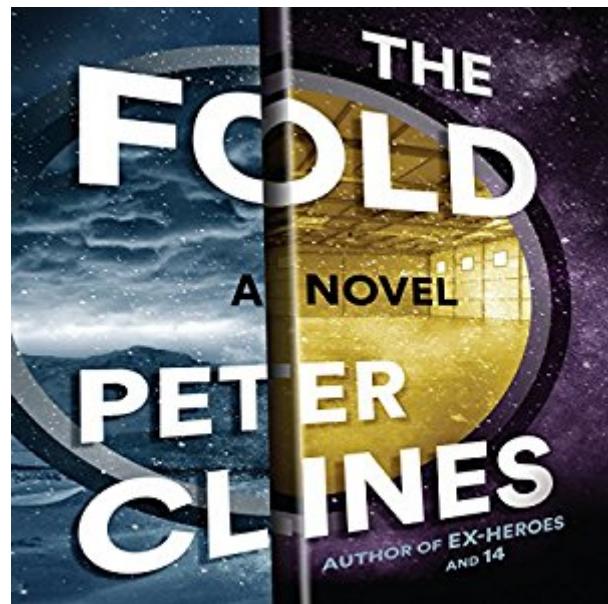


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The Fold



Synopsis

Step into the fold. It's perfectly safe. The folks in Mike Erikson's small New England town would say he's just your average, everyday guy. And that's exactly how Mike likes it. Sure, the life he's chosen isn't much of a challenge to someone with his unique gifts, but he's content with his quiet and peaceful existence. That is until an old friend presents him with an irresistible mystery, one that Mike is uniquely qualified to solve. Far out in the California desert, a team of DARPA scientists has invented a device they affectionately call the Albuquerque Door. Using a cryptic computer equation and magnetic fields to "fold" dimensions, it shrinks distances so a traveler can travel hundreds of feet with a single step. The invention promises to make mankind's dreams of teleportation a reality. And, the scientists insist, traveling through the door is completely safe. Yet evidence is mounting that this miraculous machine isn't quite what it seems - and that its creators are harboring a dangerous secret. As his investigations draw him deeper into the puzzle, Mike begins to fear there's only one answer that makes sense. And if he's right, it may be only a matter of time before the project destroys...everything. A cunningly inventive mystery featuring a hero worthy of Sherlock Holmes and a terrifying final twist you'll never see coming, *The Fold* is that rarest of things: a genuine pause-resister science-fiction thriller. Step inside its audio and learn why author Peter Clines has already won legions of loyal fans.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

The basic premise is that the main character is one of the smartest guys ever, and he has a

photographic memory that he can easily access. The main guy has a friend who works for DARPA, and the friend has been trying for years to get the main guy to help him on some projects. The main guy says no because he's happy being a single high school history in the northeast. Clines tries to explain this in that the main guy is like Sherlock Holmes' less ambitious brother, Mycroft. It feels like a hand-wave, but the framing device is used through the book, it is in fact why the main guy is called Mike in the book. So though he keeps saying "No," in the book the friend has a project so cool that it cannot be refused. The project is that one of the world's most famous scientist is working on a teleportation project. Actually the thought is that they are folding reality so that different parts of space time are close and allows someone just to walk through these gates. Mike is signed up to observe and see if these people should continue receiving funds from DARPA. Cool premise, and needless to say, there are complications. It becomes a well-told, nicely paced thriller thing after 150 pages of exposition. Then it wraps up. Then there's one more section that takes what had previously happened and sets it up for a sequel, and it is really annoying because the add-on at the end cheapens everything that came before it. It looked like the book would be a self-contained arc, then these new mysterious characters are introduced and Mike has to make a choice (along with his unrealistically portrayed lover interest - why is that necessary?) to join this mysterious group and you know that there's going to be more to this story. Why can't authors keep a world in one book? Couple of things. This is the first book of Clines I have read, and it is well done enough I will seek out others. I stayed up too late reading it more than once, so he can tell a story. But he does lean on some devices and descriptors too much. The main guy gets hurt at the end of the book, and his pain is described as "hooks" in his body an infinity too many times. There's also how he describes his main character's photographic or eidetic memory. He uses the imagery of ants carrying photos for him to review. It gets to be too much and a distraction from the story itself. The device of the photographic memory is well done for the most part. Though I'm skeptical of the actual existence of memory working as Clines described it, it does not make the character too robotic. There are also places where it is used to humanize the character, so it works. It was basically background like if someone was in a book that has a mech suit with cameras and a powerful computer. Same thing basically. I wish I had marked the page, but I like that they lampshaded the whole thing in a conversation. Mike is explaining his mind, and another character says something to the effect of "I thought that was only in science fiction stories."

