



Mind Secrets (Perceivers #1)

Jane Killick

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Teenagers with mind powers fight for the right to survive in the thrilling first novel of the Perceivers series.

Waking up without his memories and hunted by Agent Cooper, Michael finds sanctuary with a group of perceivers: telepaths who sense the thoughts and emotions of others. Drawn into their battle to stay free of the cure which threatens to strip them of their powers, he searches for the person who stole his past. As the tension between perceivers and norms erupts into violence, Michael pieces together the shocking truth behind the origin of their power. To save his friends from destruction, he must face Cooper and confront the painful revelations of his forgotten secrets.

A gripping science fiction thriller set on the streets of London, Mind Secrets takes an exciting and dangerous journey into intrigue, friendship and deception.

Previously published under the author name Chris Reynolds and the title Perceivers.

Mind Secrets (Perceivers #1) Details

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From Reader Review Mind Secrets (Perceivers #1) for online ebook

Crystal Rafuse says

I was given a complimentary pre-release copy of this book by its author to read and give my honest review, so I will do my bet to honor that agreement. There is really only one word on my mind after finishing this book: WOW.

Michael wakes up face-down in a hallway with no recollection of who he is, or how he got there. All he knows is a fear of the large man chasing him, known only as Cooper, but why?

After being homeless for a spell, Michael enters the underground world of “perceivers,” teenagers with the ability to delve into the minds of “norms” and read their thoughts and feelings. It is with the help of two of these perceivers, Jennifer and Otis, that Michael begins working with the perceivers in a desperate attempt to stop the government from forcing teenagers to undergo “the cure,” turning them back into norms, while at the same time attempting to piece together the truth about who he is.

Will Michael ever uncover the truth, and with it, his missing memories?

WOW. From the moment I picked up this book, I found myself drawn into the mystery of Michael and his missing past. I found myself cheering with every ‘ceiver success, and jeering when they faced any defeat. Jennifer, Otis, Dr. Page, and even the dastardly Cooper are very well-written, in-depth characters, worthy of rooting (or booing, depending which side you are on!) for.

Without giving away the ending of this book, I can honestly say I was not expecting that at the end!

I can truthfully say that this book is well worth the read, and I am whole-heartedly looking forward to the next books in the series!

Tom says

A good read, but the concept was slightly more interesting than the execution. The idea of a small percentage of the population that can read (or at least perceive minds) was interestingly told through some good characters. But I thought the author tried to introduce some ill-fitting social commentary on top of the story. The scope of abusing the powers was almost never explored, and anyone who had (I thought not entirely unfounded) fears was portrayed as a bigot. The ending, in particular, feels like it skips over a lot for the sake of a neat conclusion.

However, a well written and often entertaining book. I look forward to picking up the next one soon.

Jade says

3.5

This was good! I haven't read sci-fi in a while, so it took me a little bit to get into, but I really enjoyed it. The plot was very original, and there were enough twists to keep you turning the page. The writing was really vivid, which also pulled you in. It's set in London, which was a nice change since most of the books I read

are placed in the U.S. I appreciate the social commentary with the perceivers fighting for civil rights, as well. However, I do think the characters could have been stronger, as I wasn't super invested in any of them, even Michael (the main character). If you like character driven stories, then I would probably avoid this, as the plot is the main thing that keeps you reading. Still, this does have me wanting to read more sci-fi...

Navya says

It is really worth reading. But ending part, I don't find it much accurate. Otherwise, it is a great combination of science and mystery.

Charles Ray says

Michael wakes up in a strange hallway with no memories, with nothing but a knife in his hand and a strange woman calling his name—or, at least, he presumes it's his name. What he does know is that he must flee. He encounters a man, Agent Cooper, who is chasing him, again, for what reason he does not know. After a struggle in the stairwell of the building, Michael stabs Cooper and makes his escape. Injured in the struggle with Cooper, Michael is afraid to seek treatment until a sympathetic nurse on a smoke break outside a nearby hospital takes pity on him and takes him inside to take care of his injuries.

Inside the hospital, Michael meets two teenagers and learns that they are 'perceivers,' people with the ability to tune into the emotions of others. Worse, he learns that the normal people fear them and that Cooper's allies are enroute to the hospital to detain him. With the help of the two teens Michael escapes and enters the unknown world of the perceivers.

