



Chop Suey

Ty Hutchinson

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When disgraced sales associate, Darby Stansfield, discovers he has six months to save his job, he does what any normal person would do. He freaks.

Desperate to resurrect his career at Teleco Wireless, he conjures up an international scheme filled with the promise of endless high-spending clients. It's brilliant, it's successful, and it involves doing business with organized crime.

But soon those closest to him find themselves caught up in his dangerous plan and one of these unknowingly has the power to destroy him. Darby must now make a tough decision—give up on the one good idea he ever had or risk it all.

Chop Suey Details

Date : Published May 1st 2011 by Createspace (first published April 28th 2011)

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Author : Ty Hutchinson

Format : Paperback 386 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Suspense, Mystery Thriller

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From Reader Review Chop Suey for online ebook

Madlen says

This was a very busy book with many fun characters. I liked Darby Stansfield from the very beginning. The setting being Hong Kong also pulled me in.

The planning and scheming involved in the book also made it an exciting read.

Overall a very good pace, great plot line, and a nice suspenseful atmosphere to get you hooked. I enjoyed the book. I recommend it.

Mark McKenna says

Title: Chop Suey

Author: Ty Hutchinson

Genre: Thriller

Page Count: 370 (131 chapters)

Reviewed For: Reading Review (readingreview.com)

Excerpt:

One long, endless night. That's what it was like for Sulyn day in and day out. It was the same, over and over. But that changed today.

Sulyn detected movement off to the side of the tub but the door didn't open. He was already here, watching her. For how long, she didn't know. Even though her sight was hampered by the dark, she was sure something moved off to the side. She squinted. Her eyes would not adjust to the darkness any better than they already had. What did he want? Why me? Will it be different from the last time he entered the room?

Bowing her head, she said a prayer, hoping there would be no repeat. There was movement again. She knew this, of course, because he had broken the beam of light that peeked in through the top of the door. Where was he?

Suddenly, her skin was on alert. The hair on her arm sounded the alarm. She knew where he was. He was standing right next to her.

Review:

Chop Suey a debut novel by Ty Hutchinson, is a fast, funny and well-plotted thriller set in San Francisco and Hong Kong. Chop Suey mostly stays light and fun, then turns gritty when the storyline calls for it. I enjoyed the book. It kept me turning pages.

Darby Stansfield sells wireless business solutions at Teleco. A bottom feeder, Darby longs to be a heavy hitter like Frank Rose who drives a different Porsche to work every day. Darby had a taste of the good life after his first account went platinum, but it was yanked from him (and given to Rose) by his evil manager, Harold, who has given him six months to sell, or get fired.

Only closers get coffee — says Harold — but Darby has a series of “Darbytastic” plans to make it happen, bro. The first involves blackmail. The second features an ill-fated potato sack race. The last gets him tangled up with the one of the Chinese gangs known as the Triads. Yes, Darby is going to become THE wireless business solutions’ supplier to the Chinese mob. And that’s even before he crosses paths with a scary serial

killer and sultry Leslie Choi. Well, you get the idea.

Ty Hutchinson has done a good job with this book. It's not easy to write comedy, introduce a vicious serial killer, and navigate successfully between the two. Chop Suey is told in Darby's voice, breezy and brash, a perfect tone for the crazy plans he hatches.

The Triads were only the beginning though. My thinking told me if I could convince one gang, I could convince others. Getting a foot in the door would be the tough part but once I gained entrance, I should be free to roam around, especially if I had a kickass case study.

A kickass case study. Of a secretive Chinese gang. To convince rival gangs to climb on board. How Darby navigates these worlds, romances the beautiful Leslie Choi, and eventually confronts the deranged killer, lurking in a major sub-plot, form the core of Hutchinson's thriller.

In between the action are sparkling descriptions, like this one of the hapless Fan Gang chowing down.

Within seconds, a barrage of lemon-yellow, plastic chopsticks darted back and forth through the air, each finding their targets with deadly accuracy. The staff palmed their bowls in one hand while they made short work of deboning the chicken with their teeth and shoveled gobs of white rice into their mouth. The sharp up and down bell tones of the Cantonese language rang out amid the chewing and swallowing.

Good stuff. So who'll play Darby Stansfield in the Hollywood blockbuster movie? Think Brad Pitt in *12 Monkeys* meets Ferris Bueller when it's not his day off.

Ty Hutchinson is hard at work on a sequel continuing the adventures of Darby Stansfield. Good thing because Chop Suey left me hungry for more. (Ouch! Sorry about that.)

