



Cracked Sky

Ben Eads

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Cracked Sky

Ben Eads

Cracked Sky Ben Eads

Reeling from the loss of their only child, Stephen and Shelley Morrison learn that her killer has been found dead. What they don't know is that his agenda goes far deeper than the grave. Beyond the storm, beyond the crack in the sky—where their daughter lies trapped with The Lost Ones—something is using Stephen and Shelley's agony to fulfill its goals: Terrorize. Consume. Destroy.

Cracked Sky Details

Date : Published January 12th 2015 by Omnium Gatherum

ISBN : 9780692343388

Author : Ben Eads

Format : Paperback 99 pages

Genre : Horror

 [Download Cracked Sky ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Cracked Sky ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Cracked Sky Ben Eads

From Reader Review Cracked Sky for online ebook

Scott Emerson says

Stephen Morrison is a young husband and father reeling from a tragic accident that cost him an arm and claimed the life of his toddler daughter. When Stephen receives cryptic messages suggesting his little girl may still exist in an alternate reality--and be very much in danger from a bizarre, Krueger-esque figure--he and his wife hatch a plan to save her.

CRACKED SKY reads like THE TWILIGHT ZONE if Serling had been a fan of '80s horror films. Eads keeps the action moving at a brisk pace, especially in its frenetic final half (even if his protagonists' conversations tend to get bogged down in excess verbiage). There's no shortage of strange and gruesome imagery in its climactic battle that should delight fans of "traditional," King-inspired horror.

Martin Rose says

Disclaimer: I received a digital ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Cracked Sky by Ben Eads is a novella centering on the tragic death of Stephen and Shelley's daughter, Allie. Right off the bat, I was impressed by the realism Eads paints in regards to families who experience grief at this level. The death of child often breaks apart couples and we come across Stephen and Shelley at this do-or-die moment in their marriage. Stephen is attending therapy to process his grief, and Shelley has taken to self-medicating with alcohol. Eads paints them skillfully in as much as you feel sympathetic toward both, and this becomes a really nice thread woven through the book -- the love of these two people in their journey together, as they begin to discover there is more to Allie's passing than they realized, and their daughter is trying to reach out to them from beyond.

I don't want to give away any hints, as I think the plot was well done and if anything, this novella could easily have been a larger work. It moves very fast, plot-wise, and there's some clever concepts here. The same accident that claimed Allie, for instance, has also severed part of Stephen's arm, adding to the atmosphere of loss. There's a creepy ice cream truck, reminding me vaguely of that convention Stephen King put to such good use in *It*, by taking a beloved child-oriented thing and putting a sinister spin on it. The addition of Josh, Stephen's brother who is trying to help and be a good family member, was a great bit of characterization alongside the ensemble -- they felt real, with their own motivations and feelings, along with the villain, everything building up to a climax in the midst of a truly creepy world run by an equally creepy individual who no longer cares who he hurts in pursuit of his end-game. A good, quick read with haunting imagery, I'd be curious to see Eads expand into larger territory.

Joe Mynhardt says

Absolutely brilliant. The final showdown will distort your very existence.

IT WILL BLOW YOU AWAY!

John Grover says

Review of Cracked Sky by Ben Eads

There is no greater loss then that of a parent who has lost their child.

That is at the core of Ben Ead's new book "Cracked Sky." I received an advance review copy and I've just finished a train ride through darkness and hell. The story is dark, raw and visceral. We feel every bit of parents Stephen and Shelley's pain, these characters are full of emotion and Ben excels at building characterization and empathy. We go through Stephen's journey with him, a journey filled with rage, guilt and tremendous loss. Stephen searches for answers, for retribution, for hope and the deeper he searches the bleaker it gets.

See, it wasn't just a tragic accident, it was so much more, and this book will take you to into the depths of evil, both in life and in death as we travel to the other side and back. Death doesn't stop evil, nor does it stop the agony of the poor victim's of such evil. It is only the beginning.

I was glued to this story from page one, Ben did a great job with making us feel sorrow and pain in such a realistic tale even when it steps into unreal territory it's still gritty and relatable. I was on the edge of my seat the last few pages. Take Ben's hand and let him guide you through his own brand of darkness. You won't be disappointed.

-John Grover

Author of The Fetch, Creatures and Crypts and Frozen Stiff.

Kenneth Cain says

It's sometimes hard for us to not relate a book to our own experiences. And even then, to not let those experiences affect how we perceive the story. I received a digital ARC of Cracked Sky in exchange for an honest review and this ended up being the case.

We as humans must face life's calamities on our own terms. Everyone has a different grieving process and for some it's most difficult to ignore any similarities. Having lost a young family member to a great tragedy, I know of these struggles well. But stories can also offer us perspective. And if you're brave enough, this is what you'll discover with Mr. Eads' novella.

The loss of a child, a failing marriage, and the downward spiral through the madness associated with such a tragedy are all too realistically depicted in Cracked Sky. Eads paints a clear picture for us as readers and the more we follow Stephen Morrison down the rabbit hole, the more real and horrifying his loss becomes.

