



The Daemon's Curse

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Ambitious dark elf warrior Malus Darkblade learns the location of a powerful relic and decides he wants it for himself. Malus leads an expedition into the dangerous Chaos Wastes in search of it but finds far more than he had bargained for. Possessed by a powerful daemon, he must undertake an epic quest to save his very soul.

The Daemon's Curse Details

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Author : Mike Lee , Dan Abnett

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From Reader Review The Daemon's Curse for online ebook

Sarah says

Hahaha, the very edgiest of edgy elves! Everyone has "wolfish" grins, and wears as much human leather as possible. I enjoyed it though- once you're out of Evil Elf City, Malus has some discrete adventures that are fun. I thought the willow side quest was strong.

Alejandro Perez says

Muchas cosas que no tienen sentido, en momentos se siente épico y entiendo lo Chaotic Evil de Malus, pero de verdad una cosa es ser malvado y otra descerebrado

Shane says

Okay, first, I only read to page 40 of this dark, excessively gory, tale. The "hero" is a dark elf who in the opening scene is transporting by ship a human cargo of slaves. Apparently, one of the slaves had promised to do "anything" so that her betrothed could go free. So the entire crew of cretins does what they want with her. The "hero", Malus Darkblade, drags her betrothed up to the deck and gives him what's left of her--her face which has been peeled off. Then laughs about it and throws the quivering slave to his death in the teeming dark waters.

I've gotta have a hero I can like. I've gotta have a story that leaves the "spilled intestines, pieces of crushed bone, and brain matter" on the cutting room floor and leaves a little to my imagination. Sorry, Abnet. Ravenor was good (though even toward the end of that series, the gore factor was higher than it should've been--at least I could like the characters), but this tripe should be shoved in a pool of ichor, never to see a return trip to the light of day.

If I could've given zero stars, I would've.

Kris43 says

I needed a few days for my impressions of this book to settle before writing this review.

This is a very dark and disturbing book. If you're familiar with Warhammer fantasy, you'll know about dark elves, the Druchii. They are not your standard loving, tree hugging do-gooder elves. Druchii are a vicious, brutal, insanely ambitious and treacherous society.

How vicious?

They have an annual gathering at the palace, where they bring gifts to the ruler and are subjected to ritual torture. Some die at this event, for various reasons. Like for not bringing the right gifts, not showing the right respect, as a political statement to the ruler's enemies... The event is also considered a prime time to murder

your rivals.

That vicious.

Malus is a highborn Druchii. He is also a bastard, that's how he got the Darkblade part of his name. In his family, he has a low standing and naturally goes out of his way to improve it. So he goes behind his family back and organizes a raiding expedition. Its a huge success! His risk pays off and he basks in the glory only to be brutally betrayed by somebody who had inside information on his movements.

So he goes home in disgrace, is subjected to worse case of ritual torture ever and finds a assassin in his quarters waiting for him....All in all he decides its time for desperate acts, so he goes and does just that.

The book was great and i loved it.

It had just the right amount of horrible things happening mixed with the real possibility of huge success. Along with some great, brutal action, and a lot of gore. The whole time Malus is put into one desperate situation after another. A lot of times he comes out the victor, but just barely. The whole thing had a general feeling of slipping, unstoppable dive, going deeper into he abyss.

I liked Malus, a lot of people don't.

Malus is tenacious, he has a unrelenting will to survive and to succeed. He knows all odds are against him, but still he fights. I respect that. If you need your characters to be nice and kind, you will not like him. But then again nice and kind characters wouldn't survive long in his situation.

Mark says

Got bored with this!

Tam says

Lo único que vale la pena es el primer capítulo.

Lee Broderick says

Dark Elves (well, Elves, actually) have never really appealed to me but I mentioned in my review of *Riders of the Dead* that Dan Abnett's reputation as one of the better Games Workshop IP writer was deserved, I thought I'd give this a go. I mean, it could really be any worse than the Gotrek books, could it?

As far as those comparisons go, what they show is that however much a theme may appeal, poor writing will dash those hopes. Good writing, or even adequate writing, however, can have the opposite effect. The Warhammer world is (or was) dark fantasy turned up to eleven. Everything's so ridiculous, so dark, that it's almost a parody. The dark elves are perhaps the greatest example of this and I hadn't bothered with them much before but Abnett's writing made their world seem interesting.

Abnett achieved something remarkable here, that I'm not sure I've experienced before - as I was reading the book, I wanted to read on and find out what happened but, the moment it was over, I ceased to think about it.

That suggests his writing skill is such that it can captivate me but not really enough to make me think. I do think this is a good example of modern Sword and Sorcery fiction and I will read the others in the series but it's certainly not on a level with the greats of the genre.

Vicente Ribes says

Prometedor primer libro de esta pentalogía sobre los elfos oscuros del universo warhammer. Es un buen libro de fantasía cuyo personaje principal derrocha carisma y maldad por partes iguales. Aquí el héroe de la historia es inmoral y solo persigue el poder sin ningún cargo de conciencia. La sociedad de los elfos oscuros está muy bien retratada, un sistema donde las casas nobles están en constante lucha por ser los más poderosos del reino(algo que nos recuerda mucho a los libros sobre los drow de R.A. Salvatore).

