



It's In The Eyes Book Reviews

“Suspense and Strong Characters Combine for Gripping Novel!”

You know that you've hit the literary jackpot when you find a novel that combines several of your interests into one great story. For example, someone who enjoys reading about both sports and romance may be intrigued by a book that features the long-distance relationship between a football star and his girlfriend. Or, perhaps you prefer a book with a science-fiction focus that also includes military confrontations. For me, I found a great synthesis of setting and plot in the new release *It's in the Eyes* by Dr. Charles

Toftoy. This thriller is set in my hometown of Washington, D.C. and features academia, action, and suspense. Knowing this information gave me high expectations before I even read the first page, and I was not disappointed.

It's in the Eyes grabs the readers immediately by placing us at a crime scene that is central to the entire plot and whose victim returns posthumously throughout the book to motivate the self-proclaimed detectives to solve her murder. Readers quickly learn that there is a series of murders of young women who attend universities in the Washington, D.C. area. These crimes have created uneasiness among the population and a sense of urgency in the Arlington Police Department. Lars Neilsen, a college professor with very personal reasons for wanting to catch the predator responsible for these gruesome deaths, assembles his "Alpha Team" of experts to piece together clues and hopefully end the violence.

One of Dr. Toftoy's greatest strengths in his writing is his ability to select language that creates a sense of tension in the readers. While the murderer remains anonymous for most of the novel, we are let into his mind periodically as the story unfolds. His narcissism and lack of emotion for any of the pain he has caused is quite disturbing. As he ponders the fate of his next victim, you want to find the woman yourself and warn her before it is too late. The author maintains this sense of discomfort by revealing just a little more about the criminal and his motivations with every chapter. With such a well-developed mystery, I often found myself nervous as I turned the page because the next event was either so shocking or revealing. And, I will simply say that I did not see the ending coming at all. *It's in the Eyes* is a suspense novel from beginning to end.

For those who have not been to Washington, D.C., Dr. Toftoy does a wonderful job of illustrating everyday life in that world capital. By providing details like the traffic reporter of the local news station, favorite eateries, and the feel of the diverse neighborhoods, you really get a sense of the environment in which the characters live. And, the decision to include what Lars Neilsen and the other members of his Alpha Team prefer to eat at the local Silver Diner or drink at the Capitol City Brewing Company drives home the idea that these are ordinary private citizens with whom all of us can

relate. It just so happens that they are choosing to put themselves in extraordinary circumstances.

The author of It's in the Eyes, Dr. Charles Toftoy, brings a wealth of academic and business experience to his writing. I hope that he finds the opportunity to put this great background into another novel soon. It's in the Eyes is a complex thriller that combines history, action, strong character development, believable dialogue, and a plot that will keep you guessing. If you enjoy curling up with a compelling mystery, this is most certainly a book for you."

Reviewed by Sarah Moore

October 19, 2009

"A Great Book To Read!

From the beginning to the end it got my attention and made me feel like a part of the story. I am thrilled that a lot of events in the story take place in Arlington VA and Washington DC which is the area I live. Highly recommended!"

Reviewed By Bank Of America "georgette v"

December 19, 2009

"Well Written Mystery!

Murder, murder everywhere seems to ring in the ears of all those in the Washington D.C. area. Terror floods the streets and parents warn their daughters to beware. Fear is rampant! Just what is happening? Young women are found dead, raped, and their spirits are crying out for justice.

Will their killer be caught? There is group, "The Alpha Team," a group of experts that come together to solve hard cases and bring to justice the guilty. A group that works along side the police, but not part of them, bringing much needed help. But will it be enough?

This story has some weird characters in it, and for this story that is a good thing. The story really gets interesting as you learn that the murders are similar to killings from centuries ago by Thuggees, those who worshipped the black goddess, Kali. The authors description of the interaction between the killer and Kali is sure to curl your hair. Creepy. However, you also learn that not all murders can be lumped up and blamed on one killer, no there is more underfoot than meets the eye. The plot thickens.