Mind Secrets by Jane Killick is a riveting sci-fi story that takes the reader on a harrowing journey as Michael struggles to recover his memories, a journey during which he discovers a startling and disturbing secret about himself.

Non-stop action that is not just a well-written sci-fi story, but an exploration of prejudice and betrayal that will leave you breathless.

Rachel Barnard says

Michael wakes up with amnesia, but he knows the agent in front of him is up to no good. Trusting his instincts, he flees. Getting away from the agent wasn't too hard, but living without memories, identity, money, or a place to go prove much harder. The world he finds himself in is torn between those who can perceive emotions and those who are afraid of the Perceivers. Michael falls in with one of those groups of Perceivers and wants to help them as much as he wants to find out who he was.

This book was full of action and scenes of chase and destruction. It was a fun read about a possible science fiction future where society is split between those who have a power and those who resent and fear those with that power. Of course people would turn to laws and legislation to bind those with telepathy and to erase whatever part of their minds houses the telepathy with no regard to their identity and opinions. It made me grind my teeth at times how insensitive those in power were for trying to suppress the use and future of telepathy, even when it was ingrained into the person's identity like another sense.

I did find it hard to believe that the teenagers would be able to oppose the government like they were able to in this book. They also seemed to be able to source whatever they needed in this opposition, such as access to a lab.

I really liked the angle this book took on 'mind control' as it was a very soft version of telepathy, like the beginning stages of the evolution of mind control.

Tanisha says

I am a self-admitted book worm, and I have been the majority of my life. Here lately, I gravitate towards suspenseful books. Although not always my first choice (because of my age), I do also read YA novels. The majority of the YA novels that I read are very science fiction leaning. Because of this, I was very excited to get a chance to review this book. Here are my thoughts on the beginning of the "Perceivers" series.

Pros: I tend to be hesitant to read books from a new author, because it tends to take me a while to get used to the writing style. This was not the case with this book. Before I was 10% into the book, I was fully engrossed. The characters are very well developed, and there is so much action in the book that you will be on the edge of your seat. I don't want to spill anything in regards to the content of this book, but there are so many twists and turns that you will be thoroughly shocked. The characters get their hooks into you, and so you truly CARE what happens to them. I also liked the parallels of the perceivers' struggles to many of the issues minorities currently face. We all want to be accepted for who we are, and our differences embraced instead of scorned...perceivers are no different.

Cons: It caught me off guard that things like memories, or things seen on television will be in italics.

I can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Although this is a YA book, I am early 30s, and still enjoyed it. I definitely recommend this book. I'm excited to see what comes next. I received a pre-release copy of this book from the author at no charge to me in exchange for an honest review.

K. Lincoln says

3.5 stars, actually.

I downloaded this during a freebie promo. As some mindless entertainment for a few hours-- perfectly acceptable Paranormal kid-with-powers-pursued-by-gov't kind of story. As an American, the British locale gave it an extra hint of interest for me.

Although everyone's use of "what the skank" and "where's the skanking (insert noun)" became a little too noticeable after a while.

Michael wakes up with amnesia, lives on the streets, and then meets two youngsters, Jennifer and Otis, who are squatting in an apartment and give him shelter-- but are Perceivers. In the last few years, the number of teenagers who are Perceivers, and can feel emotions, basic thoughts, have grown.

And here's the basic issue I had with suspension of disbelief. Although maybe I'm naive and optimistic. The

way adults and society instantly rejected the teens, kicked them out, forcefully "cured" them, etc. seemed a little too harsh. Although, now as I'm writing this, I suppose if you swapped "perceiver" for "gay" it's not too hard to believe....

Somehow Michael, Jennifer, and Otis have to stay ahead of powerful gov't factions after them, investigate the mystery of the "cure" clinics suddenly sprouting up and leaving former Perceivers shadows of themselves, and find out who Michael really is.

There's a bit of one-sided attraction on Michael's part over Jennifer, but it's not really a factor in the story.

