

Review by Jenna Weaver -- The Site by Carlos Valrand

by Jenna Weaver >> 26 May 2021, 06:37

[Following is a volunteer review of "The Site" by Carlos Valrand.]

Cicely Denfeld was by all appearances an ordinary woman. Her life in Chesham, England was one of routine and comfort, with not much more to worry her than how her students were performing at the school where she taught, or how things were progressing with her latest love interest. When Cicely starts to have strange and vivid dreams about people and places she doesn't know, she is at first unsettled and then wholly concerned as the dreams begin to take over her life. Seeking help, Cicely approaches a kind and methodical psychiatrist, Dr McClellan, and together they work to decipher the meaning of the dreams. What neither one of them realizes is that the dreams will lead them to a dangerous discovery, a secret fiercely protected by both the CIA as well as otherworldly forces.



The Site, by Carlos Valrand, is a fast-paced, science fiction story full of mystery and intrigue, as Cicely's dreams take over and draw the reader in to a strange new world.

I loved how the author used the landscape of dream psychology to introduce the stranger elements of this story, blending normal life with the supernatural in a way that was easily believable. The characters were well-defined and nuanced. I felt protective over Cicely and was rooting for her and the others to succeed.

As an ex-engineer for NASA, Valrand's work is well researched and detailed. When the story started going into the realm of science-fiction and the supernatural, Valrand expertly described a whole new world of technology, language and culture in a way that was easy to visualize and imagine. However, I did find it hard to keep up with the constantly changing titles and ranks of some of the main characters, as well as the fictional jargon and language used throughout. The author has provided a detailed glossary at the end of the book but I found flipping back and forth very distracting. If this was pared down I would have found it easier to follow, so it is due to this that I rate the book a **3 out of 4 stars**.

I would recommend this book to anyone that is looking for a science-fiction tale full of suspense, mystery, love, courage and intrigue.

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