But this isn't only a story of loss. Yes, most of this novella is centered around the untimely death of a child, but we are also offered hope. Albeit it a glimmer of optimism, you cling to it and pray it's real. However, a lot depends on how you believe these characters come to terms with their loss.

A great effort and a must read I truly enjoyed.

Rebecca McNutt says

Sort of a cross between the horror films *Poltergeist* and *Sinister*, this book shares a number of common horror elements but puts them together in a creative and original way that makes it a really chilling and memorable story.

Richard Alan Scott says

Cracked Sky by Ben Eads

I looked out my window and what did I see?
A crack in the sky and a hand reaching down for me.
All the strangers came today
And it looks as though they're here to stay...
-Oh You Pretty Things
David Bowie

The first thing that impressed me about this heartfelt, inhuman novella by Ben Eads was his unflinching look at a family ripped apart by immense tragedy. Even more so than in many other films and novels, the pain and descent into darkness here is all too real. Stephen and Shelley Morrison face a life of emotional desolation, and at every turn Mr. Eads proved his mettle in this startling debut by facing their dilemma head-on, never taking the easy path of soft-selling their struggle for the reading masses.

This sets up an intense atmosphere rendered the more believable when inescapable supernatural pressures convince Stephen that the Morrisons' sorrows have only just begun. And for the reader, what begins as a powerful domestic drama becomes an acid trip into the ancient cauldron of our deepest fears, facing a merciless villain intent on over-extending our stay.

Everyone handles grief in their own way, and if the person we all look upon to hold things together is allowing despair to alter his hold on reality, what chance do the ones affected have? This is what the damaged Shelley and Stephen's brother Josh have to face. Do you discard the possibly deluded hero as having gone over the edge, or do you stake your own sanity on his?

To say much more would ruin the many twists that await the reader in this chilling quandary. Suffice to say, who among us would face eternal torment to keep our family intact? And who would be crazy enough to accompany the one man we're certain is irretrievably lost?

All the nightmares came today
And it looks as though they're here to stay.

Mercedes Yardley says

I was in the perfect mood to read this book. Ben Eads managed to create one of the most broken characters

that I have ever read, and then quite literally dragged this person through hell and back. The main character is a man with an addiction problem, a failing marriage, a dead child, and a missing arm. He doesn't deal with his situation with any sort of grace, either. It's quite literally a study in a life falling apart.

Eads created a sick and dark dream world. Reading it was like visiting the most twisted of Wonderlands. Eads' other world is genuinely horrifying, and even more disturbing than Joe Hill's Christmas Town. That's truly a messed up and lovely thing to see.

Jeff Beesler says

Author Ben Eads has delivered a story that refuses to let you go once it has a hold of you. There is nothing exaggerated about the tale. It begins with Stephen Morrison clutching his deceased daughter's most cherished doll, and from there the book binds the reader in its spell. In my case, I just have to keep turning the pages. This has been one of the few books I've managed to read in a single day because everything--the plot, the characters, the pacing, the setting--has fallen seamlessly into place. This is the first time I've ever read this author's work, but it surely will not be the last. Mr. Eads has a reader for life in me. He's that good.

Elke says

Cracked Sky is a story about loss, but also about the love of a parent intent on sacrificing everything for his child and family.

The first half of the book really got me hooked, it was sad but then slowly it turned into something sinister and creepy. However, when Stephen enters the realm beyond the Cracked Sky in order to save his little girl, the plot became a bit fuzzy and sometimes confusing, making it hard to follow. There were several scenes thrown in where I was unsure of their meaning or importance for the story. It felt like the author wanted to create something big, fantastical, but put in too much.

Nevertheless, the story was a fascinating read with a unique plot and believable characters.

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review)

K. A. Opperman says

A Review of Cracked Sky by Ben Eads

Cracked Sky, by Ben Eads, sucks the reader into a bleak, gray world of delirium, whose strange and supernatural developments enticingly assault our senses with the same relentless force of the rain that, mysteriously, never ceases to pour from the cracked sky.... Follow one man's journey through the dark depths of the soul as he struggles with the untimely death of his young daughter, the depression and drug addiction that follow, and most ominously, the threat of something otherworldly encroaching on his increasingly fragile sanity....

In reading this novel, it quickly becomes apparent that Mr. Eads is a seasoned and talented storyteller. Characterizations are strong, memorable, and convincing; and the plot, like a sharp steel hook through the cheek, pulls us ever deeper into the shadowlands, where crushing depression and the supernatural blur in a

potent amalgam deftly handled by the author.

Scenes of action and sustained emotional intensity are especially well handled by Mr. Eads, giving *Cracked Sky* an adrenaline-soaked edge not to be found in many tales. One almost cannot help but think of leading horror novelists like Stephen King when being expertly navigated through such gripping scenes and scenarios. While there's no doubt the author will continue to become an ever better novelist, it is already very apparent in *Cracked Sky* that he has what it takes.

Ben Eads can write.

