



The Devil in Gray

Graham Masterton

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A young woman brutally hacked to pieces in her Virginia home—with a weapon over a hundred years old. A retired Army officer butchered—by an invisible attacker. A young man blinded in his bathtub—then boiled alive. What do all the victims have in common? What malevolent nightmare stalked them? He is not dead, but not truly living. He cannot be killed, only trapped. And for years he was trapped, buried alive in a desperate attempt to end the terror. But now he is free again, free to complete his ghastly mission—free to slaughter the unsuspecting. Is he a spirit? An immortal madman? Was he ever human? What is . . . the devil in gray?

The Devil in Gray Details

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Author : Graham Masterton

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From Reader Review The Devil in Gray for online ebook

Adamus says

I read 1/3 of this book a while ago & never finished it & finally the other day i was going thru what to read & decided to finish this & i realized after why I went out & bought a bunch of his books. This is def one of the best horror books he has ever written. It's def 1 of my favorite horror books of all time. The plot in it is amazing & the characters are great. I'm usually not a big fan of supernatural horror storys, but this book & this author i would read any of them at anytime there that good. I recommend to anybody who likes horror you won't be disappointed!!

Sheree says

This was my 1st Graham Masterton book and what a terrifying introduction. Supernatural horror at its best. The Devil in Grey is one to read at night with the lights on, creepy enough to make your skin crawl and have you checking for the boogie man!

"The Devil in Gray" combines a series of gruesome murders, the ancient African magical religion, Santeria and a smattering of the civil war. Just enough history to send you checking facts on the 'Devils Brigade'. Detective Martin Decker is the main character in this story, on the trail of his nemesis The Devil in Gray, an invisible foe who is murdering people in particularly horrific ways.

Not one for the faint hearted, if you like your horror gruesome, graphic enough to nauseate and guaranteed to give nightmares then this is for you.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

Wow. What a different story. Wait a minute, just let me repeat that again - Wow.

The plot, while not flawless, is certainly a ride on the "different side"...it possesses something actually unique (can you believe it?) The book is another twist on the classic "detective hunting down a madman" deal...come on, admit it, it's hard to get tired of those if they're done right! While that parts familiar, the end result and villian aren't. And..neither is the detective.

The religion Santeria is focused on, which is a new one for me, something that proved to be fascinating.

Taking place in Richmond, VA, Detective Decker is a sarcastic lady go-getter determined to stay out of relationships since the tragic death of his ex-girlfriend. Bizarre cases unfold concerning an invisible type man, which Decker doesn't believe in at first...until he just doesn't have a choice. With his friendly partner (and partner's shy but talented wife), and the aide of a little girl who's disabled but 'gifted', the group prepares for the ultimate hunt of the ultimate bad guy.

One of the things in the novels favor is its characterization. Detective Decker had me laughing out loud on more than one occassion with his seemingly endless bag of cheap pick-up lines. Although he did some asshole things, I eventually found him endearing for seeing the reason of his actions. He had a good amount of bravery in doing what he had to, and evolved throughout the story, coming to terms with pain and loss.

Sandra, a little girl with down syndrome and uncanny abilities, was fun to read about, and although she wasn't present much of the time, when she was it counted.

It begins with violence and ends with violence. Quick paced but not suffocating, Masterton passes this part of the test. Masterton's writing style shines; this man almost paints the words on the page, beaming with great talent. There are no complaints in this department! This novel also relies heavily on gore and graphic violence, what a treat :)

While *The Devil in Gray* had me sitting there wanting to devour it all at once -- it really WAS hard to break myself away from it --- that's not to say there weren't faults to be found. While Detective Decker was cute and clever, a few small shades of her personality were a little unconvincing. When it was revealed what had happened to his wife, I had sort of predicted that from the get go.

But overall this is a treat I'll be re-reading one day. The old religion Santeria, fascinating history of the US war, detectives in modern times, psychic children and wives, nervous partners, excessive blood shed and violence detail -- what more could one ask for?