Score: 9 out of 10

Kim (Wistfulskimmies Book Reviews) says

This is the story of Darby Stansfield - a man on commission at a telecom company. He hasn't been bringing in much custom lately so he is given six months to shape up or ship out. He hits on the perfect idea for bringing in those big sales, sell to organised crime gangs, namely the Triads. It all goes well until he meets and falls in love with an Inspector in the Hong Kong police who is investigating the Triad gangs, falls foul of a serial killer and winds up in the middle of a gang war.

This was fantastic! I cannot sing its praises loud enough. How on earth Ty managed to pull off humour, Triads and a serial killer all in the same story I have no idea, but it worked. Darby is the loveable hero bumbling from one disaster to the next but somehow surviving by the skin of his teeth each time. He drags his best friend Tav into his schemes and somewhat reluctantly Tav goes along with them - despite knowing how it will usually pan out! The story was told from two different view points, first person and third person but never once was I confused. It felt rather like I was watching events unfold that Darby wasn't aware of and more than once I wanted to slap him! The story itself belted along and had me from page one and didn't put me down until the climactic ending.

A great funny, laugh out loud thriller with a serious side. Read it, you won't regret it. I am looking forward to more of the authors work now.

Kitty Austin says

Awesome read! This book is about a man desperate to save his job and cooks up a scheme reminiscent of some of the best organized crime ideas in history. The story gets intense when he finds out there's someone that could destroy him and his dream of keeping his job, now he has to decide if he wants to give up or keep going. Very suspenseful and Ty Hutchinson is a great writer. I liked this one a lot.

Kitty Bullard / Great Minds Think Aloud / <http://www.greatmindsliterarycommunit...>

Melki says

Pity poor Darby Stansfield, a loveable everyman who is continually cheated out of glory (and sales commissions). One day, he gets the brilliant idea to become a "telecommunications consultant to the underworld" and sets off to peddle his product to the criminal element. The solid waste soon hits the rotary blades, and Darby realizes too late the caliber of people he is dealing with AND what horrors they are capable of committing. Throw in a love interest and a nasty serial killer, and you've got yourself a tasty little treat of a novel.

Maxine says

Darby Stansfield is a sales rep at Teleco. He's a bottom feeder who dreams of entering the ranks of the heavy hitters. Unfortunately, his boss has other ideas and Darby has six months to save his job. No worries, though, because Darby, ever the starry eyed optimist, has a Plan.

However, to quote the great poet, Robbie Burns:

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley"

And Darby's scheme is about to gang agley in spades.

Because his plan has put him in a direct collision course with a serial killer and, suddenly, losing his job is the least of Darby's problems.

When you take the slightly oblivious Darby and the terrifying Chinese serial killer and mix in the world's most inept triad, a gorgeous Chinese detective, and an ever supportive, but always skeptical, sidekick, you get Chop Suey, a delicious recipe for mayhem. It is, at times, laugh-out-loud funny and, at others, scary as hell but always scrumptiously entertaining.

So break out the chopsticks, grab yourself a bowl of deep fried scorpions, and settle in for a night of tasty reading.

But, be warned, an hour after finishing Chop Suey*, you'll be back, hungry for more.

*no MSG added

Tony says

Disclaimer: I won this ebook in the LibraryThing Member Giveaway direct from the author.

Darby Stansfield has to believe in sheer luck because that's the only way he manages to make it in this world. He has crazy ambition but none of the skills necessary to make it happen--he'll apply the same solution to every problem that comes his way and simply expect it to work. So when his usual process threatens to put him on "double secret probation," he's got to think a bit bigger in order to win the respect of the big hitters of the corporation, not to mention the adoration of the swooning assistants. He needs to get in on the ground floor of an untapped market, but everything that could be grabbed up has already been. Except, maybe one that isn't quite legal.

Darby sees career salvation in selling communication solutions to organized crime outfits. Not only that, but he wants to record the outfit's ascent through the underworld as a case study to pad out his portfolio and cement his heavy hitter status. It's a can't lose scenario!

Comedy when Darby is in his element. Thriller when his escapades intertwine with those of a serial killer. Romance when he flirts (and more) with an exotic beauty. There are elements of all in this book and I think Ty has done a good job of keeping them all on the surface. If you're a fan of Lethal Weapon and other similar action films you'll feel right at home here. In fact, I've mentioned to Ty that this could easily be pitched as a movie. The sometimes too-short chapters read like camera or scene transitions from a film and it is very easy to simply turn page after page until the clock blinks 4 am.

