on the residents of Dust.

Is it caused by Eric's phantoms or is it something else? Is it connected to the mysterious death of hundreds of townspeople over sixty years ago? One thing is certain—only Eric and Kyle can save them.

They set out on a heart-pounding adventure and find themselves transported to a disturbed and deserted version of their small southern town. They quickly discover that this new world has mysteries of its own to uncover. What they find could prove more than they bargained for, and it only leads to more questions. Eric and Kyle must face a horrifying fact—they may never get out alive.

"We're gonna die here," Kyle muttered.

"I don't believe that," Eric said. "And neither do you."

Will they survive their encounter with these dark and mysterious beings?

Will they find a way back home?

Or will they be lost forever?

The Vanished from Dust series is perfect for anyone who craves a hair-raising thriller packed with mystery and suspense. This paranormal story for young adults can be compared to *Stand by Me*, mixed with *Odd Thomas*, and a twist of *The Dark Tower*.

Vanished from Dust Details

Date : Published September 17th 2014 by Dust Devil Press (first published September 20th 2013)

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Author : Shea Norwood

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Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Thriller, Audiobook, Suspense

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From Reader Review Vanished from Dust for online ebook

Kim Bishop says

****Audiobook provided by the Narrator for an honest review****

Book review: Eric Stark is not your typical 14-year-old in Dust, TX; he see's phantoms! This little tidbit gets poor Eric picked on and made fun of non-stop by his peers at school until Kyle moves into town. They becomes best friends despite the rumors about Eric, and Kyle stands up for him when the bullies circle. Once Eric reveals his secret to Kyle, they go off on the adventure of a lifetime to save the future of their friends, family and the whole town!

This book is one of those that you will either really like/love or really hate. The story is set in the 80's in a small town in Texas. There are lots of references along the way which brought me back in time to my own childhood. I totally fell into a comfortable cocoon with the story being as I was so relating to the time, characters and innocence. Eric was a typical teenage boy in the 80's. He played Nintendo, rode his bike to his friends house and got nervous around a pretty girl. Just normal - until the day he started seeing phantoms, but no one really believed him until Kyle came along. The fact that we didn't have cell phones and PC's, was such a nice change of pace.....sigh. The whole experience was very nostalgic for me :)

Now that Kyle is in the picture, Eric feels more confident about exploring his visions of the phantoms. He starts questioning why he is the only one that see's them, what are they, where are they from and, more importantly, what do they want?! Kyle never waivers from going along with Eric which makes him such an awesome character/best friend. He is so caring and loyal to his friend with the way he stands up to the other guys that pick on him.

As the mystery starts to unfold we are introduced to Bop, the town drunk. Bop keeps making references to Eric about him "seeing them too" that he does not connect until it slaps him in the face. The boys also start to notice the increase in student absences, at the same time their parents and teachers are looking rather tired and worn down. Just when things couldn't get any creepier or weirder, Eric spies a phantom in town that he feels very strongly about exploring. Have you ever heard of curiosity killed the cat? Or opening a can of worms? Despite the fact that these phantoms Eric keeps seeing scare the crap out of him, he is compelled to investigate no matter where the clues and sightings take him. This was a wonderful paranormal suspense that is a must-share with my children!

Narrator Review: David Dietz did a wonderful job portraying an angst ridden teenage boy! Since this was my first time listening to him, at the beginning of the book, his voice did seem a little too childish for a teenager, too high pitched, BUT as you follow along in the book, I got comfy with him. That's the only way I can describe it, comfy....The voice David used did seem too much at first, but as I got into the story, and was all in with the imagining the town and the boys, the voices seem to fit Eric and Kyle perfectly. David's tone was spot on with the snarky moments and quite endearing with the more sensitive ones. I feel very confident giving David Dietz a 4 Fang rating on his narration.

Majanka says

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/book-tou...>

Vanished from Dust is an interesting, suspenseful YA paranormal mystery novel with a few surprising twists. I was eager to read it from the moment I read the synopsis, and needless to say, I wasn't dissatisfied.

Eric, our protagonist, sees things that can't be real. The other people in town think he's insane though, and they try to stay as far away from him as possible. All, except Kyle, the new kid in town, who wants to befriend Eric, and who convinces his new friend they must get to the bottom of this mystery and find out the truth about Dust, about the hundreds of town people who disappeared in mysterious circumstances over sixty years ago, and about how it's connected to the phantoms Eric sees now.

