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A new drug – Shut-Eye – has been developed in the dreamland, and smuggled into our world. It's addictive, and dangerous, and Shadow Watch agents Audra and Mr Jinx are on the case, preparing new recruits to deal with the problem.

Meanwhile, a wave of ancient, bodiless Incubi are entering the dreams of humans in an attempt to possess them and live new lives. Only the criminally insane would ever risk a confrontation with them.

Thank goodness, then, for Mr Jinx: clown, Shadow Watch agent, psychopath.

Dream Stalkers Details

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Brought to you by OBS reviewer Omar

It all started with a dream... well, a nightmare.

Have you ever had a nightmare that is so scary that it wakes you up, and then you are grateful that it was all a dream? Well in Dream Stalkers, you might just not be so lucky. In the world of the Shadow Watch series created by author Tim Waggoner, there is an energy flowing through the universe called the Maelstrom. When a person is more in sync with this energy than others are and have a deep fear of something; the nightmare that they often dreamed can come to exist in this world.

This is the case for Audra Hawthorne. When she was in her teens she dreamed of Jinx, a psychotic clown that haunted her dreams. People that dream their nightmares into existence are called Ideators and their nightmares, now real are called Incubi. After Audra got back on track leaving her life of doing drugs to try to fall asleep because Ideators once they have created a nightmare can never fall asleep, she now has been a Night Watcher officer for some years with their Incubus partner Jinx.

In this new story, Audra and Jinx have to take down a new drug operation called Shut-Eye that is said to make both Ideator and Incubus fall asleep but everybody that has taking it has either died or gone crazy. But things are not going well for the two of them. Their trainees are badly hurt on duty and they are now suffering from what is called “Blending”, a sickness that is as the word says, blending their minds. And the worse thing is that Audra is noticing that somethings are disappearing and people are forgetting them.

I liked the concept of the story, of someone’s nightmare coming to life and that there is someone dreaming it into reality. Author Tim Waggoner combined this religious idea of a cult and how nightmares come to existence very well in Dream Stalkers. At first, when reading the book it might look like the story is going in different direction, but as the story progresses you will see how everything is connected.

Dream Stalkers is the second book of the Shadow Watch series, and I recommend you read the first one, Night Terrors. The book cites some events from the previous book and if you haven’t read it, it might be a bit confusing. The story of this book is easily to follow.

The characters and the story are very sarcastic. If you find these kind of story not of your liking, I recommend you to skip this one. But if you do like sarcastic characters and lines, this might be the book for you, just like Audra and Jinx. Jinx lines, to which if you pay attention, they make reference to several things of different pop cultures.

...Jinx reached into his inner pocket and removed a lily. He knelt down and gently placed it on the floor. He stood and then bowed his head. “Domo arigato, Señor Lagarto....”

...Russell’s eyes narrowed when he heard Mendez speak, but otherwise he kept his expression neutral. Smart boy. Jealousy is so unattractive...

Some parts of the story I felt that didn’t fit, but I have the feeling that maybe Waggoner is giving the reader

some clues for what the next book is going to be about.

If you like clowns, nightmares, to read about dreams, and the meaning of life; then I recommend you to read Dream Stalker by Tim Waggoner, where you will meet Audra and Jinx, see Nod where all nightmares live, learn how the Maelstrom works, and even a little of romance in the story.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Craig says

I thought this second book set in the Shadow Watch world was better than the first. Audra and Jinx are very, very different heroes tasked with trying to stop the distribution of a dangerous drug. Waggoner stands several of the tropes of the detective procedural as well as the contemporary horror genre on end and serves them both shaken and stirred. Along the way we get some surprisingly deep ruminations on the nature of dreams and reality, as well as a fast-paced adventure. Seriously spooky stuff, seasoned with some good humor.

Tina says

Continuation of the first book. Again, very different. Some of the secondary characters were a bit weak in places, but overall an enjoyable read. Not sure if this was meant as a duology, or if there might be more books to come at some point.

Dan Schwent says

A new drug called Shuteye is on the streets of both earth and Nod and Audra and Jinx are the Shadow Watch officers assigned to the case. But what, if anything, does that have to do with the First Dreamer and the Wakenists bent on waking him? And why have Audra and Jinx begun spontaneously swapping bodies?

I got this from NetGalley.

The Shadow Watch and the crazy worlds they inhabit are back in a second outing, one that expands upon events from Night Terrors.

The world setup, one of my favorite parts of the first book, is further developed. I'm still pretty intrigued with the idea of a police force preventing things from Nod, the dream world, from intruding on reality. Audra and Jinx's relationship has developed a bit from the first book as well and not in the usual urban fantasy way.

Speaking of urban fantasy, the series this book most reminds me of is Simon Green's Nightside, only better written and not so repetitive. Waggoner's humor with Jinx is very well done, not nearly as ridiculous and over the top as it could have been.

The Shuteye case is fairly interesting as well and I really enjoyed the ideas presented about the First Dreamer and the associated cult. I did wind up guessing who was being everything but not until a few pages before his

or her identity was revealed.