Cracked Sky is highly recommended to anyone who enjoys an action-packed tale of mystery and horror, nicely seasoned with generous doses of the bizarre and the grotesque. It's easy to get pleasantly lost in the labyrinth of this insane tale of death, the uncanny, and revenge. But don't worry!—

Ben Eads will lead you to the other side.

And he'll entertain the hell out of you along the way.

Lindsey Goddard says

Stephen Morrison is a grieving father who can't let go of the past. He lost his daughter, Allie, in a tragic car accident, and his psyche suffered a blow so devastating, he feels hopeless to ever recover. He finds release from his mental anguish in the pain pills prescribed for his injuries, and his wife, Shelley, is forced to watch him stumble down the slippery slope of addiction while battling her own maternal grief.

The tension in this book is palpable. Eads approaches the topic of depression with finesse. He spins a visceral web of self-loathing, with enough horror to hold our attention. Most importantly, he makes us care. We care what happens to our main characters as frightening occurrences plague their everyday lives... such as Stephen's strange ability to move his missing arm--a ghost arm, if you will.

When the ice cream truck driver responsible for Allie's death dies in his hospital bed, something sinister seeps into this world from a mysterious crack in the sky, and one thing becomes clear: their daughter is attempting to contact them from beyond. Allie needs their help.

This novella has a vibe along the same lines as the movies *Poltergeist* and *Insidious*--a dark world within our own world, a helpless child, trapped. Yet the writing is one of a kind. The pages are full of passion, suspense, and fear. Author Ben Eads nails the dynamics of a loving marriage fraught with heartache and terror. And you won't be disappointed with what awaits you in *Cracked Sky*.

Marvin says

The strength of Brian Eads's short novel *Cracked Sky* lies in the ability to express and illustrate strong and intense emotions. His story centers on Stephen and Shelly Morrison whose child was murdered. The author wastes no time in getting into the deep emotions involving the death of a child. Stephen is practically mentally comatose, depending on his doctor prescribed medications to get through the day. Shelly isn't much better, disguising her difficulty to deal with the death of her child onto her husband's behaviors. Stephen's brother Josh tries to help but he is losing patience and his own drug issues aren't helping either. He relays the news to the grieving parents that their child's killer is dead but that does not relieve the pain partially because Stephen is seeing things. Things like his daughter's alphabet blocks on the floor spelling out "Help Me". It appears that the killer's power to hurt goes beyond the grave.

Eads does an impressive job melding the issue of grief with a tale that involves the supernatural and the

afterlife. I wish it worked a little better than it does. There are a number of reasons for this. The main reason for me lies in the character of the killer. Darryl is never thoroughly explained. He has powers that seem a bit pat and unexplained for the tale. I wanted more explanation for his supernatural influences. Certainly the main focus is Stephen but Darryl is too powerful a force to simply leave as is. Another problem is that this approximately 100 page story is too short. We are thrown head first into the Morrison's dread and angst but never get a good grip on their characters. The characters scream for development and the plot screams for a back story. Finally, I found some of the dialog a bit awkward. The author's strength lies in description rather than dialog. At least it does in this work.

But when the tale gets started, it moves. I mean really, really moves. It takes off in the second half when we are introduced to the nether world that Stephen's daughter may be trapped in. As I said, Eads' strength is his descriptive talent and that applies both to emotions and the ability to set up an "after world" unlike the one we are expecting. And there is that ending; powerful and fulfilling to the characters and the story. It is a powerful ending for an emotional tale.

So while I have my misgivings about the development and character, it finally paid off. I often felt *Cracked Sky* may have been a dry run for something bigger. I hope so because Eads has the ability and the sensitivity to write a powerful horror/fantasy story that sketches the boundary of horror fiction as well as scaring us.

Jonathan Winn says

It takes a writer of great courage to create a broken man already suffocating under the weight of unimaginable grief and throw him into a darker nightmare worse than what you can imagine. But this is what Ben Eads has done with *Cracked Sky*, a tightly-written novella with all the heft of a full-length read. His characters are solid and layered, the world he creates is familiar yet still surprising, and those things that exist outside our world, in dark realms that hold the worst of the worst, are richly imagined and, dare I say it?, frightening. And don't let the more gentle pace of the first half of the read dissuade you from continuing. It's the calm before the storm. Enough said. If you're a fan of horror, you'll be as grateful as I am that Eads has the skill as a writer to keep up with a deliciously deviant imagination that's off the charts. Definitely worth the read.

Louise says

Cracked Sky is Ben Eads debut novel, and it's a work he should be proud of writing. It tells the story of Stephen and Shelley Morrison--a couple dealing with the painful loss of their daughter. Ben doesn't sugar coat their suffering either. He shows it in raw, emotional detail. *Cracked Sky* is a powerful read because Eads takes you on a rollercoaster of feeling, from terror, to sadness, to anger, and more. There are hints of a Stephen King influence peppered through this book. Ben's antagonist evokes dread similar to what I experienced when I first met Pennywise, and his otherworld is eerie, chilling, yet beautiful. I highly recommend you check out *Cracked Sky*. You'll be doing yourself a favor.
