



The Shimmer

Carsten Stroud

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How do you hunt a killer who can go back in time and make sure you're never born?

A police pursuit kicks Sergeant Jack Redding of the Florida Highway Patrol and his trainee, Julie Karras, into a shoot-out that ends with one girl dead and another in cuffs, and the driver of the SUV fleeing into the Intracoastal Waterway. Redding stays on the hunt, driven by the trace memory that he *knows* that running woman—and he does, because his grandfather, a cop in Jacksonville, was hunting the *same woman* in 1957.

Redding and his partner, Pandora Jansson, chase a seductive serial killer who can ride The Shimmer across decades. The pursuit cuts from modern-day Jacksonville to Mafia-ruled St. Augustine in 1957, then to the French Quarter of New Orleans in 1914. The stakes turn brutal when Jack, whose wife and child died in a crash the previous Christmas Eve, faces a terrible choice: help his grandfather catch the killer, or change time itself and try to save his wife and child.

The Shimmer is a unique time-shifting thriller that will stay with you long after its utterly unforeseen and yet perfectly diabolical ending.

The Shimmer Details

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Author : Carsten Stroud

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From Reader Review The Shimmer for online ebook

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

You know what I like? Books about time travel. So, when I read the description of this book about a serial killer that can move through time, I knew I had to read it.

THE SHIMMER starts off strong with Sergeant Jack Redding of the Florida Highway Patrol and his trainee, Julie Karras, chasing a car that belongs to a family who has gone missing. When the woman driving the car takes off running from the car after it stopped, Jack is hot in pursuit. However, she manages to get away and Jack is left with a feeling that he has seen the woman before... but where? What he doesn't know then is that his grandfather hunted the same woman in 1957, but how can the same woman still be alive and look the same as she did back then? And, what happened to the family that owned the car?

READ THE REST OF THE REVIEW OVER AT FRESH FICTION!

Cheryl says

Abandoned at 50%. It just wasn't holding my attention.

ClubStephenKing says

Stephen King on Twitter :

"THE SHIMMER is one terrific read."

Stephen King's blurb :

"Carsten Stroud is a world-class storyteller... He effortlessly combines hard-nosed cops, mafia dons, and supernatural events with convincing ease. The prose is music. He had me reading late into the night."'"

Dave says

An interesting twist on time travel; death opening a pathway through time. Throw in a crime/murder angle and this was a fun read. Who is this woman (that goes by several names) that Redding is tracking? What has she done and exactly how dangerous is she? What starts as a crime novel evolves into sci-fi with the revelation of this woman appearing in fifty year-old photos - looking totally unchanged by time. The chase that started by crossing state lines now sends us through time. How can someone like her be stopped? The ending of this story is fast-paced and can lose the reader if you don't hold on. Stay with it, it's worth the final page.

Angela says

Stroud comes up with a shiny (not shining) murder detective story tipped with some supernatural time travel. Let's pretend for a moment time travel can exist. Let's also pretend that the fuel for said time travel is the dying breathe of a human and their soul or other flashing out of their body in a blinding wormhole kinda thing. Let's also pretend that the person that comes up with a way to hike aboard is a black widow spider woman from the beginning of the previous century. After reeking some general awful, she runs into Detective Redding who remembers her from he doesn't know where. After they decide they don't like each other loose ends get tied awkwardly together and Redding ends up in the past Back to the Future style to help his grandpa stop the crazy person. Add some Mafia guys and a little romance and there you have a perfect script for a Black Mirror episode. I would have liked to see a little more attendance to the character development and description but that's just me. The inner workings of the serial killer brain, especially a chaotic time travelling one leave some questions.

Gram says

An all action suspense thriller with the added bonus of time travel - there can't be many of those around. There's an episode of the cartoon series "Futurama" in which Fry & the rest go back in time to the 1950's where Fry meets his grandfather and accidentally leaves him in the middle of a nuclear test site before having sex with his grandma - and I was somehow reminded of this as I sped through the pages of this book. (Joke!)

The first half really flies by, with kidnappings, shootouts and several nasty murders, the sort of stuff that author Carsten Stroud handles with ease, but after that the action slows down as we get into the time travel bit and that's where I started to lose the plot. The "hero" even manages to have sex and fall in love with a woman in the 1950's just a few hours after he's travelled back in time! All in all, it's an enjoyable piece of hokum, but nowhere near as good as Stroud's "Niceville" trilogy.

donna_ehm says

If this is your first introduction to Stroud's work, don't let it put you off. Head over to his *Niceville* trilogy and settle in for a much better take on the supernatural meets the everyday world with a plot and characters that are rendered far more deeply than what's on offer here. Which is a real shame because Stroud has his hands on a really great idea in *The Shimmer*, not to mention a set of characters that start off very compelling and with whom you connect right away. His conception of the "shimmer" is intriguing, and (view spoiler) had so much potential to take the story in some fascinating directions, as did (view spoiler).