I enjoyed this read, I liked the way the author brings the local into clarity and portrays the victims as real people with families and lives that were stolen from them. Also bringing

into play the creepy worship of darkness never hurts a good murder mystery, and the author definitely brought 'creepy' into play with the worship of this Queen of Darkness and her faithful follower. Yuck! Gave me the chills and definitely is part of the read I will remember for a while! Our author also did a good job with the characters of the Alpha Team, the description and personality of each one was well defined and their job within the group easy to follow. That helped a lot in understanding how they were proceeding in cracking the case.

All in all a very good read, full of all the elements needed with characters that blended well in each part they played in the saga, allowing the story to flow smoothly and bring it to a satisfying conclusion. Very well done, great mystery read, even though it was tad creepy.

Reviewed by Shirley Priscilla Johnson - Author/Reviewer
December 5, 2009

“Beware: Look Straight: It's in the Eyes

Imagine getting a phone call asking you come down to identify your daughter's body after some psychopathic killer took her life. Unfortunately, these things do happen and we read about them in the news on a daily basis. Abuse of any kind is unconscionable and the end result can leave more than just physical trauma or scars on the abused person. All too often the hidden traumas caused by verbal, physical and sexual abuse can have devastating and lasting effects on a person whether an adult or child. This brings me to my review of an important novel written by Dr. Charles Toftoy, Its In the Eyes.

As the novel begins we learn of a horrific rape and murder of a young college student in Washington DC. Dr. Lars Neilsen is a college professor who created a team of private investigators called the Alpha Team who privately and discreetly assist in the investigation and soon learn startling facts about the killer or killers and their brand of murder. Four coeds are killed and all four deaths are by strangulation. A psychopathic killer is at work who models his murders after the rapes and killings of the 17th and 18th century killers called the Thuggees who worshipped the black goddess Kali- meaning darkness.

As with our killer Kali worship comes from a legend that originated from India. It refers to a period when an evil demon hunted mankind in order to devour him. During this time period children were killed and Kali was determined to stop him. But, all of her efforts did not work and each time blood of the demon was spilled it would rise again and she created her own form of help. Creating men from various sources she hoped to strangle the demons. It is this legend that is the impetus for the religion of Kali and her worshippers, the Thugs. Worshippers of Kali followed the Thug path and a killer who believes in Kali and sees her in his visions murders the women killed in this book. Kali wore clothes made of human body parts. Using her as a guide the killer's victim was

positioned and given the special yellow scarf around her neck to indicate the reference to Kali in the murders.

However, you need to beware of a new moon or darkness as Kali represents darkness and the targets for these murders are blue-eyed blonds who think according to our killer and Kali, that they are God's gift to the world. The killer states that these women are superficial and self-absorbed: His targets are blonds on the basketball teams who think that they are as some put it today, "ALL THAT," and more.

His mode of killing fits that of the killings of the Thuggees. The victims were travelers who were murdered as sacrifices to the goddess Kali. Using her favorite color yellow, a silk scarf of that color was tied around the unsuspecting traveler's neck. Death occurred within five seconds. Thuggees always used this method of killing since spilling blood was forbidden. Thinking that the police and the Alpha team would not pick up on this, our killer lived in a world devoted to Kali and envisioning her in his presence and guiding his actions.

But, in order to throw them off and send them in another direction, he commits a crime so violent and heinous it sends Lars and his team reeling with anger and determination to bring him to justice and more.

Did you ever look into the eyes of someone and know they were lying to you? Can you tell when someone is telling the truth? What would you do if the color of your eyes and hair would make you a target for a killer? Wait and see what happens next?

This dangerous killer thought he would was beyond the law and would outsmart the Alpha Team. How he is brought down will surprise you and the added twists and turns will keep the reader on edge. When Lars comes face to face with our killer he knows he has split seconds to respond. What happens you will have to read for yourself?

What I love about this book is the way the author allows the reader to enter the world of a police investigation by explaining the steps involved in planning not only their strategies to capture the killer but the brainstorming techniques and the give and take of those involved to help the reader understand that it takes teamwork to solve a case and a great leader, like Lars Neilsen to lead. Added to this are the language lessons that Belissa, Candace's mother gives to Lars and the reader comes away not only with knowledge of how to write a great news article thanks to Brenda the reporter, investigative techniques and some Portuguese words too.