The ending wrapped things up nicely but it wasn't all beer and pretzels, nicely leaving some loose ends for a sequel. For what it was, Dream Stalkers was quite an engaging read. 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Ron says

Audra and Jinx are chasing their tails again trying to get a handle on the "shuteye" drug problem. But that scheme is part of a plot by the Wakenists/Discarnets to arouse the First Dreamer and remake the world. Plenty of action, a bit less clowning than in the first book in the series, but our heroine, mad clown and companions manage to muddle through to a victory once again. The plot is decent, but the fun is in the details! Read Dream Stalkers and find them!

? Irena ? says

3.5

Jinx and Audra (his Ideator) are back and they seem to be in more trouble than ever.

Someone is selling a dangerous drug *shuteye* which allows the user to experience a chemical simulation of sleep and these two have to find the supplier. Plus they just got two trainees to deal with. As if that isn't enough, something weird is happening to their connection.

You get a glimpse into Audra and Jinx's past, the time when they themselves were trainees. What happened then plays an indirect role in the present.

I guessed who is behind everything as soon as that person started talking, but then *so many* things were thrown my way I got distracted. So many might even be an understatement. It even got a bit tiresome, to be honest.

Jinx is a bit different but still as insane as ever. He seems a bit restrained, especially in the first part of the book, but then the last part happens and you get a pretty rewarding punishment for the villains.

"You know that empathy of mine he talked about?"

"Yeah."

"I'm not really feeling it so much right now."

I think *Dream Stalkers* is even more action packed than *Night Terrors*.

I'd suggest to suspend any kind of disbelief you might have and enjoy it. It's bloody and gory (you can't have a nightmarish clown with you without a high level of insanity after all), at times tiresome, over the top but still a fun story.

Frank Errington says

Review copy

If you are looking for horror that is irreverent and totally off the wall, look no further than Dream Stalkers - A Shadow Watch Novel by Tim Waggoner.

It's been nearly a year since we first met Audra Hawthorne and her counterpart Jinx, so a quick review may be a good idea. Audra is an Ideator who dreamed up Jinx, an incubus who manifests as a clown. Together, they work for Shadow Watch, an organization tasked with keeping Earth, and its counterpart Nod, safe.

Audra and Jinx have a contentious relationship which plays out with a lot of jabs and barbs, making for a fun read. Of course when it hits the fan these two always have each others back.

The storyline for Dream Stalkers finds a new drug on the market called Shuteye. Designed to allow a chemical simulation of sleep for Ideators and Incubi who don't sleep. The problem is the side effects, including psychotic behavior, going crazy after a single dose, and even death. What our heroes discover while trying to find the drugs suppliers could mean the end of the world as they know it. If you think that sounds overly dramatic, it's not. Actually it's more of an understatement.

There are moments of Earth-shattering violence, a bit of social commentary, as well as non-stop action. In the end, all of this insanity makes perfect sense, which actually scares the hell out of me. Here's my recommendation for reading Dream Stalkers , just check your disbelief at the door and enjoy the ride.

From Angry Robot Books, Dream Stalkers - A Shadow Watch Novel will be available on April 7, 2015 in a variety of formats. For the full Shadow Watch experience, don't forget to read book 1, Night Terrors.

Daniel says

This review originally published in Looking For a Good Book. Rated 4.5 of 5

I love this world!

Author Tim Waggoner continues the antics of his Shadow Watch series with this second installment, *Dream Stalkers*. I really enjoyed the first book, *Night Terrors*, and wondered if Waggoner could follow it up with something equally crazy/intriguing/scary/funny. The answer is - he did.

In this book, Shadow Watch agents Audra and her incubus, Jinx (a blood-thirsty clown) fight against a drug called Shut-Eye that has been making its way between Nod and Earth. Their investigation will take them deep into Nod, to a secluded place where the worst of the worst nightmares are imprisoned. They also partner with some new characters that rival Jinx for frightening creepiness.

To complicate matters (as if there needed to be anything more than fighting off nightmares come to life), Jinx and Audra are experiencing a side-effect from their partnering -- they switch bodies, without warning. In the middle of a fight, or while interrogating someone, they might find themselves in the others' body. This provides plenty of opportunity for some of Jinx's hijinx.

Waggoner has created a tremendously fascinating world where living nightmares are common-place. Yet I hesitate to call this a horror novel. It is a mystery with a dark-urban-fantasy setting. And I think that this book is actually stronger than the first book.

The first book helped set up the world and the characters but in this second book, we get a much better look at the characters and their growth. We come to understand the partnership between Audra and Jinx better, and it is their character(s) that carry this story. No matter how fantastic the setting, if we don't like Audra or Jinx, we could never buy in to the story. And here Waggoner really shines. It would be very easy to go overboard with Jinx, making him foppish or silly. But as terrifying as he is and as unpredictable as he might seem, he's actually a well controlled character who knows when it's appropriate to be funny or dangerous (and unpredictable), and when he needs to contain his insanity.

Audra fought quite a personal battle in the first book and fate doesn't let up on her as she tries to understand her relationship with her own personal nightmare, now sometimes sharing his physical form. This part of the story is developed nicely and still leaves plenty of room for more detail.

