



## Darker Than Night

*John Lutz*

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# **Darker Than Night**

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A killer dubbed "The Night Prowler" has turned the city that doesn't sleep into a town kept awake by terror. Unseen, he enters couples' homes. Unsuspected, he lingers until the perfect moment arrives. He leaves "gifts" for his victims--before taking their lives.

Enter ex-homicide cop Frank Quinn, still reeling in the wake of an elaborate setup that ended his career. For Quinn, this isn't just any job--it's a last chance to salvage his reputation. As the investigation proceeds, the murderer loses no time stalking new prey: a loan officer and her high-earning husband; a couple who made a killing in the stock market; a pretty actress and her prosperous lover.

With the body count rising, it's up to Quinn to unlock the mystery of a madman's past and end his bloody reign. Quinn's got his work cut out--because in a city the size of New York, any one of 8 million faces could be that of a killer--or his next target. . .

## **Darker Than Night Details**

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2004)

ISBN :

Author : John Lutz

Format : Kindle Edition 548 pages

Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Crime, Suspense, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Darker Than Night for online ebook

### **Khadidja says**

Jeez ,my first issue with this book is "too much character in one novel" , and the second one is: it's a long long long loooooooooooooooooooooong story, i even got lost in what's going on. I'll Get Back To It One Day.

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### **Brenda says**

After some online research, I've learned that John Lutz is the author of more than 35 novels and 250 short stories and articles. If my counting is correct, this book is his 33rd novel. This is the first of his books that I've read.

I read this as an ebook, and it had some formatting problems. Within chapters, there were changes in setting and character, but actual breaks in the typesetting weren't there. It was irritating to go from one paragraph to the next, then realize everything was different. That meant backtracking and rereading and interruption in the flow were regular occurrences.

I think this book has unrealized potential. If many of the extraneous details were edited out, the 548 pages would be greatly reduced and a stronger book would result. For instance, in one scene, a detective walks into a renovation in process and it is described in minute detail including that a worker was wielding a "red-handled hammer"!

The most enjoyable sections for me were those that involved Frank Quinn. Falsely accused and ejected from the police force, he also lost his family and his home. When given a second chance, he grabbed it and ran. I was rooting for him! Pearl, a member of his team, had an attitude that got on my nerves, but she was a good cop.

Throughout the book, the murderer is called The Night Prowler. Then we come to the reveal. What a disappointment it was to be told "whose real name is..." At the end there were status updates for various characters, many of them so uninvolved in the plot they should have been forgettable.

If this book is typical John Lutz, I have no desire to read his other books. I will have to pay attention to the number of pages and read at least one more to find out, but I'm in no hurry. I'd give this book 1 star, but Quinn by himself lifts it to a 2.

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### **Deidre Rachal says**

#### **Surprisingly good**

All the mystery and suspense you could want! An ending you won't expect. Delicious! Can't wait to read book 2.

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## **Joanne Fish says**

### **Unfinished business**

I won't go into what this story is about as you can read that on Amazon. However, I do have to agree with the 3 star reviews. By chapter 23 I was asking myself the same questions as some of the other readers. It's implausible that you find strange gifts in your apartment that your husband denies giving you and alarms don't sound in your head. So, if they had done what common dictated, change the locks, end of story. At chapter 23, and you, as a sensible person is crying out in frustration because that's not even considered. Or, you play a stupid had game when hubby denies the gifts and think he loves you so much. That's one issue I have with this story.

I like mystery, thrillers but I like them in the realm of reality. The author throws what I think is two deliberate red herrings in the book. Not a fan of being deliberately mislead and then calling it a "twist". No it wasn't. It was deliberate misleading and unacceptable.

The ending. It's left up to you. Not really a cliffhanger, but leaves you to form your own personal opinion. That's not always bad, but after his red herrings, I view this was just another contrivance on the author's part. Fool

me once, shame on you....

I did like the characters and didn't find them flat or not likable

In short, this book could have lost multiple chapters because of its unbelievable pretense. Anyone who thinks their apartment has had a prowler gets the locks changed. Not these people.

I won't be reading anymore from him. Give me a mystery that I can enjoy without doing a head Palm slap for the stupidity of some of the characters. And don't jerk me around with deliberate misleads to make your story better. If it can't stand alone without that, don't write the book. The misleads I didn't elaborate on. If you really want to read this, that would have spoiled it for you.

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## **Patricia says**

Excellent!!! Very surprising to the story on the last 2 chapters, WOW...

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## **Brian Durfee says**

Really liked this book. The first Lutz book I have read. And the first in Lutz's Frank Quinn murder mystery series set in New York City. I like that Lutz is not afraid to fill his novel with a host of interesting characters from good cops, bad cops, and a really evil killer. This book is very R-rated as a serial killer novel should be

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## **Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says**

Nothing new. Nothing original. A typical modern thriller with mediocre mystery and generic characters - a damaged detective and a broken killer with a dark secret from the past. One time read. Not one plot element

to remember.

