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Stepping Out Of My Grave

David Berardelli

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Penumbra Publishing

Reviewed By Chelsea Perry

Official Apex Reviews Rating: ★★★★★

While taking an innocent trip to the mailbox one day, Jake Mild's existence is turned completely upside down: after being struck down by an out-of-control truck, he awakens – in spirit form – in an open grave. Unsure of what to do next, Jake begins to rush home – but on the way he crosses paths with Sierra, a young girl with a black eye, busted lip, and other signs of being beaten. Deciding to follow her home instead, Jake soon explores the depths of his surprising new spiritual powers – but will they be enough to help an innocent little girl in desperate need of protection...?

Stepping Out Of My Grave is an engaging, heartrending tale. Skillfully crafted by author David Berardelli, the paranormal suspense thriller/compelling human interest story tackles a range of different topics, chief among them the devastating effects of child abuse. Unfortunately, most – if not all – kids like Sierra don't have the benefit of a "guardian angel" such as Jake to watch over and protect them from harm, but at the very least, **Stepping Out Of My Grave** successfully pushes the issue of abuse to the forefront, encouraging readers not to turn a blind eye if they – like Jake – happen to cross paths with a hapless bruised and battered child one day.

An entertaining mix of drama, action, and well-honed suspense, **Stepping Out Of My Grave** is a highly gratifying read. Kudos to Berardelli for crafting such a rewarding tale of the "better angels" of our nature.