I was very happy that we got to spend a little time in the incubus bar Wet Dreams. I'm sure this is a favorite watering hole for many readers.

There's plenty of violence and plenty of laughs in this wholly original series. I really enjoy coming to visit this world (but I wouldn't want to live there).

Looking for a good book? Dream Stalkers, by Tim Waggoner, is the second in the Shadow Watch series and will take your breath away with its fast-paced, terrifying, outrageous, humorous action. It's a must-read for dark fantasy/urban fantasy fans.

I received a digital copy from the publisher, through Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Becky Hicks says

would make a better movie than a book

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Audra and Jinx return!

Audra is an Ideator, (someone who can bring nightmares to life) who happened to dream up her worst nightmare. A psychotic clown with a deadly sledgehammer (Cuthbert Junior) named Jinx. This is their second book and I had missed these two characters.

There is a drug called Shut-eye that's made a comeback that's not wanted. Once you take it you go insane. So Shadow Watch needs it off the streets.

Tim Waggoner is the master of world building. He does Nod and the world of Shadow Watch so well that you feel like you can just step through the pages and enter into the craziness. (Yes, I would)
New nightmares come to life as Incubi include
Trauma Doll:

and GingerDread Man:

and a trip on a nightmare of a train:

The ending left a question of a sequel but still wrapped it up enough that it could be the end. NOOOOOOO!!! I want more Jinx.

Shannon says

This was a fantastic return to the world(s) inhabited by Audra, an agent with the Shadow Watch, and her partner, Jinx, the nightmare clown she brought to life. The mystery in Dream Stalkers has quite high stakes, and the tension is held steady throughout. It was great seeing Audra and Jinx relate more and more to each other, and to see forward movement with Audra's budding romance with Russell. Dream Stalkers has quite a bit of action, quite a bit of humor, and heart. I hope to see more from these characters in the future. Excellent read!

A Reader's Heaven says

(I received a free copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.)

A new drug – Shut-Eye – has been developed in the dreamland, and smuggled into our world. It's addictive, and dangerous, and Shadow Watch agents Audra and Mr Jinx are on the case, preparing new recruits to deal with the problem.

Meanwhile, a wave of ancient, body-less Incubi are entering the dreams of humans in an attempt to possess them and live new lives. Only the criminally insane would ever risk a confrontation with them.

Thank goodness, then, for Mr Jinx: clown, Shadow Watch agent, psychopath.

Okay, that was unusual. I am not really sure where to start...

I guess not reading the first book in this series was a bit of a setback. There was a history between both Jinx and Audra that I was certainly not privy to (but will try and find the first book and catch up...) I found it hard to find a connection with either of them as they were already created characters that I didn't get to "grow" with.

Having said that, the characters were fantastic. There is a brilliant creation in Mr. Jinx - a character that I don't think I have ever read the likes of before in my life (which is saying something!!) and Audra Hawthorne who compliments Jinx's character perfectly. They are a great team!

However, I just found it really hard to suspend belief enough to really buy into the whole story. And, if it wasn't for the combination of the MC's, I honestly doubt if I would have even finished it.

I thought this was something that I would really like - but I guess I was a bit wrong in that estimation!

Ami says

In the sequel of Night Terrors, what started as investigation of a new drug -- Shut-Eye -- that said could forced both Incubi and their Ideators to sleep, brought Audra and Jinx to a more complicated plan as The Wakenist is planning to wake up First Dreamer in order to take control of reality on both Earth and Nod...

I loved this book -- I still thought Waggoner's world built was unique and engaging. I loved all of the characters that he created, including the villains. The journey to the climax had a foreboding sense to it, there was a scene or two that gave clues about what had been going on if you pay attention, especially involving the Wakenist's plan. But I thought the idea (view spoiler) was still surprising, and probably change the course of what I knew about everything.

Unlike the first book, there were notable casualties here, for new characters that I already started to love (*sad face*). Some character's fate also hang in a balance and I guess I wouldn't know about it until Mr. Waggoner informs everyone if there would be book #3. But if there isn't, I guess the ending of this book is okay enough for me.

In the end, all I could say is this. Man, how I will miss Jinx the psychotic clown (and I couldn't believe I would say that!).

Penny Noble says

Shadow Watch agents Audra and Jinx have returned in book 2 of the Shadow Watch series. Shut-eye, a new addictive and dangerous drug, has been smuggled into our world from Nod, the dreamland. Audra and Jinx are more than a match for the smugglers even though they have problems of their own, including training new recruits, dealing with Blending, and facing someone from their past.

I was eager to read this book because I had read and enjoyed the first in the series, Night Terrors. While the first book had a few minor issues, this book basically took care of most of them. Jax and Audra's relationship (work, not romantic) is smoother, the writing was more comfortable with itself, and the world-building continues to expand into a well-rounded universe. Waggoner's wit and humor are terrific, and the action is abundant. However, I still felt a little distant from Audra, and would have liked to be more sympathetic towards her, and I would have liked a little more non-work interaction between Audra and Jax

I would recommend this book to people who like a bit darker urban fantasy, bordering on horror, but still with humor.

Excellent book. 4 stars.