Para ser el primer libro de esta saga no está nada mal, se lee del tirón y te deja con ganas de más.

Jake says

I wanted to like this book, but I couldn't finish it. I got about 3/4 of the way thru, but then I just couldn't read further.

This story has several interesting components, but I think it would have made a much stronger short story, 40-50 pages tops, in and out. It basically introduces Malus Darkblade's goal, but then he ends up fighting new person, after new person, after new person on his way to his goal. There is next to no character interaction and development in the story.

Even more annoying, the action sort of felt ridiculously repetitive, malus gets smacked around, does a sneaky attack, Spit chomps on things, rinse repeat.

I have read many of the Black Library books, and I think this was one of the worst. I will not be reading further in the series. If you want to read about the Dark Elves do yourself a favor and just read the Sundering trilogy.

Sergio Armisén says

Esto es un libro que podría llamarse de "explotación", libros que se escriben alrededor de películas, series, juguetes... este en concreto alrededor de un juego de mesa al que nunca he jugado. La verdad es que esperaba muy poco de él y es sorprendentemente entretenido: tiene el sabor de la literatura pulp de toda la vida pero actualizada. La historia narra las andanzas de un druchii: una especie de elfo malvado, sanguinario y pervertido que -ojo al detalle- se llama Malus, jaajaj. Es el primer volumen de una serie de 5 y voy a por el segundo. Lo dicho: no es gran literatura, ni muy profunda y a veces, puede resultar excesivamente sangriento y violento, pero ameno si te va este rollo de la fantasía y estás un poco hart@ con los héroes buenísimos.

Tamás Végh says

After a great start, the books quickly becomes a boring journey of our anti-hero Malus. Would have preferred the cast to stay at Hag Graef. The druchii intrigue was interesting in the city, but after the first few chapters the book devolves into action after action after mindless action. The scenes are well written, but the story is just not interesting enough.

Nima says

h?, ez aztán jó volt. izgalmas, sötét, kegyetlen, és igazából 4,5 csillag.

Matthew Gilliland says

I read 3 of the 5 books around 15 years ago and I had forgotten how much happened in the books.

This turned out to be much more than I remembered and I'm legitimately excited to actually finish the series this time.

Also the protagonist is by and far the most evil character I have come across. Most "Evil" characters have a heart of gold, not Malus. His past times include rape, torture and betraying everyone he meets.

Student Teacher says

I've been into reading Warhammer Fantasy, even though I've had a hard time getting into the actual game (regardless of the fact that I have a fully painted Dwarf Army).

A buddy of mine let be barrow the first couple of Malus Darkblade Omnibus books, and I finished the first book, The Daemon's Curse, a while back.

I don't usually like the evil-oriented books, I'm pretty sure I'm Lawful-Good at heart. There have been some notable exceptions to this (Storm of Iron), but usually I just can't get behind the evil guys.

Malus Darkblade is different. Unlike Talos in Soul Hunter, Malus is an evil bastard. He has no problem with killing anyone that gets in his way, and if happens to be a member of his family, all the better. Malus starts out the story in a rather hard spot, all of the slaves he has collected in the last year, have been killed and the backers of his voyage to the old world, will not be pleased. Through some twists and turns, Malus heads out into the chaos wastes in search for, well he's not sure, but he is damn sure that he wants to get it before anyone else does!

This was a very fun story. Although Malus is evil, there is a lot of humor in this book (all of it, oddly enough, dark humor). Through many trials and tribulations, Malus does reach his objective and gets way more than he bargains for! I'm not really go into too much more of the story other than the fact, that my favorite part in the book is when Malus exits the temple with his "treasure" is the best scene in pretty much

any WHFB book.

I give this four nauglir's feasting on quickly cooling corpses out of five.

Nikki says

As the very first dark fantasy novel that I've read, I'm not sure how it compares to its fellows. However, this is a very dark, dark, DARK book. It is unsympathetically morbid, terrible, and twisted.

Our heroes are merciless, full of hate, and love to kill and inflict pain. At first, I shuddered. In the wake of such horror I found myself wishing for a hint of humanity. However, once I realised that there would be no relatable characters (and got through the 10th scene of them sliding in each other's blood and entrails), I was desensitized and had an easier time getting into the story.

Pros:

- Exciting and intriguing settings (ie. The Willow Hag and Hag Graef)
- Very detailed culture, customs, and back story for the Druchii
- Well-written and darkly fascinating
- (view spoiler)

Cons:

- Jarring gap that isn't fully accounted for between prologue and ch.1
- Too reliant on gory and lengthy fight scenes to fill space
- Not even a small spark of humanity to counter the darkness
- Story drags a bit at times, despite the fast-paced plot

In any case, this book is pretty good and I did have fun reading it. I definitely recommend it to lovers of dark fantasy, but for regular readers of sword and sorcery fantasy, I would be a bit more hesitant. It's certainly not for everyone!

And so, with the beautiful image of Malus roasting and eating someone's heart in my mind's eye, I will continue onwards to Bloodstorm!
