



Pennies for the Ferryman

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My name is Mike Ross. I'm a Ferryman. I help people with ghost problems, or ghosts with people problems. Funny thing, no one ever helps me with my problems. Civil War ghosts bent on killing me, Skinwalkers who just want my body, and a vindictive spirit linked both to my bloodline and my destiny...

It turns out the dead still hold a good deal of influence over the world, and they don't want to give it up. I'm in way over my head. Fortunately, I'm too stubborn to quit.

Pennies for the Ferryman Details

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From Reader Review Pennies for the Ferryman for online ebook

Warrick says

Short and simple, I have yet to be disappointed by any book Jim has written.

Elsbeth says

Very good, but very noir. I had to wait for a sunny day to finish it!

David says

This is an awesome book, especially if you like urban fantasy with a dark twist and a touch of dark humor. Jim Butcher fans will definitely enjoy it.

Bobby Corry says

When I started I was excited but then when I got to the part where the lead can see, hear and speak to ghost I was disappointed. I didn't want to read a Ghost Whisperer book. When you find out that the lead can touch spirits the book becomes extremely interesting. A ghost whisperer that can physically fight spirits is a great concept.

The book is full of action and suspense. I wouldn't mind reading the next book in the series.

Mike (the Paladin) says

I put this on my horror shelf (among others) but it's just barely there. It is about ghosts, hauntings and so on...but not often in an actual "horror" way.

We have an opening here that uses a "vehicle" we've seen before. Our hero Mike Ross had a cornea transplant (after a head wound in the military). He gets partial disability and like many veterans goes back to school. However when the bandage comes off, he's seeing things no one else seems to...

It turns out...oh wait, that's a spoiler. Okay I'm not a tease so here, but don't read it unless you really want to read a spoiler. (view spoiler)

The book reads as a series of vignettes or short stories. One builds on another till we reach the end of the book and set up the next volume.

Here you'll meet ghosts, skin walkers, their victims and relatives. There are hauntings and there are haunters there are "friendly" dead...and some very unfriendly dead.

It's a good book, surprisingly so. Pure brain candy and only for fun, if that's what your looking for I can recommend it. Enjoy.

Amanda says

I just finished Dead Eye, and while I enjoyed the premise of the story, the novel fell short on a number of levels, most noticeably the shoddy editing. I won't bother detailing the plot summary which you can read in other reviews and that I actually enjoyed, which is why I was so frustrated with the poor editing.

I was amazed at the number of grammatical errors in this book! I'm not sure whether that's the fault of the author or the editor; however, the poor editing definitely impacted my enjoyment of the story. The typos were primarily visible in sentences containing too many/not enough words to make sense, and not simple misspellings. Sentences throughout the story read as if they were reworded at some point and relevant words were not removed in order for the sentence to make sense. For example: "I went to the her office." (This example is mine, not the author's, but you get the point.)

In addition--and this is not necessarily an editorial mistake--but the excessive use of "air quotes" around every pun or ironic observation Mike makes is also very distracting and become tedious quickly. There is also an abundance of exclamation points after sentences! I found this punctuation mark distracting when applied in excess to Mike's dramatic observations, which didn't really require the additional "shout" to make a point.

Aside from editing, there are some key issues that detracted from my overall enjoyment of the story. First is the lack of any likeable female characters. With the exception of Mike's mother, there are really only three supporting female characters: Jenny Goodman, Officer Candy McKenna, and Elsbeth the ghost. All of these women are written as vapid, petty, promiscuous, or outright bitchy. This may not matter to some readers, but I found myself unable to sympathize with any of these women, all of whom become dislikable and/or irritating shortly after their introduction. Jenny is the flirtatious college classmate of Mike's who sells his tale of being able to see ghosts after a corneal transplant operation to a tabloid, thus exposing him to all manner of kooks calling to ask for his help. Their relationship starts as potentially romantic when Mike banishes Jenny's malicious ghost until Jenny gives Mike the cold shoulder. Without going into too much detail, her immature and manipulative behavior are so irritating that I found myself questioning why--other than physical appeal--would Mike want anything to do with this girl? Mike's pseudo-girlfriend Candy (he calls her his girlfriend after one date) is also Jenny's cousin--a fact that initially causes friction when Jenny becomes jealous of Mike's attention when they aren't dating. Candy's "southern" accent is written into her dialogue i.e. "Ya gotta" which, coupled with her seductive banter (the only lines she has in the story) make Candy "read" as a promiscuous airhead. Elsbeth is a ghost who seeks Mike's help in stopping her husband from murdering her mother. She hangs around assisting Mike and fast becomes critical of his every move shortly thereafter. I could not understand why Mike tolerated her antics for as long as he did before finally confronting her about her attitude.

