



Going Viral

Dustin Stevens

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Three years ago, Charles Doyle was an average American millennial. At twenty-eight years old he was content to still live in the bedroom he grew up in, working as a manager at the fast food chain he first joined in high school. Upon the death of his father, Charles realizes there might be something more for him out there and decides to try his hand at the potential of social media for introducing himself to the masses.

Starting as a web series of self-exploration, Charles soon finds himself seduced by the allure of faceless followers. What began as a first cigar or shot of whiskey soon escalates much faster, an entire new persona developing.

Told after the fact, Going Viral follows first-person insight into the mind of a man that in just six short months manages to go from an anonymous face in suburban America to internet novelty to ultimately death row inmate Chaz D.

Going Viral Details

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Author : Dustin Stevens

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Genre :

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From Reader Review Going Viral for online ebook

Liza Shaw says

Going Viral Different to what I normally read but Going Viral is a book I was able to get on with easily. This book gives the reader a good insight into the realms of book publishing. Although I think it is more likely a 'How NOT to promote a book'. The book also shows very well the impact of our Internet culture, on how what we see cannot always be believed and the negative impact it can have on a young person.

Chaz D is a great character to illustrate that last point, Dustin has written him extremely well, he is well thought out and developed throughout the book. I can't say I would like Chaz if I where to meet him, but then I guess that was the point of the book.

On a negative note: I found some of Chaz's antics a little OTT and found him almost impossible to connect with, I really didn't find some of it very believable.

I think this book is great for someone who loves to get their teeth into a good thriller, I might even consider it as something to show our tweens the negative side of our online world. Enjoy.

NB I received this book free for an Honest review

Alicia says

This book tells the story of Charles Doyle who is a death row inmate. Charles will be facing the chair in two days and he decides to give an interview to show his side of the story. This book shows the other side of online fame, in this book the numbers of followers and views became addicting.

The review complete with spoilers can be found on my blog:

Review Going Viral on Alicia's World of Pages

I really enjoyed this book and I would recommend it.

I received a free copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Lynn Student says

Great thrilling book.

I am grateful to say that this book was written with great success as to being the great thriller I have been looking for reading the many thrillers that have been disappointing reading lately.

Carole says

Slow going

There is probably no way this topic could be dealt with quickly but this is a slow read and at times boring. As

usual many errors prove no proofreading was done before release. Disappointing.

Herman Morgan III says

Maybe the Best Stevens Novel yet ?

A Death Row interview, two days prior to an execution, leads us to a tale about two average under-achievers, and what results from their pursuit of Internet fame. This story says a lot about our Social Media's importance, about today's value of fame, or celebrity, and why such people as the Kardashians achieve celebrity by simply living in a spotlight. Well written and a real page_burner !

kathleen m novotny says

Thank you

At the end of all your books you have that really wonderful dog holding a thank you sign. I want to say the same to you!

latybug says

I received a free download of this book from Story Cartel, thank you!

This book was a disturbing but very well-written read. I thought it was an excellent study of the "disease of more" as it relates to social media. There is an often-used meme that I have seen many times online - "Well, that escalated quickly." This story is the epitome of that phrase.

I wasn't especially fond of Charles to start with, as he didn't really seem to have much ambition. I did admire his feelings about his father, and I can relate to his desire to make a difference and be remembered. However, as he became Chaz D., I became completely disgusted with him (which I think is kind of the point of the story.)

Although Charles and Quasi are in their late 20's, I think this would absolutely be relevant to teens as well. As a teacher of teens, I have first-hand witnessed the damage that can be caused by social media. From cyber-bullying, to posting inappropriate content, to friendships destroyed by a single Facebook "like", I sometimes wonder if social media is really helping us evolve as human beings, or hurting us in the long run. I would definitely recommend this story to others, both as an engaging read and a learning/discussion tool. This book is the first one I have read by this author, and I do want to read more.

Arthur says

Going Viral : A Thriller

When I first saw the title, first thing that came to mind was a story about something deadly getting out of control endangering the public. Stevens' plot is about something or someone who becomes viral and ends up

being something and someone who is totally out of control. This is a good read, but not what I expected. I leave it up to you the next reader to form your own opinion.

Alette S. Kohl-Forman says

Wow

Very interesting read, it went slow at times but it had a good story line and characters were well formed.

Danielle says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

So I had no expectations going into this book. It is not my normal read, but that didn't stop me from devouring it. It was an excellent book and I am very glad that I agreed to read it.

The characters were well thought out. I started out liking them all but as the book went on I started to change how I felt about Charles, Chaz D. As he moved forward with his whole video for each thing he does, I start to dislike him, a lot. It says a lot when you can connect enough with a character and then start to dislike that character. That is a well written characters.

This book definitely speaks about how our current society is acting. Everything is online, out there for everyone to see and for some reason as soon as one video is posted, the next has to be more over the top, more extreme. You see all of this in the book. As we go from one video to the next, things progress until you get to the ending, the actions that lead Chaz D. to end up on death row.

This book is a definite read for everyone!

Pros: Well developed, thought out, clear.

Cons: none

Overall rating: Definitely would recommend this one

Cheryllynn Dyess says

Going Viral is nothing I expected. I love it when a piece of work takes on a whole new meaning for me and this one did not fail me. Dustin Stevens creates the world of Charles who then recreates himself. I won't give any spoilers but I will say the end is not what you think or is it?

In the world today many individuals feed on the thrill of having "followers" and tend to go out of their to gain more status thru them, Chaz D takes this to an entirely new level.

Two regular guys who want more in life are struck with some constructive criticism and they do not take it

well! Charles and Abe move into a mental mode of providing the professional wrong. From taking a first drink to a first tattoo Charles creates Chaz and shows the world the transformation. What he does in the end is what is shocking!

The characters are well developed and the writing is very good. I would recommend this book to others for those who like thrillers, suspense, and real life drama.

Donna Foster Myer says

Painfully Believable

I can not say I enjoyed this book. I can say it excelled at what a fiction book can do. CAN DO. But seldom does... produces a story, a narrative, that creates a real believable plot and real believable characters and deals with real believable human realities and needs. Our lives today include the stories of high school kids who - through bullying or deep self-doubt or slow blossoming mental illness end up planning and carrying out horrendous crimes. To experience your entire view of yourself vulnerable to damage by things outside yourself ... over which you seem to have no control ... this fluid fearful place can lead to concrete acts by which a person will be defined forever. In this book the start and finish tie together such a journey ... unique and different from school crimes yet drawing from the same deep human need, the need to be someone known, understood and remembered. I will remember this masterfully designed and executed fictional story ... as insight into the nonfictional realities of far too many developing personalities in our world. It will make my prayers for those in the news more real. I do not regret reading this book.

Melissa says

Very Good Read

How far would you go to be internet famous? That is the question Charles has to answer, as well as "was it worth it?". In today's techno day and age, seeking validation from internet strangers is something that many people do. This book was a very well written account of one man's journey into social media fame. I would definitely recommend it.

Dave says

Tragic tale

After the death of his father, Charles and his best friend Abe, use the world wide web to achieve notoriety. Unfortunately for them, it comes with a cost, and it's extreme. A very thought provoking story that could easily be true, if it's not. Definitely worth reading. Enjoy!

Judy Burleson says

Dissappointing

My least favorite Stevens' book, ending was predictable and anticlimactic. I didn't like Chaz D and found his character shallow.