Edward Lorn says

I remember this being a very generic novel. I got it through Leisure's paperback horror club a long time ago in a galaxy far away.

Plot: Invisible man is a civil war ghost, or some shit. I enjoyed it though, so it gets a three.

In summation: Never been a huge Masterton fan and this one didn't change that. Fun but overall forgettable.

Final Judgment: A Nightmare on Elm Street without the dreams.

Kelly says

Released *The Devil in Gray* on October 2004 from Leisure Books, Gray was hailed as a masterpiece before it even came to print. The plot conceived centered on Lieutenant Martin Decker and the mysterious deaths that seem to be piling up around him. Although he was cast into a role that has been done to death, the lieutenant struggles admirably with the weight of having to deal with the death of his fiancé, all the while still managing to hop into a few beds and hop out of a few sticky situations with a Santeria Queen. Also, even though he was a good cop with firm beliefs in only what can be touched and verified, Decker manages to swallow what's happening around him with the swiftness. His pain must have felt endless. The secondary characters will not be mentioned here, as they are ineffectual and overall completely forgettable. The story was both stale and decrepit, adding neither a fresh perspective nor an intriguing rejuvenation of an old one. Sadly, both the storyline and the characters were weak. Contributing to this already debilitating condition was the pace. Moving at a sluggish speed, the pace cast a feeling over the reader much like being immersed in quick sand - suffocating and painfully slow. Although the atmosphere was tangible, the style of writing crafted, the descriptions tight and the dialog concise, it was not enough to save this book. It expired at 5:20 p.m. Tuesday, November 15, 2004 when it was beaten repeatedly and then thrown out a three-story window. Although the book will not be missed, the money will be.

Gray is survived by characters that actually matter, pace that moves swiftly and does not pretend to be stale air in a closed country bar, and stories that are more exciting than watching paint dry on a mortuary wall. Survivors can be found huddled together at your local library, celebrating rather than mourning, the passing of this book.

Memorial Service will be 12:00 p.m. Wednesday. There will be no public visitation as the appearance of the deceased may be unsightly. All that is asked is that you put your flag at half-mast all day Wednesday.

My rating? I give it a 1. Send it back from whence it came, never mentioning it again!!

-As reviewed for Horror-Web.com

Geoff says

Another winner from the reigning master of horror...

Books.to.go says

3,5 Sterne ?

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review: THE DEVIL IN GRAY by Graham Masterton

The reader's hook commencing this novel is explosive: the first chapter is gory, violent, and the horror is unexpected and oh so implacable. That implacability stays the course throughout this very suspenseful horror novel. I've long been a fan of this author, but I think THE DEVIL IN GRAY must be one of his best. Set in contemporary Richmond, Virginia, the background locale is vividly detailed. Along with the plot (which does rest on suspension of disbelief), the author generously develops character and emotion, and orchestrates evolution for several of his characters, particularly protagonist Lieutenant Dexter Martin of the Richmond Metro Police Department, and his new partner, Detective Tim Hicks, but also for secondary characters as well. Dexter undergoes a full-fledged change of perspective and really, evolves into an entirely new individual.

Mr. Masterton weaves in some of the rich historical background of the locale, specifically the tragic loss of life at the Battle of the Wilderness in May, 1864, and also some of the ugly historic underbelly such as the Ku Klux Klan. Into this tapestry he also weaves a theme of Santeria, the syncretistic spirituality formed from the Yoruba religion of West Africa imported to the New World with slavery, over which the saints of Roman Catholicism were added to disguise the true beliefs and practices from inquisitive or overbearing slaveholders. The result is a deeply satisfying horror novel.

Kris says

Really enjoyed this!

Amy Bobbitt says

My first book by this author. It messed with my head so much that I actually got spooked in the shower one night. Great thriller!