The other suspension of disbelief I had issues with were the character of Otis (has the ability to like produce anything they need, contacts to conduct serum analysis, is a Perceiver but attacks Michael even when he can Perceive Michael's telling the truth) and Michael's father (quite passive despite being a high powered business man with a scheming agenda of his own, seems content to allow his son to be used and flip flops on the single most important decision of Michael's life).

I'm all about the characters. So for me, this is where the story lost half a star, I never quite connected with them. For people who enjoy plot more, this novel probably would be 4 star.

Susan Kite says

What a ride!

This was an amazing book, a roller coaster of action and surprises. I enjoyed every word of it. Highly recommended.

Donte McNeal says

I received a free copy of this book for an honest review. The premise kind of reminded me of Sense8, the Netflix show about 8 mentally and emotionally linked people who are ultimately trying to stay away from those hunting them. I enjoyed the show and was really excited to read a book with a similar set-up. Also, stories where characters, main characters especially, have amnesia are interesting (if done right).

One thing I will say about this author is that she knows how to create an immersive atmosphere with her descriptiveness. Does a great job helping the reader "see" what's happening, and with perceivers, it's easy to feel what the characters are feeling.

One thing that always gets me when reading books with non-American characters is the lingo that it used. It can take you out of the book sometimes, unfortunate if the author does a great job pulling you in. That's not the case with this book; the UK slang is easy to understand.

I won't spoil anything, but roughly halfway through the book is when things gets much more interesting (not that the book isn't interesting before that, because it is). You get a more in-depth look at some of the characters, which can almost always be a boon for a story. The premise was delivered upon and executed well, the pacing was even, the characters were entertaining (though Michael did annoy me in the

beginning...he grew on me though), and the story wrapped up nicely. I'm looking forward to the future installments, the ending set up what could be a great series.

Side note: Whenever I read a book, I rarely expect it to be five-star worthy (last time I gave 5 stars to a book was back in September) but I was pleasantly surprised by this book. Mind Secrets wasn't five stars in my mind, but it had most of what I was looking for: humor, action, suspense and character development. However, the side characters could have stood for a bit more development (I felt their relationships defined who they were as characters and I didn't like that).

Jack says

Teenagers continue to be the bane of our existence. Percievers are no different. They can read our minds, make us do things we don't want to do. Teenagers are bad enough under the best of circumstances, what with ratting the roads, being obnoxious in fast food joints (and everywhere else), roving in gangs, being disruptive and disrespectful, and all manners of mayhem. Throw in the mind control stuff, and, well, they're a menace to be removed.

Thus the general British public is probably thinking with the rise of the teenage percievers. These percievers cannot read minds, nor can they control them. They can barely manage their own minds--why would anyone think they're out to direct others? No, the percievers can sense general emotions and sincerity, at least through most of this story.

Society is wary of these teenagers, so much so that the adults keep these special teens from joining sports clubs and most all school activities. It's the only way to handle things you refuse to understand, right? Except for the Cure, of course. While the band, The Cure, might well play into the emotions of most/many teenagers, this Cure is a means of removing the perceiving "disease" to restore the perverted teens to normalcy.

According to the commercials for the Cure, all the kids are super happy to be fixed and immediately turn into well-adjusted, "normal" individuals. And commercials never lie, right? Your results may vary. Wildly.

Our main character, Michael, has lost his memory other than basic functional skills. Michael remembers waking up in a room, trying to escape a bunch of men and (view spoiler). Eventually, Michael, a mere norm (non-perciever), gets hooked up with a couple or perceiving teenagers (Otis and Jennifer). More like they let him sleep on their couch. They decide to figure out exactly what the Cure is, and then things get wild.

Did you know that teenagers have a small streak of rebellion in them? Yes? No? Well, they do. Really, it's true. This plays no small part.

The first four to five chapters were kind of humdrum, relatively speaking. Good in the modern sense of grabbing you and not wanting you to let go. Read enough stories that start this way, though, and it needs to stand out from the pack a little more. After this introduction, the story picks up, becomes its own. Some things I suspected were shown to be true. Others, to be false but supplanted by much stronger ideas. I grew to love the characters over the course of the book. Hate one or two, also.

This is the first in a series of books (four total as of this writing) about the Percievers. The author has done me proud in writing a book that stands on its own yet whets my appetite to want to read more of the story.