Their search for the truth has them trapped in a disturbed, deserted version of Dust, where nothing is what it seems, and danger lurks around every corner. This version of Dust is slightly reminiscent of Silent Hill, and brought back all the memories I had from playing that game. The author manages to paint a vivid, scary setting and describes it in such detail the reader can easily imagine what's happening.

I had goose bumps several times while reading, not because I was afraid, but because I did feel a thrill. The book starts out a little slow, which isn't a bad thing though, it gives the reader time to connect with the characters. But once the first few chapters are done, the pace picks up significantly and races on until the end. A great book, recommended to mystery fans and young adults.

Robin Chambers says

I was first attracted to this book by the opening – I tend to identify with children who have something “different” about them and are bullied in consequence (I can't think why!). I also thought the name of the town was clever, with its echo of “ashes to ashes, dust to dust”. Then the seeing of phantoms and a parallel dimension in which aliens could interact with humans unbeknown to most of them reminded me of Stephen King's *Insomnia* (one of my favourite books by him).

I confess to finding the first half of the story a “slow” burn, with Eric's ‘sightings’ and attempts to find out more about what he was occasionally seeing and sensing not apparently getting him very far. I also struggled to suspend disbelief in his ability to be able to stay awake throughout so many nights: but told myself that maybe that went with his extra sensory perception as a ‘Servator’... His friend Kyle had the same ability (as well as a predilection for sometimes behaving in pretty unacceptable, anti-social ways): so it was a relief when they were both finally sucked into the alien dimension and the story picked up pace...

The first half of the book then made more sense as Eric began to piece together the evidence for the existence and intentions of these very unpleasant beings from goodness knows where; though as a reader I was still pretty mystified about the mechanics. The boys then somehow stumble – as much by luck as by judgement - towards an opportunity to throw a spanner into the dimensional interface space/time continuum works, resulting in the alien technology spewing them out...where and when? Why, there's the hook to lure you into Book 2...

For a British reader it was fascinating to spend time in this small, fictional, Texas town. The references to unpleasant bodily fluids combined with the smell of grease from the fast-food outlets and the nearness of guns gave me a sense of a pretty poor town with a hand-to-mouth everyday existence, and a sadly fragile grip on the history and cultural heritage of the richest nation in the world. *Vanished from Dust* is an intriguing read on a number of levels (exploring more of an American Nightmare than the American Dream), and I recommend (though clearly not without some reservation) that you try it for yourself.

I did find it interesting that before this review there were none in the amazon.co.uk kindle store, whereas the amazon.com kindle store has 33 reviews, 27 of them @ 5*. I don't know whether differences in culture, language and expectation have anything to do with that curious dichotomy; but I hope I may have sparked off a little interest in the series over here!

Kathryn Svendsen says

Eric Stark is a seventh grader who is picked on by classmates because he used to see phantoms. Now they call him crazy train Eric. He only has a couple of friends at school, Josh, a fat kid who still calls his mother mommy that Eric rally doesn't like all that much and his new friend Kyle Barrett.

No one but Eric can see these phantoms that Eric sees and so they think he is either crazy or very imaginative. His parents have taken him to see a psychologist. He has seen the creatures since he was 8 years old. Now he doesn't admit to seeing them anymore because he doesn't want to be thought of as strange. But still he gets picked on. The only one who believes him is the town drunk and Kyle.

I didn't care much for the first part of the book when we were introduced to the characters because the adults in the story didn't seem to do anything about the bullying. The parents also swore at their children which I felt was wrong. Then Kyle and Eric were sneaking out of the house in the middle of the night to pull pranks on the townspeople. It seemed to me they were hoodlums in the making. I almost gave up reading the book. I'm glad I didn't.

Eric decided he had to figure out once and for all if he was crazy or not, so he and Kyle head to the local theatre that has been long abandoned and where a young girl disappeared from 5 years before. This is where the adventure really begins and the book takes flight.

From this point on the book is fast-paced and exciting. It was hard to put down and was a great read. Eric and Kyle demonstrated undecided loyalty to each other like the blood brothers they were. Through all the strange things that happened they stuck together and had one another's backs. They were resourceful but through it all they still remained the teenaged boys the author had set their characters up to be in the first part of the book. We just got to see the side of them that came out when under pressure and when necessity required.

Vanished From Dust is definitely part one of a series for the story doesn't end with this book. I hit the right side of my iPad several times trying to turn the page before I realized I was at the end of it. Hopefully it won't be long before book 2 is out because I want to find out what happens to these boys who have vanished from dust,

Due to the language the boys used and the other things I mentioned about the first part of the book, I am giving Vanished From Dust 3 stars out of 5. The second half of the book definitely rates higher than 3 stars but the first half pulls it down.