There are some typos and rough patches that are consistent with an amateur work but the author is diligent in fixing those even now. Pop culture and tech references were many and may end up dating the book five or ten years from now. However, I'm more than willing to give those a pass because I enjoyed the writing and story of his first outing and I know there's a second on the way. I'm confident Ty will be busy perfecting his craft and we're seeing the birth of a very entertaining franchise here.

Bill Thibadeau says

The other reviewers are needlessly harsh on the author for the lack of professional editing. Yes, the obvious grammar, missing words, wrong words break up the flow. But get over it. This is an indie novel, given to most reviewers, and extremely cheap to purchase in the eBook format. It is a generally good read for a miniscule, if any, cost to the reader.

The storyline is well described by other reviewers. I need not add to the potential spoilers.

This is an entertaining read and a decent thriller. The characters are established sufficiently to know who they are and what role they played in the story. I never lost track of any characters and felt they were all well integrated.

This is a fun read and I will definitely read the sequel. I urge you to take a chance on this author.

Lauren says

Wow, knocked it out of the park for me. Hutchinson had me turning page after page. I finished this book in 2 days and walked away feeling like I had just been whirled around on a scary carnival ride, but never wanting it to end.

Darby is a moron, but a brilliant one. His sidekick is hilarious and while he acts like an idiot, he is actually the voice of reason. (I would like more description of Darby.)

I could completely picture these characters at any office as my coworkers. The people they work with on and off the level, are completely believable and make the reader feel exactly like anyone would in real life about them.

Twists and turns, good vs. evil, humorous stupidity, the best intentions, sprinkled with romance, and dumb luck make this book a favorite for me and put Ty Hutchinson on my must read all of his work list.

Elizabeth A. says

Chop Suey is what would happen if you threw Glengarry Glen Ross and Office Space in a blender. Then added a serial killer. And Triads.

Telecommunications salesman Darby Stansfield is desperate. Having hit a bad stretch with his sales, he's been put on notice he's got six months to get his numbers headed in the right direction again or he'll be fired.

Problem is, Darby doesn't have any good leads. The one decent client he had was stolen out from under him by another salesman, leaving Darby with nothing but one-sale, dead end, mom-and-pop clients.

When a conversation with Mr. Fu, the owner of his favorite Chinese restaurant, brings up the subject of Triads inspiration strikes... he will tap into a previously untapped source of clientele and become a telecommunications specialist for organized crime. Darby will help the "organized" get organized.

Knowing he needs a bit of room to operate without being too scrutinized by the home office in San Francisco, Darby decides to branch out. To Hong Kong. Following up on information obtained from Mr. Fu, Darby actually manages to connect with the Fan Gang Triad, sell them on his plan, set up a fake toy company as a front for the operation, place a massive first order, and before you know it he's on his way back to the top of the leaderboard. Coffee time, right? Wrong.

Competing Triads are less than pleased with the sudden surge in the Fan Gang's efficiency and profitability, sparking an all out gang war, a suspicious and vindictive co-worker on the homefront is out to sabotage Darby's big new account, the amazing woman Darby falls for in Hong Kong turns out to be a Detective – on the organized crime task force no less – and then there's the little matter of dead bodies that start popping up, the apparent work of a serial killer who seems to be spending time in both San Francisco and Hong Kong, just like Darby. Hang on folks, things are getting interesting.

It takes a lot of skill to mix laugh-out-loud funny with hardcore crime and have both be believable, but author Ty Hutchinson pulls it off without a hitch. Though Chop Suey does take a little bit of time to establish Darby's character and his situation at the telecommunications company before things really get rolling it's worth it, because once they do take off you'd better buckle-up. Hutchinson deftly weaves his three plot lines together in an increasingly frenetic pace, rocketing to an explosive conclusion. Literally. I'll leave it to you to discover how things ultimately fare for Darby and his plan to rule the telecommunications underworld, but rest assured you'll never look at your smartphone quite the same way again.

Ty Hutchinson has cooked up a hell of a debut, so treat yourself to some Chop Suey takeout tonight.

