
Other Novels by Creston Mapes

Dark Star: Confessions The Crittendon Files Trilogy of a Rock Idol

Full Tilt

Nobody

Dedicated to

Natasha Kern and Don Pape

For the second wind ...

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My readers

“It’s a very long story, but the short version is this: I realized that I could no longer reconcile the claims of faith with the facts The Crittendon Files Trilogy of life.... I could no longer explain how there can be a good and all-powerful God actively involved with this world, given the state of things. For many people who inhabit this planet, life is a cesspool of misery and suffering. I came to a point where I simply could not believe that there is a good and kindly disposed Ruler who is in charge The Crittendon Files Trilogy of it.”

Bart D. Ehrman

“The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.”

Proverbs 16:4

1

The husky man lurking outside the front door of Pamela Crittendon’s house carried a black leather satchel, like a doctor’s bag.

Hiding behind The Crittendon Files Trilogy a column between the foyer and The Crittendon Files Trilogy dining room, Pamela could see the stranger through one of the narrow vertical windows situated on each side of the door.

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His face was hardened and pasty, with tiny eyes and a thatch of curly red hair. He wore all black, from his T-shirt and leather vest to his jeans and cowboy boots. And he stood

uncomfortably close to the door.

The doorbell rang a third time.

Pamela's head buzzed.

Backlit by the midafternoon sunlight, the man turned toward the street. Covering half his face with a blocky, gloved hand, he shifted his huge frame from one foot to the other. Then he turned and rapped hard at the glass, knocking the wind out of Pamela.

"Who's at the The Crittendon Files Trilogy door, Mommy?" Seven-year-old Rebecca appeared at the top of the stairs wearing pink plastic high heels, a red sequined dress, and a purple boa. Bumping into her from behind was her five-year-old sister, Faye, who wore a long white dress, a furry brown stole, and turquoise gloves that went up to her armpits.

"I'm not sure," Pamela said, her voice constricted. "Go back to the media room and play. Hurry, go on."

Taking a deep breath, she fought her way through a force field of fear to within three feet of the door and made herself yell The Crittendon Files Trilogy deeply, sharply, "Who is it?" She searched the man through the glass.

He clamped the doorknob. "Open!"

The hardware made a The Crittendon Files Trilogy sickening racket.

"Get out of here!" Her stomach turned. "I'm calling the police!"

She rushed for the phone in the kitchen.

Boom!

Pamela halted, turned toward the noise at the door, and gawked in horror as the stranger bent over and drove his shoulder—the size of a medicine ball—into the door, splintering the wood frame.

BOOM!

"Mo-omm-my?" Rebecca cried from the top of the steps. She was clutching Peep, her favorite doll. "Who's banging at the door?"

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