When the police finally realize that there is two separate cases not one, they realize that their work is not over and they have to find another and equally dangerous killer who uses hit men from another country to do his dirty work. Just who this Dragon is and what the killer's motive is, you won't believe. With the help of the FBI, ACPD, the Alpha team and other law enforcement agencies justice is sought and hopefully will be served but not in the way you would expect.

How do you tell a mother that her daughter is dead? How do you live with the voice of the murdered girl in your head pleading for you to get her killer? Will Lars and his team succeed in closing this case? Will Candace finally rest in peace? How does it all come together? Will the Alpha Team: Doris the psychic, Brenda the reporter, Tiger the assistant funeral director and our lead, Lars the professor succeed? Read this first rate thriller from an author who makes us aware of how important it is to keep our children and family close and protected.

This novel brings to light many important issues that we read about in our newspapers. It is not brings to light how important it is that our young people stay alert, aware and cognizant of their surroundings when jogging, walking or going out with friends. Remember: You can't be too careful. The eyes are the windows to the soul and just looking into someone's eyes you can sometimes see more than you want.

Muito obrigado as you would say in Portuguese: thank you for a great novel Dr. Charles Toftoy. I hope that you will bring Lars and his Alpha team back for a sequel. Thank you for the honor of reviewing your book.”

Reviewed by Fran Lewis "Fran and Bertha"
November 16, 2009

“It's In the Eyes

I thoroughly enjoyed this exciting book - a real thriller! The characters were well developed and interesting, and the plot was colorful and enthralling. It seems to me this could be the beginning of a series.”

Reviewed by Mary E. Fantucchio "Mary F." (Arlington, VA)
September 22, 2009

“An Exciting Read!

Living in the vicinity of Washington, DC I am especially intersted in books that use the area as a setting, as this one does. This book is set in DC and Arlington, VA, and Toftoy obviously has researched the sites carefully, lending an air of authenticity to the story, and helping it come alive in the reader's mind. For example, the lead character lives in a real apartment building, in fact one I used to live in myself when I first moved to this area. Some of the action takes place in a real diner in Arlington. In other words, unlike many books set in DC, the places he describes actually exist, so that the characters move through the real world of the Capital area.

Another interesting aspect of the book is the way the chapters alternate between first-person accounts by the hero and the villain. This device allows us to see the story from both viewpoints, setting up a tension that becomes nearly unbearable as we move toward the climactic moment.

On top of this, the book is filled with interesting asides, such the discussion of the Thuggees of India, bandits from whom the English word thug is derived. These asides show Toftoy's breadth of knowledge and ability to bring it to bear on his story, enlivening the work and providing some interesting insights along the way.

Altogether, a good read and a likely candidate for a sequel!"

Reviewed by Ann Matikan
January 13, 2010

“It's In the Eyes

If you have read THE DECEIVERS, by John Masters, you will recognized it as the precursor to Chuck Toftoy's IT'S IN THE EYES. The plot hinges on the Tugees of 18th century India placed in a modern context. Young college women are being raped and murdered, and it is up to Dr. Larry Nielson and his A Team to track down the culprits. It's a good read with mystery and action!"

Reviewed by Paul D. Vanture (Portland OR USA)
December 30, 2009

“Page-Turning Novel!

It's hard to put down the story of Professor Lars Neilsen as he tries to solve Washington DC murders. The author is descriptive, accurate and skilled in writing suspense. Awaiting the sequel!"

Reviewed by M. Kaplan (Washington, D.C.)
December 19, 2009

“It's In the Eyes (*read by a friend of mine*)

A PSYCHOPATH IS STALKING CO-EDS IN WASHINGTON, DC

It's spring in Washington, DC - a beautiful time of year in the nation's capital, yet its citizens are uneasy. Their heightened restlessness is reminiscent of the recent 9/11, sniper, and anthrax scares. But this time the enemy is a psychopathic killer responsible for the deaths of four local university co-eds - raping and murdering them using rituals practiced by the Thuggees, killers for the Goddess Kali who were responsible for the deaths of more than two million travelers in India in the 17th and 18th centuries.