Jim says

The first book in a new series from author Ty Hutchinson, "Chop Suey" features Darby Stansfield. Darby works for a telecommunications company in their sales department. Darby as salesmen go is pretty much the bottom of the bottom. Darby spends most days playing around on net. Darby's best friend and co-worker, Tavish Woo-Kaminsky is half caucasian, and half Asian. "Tav" is slightly a better salesman than Darby, but not by much. Darby's supervisor Harold Epstein has had his full of "Darbyisms" and puts Darby on 6 month notice. Darby knows he needs master stroke of some type to save his job. Darby eats his sorrows daily by going to Mr. Fu's restaurant for a bowl of chop suey. Soon we discover when Mr. Fu was younger and living in Hong Kong he belonged to a Triad gang. Darby is completely enthralled with Mr. Fu and his gang past. Meanwhile a serial killer has struck in San Francisco. With one body in an alley with head almost cut off, and a teenager brutally stabbed at gas station pump. Enter the ever reliable Detective Kyle Kang and big Russian partner Pete Sokolov now on the case. Kang/Sokolov make crossover from author's "Abby Kane" series. Darby ends up going to Hong Kong with the brilliant idea of convincing one of the less successful triad gangs to allow him to set up a system for all their telecommunication needs. An "organization" if you will to maximize the gang's business to achieve higher profits. For little or no cost the gang is ecstatic to say the least. Darby also falls in love. He meets Leslie Choi. Hoping back and forth from Frisco to Hong Kong Darby has his first real romance. However Leslie is actually Chief Inspector Leslie Choi of Hong Kong Police. Things start to get very sticky in Frisco and Hong Kong when serial killer known as "Chop Chief Killer" starts to hit too close to home. After the first few chapters to set up Darby's life, the action starts to fly quickly inside the story line of "Chop Suey". Complete with murder, kidnappings, and some pretty bizarre foods eaten, this novel moves into a much higher gear. The characters, especially from Hong Kong were developed very well. Darby and Tav were built pretty well in first few chapters. Some funny moments are highlighted pretty well with a lot of snappy dialog. Author Ty Hutchinson is a very good story teller. The plot flows very well without any dead spots needed to get through. However, I thought the ending was very forced and when I got to it my reaction was: Book is concluded ? It was odd the story just stopped. There are two more books in series, I haven't looked to see if book 2 picks up at the exact spot the first one stopped at. I gave book 4 stars out of a possible 5 stars. The very beginning of book never introduced main characters until too many pages had gone by. Also, the abrupt ending left me scratching my head. It was a really good read though ! That Darby is quite a character. His best friend Tav is hoot too. I'd highly recommend this read for anyone who likes a pretty suspense thriller. It'll be interesting to see what adventures Darby is into for the next book. If you haven't read any of author Ty Hutchinson's books you're really missing out. His "Abby Kane" series is just fantastic. Check out Abby, and Darby too ! I wouldn't lead you astray.

L.A. says

Article first published as Book Review: Chop Suey: A Darby Stansfield Thriller by Ty Hutchinson on Blogcritics.

Combine an obsessive, compulsive and desperate salesperson, willing to go to any lengths to make a sale, with an unlikely group of Triad members of the fan gang in Hong Kong, and see a recipe for disaster, the likes of which we have never seen before.

In Chop Suey: A Darby Stansfield Thriller by Ty Hutchinson, we follow the often funny and goofy plans of Darby Stansfield to move back to the sales leaderboard at his job for a telecommunications company. When

blackmailing his customers doesn't work he comes up with even stranger ideas, which just create more problems, but he is determined to find a way to succeed.

Having dinner at his favorite place, Mr. Fu's restaurant, he spends a little time speaking with Mr. Fu himself. When Darby notices his tattoo and remarks on it, Mr. Fu begins to tell Darby his story. Talking about his former life the older gentleman describes his life in the Triad organization, but with a warning to Darby of confidentiality. Later at home as Darby is wrestling with more ways to sell his equipment, Fu's story pops into his head, creating an even more diabolical plan of selling his product. He will find a way to sell to the fan gang, a member gang of the Triads. How hard can it be?

His friend Tav is aghast and yet Darby is enthralled. This plan could be the break he is looking for. If he can help make the fan gang more successful, they will have to continue to buy from him. This plan is the perfect set up. It will put his name back on the top of the leader board. First, he must find a way to make himself known.

Little does Darby know, but he has woken a deep and deadly dragon with his questions. Brutal and sadistic, remembering his enjoyment of slaughter, this deadly entity both hates Darby and relies on him. Darby's questions and involvement have reawakened his longing for revenge.

Unaware of the danger he created; Darby heads to Hong Kong to make a deal, and meets the notorious gang he is looking for. Showing them how he can help them they agree to use his product, but are not yet sold on the idea. Darby will have to work hard to get them to buy in. Meeting a young police officer in Hong Kong, he is surprised to run into her back in the States. He is unnerved to find out her sister has been murdered. Hooking up with her, he is a bit nervous in case she finds out what he is planning. Can he help her find the killer without tipping his hand?

