

An inspirational and heartwarming fictional tale depicting a young man abandoned and lost in an unforgiving world until the day he met the person that draws him out of the shadows of the life he was never meant to live.

LIKE A WITCH'S BREW

by R.P. Christman

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R. P. Christman

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Chapter 1

My mind wandered, rendering flashbacks of that afternoon, lying on the ground, beaten and angry, on the edge of darkness, staring upon the pure evil that put me there. Nothing God created on this earth could have prepared me for that moment in time, absolutely nothing!

My name is Travis Scott. I'd like to take this opportunity to share a story of a young man I met who changed my perspective on life, of what it was, to what it is now. If you told me a year ago I would be spending time writing a story about a perfect stranger, I would have said you're crazy. Way too busy to entertain such a thought, yet here I am. It's funny that I could be so different in my thoughts and behavior in such a short while.

I live in a fairly rural section of southwest North Carolina where the mountain views are second to none. It's a beautiful place to live, and raise a family. Somewhat of an upper middleclass area bordered by some less affluent communities. Nevertheless the weather is perfect most times of the year.

I'm in my early fifties and married to a beautiful wife who blessed us with two wonderful girls. We were both young when we had children, so they are grown now, and off living their own lives.

I was fortunate to be raised by two of the best parents a guy could imagine. Not to say everything was peaches and cream, showing my age now, but we were comfortable, and I had the

opportunity to go to college, and graduate with a business degree from an Ivy League college. Not too bad for a kid growing up in a modest home with two working parents.

By the way, the year is 1995, so thirty something years ago back in the day completing a four year degree was much harder than it is now. Ask a teenager today where the library is, and enjoy the silent response.

After working my way up some corporate ladders, I decided where I am today is where I want to be. It wasn't easy, but I worked my way up to become one of the top retail store managers in one of the biggest facilities on the East Coast.

My intuition tells me I shouldn't give up the actual store name, but I'm sure after I describe the environment most people will figure it out. My particular store is unique in a way only a few exist today. It's only been a short number of years since these types of stores were ever imagined, and I was fortunate enough to be part of a select few who helped develop, and design these stores we now call supercenters.

It was cool to be part of something new that's developed into an awesome concept, thriving across many states in the country. I could have stayed with the corporate elite at the time, developing new ideas for this concept, but needed something more hands-on, and decided managing one of these supercenters was my life's ambition.

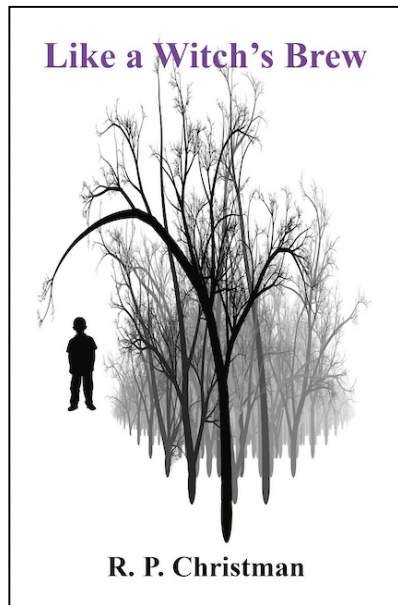
It's difficult and takes up a lot of time way outside the normal forty-hour work week most people are accustomed to. For me, it's the personal satisfaction of managing not just a facility with four walls, but the two hundred plus individuals who count on this place to make a living so they can prosper, and maintain a happy life. That's the way it should be, right?

Like I mentioned it's not an easy task with many challenges from day to day. When I gave up the cushy elite status of the corporate hierarchy, my corner office with the plants I never had to water, I received many looks of puzzlement, and disbelief. I can understand this since most people will never excel to this level, and truthfully, there have been times I told myself, wrong decision, Travis. Well, thank God those times are few.

I've always been somewhat reserved, laid back with a take charge personality, and only want what's best for my family, along with the folks I've associated with. I consider myself a fairly intelligent person, but understand this is only attainable by being fair and honest with the many people I've handled in my family, career, and life. I'm not perfect, and will never claim to be. I've made my share of mistakes in life, and can only pray those will be forgiven when my time comes.

I think at fifty-something I'm at the stage in my life I feel compelled to give back to others as others gave me during my journey through life to this point. My wife would say now, oh brother.

Well, enough about me. Just wanted to set the stage for the incredible six month journey I undertook that I'm writing about today. Not sure there's even a moral to the story other than everyone should experience life outside the comforts of their own existence, and take a chance. I can guarantee you your life will change when you do. I did, and somehow found myself. The funny thing is I had no idea I was lost. God bless, and hope you find my life experience as rewarding as I did.



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