It's up to Lars Neilsen, a college professor and part-time sleuth, and his highly skilled Alpha Team to find out who is committing these atrocious murders. But Lars and his team are in for a few nasty surprises along the way..

Charles Toftoy's book "It's in the eyes" is a thriller, but the author was inspired by true events. The book tells the story of a series of deaths that have occurred in Washington, D.C.

Four young women have been brutally raped and murdered, with the same MO that Thuggees in the 17th and 18th centuries used when they killed millions of travelers in India to honor Goddess Kali. The parents to one of the murdered women, unsatisfied with how the local police department has handled the case, ask professor Lars Neilsen and his team to investigate the murder, in co-operation with the FBI. Professor Lars Neilsen's team consists of Nathan Greene who works at a funeral home, Doris Wagner who is a former FBI profiler, and the journalist, Brenda Little. Together they form a tightly knit group where everyone has something to offer to the investigation.

In their hunt for the people responsible for the deaths of the four young women, Lars Neilsen and his team will realize that they themselves are in danger and they must quickly solve the difficult case before someone else is brutally raped or murdered. They must also ask themselves if they are looking for just one person who has raped and murdered these women or if several people are involved. The investigation leads Lars Neilsen all the way across the ocean, to Ireland, in search of the murderer.

The book is very good and offers many thrilling scenes, among which can be mentioned a snake bite and a lethal spider. It is a book that truly shows that everything is not what it first seems to be. The book has a very surprising ending. It was certainly not the ending I suspected when I read the book.

It was truly enjoyable to read "It's in the Eyes" and I warmly recommend it to everyone that is a fan of thrillers."

Reviewed by Blodeuedd "Blodeuedd"
December 17, 2009

“It's In the Eyes – An Enjoyable Read!

There is a serial rapist/murderer on the loose in our nation's capital. The Chief of Police is way out of his league and thinks that by bullying his subordinates, they will solve the case faster and make him look good. Unfortunately there is more to this case than meets the eye, but luckily for the citizens of Washington, DC, Deputy Chief Cory is on the case and he's working with an outside team who knows how to catch and deal with killers like this. University professor Dr. Lars Neilsen, ace reporter Brenda, former FBI profiler Doris and former military Nate investigate the murders of the four blonde blue-eyed coeds, along side the police but without the restrictions the officer's have. Is it the work of one man or is there more than one psychotic killer on the loose.

In *It's in the Eyes*, Charles Toftoy has created an interesting cast of characters and he does an excellent job of keeping the reader from guessing the conclusion. There are times, however, when the story falls flat and extraneous bits of information and chapters slow the momentum of the plot. There are also one or two characters that just don't ring true and their moments are distracting. However, even with those flaws, the story keeps you interested and is overall an enjoyable read.”

Reviewed by Carter Martina "cc-chronicles at blogspot
December 9, 2009

“Great Mystery Thriller!

What a great read!! Intensely gripping from start to finish. The characters really seemed to come through strong throughout the book so you really get to know them. A great blend of mystery and suspense with a twist ending. Highly recommend!”

Reviewed by G. Kendrick Williams (Huntsville, AL)
December 5, 2009

“Keeps You On Pins And Needles!

It's in the Eyes - Review by Martha A. Cheves, Author of *Stir, Laugh, Repeat*

"Please get him." Lars looked down at her and flashbaced three years, as if he was seeing his own daughter at the morgue. Candance Hawthorne, the fourth rape and murdered coed, was almost an identical twin of Lars' daughter, Lisa. As he looked at Candance's face, he recognized some of those facial features. And the blue eyes seemed to be staring intently at him. A tear stung Lars' eyes. Even though the temperature outside the Lubber Run Nature Center was a warm 62 degrees Fahrenheit, he felt a chill.'

Lars Neilsen is a West Pointer who served three tours in Vietnam as a ranger/paratrooper, Special Operations. He was awarded the DSC, three Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts and

many other awards while serving his country. He knows the streets, is clever and has good instincts. He also believes in justice for the victims and has no problem in carrying out whatever needs to be done to acquire that justice. But most important, Lars heads a team he created called the Alpha Team. The Alpha Team takes their position seriously and won't stop until their job is complete.

