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The Seventh Ritual

Clint Adams

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Credo Italia

Reviewed By Linda Waterson

Official Apex Reviews Rating: ★★★★★

For all intents and purposes, Paul Jacobson appears to be your average, everyday 34-year-old; just making his way through life, he has good friends, enjoys running marathons, and strives to carve out a career as a successful actor. Over time, though, Paul begins to notice that he doesn't feel quite right, so he decides to get to the bottom of whatever may be causing his emergent discomfort.

Little does he know, though, he'll get more than he bargained for when he pays a visit to a psychic medium. As the fortune-telling session progresses, Paul grows increasingly suspicious of the veracity of the psychic's claims and ultimately decides to leave, but not before she issues the most grievous of proclamations regarding his future - or lack thereof - sending Paul on an extended introspective journey into his past, his present, and what may become of his life overall. As long-repressed, disturbing memories from his childhood begin to resurface, Paul struggles to reconcile his past experiences and their subconscious impact on him with his efforts to make a symbolic fresh start - and the task soon proves to be more challenging than he ever could have imagined...

In **The Seventh Ritual**, author Clint Adams has crafted a compelling pseudo-memoir that draws the reader in from the very beginning. Through his quite personable, endearing protagonist, Adams paints a comprehensive, emotionally accessible picture of a life that will be more than familiar to anyone who has ever struggled with such issues as identity and self-actualization. Furthermore, Adams delves deeply into the realm of troubled childhoods, highlighting for the reader that, while they may not appear particularly deleterious at the time, the formative experiences that shape us - as well as our world view -

are considerably more impactful, both emotionally and psychologically, than we may realize at anytime.

Peppered throughout with humor and balanced levity, **The Seventh Ritual** is nonetheless a powerful, poignant chronicle of a life with a plethora of invaluable lessons to share - one sure to open the hearts and minds of many an unsuspecting reader.