Thank you to the author for providing a copy of the book in exchange for a fair and honest review. A positive opinion was not required. All thoughts are my own.

This review was published on my blog Shelf Full of Books <http://kathrynsshelffullofbooks.blogs...>

Jean says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway.

I read this in one sitting. I loved this book and hope there is another in the works! It's well written, is a great story, and has interesting characters. I won't go into details because I'll get carried away with spoilers.

All I will say is, this is seriously a book you really need to read!

Wart Hill says

Dnf at 7%

Bad writing - all the characters feel like little effort was put into them, especially side and one off characters. The bullies are like cartoon bad guys. The town drunk KNOWS THINGS because convenient. The MCs are annoying.

Annoying Narration - the MCs are 14, but the voices the narrator does sound closer to 10. The narrator only gives certain characters southern accents...it's set in Texas.

And I am two chapters in and both bored and annoyed.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Elle says

My students really enjoyed the mystery and suspense this book has to offer. A definite page turner for students to read.

Ailsa says

my link text

Summary (in my words)

This is a story about a fourteen year old boy from Texas, called Eric. Eric isn't your 'usual, normal' child and is constantly bullied by others at his school. One day he is being beaten by a bully when the new boy at school, Kyle steps in to defend Eric. From this point on they become instant friends, but Eric is hiding something from his one and only friend.

Eric is different. He can see and communicate with ghosts.

One night (while Kyle is sleeping over at Eric's) they decide to play 'Knock Knock' when they should be in bed. Once they know Eric's parents are asleep they sneak out and start knocking on neighbours doors and then hide so they can watch to see if anyone comes out. When one neighbour answers the door holding a shotgun, this scares them so they decide to run.

While running a safe distance from the gun wielding neighbour, Eric notices a shadowy figure at the door of the abandoned theatre.

Soon they both come to the conclusion that there is something not right going on in their home town and they decide to try and solve it.

Eric convinced he did see something in the abandoned theatre, the pair decides to investigate.

While investigating, strange shadowy, dark beings appear around them. The questions I will leave you with is; Are they safe? Will they survive? And are they going to get to the bottom of the strange occurrences that has been going on in their home town?

My Thoughts

Eric is a very special child with an amazing gift that first presented itself at the age of eight, which unfortunately isn't understood by anyone which makes him an outcast. Having the ability to see phantoms/shadows/demons/dark creatures (depending on what you call them) means he has gone through a rather unpleasant childhood (only 14 at this point), which has included ridicule and beatings from bullies and having his parents sending him to a 'specialist'.

The book starts with Eric and his "friend" Josh walking to school together. This is not a friendship but is an arrangement set up by Eric's mum. Once they are far enough away, they go their separate ways.

Kyle is the new boy of the school and when he witnesses Eric being beaten, he steps in and defends him. Immediately, they realise they are similar in many ways (especially when it comes to creating mischief and playing video games) and become instant best friends. They become inseparable.

When they play their favourite mischievous game of 'knock, knock', Eric notices a figure standing inside the abandoned theatre in front of the door. At this point Eric has had it. The only other person who understands what he sees is the town drunk. This is when Kyle and Eric decide to investigate (Eric mainly wants to know once and for all if he is crazy like everyone thinks he is or whether what he is seeing is real).

My Rating

Although, I found this book a little bit slow to start with, it most definitely picked up. I found the characters very likeable and a perfect match for one another, they were more like true brothers than just friends.

For this reason, I would rate this book an overall 4 (although the beginning for me would be rated at about a 3 to 3.5. As the book progressed as the story went on and became extremely fascinating - this is why I rate it

an overall 4)

For more book reviews and info on authors, their books and where to follow them (as well as the occasional book related youtube video) go over to my book blog now - <http://ailsahindhaughabookworm4life.w...>

Michael says

I received a free audible code for the audiobook version for an honest review: Vanished from Dust is an interesting story populated with characters we barely understand and don't know enough about to root for. Some of the dialogue is very basic and is populated by he said, he said, he said to the point where it was distracting. Without giving too much away, some of the concepts and language used seemed above the ages of the main characters. I think the main idea of the story is really cool and there are parts in this book that are so interesting that I would have loved this book and would love to read the sequel if the rest of it was fleshed out a little bit more effectively. The Audiobook version is not well executed with not only the main characters names coming straight out of South Park, I feel like some of the dialogue and the sound of the voices the narrator used came out of South Park as well. Why did we meet Josh the fat kid and spend so much time on him if he is not important? The end was also very abrupt. I'll take a pass on the next one.

