



***69**

Blake Crouch

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Tim and Laura West receive a bizarre voicemail on their answering machine. Although the sound is muffled, the raised voices, suspicious thuds, and tortured gurgles lead them to believe that what they're hearing is a brutal murder, unintentionally left as a voice message. As they try to decide what to do next, they are forced to consider a terrifying thought: What will happen when the killer realizes his mistake?

***69 Details**

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Author : Blake Crouch

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From Reader Review *69 for online ebook

Deborah says

Wow

I love Blake Crouch's books. This short story is tense, very tense. And the ending? Shocker. I love the way Mr Crouch tells a story!

Jennifer says

So I decided to listen to two short stories today, and let me say I am now a HUGE fan of Blake Crouch because if he can tell two great stories in a mere 30 pages I can't imagine what he can pull off in a full length novel.

The premise of this book is dark, someone leaves a message on an answering machine of a murder... because they accidentally dialed you. I mean we have all sent accident texts, so it is something that can reasonably happen. What happens when the killer realizes his mistake before you realize who the killer is?

This short story was fantastic right until the very end. I can't wait to continue reading more of Crouch. Anyone that can tell an amazing story quickly is a fantastic writer in my book!

Shannon says

Up until this short story I've liked everything I've read by Blake Crouch but this story was stupid. Where it all fell apart was when someone accidentally locked themselves in the back of a police cruiser. Seriously, what idiot doesn't know that you can't open the back doors from the inside especially if your brother-in-law is a cop. Even the premise of the story was bad, everything else I've read from him at least had a good story line.

Charlotte says

I enjoyed this, but think I would have enjoyed it a little more if it was *slightly* longer. I get that it's a short (short-short) story, and it was enjoyable in that form but I think I'd have liked it more if there was a bit more tension and a slightly longer length would've lent itself to that perfectly.

Overall, a good story, if slightly predictable. Solid four stars, missing that fifth due to being a bit too short to fully enjoy.

Grampy says

*69 is another action-packed thriller from Blake Crouch. This author has the talent to fit a big story into a very few words, in such a way that it will send you looking for another story of his to read. Fortunately, when you find that next story, you will enjoy it just as much. I highly recommend anything by Blake Crouch!

Matt says

Crouch is an epic storyteller, with his dark side pushing through in each tale. In this short story, the mystery and thrills have little time to develop, but come to a gentle boil at just the right moment. Tim and Laura West enjoy their time together as a married couple. One Thursday night, Laura discovers an odd message on their voicemail, some form of pocket dial from a cell phone. The message, full of choppy conversation, is thick with criminal innuendo and may be the recording of a murder. Unsure what to do, they try the old *69 to trace the previous call, but are interrupted and cannot retrieve the number. Worried that a killer is on the loose who knows them and will soon realise his error, the Wests ponder their options. Will it be too late to save them?

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Krissy says

Listened to this audiobook with my husband. Decent story but it seemed most of the time was spent on the set up. The ending seemed rushed and abrupt. By the time it was over I still had so many questions! I wasn't ready for it to end yet.

His Rating: 2 stars

My Rating: 2 stars

William Aicher says

The only other writing from Blake Crouch that I've read has been his Wayward Pines series, which I enjoyed quite a bit (especially the first two books), so I was excited to see he has written some short stories as well. I've been looking for a few quick reads, which I think thrillers can really work well as, and *69 lived up to that promise. Since it's so short, I don't want to go into really any further detail than what's already listed in the description, but I read it one sitting and enjoyed it quite a bit. There were a few spots where I got a little confused as to who was who, but a quick re-read of those parts cleared up any confusion I had. (The confusion also very likely could have been all on my end, as I was getting interrupted a few times by my kids while reading).

Anyway, money well spent. Definitely recommended for anyone in the mood for a quick dose of suspense. I'll be reading more of his shorts, and will be seeking out additional short thrillers as well. I think it's a form that holds quite a bit of promise, as Mr. Crouch exemplified himself with this piece.

Matt Madurski says

A book this short is hardly going to rank high among the literary greats, but this short, intense story (read by my favorite voice actor Luke Daniels in the Audible presentation) was a perfect "palate cleanser" after the deep, sometimes difficult two books I read prior to this one. Like most shorts, there's a lot of back story missing and you often crave more information but at the same time it prods your imagination and leaves the reader to fill in the blanks. I like that, and this book succeeds at it. Worth the half-hour listen!

Chelle says

I really enjoyed this short story. I knew what would happen right away but it still made me so sad.

Ben Richardson says

A short story that telegraphs its ending.

Cristy Bramhall says

Tim and Laura West receive a bizarre voicemail on their answering machine. Although the sound is muffled, the raised voices, suspicious thuds, and tortured gurgles lead them to believe that what they're hearing is a brutal murder, unintentionally left as a voice message. As they try to decide what to do next, they are forced to consider a terrifying thought: What will happen when the killer realizes his mistake?

Notes: Very thrilling short story.

Kat Hossler says

Holy moly!

A short story that packs a lot of punch, excellent read! I usually don't go for the short ones, but this one may just make me a convert!

Lori Fenty says

What a great murder mystery short story. A very quick read.

Jim says

A tiny bit dated due to the technology but this could easily be updated and made into a great horror short, TV episode, or movie scene. A brilliantly paced (if slightly predictable) story that takes the reader from zero to anxious dread in a flash. Very cool.