The pacing of the story is somewhat slow in the beginning as Mike discovers he can see ghosts, which leads into a series of unrelated, irrelevant episodes in which he assists people with ghost problems or ghosts with people problems. Only two of these incidents have a remote connection to the main plot that doesn't even occur until the second half of the story when Mike discovers the Gettysburg ghosts. As a result, I found myself putting the book down often and picking it back up again. The pacing definitely gets better toward the latter half of the story once Mike gains more ghost experience and learns that he is "the Ferryman."

On the plus side, the author has come up with a clever and interesting storyline for a series that, despite my frustration with the afore-mentioned problems, I was really into. I normally stop reading books that irritate me, but I stuck with this novel determined to finish. Some of the criticisms I had (such as "with" punctuation!) may simply be to the author's inexperience and will hopefully correct themselves in future novels. I really hope there is at least one likeable or strong female character introduced in the next novel. I would recommend this book to a friend with the warning to expect grammatical/structural errors. If you can get past those (as many seem to have done) then you may enjoy this story.

Dena says

3.5* When I chose this book, in part based on the cover, I was expecting a serious borderline horror story. What I got was completely different. It was sometimes silly and I almost dnf'ed, but once I put aside my initial expectations I was able to enjoy it and I might even read more from this author.

Mihir says

Full review originally at [Fantasy Book Critic](#)

ANALYSIS: The Dead Eye series is a urban fantasy series that had its first book released nearly three years and as usual with my past record of discovering books later than usual, I happened upon it last year when the sequel was released. For this review I'll be jointly reviewing both the books as they run in continuation as the chapter numbering indicates. The blurb details pretty much cover of what the story is about in both cases. However I didn't know what to expect exactly, of course I had an assumption about it and in a way it was wrong as assumptions usually go.

The first book begins in a laconic fashion with the narrator Mike Ross explaining how he life took its first turn for him after he joined the army and went to Iraq. Things however don't work out for him abroad as he's injured in an attack which leaves him visually handicapped and soon is sent back home wherein he receives a new transplant for his damaged right eye. He plans to begin college and so enrolls in a local college called Montgomery College. That is wherein he meets Jenny Goodman, a girl whose interests align a bit with his own, things however soon start taking a weird turn when Mike starts seeing ghosts with his new eye and then finds out his role-to-be as a Ferryman. Ghosts soon start popping up alarmingly around him and he gets embroiled in matters of a supernatural origin involving civil war era ghosts and the origin of Mike's Ferryman Status.

The rest of the review can be read from the link above as I reviewed both books together & its hard to separate the points in the review about each book...

Hpstrangelove says

Audio book review. Narrator: Jeffrey Kafer.

I really enjoyed this book. I was looking for another fantasy/supernatural type of book after I finished *Sufficiently Advanced Magic*. I had the book loaded on my mp3 player so decided to give it a go. It takes place in 'our' world rather than an alternate type of universe, although some of the tech references are a bit outdated. Technology changes so fast, it's difficult for books to keep up.

I liked the way that the author explains how the main character, Mike Ross, gets his 'power'. I like the links to history, especially the Civil War.

The book is self contained but leaves an opening to a sequel, which fortunately I already have. Moving on to it next.

Karen Bonilla says

I bought this book because I can never resist a ghost story. Now, I wish that I had had more will power. This book was terrible. I couldn't even get half way through it. The writing was amateurish and stilted. It was full of typos and seemed like the editors went through and randomly removed key words and phrases. The plot sounded intriguing at first. A war vet recovering from severe wounds receives a cornea transplant and can suddenly see ghosts out of that eye and then devotes his life to helping people who are troubled by ghosts and vice versa. His first "client" is an African American woman who is crying at her fathers grave about losing their house while her father is trying to tell her where he has a large sum of money hidden in the attic. He agrees to tell her where the money is in exchange for a fee. The woman is so stereotypically ghetto that if I were African American, I would be insulted. She calls him a cracker. She takes him to her house which is, of course, in a terrible neighborhood, with gang members hanging out at the corner. Then her family kicks him out of the house without giving him a cent and threatens to beat him up if he doesn't leave. When I came to the part where he was able to find out the name of his donor because the man had, for some reason, signed a release a couple of days before his death, and he was able to do a google search and found out that the donor was a medium, I decided that enough was enough.