Kudos! A strong 4 stars.

Julie Powell says

I was asked to read this story for review and found it to be a good read.

Bringing us straight into the action, we are instantly plunged into Michael's life and follow his journey into the unexpected. He has much to learn, as he is thrown into a bizarre and scary world.

He manages to find others to help his twisting life and...I don't give spoilers.

A reasonably well written story of power and those that have it and those that want it...and of course those who are afraid of difference.

Seen from a teenage point of view, it did highlight the many obstacles of growing up, aside from grappling with being a 'perceiver'.

An interesting concept and worth a look.

Ujwal NK says

Amazing book. Michael's intro suspense could have been better. And some parts of mind reading could also be improvised.

K. Counihan says

Good book worth a read

Action packed quick read. This book takes place in England.

Michael starts off the story as an older teenage boy with amnesia on the run. Who is he running from? Why are people shooting bullets at him? Read the book and find out!

Kathleen says

I like to read YA books as well In order to keep current with what my son and friends are exposed to and chose this as I love sci-fi. When first started it, I really wasn't sure if it would be a book I finished or not. It started off with instant action and no intro whatsoever (sometimes I feel like it works and other times, not so sure). I started off thinking it was too much too quickly and that I wanted a little more background on who Michael was and how did he end up where he was..not all of the background or it would not have left openings for the surprise elements throughout the book. I had actually contemplated putting it down and starting a different book but decided to give it two more chapters and in the end I'm glad I did.

The story became more interesting as the characters and relationships between them evolved. What drew me in the most was the extent to which a community can take fear of the unknown or use differences among people, in this case discrimination against teenagers (no spoiler...have to read to find out why) & it hit home when you look at today's world. We have so many classifications for Americans and based on that, religion, race, sexual orientation, etc we seem to continually find ways to discriminate against yet another group of people. Those in charge of making the rules (whether in the novel or real life) may believe they are doing the right thing by singling out special group of people for "special treatment" and in doing so the end result often backfires by creating division among people for preferential treatment while others are not getting same treatment and often end up resenting "special groups". If we want to be unified then we just need to lose the classifications and consider ourselves as Americans, subject to equal treatment regardless. There should be no distinctions in calling certain crimes hate crimes because a crime is a crime and the penalties for committing the same crime should be equal regardless of the group you align yourself with. In the case of this book it becomes a little harder to make the sub classification within teenagers (can't tell you what for or could ruin parts of it), so the entire community does everything to avoid all teenagers out of fear, ignorance or whatever is an individual's motivation and as a result the entire society suffers. Adults and young children are afraid to be anywhere near any teenagers; teenagers put in position of feeling rejected by almost everyone other than their own and as a result, society is divided. It becomes such a major issue in the minds of the politicians making the rules that due to ignorance (lack of knowledge not stupidity - which is so often the case in real life, we act out of ignorance on topic first before we research area and many times jump the gun with a poorly devised plan of action). That's exactly what occurred here.

One well intentioned decision way back had negative repercussions but rather than admit to what occurred and take accountability, person(s) chose to hide it and then put into place a draconian method to attempt to restore the balance back to what nature intended and as a result the fear that most held led to anger and major divisiveness among everyone. Once my mind jumped from reading a fictional novel to correlating it with our current system of discrimination, my desire to finish the book became more focused and was able to complete it quickly, only to find that I hadn't paid attention when first got it so didn't realize it was a series. Now I'm hooked on it and feel like I have vested interest in the lives of the teenagers that have come alive for me and need to finish out series to see which direction author elects to choose. As this is fiction, it's easy to give us as the readers, the nice, clean and happy ending that we all want if we are reading to escape the daily problems we face, but having made the connection between the book and our society, I am truly interested to see how the major discrimination issue is dealt with to see if it is realistic and could be used as a starting off point to restoring "love one another" concept that once made America great.. Wouldn't it be grand to do away with political correctness as to how we call/label people and just be all Americans? Easier done in fiction but gives hope for real life.

So in closing, I would recommend this book to teens, young adults and yes even us full fledged adults as there is vast array of "real life issues that apply to our current society". If tempted to put it down after just a few pages, I would ask you give it just at least 2 or 3 chapters, you won't be sorry