Nathan Green, called 'Tiger', originally from New Orleans, served with Lars in Vietnam. Tiger was a sergeant in the military and was very accomplished in the Special Ops by performing top secret missions. He, as well as Lars, has a brown belt in Tae Kwon Do and won't hesitate to use this art of defense when needed.

Doris Wagner was a former FBI profiler and recognized as their best. Her husband died in the World Trade Center on 9/11, draining her emotionally. She now does part-time work for the FBI. She's clairvoyant, into astrology and develops clinical psychological leads to uncover criminals.

Brenda Little is a journalist who helped break a big murder case in Richmond. She was hired by the Washington Post but burned out after six years and now does freelance work. She studied criminal justice at the University of Maryland, her father was a metro cop killed in the line of duty and she has a black belt in Tae Kwo Do.

Now you know the Alpha Teams. When Candance Hawthorne was raped and murdered the Alpha Team was hired by the family to find her killer. This case turns out to be the toughest case the team has encountered.

I've enjoyed following Lars and his team as they search for the 'Coed Killer', only to find out that there is not one killer but two, bringing even more excitement to the story. Charles Toftoy created 4 characters, dedicated them to justice, but still give the reader the feel that these 4 characters are normal everyday people. He does this through the jokes and humor of 'Tiger', the compassion of Brenda, the confused lifestyle and childhood memories of Doris and the pain felt by Lars due to the death of his wife and daughter. I couldn't help but enjoy It's in the Eyes and look forward to reading it's sequel Eyes of Cold Case Killers.”

Reviewed by Martha A. Cheves (Charlotte, NC)
December 4, 2009

“A Must For lovers Of Intelligent Thrillers!

I have read the book and I enjoyed it. Certainly a page turner. I it is a good story and I liked the character development. What especially impressed me was the author's ability to write dialog. When I was working, I always carried a book with me and often it was a thriller. I found in all of them, the author had something to teach the reader. This author's book is full of fascinating information about the army, Viet Nam, police work, prostate

cancer, psychology, relationships and even a touch of West Point, not to mention humor. Congratulations on a remarkable achievement.”

Reviewed by Wayne Weiss (Rancho Mirage, CA)
December 3, 2009

“A Cozy Kind of Thriller!

I think I recognized the eyes on the cover of *It's In The Eyes* by Charles Toftoy! Is that scary...or what? Actually, I found this book more like a cozy mystery than a true suspense novel--even if the storyline is about a "psychopath stalking coeds!"

The book was inspired and written in memory of an undergraduate student who was raped and murdered near George Washington University, as well as other women who have been victimized. Kudos to the author for this remembrance!

Lars Neilsen is a college professor and part-time sleuth, the latter perhaps due to his being brother-in-law to Deputy Chief Cory Swink. In any event, he was kneeling over the body of the latest victim, Candance, when first he realized that she looked very much like his daughter who had been killed in an accident, and second that he had received a message from her still-open eyes: "Please get him."

Although Lars was clearly told by the Chief to stay away from the case, he and his group of friends/professionals, code name Alpha Team, knew that they would be working it, one way or another! And Lars, especially, was out for revenge!

Tiger (Nate) who has been with Lars for many years tries to keep things light, even at the darkest times...so he'll share a joke just about every time the Team meets. While Doris who was with the FBI and still has many connections is able to provide the team with the right information at the right time. The last member of the team is Brenda, a reporter for *The Post*, who is willing and able to ensure the paper is used in whatever way possible to assist in the capture of those guilty of crimes!

Actually, there is quite a bit of side activities by Lars, the Team Leader, who is entranced by Doris who looks like Veronica Lake, but still manages to respond to Brenda "at the right time." While the mother of the victim, and the lady paying for their services, also finds a need to have personal meetings with Lars...whenever...

But The Team does get the job done, first, by having Lars travel to Dublin to follow a major clue and assist in the hunt and capture of a "Thuggee," killers who are faithful to the Goddess Kali--a very dangerous goddess indeed! And then back to find out what the team has found out!