Peggy says

~Received For Honest Review~

Enough suspense to keep you turning the pages. Enough to keep you guessing when you think you have it all figured out. Enough to keep you wrapped up into this book. Shea Norwood took a plot and characters and made them into a easy to follow, easy to read, fast paced thrill!

BookLoversLife says

DNF at 55%. I have to put this down. To be honest its been so boring and Ive struggled to even get that far. Listened to the audio and found myself drifting at so many parts. Its a definite DNF.

Amie's Book Reviews says

VANISHED FROM DUST - Book One

Author: Shea Norwood

Type of Book: Audiobook - Unabridged

Narrator: David Dietz

Length: 6 hours, 59 minutes

Production Date: November 25, 2014

Genre: Young Adult

Publisher: Shea Norwood

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars ????

* I received a free copy of this audiobook in exchange for an honest review.

Its the 1980s. Nintendo is the newest thing and small towns are still considered safe places for kids to roam free. Eric and Kyle are in the eighth grade and are best friends.

Kyle had only moved to Dust, Texas the previous year. Eric had received the nickname "Crazy Train" several years earlier and was bullied and friendless until Kyle moved to town. On Kyle's first day of school he had stood up for Eric when the school bully was taunting him. The two boys have been inseparable ever since.

Eric hasn't seen them in a while, but for years he has seen phantoms with red eyes. No one else can see them. He had made the mistake of telling people about them when he was in third grade and that is when he earned the horrible nickname.

After not seeing the phantoms for years, Eric is suddenly seeing them with alarming regularity.

What are they? Why doesn't anyone else see them? What do they want? What can Eric do about them?

This audiobook is targeted at a Young Adult/Middle School audience and I think the author has done a terrific job. Not only is it a much better story than I had expected, but since I am a child of the 1980s (born in the 70s) I enjoyed the references to the fads and styles of my youth. Remember leg warmers and banana clips? I do.

This book ends on a cliffhanger and listeners will want to know what happens to Eric and Kyle next. I know I will be adding the second book to my "To Listen" list.

Narrator David Dietz is a whiz with separate voices. The listener is able to easily distinguish not only between characters, but also between the characters and the narrator's portions of this audiobook. Lately I have listened to a few books by this narrator and I have been pleased with the performance every single time. I rate the narration as 4.5 out of 5 stars.

The book itself deserves a 4 star rating when taking into account the intended audience. I truly believe that Young Adult and Middle Grade listeners will LOVE this series.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Shea Norwood is an emerging talent in the world of writing books. He lives in West Texas and you can find out more about him at <https://www.goodreads.com/author/show...>

Readers can learn more at his Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/sheanorwoodauthor, or by following Shea on Twitter @Sheanorwood

ABOUT THE NARRATOR:

David W. Dietz is a writer, actor, director and producer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For more information about this narrator or his production company visit: <http://dietzthethird.com>

To read more of my reviews visit <http://amiesbookreviews.wordpress.com>

Follow me on Twitter @Amieroger

Ellen Christian says

If you enjoy young adult fiction, I definitely recommend *Vanished from Dust* by Shea Norwood. It does touch on a few sensitive topics so I might reserve this for younger high school kids rather than pre-teens. It's an easy read that I had a hard time putting down. Definitely a great book and I cannot wait for the next one!

Niki says

A small town in Texas, home of Eric Stark a fourteen year old boy that is bullied after he told people he sees phantoms, not long after Kyle Barret moves into the town and he defends Eric, that is the start of a heart warming friendship. Eric and Kyle find out that there is something going on in the town, they decide to find out what it is and try to solve it.

It all starts when Eric sees a dark shadow in the abandonment theater in town, one night the boys decide to investigate, soon dark beings are around them, question is will they survive and be able to safe the dark beings?.....

Great Paranormal book, good story and a warm friendship, lovable characters, and much more, a Must read! suitable for YA

Rebecah says

What a wonderfully strange and inventive premise. It is a great mix of science fiction and the pain and joy of adolescence. The ending is shocking and will invest the reader in the series. It is incredibly creepy for a YA book and it elicits a fear response that can compare favorably to some of the best of Stephen King's writing. It is incredibly realistic for a book about an alternate reality and there is enough room in this storyline for

many interesting books.