Steve Caldwell says

I got this book after reading the author's *Confessions of a D-List Supervillain*. Completely different type of book, but still an excellent read. Mike Ross discovers he's a Ferryman, meaning he can see ghost and interact with them, and has some power over them. The ghosts have their own heirarchy, with territories set up by the most poperful ghost, who can actually possess people. Mike will have to deal with a graveyard full of Civil War ghosts, gangster ghosts from the 30's, as well as a truly evil, powerful ghost that has a connection to Mike's family. Can he survive and thrive with all the forces against him? WELL, read the book, you won't be disappointed. The characters are very well written, with a lot of humor and warmth in the protagonists, even though Mike is a little hapless at times. The villains, A jim Bernheimer specialty, are the kind you love to hate. The dialogue is great, very snappy, with lots of humor keeping things from getting too dark. The plot never seems to drag, keeping you wanting more, which is all you can ask of an author. The world is fully fleshed out, with the rules of the Ferryman being slowly spelled out as Mike discovers them, allowing us to see the real growth of the character. I would recommend this book for any fans of writers like Simon R. Green, Jim Butcher and M.R. Forbes.

Diane says

3.5

Fun, fast read that reminded me of Kevin Hearne's Iron Druid Chronicles. Pretty fast paced with an assortment of supporting characters, genuine amusement, quirky world-building, and surprises. I will definitely be reading the next one.

Dmitry says

Good idea, horrible execution. Plot twists delivered with all the grace and style of a lorry reversing into a narrow alley; in case you did not get the analogy, this means "no style whatsoever". There is no real character development, and overall it seems as a comic book padded up to fill space. Shame really as it might have been such a good story!

? Irena ? says

I loved the premise: a twenty something vet back from Iraq gets an ability to see ghosts. That is followed by a lot of problems. I expected a great story, but the premise is the only great thing about it.

I don't remember the last time I've read a book with this many horrible female characters. It is beyond annoying. At first I thought it might be me, but after reading the whole story, I checked the reviews and it seems it isn't only in my head.

There are a couple of female characters in the book and they are all horrible.

Mike's mother is a cardboard character, but it's not a big deal since she doesn't have any great role in the story.

Then we have his nineteen-year-old college friend Jenny who reminded me why I am not eager to read YA. She is slut-shaming. She is petty, jealous and overall doesn't have a single redeeming quality that would explain why the protagonist would like her or put up with her at all. Oh, she is hot. Yes, I forgot about that. It seems to be enough. Jenny's role is to make our protagonist feel like crap and to reveal his ability to the world.

Next, there's officer Candy McKenna, Jenny's cousin. Jenny informs us (or Mike, to be precise) that she is a slut (whatever that means in her head). She is a southern girl and she simply *has to* talk like one. Lots of 'sugar this, sugar that' there. Candy doesn't have much of a role (or personality) either except as the protagonist's attempt to have a girlfriend. She is hot too. That is very important.

Then there are a couple of ghosts who help or try to hurt Mike. One is an abused mouse of a woman who turns into a shrew after Mike helps her dealing with her husband Charlie. Still, her being a not very likeable person after that doesn't make this right: 'Give her an inch and she'll take you for everything you got! Makes me wonder if that Charlie guy wasn't forced into it?' *It* being an abusive marriage. Poor man, she made him abuse her!

The other is called a witch by other ghosts. The third is someone who wants to hurt him for her benefit. It would be a spoiler to say what or who she is. They are all hot too.

I don't enjoy political views in my fantasy books. I wanted to read an urban fantasy with ghosts (example: 'Have I mentioned that I was broke again? Unlike the government, I couldn't go to Congress, pass an emergency spending bill and raise the national debt to finance my war.').

Another unexplained and annoying thing was how some of the characters treat Mike Ross. The guy is really young, almost got killed in Iraq and yet there is a detective who hates him with a passion and calls him 'worthless piece of trailer trash'. Sorry, being Jenny's uncle and wanting what's best for her doesn't explain so much hatred. Whatever you might think of war, it shouldn't be right to treat your soldiers like that.

And the highlight of it all was 'I felt violated on a level that even a rape victim might have difficulty identifying with.' Whatever happens to Mike in this part of the story, there is absolutely no justification to write something like this.

Only because the premise is great I am not rating this lower.

William says

A fun read, and better than I expected. Of course, I love ghost books, and this one had a different perspective. Who would have thought that a fleshy could beat up on a spirit with a pipe wrench? Mike Ross, is a hard-luck Iraq-war veteran for whom everything always seems to go wrong. And upon finding that he has the troubling ability to see dead people from one eye--as well as the ability to interact with the dead in a very physical manner, live only gets worse.

Mike is a Rockford Files type of hero--one who with a wide selfish streak who isn't eager to put himself on the line for others unless there's a buck or two in it for him. He lies. He cheats. Yet, there is also a streak of nobility in his soul, and he can't stand bullies--living or dead.

Speaking of the dead, it seems they can be much like the living: needy, greedy, and at times dangerous. But there are also those who need help, those with honor, and those who can even be called friends.

Lots of action and tons of fun in this paranormal adventure. Author Jim Bernheimer has done a good job of creating an imaginative new world and navigating his characters and us through it.