THE FOLD was my first Peter Clines novel, and upon finishing it I immediately ordered 14, his previous best seller. THE FOLD had everything I look for in science fiction novels: a premise based on solid science, interesting characters, good writing, an interesting plot and a fast pace. The main plot device involves Mike, a man with an eidetic memory, that is called upon by a friend in the DOD to investigate what is going on in a secret government funded laboratory that claims to have cracked the secret to instantaneous teleportation. Although Mike is not a field agent or even a physicist (he is, by choice, a High School Literature teacher), his eidetic memory and accompanying pattern matching ability makes him his DOD buddy's first choice to investigate the project and report back on whether or not everything is on the up and up, since although the tests so far have been spectacular, there is the general feeling that something is not quite right. Mike shows up, and is immediately shown a successful test of the "Albuquerque Gate", involving one of the staff scientists, and the game is on. There are some twists and turns, a little romance, some military mayhem and more between the beginning and the extremely fast-paced last 20% of the novel. Fans of Hugh Everett's ideas about the correct interpretation of quantum mechanics will like this one, as will many hard sci-fi aficionados. This is a novel written by and for adults, and contains one or two extremely tame sex scenes and a whole lotta F-bombs. It pains me to have to add that last sentence but I am tired of seeing novels savaged by gentle folk for whom sex and the F-word mean that a novel ought to be rated X and/or banned or burned. I am now a fan of Clines and can't wait to read 14 and his other, previously published novels. Highly Recommended. JMT Tepper 10/2/15
-addendum after reading Clines' 14. Read THE FOLD first. The two novels are sequels/prequels/sidequels of each other. Knowing what I know now, I am glad that I read THE FOLD first, otherwise much of the latter part of that novel would have been completely predictable after reading 14.

If you've read Peter Clines before then The Fold will fit right into what you already like. I only know his ex-Heroes novels (and like them very much) and The Fold has a similar style, pacing and plot design (though on a completely different tact). If you haven't read him before then this a fine place to start. The Fold is almost a mash-up of science fiction and horror. It starts as a purely sci-fi story, with some dark twists and suspense overtones. There are solid and well described characters, most pretty interesting, and a story that keeps building. The plot takes a twist and jumps into horror territory and finishes with a flourish that is close to fully satisfying, if a half-step off. It sets up a sequel nicely (should one be in the works) without leaving any loose threads. Flaws? Sure, some characters get irritating (and they are probably supposed to be), there's some repeated dialogue

(but in the contest of the story, there should be) and some plot devices maybe don't perfectly fit but it all hangs together really well. I liked it very much and I hope I get to read something involving these characters again.

Great, interesting, page-turning story (something between Stargate, Hollow Man and Contact), unless about 2/3rds in when it goes off the rails and never recovers. Such a shame because it was so great up until then. This is a story that would have made a great movie, again, except for the last 1/3.

I'm pretty sure that Peter Cline is becoming one of my favorite authors. This was a fast read with a solid main character, some decent supporting characters, and a pulpy sci-fi story that left me hoping that he writes more in the sort of loose series that he began in his previous novel 14.

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