Darby is a desperate man, unwilling to do the real work involved in sales. He is looking for a quick sale and while it makes him quite shallow, he is also quite funny and startlingly bold. His conceptualization of ideas is quite hilarious, and he has made a few enemies. But he is also quite fun to be around and has some good friends. His friend Tav is behind him even though he does not believe in his schemes, but is willing to back him in any way he can.

Leslie Choi, the young officer from Hong Kong, is desperate to find the murderer of her sister. She relies on Darby to help her and she really enjoys his company. She is driven. Something seems familiar about this killer. It tugs at her memory, she feels as though they may have crossed paths before. Working with local law enforcement, all hell breaks loose when she disappears. Darby realizes he must get involved and find the killer before it is too late for Leslie?

I would recommend this book for those who enjoy suspense. Be prepared for humor and nonsense as well, it is intriguing and funny, but make no mistake; there is a certain darkness about the killer that keeps it on track. The humor twists throughout the narrative, but the danger and darkness keep the suspense high.

This would make a great book for a book club or a reading group. It is both intrinsically funny and inherently evil, a strangely intoxicating blend, one that keeps the action rolling.

This book was received free from the author. All opinions are my own based off my reading and understanding of the material.

Sue says

I won this book through Goodreads through "First Reads Winner".

In *Chop Suey: A Darby Stansfield Thriller* by Ty Hutchinson, we follow the often funny and goofy plans of Darby Stansfield to move back to the sales leaderboard at his job for a telecommunications company. When blackmailing his customers doesn't work he comes up with even stranger ideas, which just create more problems, but he is determined to find a way to succeed.

Darby didn't have the good fortune of being able to sell to Fortune 500 corporations...he was a bottom feeder. He had to find a way to increase his sales and move up the ladder. Having dinner at his favorite place, Mr. Fu's restaurant, he spends a little time speaking with Mr. Fu himself. When Darby notices his tattoo and remarks on it, Mr. Fu begins to tell Darby his story. Mr. Fu describes his previous life in the Triad organization. So after talking to his friend, Darby decided he was going to be the "telecommunications consultant to the underworld. He will find a way to sell to the fan gang, a member gang of the Triads. Piece of cake!

His friend Tav is not impressed with the plan. Darby believes if he can help make the fan gang more successful, they will have to continue to buy from him.

This is really where the story takes off with leaps and bounds. He is unaware of the danger he has created. Darby heads to Hong Kong to make a deal.

I would recommend this book for those who enjoy suspense. Be prepared for humor and nonsense as well, it is intriguing and funny, but make no mistake; there is a certain darkness about the killer that keeps it on track. The humor twists throughout the narrative.

By the way...I found myself eating Chinese takeout food last night, reading the book. Definitely a good read.

Susan (aka Just My Op) says

(fiction) Perhaps I started reading this book with the wrong expectations: a noir fiction or spoof on noir. But is it a comedy, a mystery, a thriller? Having finished the book, I'm still not quite sure what it is. The mystery was revealed too soon, it wasn't really thrilling or especially funny, it just doesn't fit into any of the niches one would expect, and failed a bit by not excelling at any one of them,

There was some humor. "Today I would prove to these knuckleheads I was the boss man." This about a potato sack race, of all things. Quite a way to prove one's superiority. There was also too much racism, gratuitous profanity, violence, and misogyny for me. And I really didn't like the protagonist. He is, to put it mildly, a jerk - immature, dishonest, vulgar, and not someone any sane person would want in his or her life.

The change from first to third point of view didn't work well for me, and *The Voice* seemed gimmicky. There were the seemingly inevitable editing mistakes common in e-books published by some of the less prominent publishers and self-publishers, but they weren't as bad as in many others I've read.

Despite the reasons that this book wasn't the right one for me, I did get sucked in to the story, and wanted to see how it ended. That alone moves this one into the plus column. Thank you to the author for giving me this

e-book.

Sharon says

Before reading Chop Suey I had no idea there could be a mashup of Thriller + Comedy. There is, and this is it, and it's well done.

The Amazon book description says, "Readers have described the series as Tarantino meets The Office" (this is Book 1 of the Darby Stansfield series) and that description is dead on. As you would expect with Tarantino there is language, blood, and sex, and just like in the The Office, lots of goofball humor, with the addition of Ty Hutchinson pulling off some amazing wordplay with plenty of highlight-worthy sections.

Grab a beer and this book - and enjoy!