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### **henrys-axe says**

My first introduction to John Lutz will not be my last. For some reason I kept visualizing Frank Quinn as a double of Andy Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) in the old *NYPD Blue* TV series. In spite of some weak links this was an exceptional suspense thriller. The "Night Prowler" is truly one of the nastiest in the police procedural genre...one heartless serial killer. I'm most definitely looking forward to the next in the series.

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### **Frank says**

This is the second book I have read by Lutz (the first was *Final Seconds*). I found both of these books to be fast-paced thrillers which kept my attention. This book is the first in the Frank Quinn series. Quinn is an ex New York police detective who is called in to try to get a handle on the murder of a married couple that happened in the middle of the night. Quinn is also a wrongly accused child rapist who is given this opportunity by the assistant chief of NYPD to perhaps get back on the police force after being dismissed following the rape charge. After getting involved in the murder case, another similar murder occurs and then it happens again. Quinn and his team are after a nasty serial killer dubbed the Night Prowler by the press, who seems to only murder married couples late at night. Along the way, Quinn gets romantically involved with his partner, Pearl, who also tries to help him clear the rape charge against him. The novel pushes ahead to a conclusion that was totally unexpected.

Quinn also reminded me a lot of the Harry Bosch character in the Michael Connelly series of books -- both are maligned police detectives with others in the PD out to get them. Overall, a strong recommendation for this thriller and I have some others in the series that I hope to get to soon.

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### **Stacy says**

#### **Didn't see it coming**

Bought as most of the books I buy-books for \$2. So glad I did. I was disappointed when I thought I'd reached the end but no! I'd never have guessed the ending. Rough but redeemed detective quick moving story crazy twists fun

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### **Xaleah says**

This is the first time I have read a novel by John Lutz. I enjoy a good thriller and did enjoy a lot of this story. However I did find that there was a bit too much. Sometimes in trying to make a novel there are too many back stories. I found this to be true with this novel. I get that it was to help mix up the story and keep us guessing about who the night prowler was but it just seemed excessive.

I did like the book so it still deserves 3 stars!

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### **Robjr73 says**

This book was great. A scary, dark, whodunit that I guarantee you will not predict. Ever read Michael Slade? I'd compare this book to one of his. A truly sick and twisted psycho killer known as the Night Prowler is stalking and killing married couples. There are a ton of characters in this book and multiple storylines going on to throw you off to where you won't see the shock ending coming. This is book 1 of the "Frank Quinn series" where we're introduced to Quinn, an ex cop, and his two sidekicks who are trying to solve the murders. Ironically, they are not the highlights of the book. Frank Quinn is no Agent Pendergrast, no Alex Cross, no Lucas Davenport...but this is only my first experience with Quinn. Maybe by the eighth Quinn novel, he'll be just as much a hero as those guys. Anyway...I digress...read this book....now. So good...

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### **Mary Louise Skaggs says**

#### **Good mystery--poor ending.**

The story was interesting and kept Mr guessing about the murderer. However, the resolution was s bit far fetched to me-- felt cheated.

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### **Pat says**

3.5 stars.

Disgraced former detective Frank Quinn is approached to work a murder case that one police captain (Renz) thinks is being mishandled by another police captain (Egan). If this ploy works Renz could win himself a promotion. He offers Quinn a couple of other misfit cops to work the case with him and off they go. The case snowballs as the killer gets more audacious and Quinn and his troops are making no progress. Finally though, a chance to catch him in the act perhaps.

Well well, so much divided opinion over this book. I actually really enjoyed it. I didn't mind the length. It was a great plot and I loved the band of misfit detectives. My only gripe was 'the reveal' at the end which broke the 'show, don't tell' rule. Without it the story would have made no sense but it could have been handled better. I guess the author thought it really was time to wrap it all up. I'm going to give Lutz and this series another go.

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### **Amy says**

Best way for me to describe this book was "Too Much"

Too many characters, too many side stories, too many dead ends, too many pages to read to just get to the end.

I love a good suspense/thriller, and serial killers are my favorite, but this one just bored me. Good story, just poorly delivered.

Lutz should have trimmed some of the story fat, cut out Fedderman completely or killed him early on. I'd argue to not have him though because honestly by chapter 3 I was OVER WHELMED with characters that were of import. (he was pretty flat anyway). Then finally rearranged the story to where victims weren't introduced while we're still working on another victim or two.

and honestly, by the end of the book I was a tad surprised the detectives caught the killer. Seriously They felt like the laziest and most no clue finding detectives ever. And there was some pretty unbelievable chain of events close to the end that made me a tad frustrated.

Not to mention the ending made me rage. I like being wrong, but honestly the author did a no no in mystery novel "surprise at who it is ending." Now someone might be, "Oh you're just mad cause you got it wrong." NOPE! I really felt cheated because no one with how this book is written could have guessed this. Lutz made sure of that, and what's worse, he didn't make it feel like a good surprise, so it was hard to swallow.

Would I read another Lutz book? Sure. I enjoyed the character dialog and humor, but I think the next one would have to be more recent in the hope that Lutz had grown more into his craft.

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