Expect to read a different kind of book and you'll find that It's In The Eyes by Charles Toftoy just might be right for you! Because, after all, it is in the eyes--of the reader!"

Reviewed by Glenda A Bixler "Glenda" (Pennsylvania)
December 3, 2009

“A Timely Read!

Cannot improved on what the other reviewers have shared, aside to say the topic is timely and anyone who listens to the news and what is going on in the world will find this read a good one”

Reviewed by MotherLodeBeth "MotherLodeBeth" (Sierras of California)
November 23, 2009

“Couldn't Put It Down!

Loved this book. Fun and exciting to read because of familiar locations and the hero and his team mean business. Had a great beginning, middle and end--the formula for a great read. Can't wait for the sequel.”

Reviewed by Judy Massabny (Arlington, VA)
November 15, 2009

“A Unique Story!

I thought the story was very unique and thrilling. It was very different from other books I have read. I enjoyed it very much.”

By Eric N. Toftoy "Eric" (Alexandria, VA)
November 11, 2009

“It's In the Eyes

I really enjoyed the book. A rollercoaster ride with so many twists and turns leading up to a surprise ending.”

Reviewed by Neal J. Shulman (Mill Creek, WA)

November 6, 2009

“Exciting Read!

Chuck Toftoy has written an exciting novel that gets your attention early and holds it ! He captures the fragrance of Washington,DC - a particularly intriguing spy town- and flavors the read as only one who has lived there can do. His accurate representation of names and places make the book all the more complete and the story all the more captivating. If this is his first fiction book, Toftoy needs to keep on pumping them out. Read and enjoy a Washington insider's take on international terrorism!”

Reviewed by Dennis P. Sharon "Avid reader" (The Villages, FL United States)
March 29, 2010

“Powerful Story That Leaps Off The Page At You!

I am probably not your average reader. I devour a book in its entirety. My mother had a saying that she used often when I was growing up, `you should never judge a book by its cover.' It is an English phrase referring to judging people by their appearance rather than the person inside. As a reviewer though, I disagree with my mothers definition, I do indeed believe that you can tell a great deal about a book by its cover. Oh, not literally the cover art, but the information outside of the actual text. I have to admit that when I read the dedication page, I was chilled:

In memory of Nicole, one of my undergraduate students, who was raped and murdered in her apartment near George Washington University, and to all young women who have been victims of brutal crimes. Somehow, may they rest in peace.

As a result of that dedication I was a little worried about the story that was going to follow, was this a premonition of a dark and moody story, one guaranteed to depress?

Not so at all! Charles Toftoy has created an incredible novel that is a real page turner. Four young women have lost their lives in what appears to be the work of a serial killer. The police seemed stalled in their progress, the Modus Operandi is always the same, strangulation by a yellow scarf and rape.

One set of grieving parents unhappy with the progress call in Lars Neilsen and his skilled and diversified Alpha Team of investigators. Although It's In The Eyes is a work of fiction Charles Toftoy actually hits a nerve with the idea of a private investigative team. I know several Investigators in real life, they are not the gumshoes portrayed in most books, they are clinical and analytical thinkers, they also can often go where the police

can not. Indeed Lars, who is a college professor, and the rest of the Alpha Team are all critical thinkers. Little get by them.

It does not take them long to recognize the significance of the Yellow scarf, a trademark of a 17th and 18th century vicious group of killers in India, the Thuggees. These killers are reported to be responsible for the death of up to two million people in India over a two century period. These followers of the goddess Kali killed as a form of reverence.

Lars and the team quickly determine that there are more than one killer, one of the murders looks as if the same MO was used, but there are subtle differences. A hit job that has gone wrong?

With Washington DC in a state of panic, it is a race against time. Can the killers be found before they strike again?

Charles Toftoy has created a very fine novel in *It's In The Eyes*. It is an action thriller, that grabs you from page one and does not let go until you hit the back cover. It is not dark and gloomy, it is a ripping yarn. The characters are larger than life, and sometimes outrageous, it is perfect escapism. The author though, does hit on some truisms, not least of which is the role of the press in assisting an investigation. We are often 'unofficially' fed a tid bit to rattle a cage. That is something that I have first hand knowledge of. Also the use of Profilers, I happen to know one, she has an uncanny ability to extract a physical and mental picture of the perpetrator of the crime.