Juxian says

Finally finished it. Took me a long time but not because it was not interesting. It was awesome so it was a pleasure to stick with it for days. Amazing plot, two time periods, two mysteries intertwined. Epic characters! Queen Ache, oh my God! Decker Martin was fun. I had to stop reading another Graham Masterton's book, Charnel House, because the main character was an asshole; not because he was meant to be but because the author didn't know better. Martin is an asshole, too, and flaunting it, and it makes all the difference. You can't help liking him and rooting for him.

Loved all the stuff about Santeria, too, so much I didn't know. And the story, yes, it was really great, totally captivating.

Peter says

What a compelling novel about Santeria, the Civil War and revenge. Who is the mysterious invisible man looking like a Confederate soldier and why is he cutting up people who haven't done any wrong? Who has murdered Decker's wife Cathy? Is there a connection to the mysterious Queen Aché and can she help to solve the mystery? Nailbiting novel in the fine Masterton tradition. There also are humorous elements in the book like the sex scenes Decker has with a very special wife (I won't spoil anything here). You also learn a lot about Santeria and what it is all about. Great horror book that reads like a movie. I also liked the ending. Absolutely recommended!

Kasia says

Graham Masterton has been my favorite horror writer since I was a teen and every time I read his work it reminds me why that is so. His true gift as a writer is in the creative research he does for each one of his novels, especially since his bad guys and foes are always different and have different cultural history and folklore woven for them. Whether it's Japanese demons, Mayan pyramids and their watchers, huge rats, Sphinx like evil women, dark angels, djinns or Santeria magicians such as in this book, his writing is so realistic and terrifying that I start to believe half of it as true when I get sucked into one of his books.

Graham doesn't shy to open a book with a violent crime in its process and this one is no exception. He makes it perfectly clear that the person you read about in the beginning will die and it gave me Goosebumps finding

out how it happened.

Our main character in this story is detective Martin Decker whom we are introduced to while he's in the middle of having an affair with his Captain's wife. He seems like a nice guy but he surely gets around and runs over lots of female hearts before we find out what broke his own heart in the first place. As the story progresses however, Martin doesn't cease to impress and befriend the reader with his brave quest battling the Devil in Gray.

This book deals with African magical religion known as Santeria. Martin's nemesis is the Devil in Gray; an invisible foe who seems to murder random people in the most gruesome and bizarre ways. As Martin follows the investigation he finds out more than he bargained for and his own life is turned upside down. Somehow we find out that he directed the Devil's anger on his own life and he needs to go and get allies to help him. The only problem is that the only person who can help him is a very evil woman, but she is connected to his heart that I mentioned was hurt in the past. Decker is forced to believe that his nightmares are real and they are coming after him and he is not safe in his home, his job and not even his own dreams as the invisible enemy charges closer and closer.

I loved reading the suspenseful struggle and detective work that Martin had to go through in order to decipher the strange murders before the list stopped at his own name.

The ending of this book was superb, the typical golden trophy of any Masterton book as he is the master of great endings. This will fill you up and leave you satisfied. Even though this book deals with African magic and the Civil War, two odd topics that somehow do come together I had a blast reading it.

Alex says

I really like this author. There are always twists that I never see coming and this one is no different. Multi-layered horror story.

Janie Johnson says

All I can really say about this book is WOW! Graham Masterton is probably one of the best paranormal writers of our time. Some of the favorites are books like Spirit, Edgewise, and Night Wars. The Devil in Gray is no different with its uniqueness. A classic Paranormal thriller.

In this book, Masterton gives us a wide array of characters, from good doer detectives, to the innocent bystanders, to maniacal killers. Each character so unique that you will feel them become a part of your life the further you read and become immersed in the pages. From being scared to death, to laughing, to almost crying. I also love the way he painted the plot by giving us glimpses of extraordinary history set back to the Civil War. History that we all learned about in school.

The main character of the book is a do gooder detective named Decker. Not only does Decker learn a dark secret of his own heritage, but he also learns about an old and still used African religion, called Santero. Decker has to strive towards stopping an Entity that has arisen out of the darkness of his heritage and the heritage of each victim that became a part of this paranormal maniac's revenge. Definitely a great read for

any fan of the paranormal.
