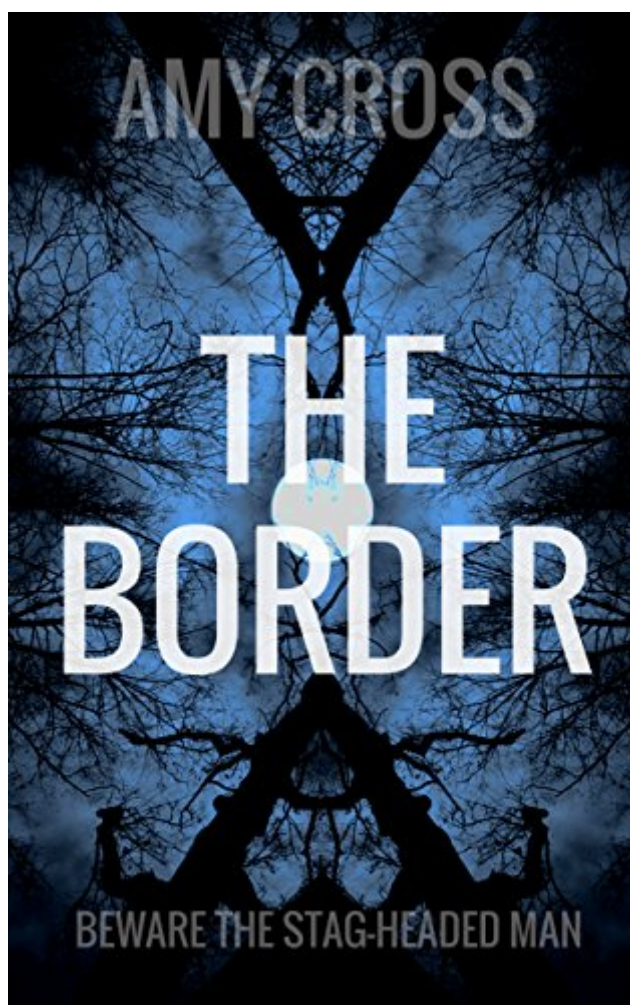


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# The Border: The Complete Series



## Synopsis

“The stag-headed man is back. He needs more hearts for his collection.” When Ben Freeman returns home after many years on the road, he immediately starts causing trouble. He knows exactly what his family thinks of him, but he doesn't care. He knows they suspect him of being a killer, responsible for several brutal murders during his previous visit. Ben, however, is more interested in something that happened at a remote farmhouse when he was a teenager, something that first hinted at the existence of a place known as the Border. And this time, he's not willing to ignore the evil that hides beneath the town. After years of ignoring the truth, the residents of Bowley must finally face the darkness that waits in the shadows. The stag-headed man is on the loose again, hunting for human hearts to add to his collection. The ghost of a deal girl has started appearing to some of the locals, warning of terrible consequences if crimes remain unpunished. And deep down beneath the town, another girl discovers the dark secret that keeps the town safe, and finds a jar of hearts stretching back many decades. The Border is a horror thriller about a family's search for the truth, and about a town gripped by the possibility that something horrific lurks beneath their feet. Originally published in serial form, the entire story is now available in this omnibus edition for the first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of the best horror stories that I have read in a while . The twist ending really makes it even better. This is the third book by this author that I have read, and they were all of this same quality.

I liked the book, but don't like jumping years it gets me confused, but it's a good read .not sure if I would read another of her books.

Very good reading

The small, sleepy English town of Bowley seems to be a quiet, safe place. But 9 years ago, a girl was horribly murdered, her heart removed, and now it seems the violence is beginning again. All suspicion falls on a drifter named Ben, as the last murder happened when he was in town and the heart-stealer (literally) has reappeared just when Ben came back, but things are more complicated than they appear. The ghost of the first murdered girl insists that someone--or something--else is the culprit. And our protagonists soon discover that there's something beneath this seemingly innocuous town, a place of darkness where the most depraved desires are allowed to come forth: A secret place known only as "The Border." An interesting premise, and competently deployed--there are spooks and scares, plenty of gore, ambiguity until the end about whether or not the ghosts are real or figments of the imagination (there was a twist about one person experiencing these ghostly visitations I didn't see coming), and the characters are realized well enough that the reader can both distinguish them easily and remember them even after finishing the story. Unfortunately, these strengths are accompanied by a few weaknesses: None of the characters, with the exception of maybe the policewoman, are very likable (Ben is a good guy but kind of a jerk, there's a miserable married couple, etc.), the overall plot is sort of meandering and it seems things happen/secrets are revealed for no particular reason (there's a sub-plot involving a hitman that isn't really strongly tied into the bigger story around the Border), and the book seems a little poorly edited: there are some errors, like at the end someone says "we could have a team here in a weak" (it should obviously have been "week"). So while this novel--collection of serials, really--definitely kept me glued to the

pages, I don't think I can give it more than 3 stars. Tighter plotting and editing would have served it well.

This is Amy Cross at her finest. I was immediately pulled into the story after the first page. The characters, the plots intertwining, the twists all kept me awake nights turning pages. From the darkness above to the darkness below Bowley, Amy portrayed the town perfectly. I also enjoyed the shift from past to present in the book which further helped the reader get a feel for the events transpiring. The only complaint I have is in some of the editing but otherwise...if you've not read any books by Amy Cross before- do yourself a favor and start right here.

I was pleasantly surprised with how good this book is. There are several characters to follow but they're well fleshed out so there's really no getting people mixed up. I couldn't help severely disliking a couple of them, but again, they felt very real, except for a few seriously moronic decisions. Editing wise, there aren't too many grammatical errors, names were given to the wrong character twice that I can remember and there was a repeat of the same sentence once. Overall a really good read. Don't let the page count scare you off, the story moved quickly and it didn't feel like I was reading a long book.

Having read 10 or so hovels by Ms. Cross, most of which seemed to be preoccupied with maggots and decay, *The Borders* focussed on other horrible images. The main characters were poorly developed, but the plot levels helped to make the book an enjoyable read. In all of her books, the grammar is not what I expected from such a prolific writer. I can't believe that anyone proof reads her work. There are misspellings, words stuck in sentences which make no sense, and characters' names that are misplaced throughout--on every single page. PLEASE, Ms. Cross, have someone edit your novels.

Loved the characters in this story and their relationship with each other, however the editing left much to be desired. I would think that such a prolific writer would try to be a little more conscientious about their work

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