All in all, I give this book a very high mark, an action thriller well worth the effort of seeking out."

Reviewed by Simon Barrett - Blogger News Network
March 1, 2010

"Compelling Mystery!

Toftoy's novel is a very compelling read full of mystery and suspense. As a native Washingtonian, it was especially captivating to read many of the storylines taking place in my own backyard. Do yourself a favor and find some time to read Toftoy's book - it's a real page turner! I hope this book is a prelude to many more Toftoy thrillers!"

Reviewed by James Kimsey
February 2, 2010

"It's In the Eyes

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Great suspense and kept me on edge throughout the book. It was hard to put down. I liked the four main characters. All from different backgrounds, yet each brought his or her unique skill sets to the team, and they were a team. I was also impressed with the research done by the author. I live in the DC area and have been to many of the places referenced in the book. He is totally accurate in his descriptions of names and places. I highly recommend this book to any prospective reader. I hope there is a sequel.”

Reviewed by Bradley J. Johnson "Brad Johnson" (McLean, Va)
January 29, 2010

“Suspense, Thriller and Human Element in One Read!

It's in the Eyes. Author Charles Toftoy takes his readers into the heart and soul of Lars Neilson a college professor and part time sleuth and his trained alpha team. They are on the trail of a serial killer who kills college students. The one victim has touched Lars in a dark place. The day he saw her lifeless body he looked into her eyes - Now they haunt him. He hears her telling him to "Find Them".

Charles Toftoy not only tells a good mystery story, he includes the flaws and human traits of his characters. Mr Toftoy is one in die author to pay attention to.”

Reviewed by Yvonne Mason "Author" (Port St Lucie, Fl.)
January 20, 2010

“It's In the Eyes

Very different then the books I read. I love thriller films and It's in the Eyes would make for an interesting film. It's fast pace with action and true to life characters. I would go to see this as a movie in the theatre.

Really like the Washington DC and Arlington, Va. settings. It seems like you were there on the scene both in everyday life and what action was going on.

Would like to see a follow up book as these characters have more stories in them to share and tell.”

Reviewed by Perry C. Gaidurgis "Recycled Books" (Delmar, Delaware)
January 14, 2010

“Guaranteed To Be A Great read!

I found myself getting attached to the Alpha Team ... enjoying their gutsy, aggressive measures to solve these brutal murders. Toftoy develops his characters so readers know each of the Team's distinctive characteristics. The reader experiences the Team's disappointment when a major twist occurs in the plot, which leaves the Team temporarily powerless. I especially enjoyed the Washington, D.C., setting. I recognized the places in the novel, which I've passed dozens of times. I can't wait to read the sequel!"

Reviewed by Irene M. Stefanski
January 7, 2010

“Using Dialog To Bring Out Life's Lessons!

Writing fiction is different than writing an academic textbook. The author writes the way people talk. Using the fiction-thriller genre was a way to bring out key life's lessons. The reader learns a lot without being lectured to. It's done via dialog. The main characters are so real and different from each other that they grow on you. A top student in the author's business class was raped and murdered in her apartment, a few blocks away from the University. This inspired the author to write the novel: dedicated to her and to justice.

Reviewed by Charles Toftoy (Virginia USA)
February 5, 2010

“It's In the Eyes

"It's In The Eyes" by Charles Toftoy is a thriller set in Washington D.C and someone is killing beautiful, blond co-eds. Unhappy with the police's progress, one family hires Lars Neilsen and his Alpha Team to locate the murderer of their daughter. As the story progresses and as the Team goes where the police can't, they find that they are chasing not one, but two distinct murderers, but why? Toftoy has written a story that shows potential yet misses in several areas of believability."

Reviewed by grumpydan (Andover, NJ United States)
December 22, 2009

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http://www.amazon.com/Its-Eyes-Charles-Toftoy/dp/1432711962/ref=cm_cr_pr_product_top