



The Dead I Know

By Scot Gardner

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Aaron Rowe walks in his sleep and haunted by dreams he can't explain and memories he can't recover. Death doesn't scare him—his new job with a funeral director may even be his salvation. But if he doesn't discover the truth about his hidden past soon, he may fall asleep one night and never wake up. In this dark and witty psychological drama about survival, Aaron finds that making peace with the dead may be easier than coming to terms with the living.

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The Dead I Know By *Scot Gardner* Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1174832 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-03
- Released on: 2015-03-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .87" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Aaron has trouble connecting with people. He suffers from recurring nightmares—horrific memories of a dead woman—that have been locked away, and most nights he sleepwalks away from his home and into a caravan park where the majority of residents are drug addicts. When the teen gets a funeral director apprenticeship with Mr. Barton, it is not the dead bodies that make him nervous, but Mr. Barton's family and the grieving mourners instead. As his dreams become more intense and his Mam's undiagnosed dementia becomes increasingly dangerous, Aaron must learn how to rely on the living if he wants to save his grandmother and himself. First published in Australia, this is a dark, psychological coming-of-age drama with memorable characters and believable dialogue. Gardner continuously keeps readers emotionally invested in the protagonist. Despite the heavy topics explored in the novel, including Aaron's realization that his recurring dreams are actually repressed memories of a horrible event, and Aaron being the sole caretaker of his sick grandmother, Gardner writes with sensitivity and in a way that is accessible to teens. With humorous interactions and their unwavering belief that Aaron is worthwhile, Mr. Barton and his daughter, Skye, help him appreciate life in the midst of death and tragedy. A darkly funny book with a male coming-of-age story similar in theme and tone to *My Life and Death* (Peachtree, 2002) by Susan O'Keefe.—Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library, NJ

Review

"I have never read a book more gripping, nor a book more triumphantly alive. I love how it haunts me still. I swear, I will never forget *The Dead I Know*."

—John Marsden, author of *Tomorrow, When the War Began*

* "Despite the heavy topics explored in the novel . . . Gardner writes with sensitivity and in a way that is accessible to teens. With humorous interactions and their unwavering belief that Aaron is worthwhile, Mr. Barton and his daughter, Skye, help him appreciate life in the midst of death and tragedy. A darkly funny book."

—School Library Journal, starred review

* "Each plotline is woven skillfully in among the others, and each is resolved with gravity, dignity and care. The sense of family—both found and lost—is palpable throughout. Simply told and powerfully moving."

—Kirkus, starred review

* "Gardner's rich novel combines flashes of dark humor, an elusive narrator, and a carefully rendered supporting cast to create profound moments that will linger in readers' minds."

—Publishers Weekly, starred review

"Gardner's descriptions of funeral work compellingly mix dark humor and a respectful tone. Aaron's mother's health, his dark past, and the question of whether he can embrace his new life combine in an engaging through line that will engross readers."

—Booklist

"Moments of warmth and humor lighten the psychological suspense and frank depiction of death in Gardner's engrossing novel."

—***Horn Book***

* "Despite hints of the past and hope for the future, the story remains firmly grounded in the present, with a sense of immediacy that draws the reader in . . . Readers looking for a tightly crafted character-driven story will happily find themselves making friends with the darkly strange Aaron."

—***Bulletin, starred review***

About the Author

Scot Gardner has worked as a truck driver, professional musician, masseur, waiter, counselor, and author. He lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his wife and three children. Visit his website at www.scotgardner.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Harris:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be change about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *The Dead I Know* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Dorothy Shuler:

This *The Dead I Know* are generally reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The main reason of this *The Dead I Know* can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple reading food but feed an individual with information that possibly will shock your before knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this *The Dead I Know* forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

David Wolverton:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love *The Dead I Know*, you could enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Micheal Goggin:

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