But as soon as that side of the story gets going, Stroud inexplicably seems to put on the brakes. He resorts to a lot of info-dumping dialogue to explain what's going on but even with that, he somehow doesn't manage to make you feel like he's really put a lot of thought into it. Like, it feels like he starts skimming stones over the surface of what is a deep, dark lake, but all he focuses on are those quick bits when the stone is hitting the water.

You don't get much below the surface of the shimmer other than (view spoiler) I'm still not entirely sure what was going on with (view spoiler). And the ease with which Jack accepts the shimmer and his presence in the past with his grandfather was mildly annoying. Like, it's okay to freak out, even a little bit because of

course you would. Come on.

Anyway, as another reviewer noted, this story doesn't quite make it as either a crime thriller or supernatural mystery, which is frustrating because I know Stroud is more than capable of it.

Amanda says

I received a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

I really wanted to enjoy this. The concept reminded me a bit of Stephen King's 11/22/63, which is one of my all-time favorite books. Unfortunately, this one falls really short. It's disjointed, jumps around so much it's nearly impossible to follow at times, and just overall not very likable. This is the first of Carsten Stroud's books I've read, and I can honestly say I won't be in a rush to pick up another one.

Temple Trueblood says

I devoured Carsten Stroud's Niceville trilogy so I was super stoked to see this new work. It did not disappoint!

Stroud manages to weave great story telling with a perfectly paced read. His gritty criminals, grittier cops, and twists of the supernatural result in me staying up WAY past my bed time to just read "one more chapter," until I find myself at the end of the book.

Backdrop: An elusive criminal on the run after an epic crime spree on the beaches of Florida/New Orleans becomes even more slippery when she shifts through time to escape the cops. The story opens with a tragic kidnapping and murder. From there, snappy dialogue and "flashbacks" keep this novel moving at a fast pace. Throw in some nostalgic scenes from New Orleans of the Old South, some old school mobsters, and you have a fun read. The ending felt a little rushed, but I suppose that is par for the course with the whole time travel business. ;)

Shorty says

I adore this novel! I thought it was superbly done, and enjoyed every second of the audiobook. I am also going to purchase this novel (since this was a library loan), so I can reread it in the future. SO good...! I just wish there was more.... or a sequel coming....or something!

Joe Hempel is the narrator, and he was very good also.

5 stars, and recommended to everyone.

Scott Bell says

Nobody writes everyday cops as well as Carsten Stroud. Nobody. And that includes Wambaugh. Whether he's dabbling in the supernatural or sticking to the real world, Stroud never fails to deliver on a great

narrative.

Kim Markett says

It was intriguing and unique and I was enjoying the story and the way the author took it but it seemed rushed and sloppily thrown together at the end.

Carrie says

The Shimmer by Carsten Stroud is a science fiction thriller that takes place across decades in the hunt for a killer. This one was action packed from the beginning keeping up a fairly fast pace all throughout.

As officers corner a SUV in Florida Sergeant Jack Redding and his trainee Julie Karras find themselves at the scene. What appears to be two teen girls taken hostage and the driver running when cornered gets a bit out of control when one of the teens ends up dead at the hand of the law.

Redding thinks he recognizes the escaped suspect although he can't put his fingers on from where but he becomes determined to stop her no matter the cost. As the body count rises Redding finds that his grandfather had been chasing the same suspect in 1957 and before he knows it he's finding out the secret of time travel.

As I mentioned this one was a really fast paced starting with the confrontation at the SUV in the beginning of the story and following it across decades. Normally I'm all for a fast pace but with this one I think the author sacrificed a bit of depth to the characters and world keeping up the action as it did get a little confusing to grasp in places. The idea behind the story though was great, had me thinking a bit of a take on the Butterfly Effect, so in the end I did enjoy the story.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via Edelweiss.

For more review please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

David Knadler says

This book checked a lot of boxes for me: humid Florida (where I find myself living now), hard-boiled crime fiction and time travel. Also, I've really enjoyed Carsten Stroud's earlier work. But after a great beginning, things kind of unravel by the third act. I'm not sure "The Shimmer" fully coheres as either a crime-fiction yarn or a time-travel adventure.

Still, it's not a boring book. As in most time-travel tales, you want to know how this author will resolve all the paradoxes that come with the territory. Unfortunately, Mr. Stroud's solution isn't particularly original, and the exact nature of the titular effect doesn't seem that well thought out. I'll just call it a pretty good beach read.

Cats of Ulthar says

Review: THE SHIMMER by Carsten Stroud

To date, I have never met a Carsten Stroud novel I haven't adored. Each one steals my breath and provides the most important criterion in reading: total engrossing absorption. In THE SHIMMER, he takes on time travel, metaphysics, serial killing, and body thievery, and renders it all completely believable.

An extraordinary Florida Highway Patrol sergeant tracks a suspicious SUV, opening a case that will literally result in life and death and time travel. You won't know what's next, but you won't be able to stop. Prepare for a couple of sleepless nights!
