



Nameless: The Darkness Comes

Mercedes M. Yardley

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Luna Masterson sees demons. She has been dealing with the demonic all her life, so when her brother gets tangled up with a demon named Sparkles, 'Luna the Lunatic' rolls in on her motorcycle to save the day.

Armed with the ability to harm demons, her scathing sarcasm, and a hefty chip on her shoulder, Luna gathers the most unusual of allies, teaming up with a green-eyed heroin addict and a snarky demon 'of some import.'

After all, outcasts of a feather should stick together...even until the end.

Nameless: The Darkness Comes Details

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Author : Mercedes M. Yardley

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From Reader Review Nameless: The Darkness Comes for online ebook

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

For my first experience with Mercedes M. Yardley, I inadvertently ended up choosing her first full-length novel. I apparently have a habit of doing this, as I just recently found out I was doing the same with Glenn Rolfe's work. Because it is her first full-length, I'll be a bit nicer than my original assessment had me being.

Nameless and I did not get along. It got off to a fantastic start, and I thought I would love it. However, that swiftly proved not to be the case. None of the characters felt believable except for the brother, who had a fairly small part. The insta-love with accompanying overly-dramatic confrontations and sob-stories made me groan. Honestly, this felt much more like a young adult novel than an actual adult-oriented novel. The dialogue, especially internal, is frequently cloying, and the tendency of the MC to give pet names to everyone makes me want to hork.

Most of the way through the book, I was fairly sure I was going to end up giving it a two stars or less review, but for some reason I had to keep reading it. (I'll admit, part of that was probably because it brought out the snarky in me and I needed something to mock right then.) However, the end turned out to be somewhat interesting, so I'm glad that I stuck with it. In fact, I had even commented that I was glad that I had stuck with it to one of my bookworm acquaintances before I started on the epilogue.

And then, of course, after reading the epilogue I went on one of my "Why we gotta ruin perfectly good end with some warm'n'fuzzy plaster for the cracks?!" Yeah, I know, it's the first book in the series so it was kind of inevitable that would happen, but I felt like the book had redeemed itself for a lot of the earlier displayed faults only to let out a rather unfortunate ate-hardboiled-eggs yesterday fizzle of flatulence at the very end.

I want to read some of Yardley's short fiction, but I have to admit that Nameless has scared me off of her longer works.

Jon Recluse says

Mercedes M. Yardley is a breath of fresh air in the dark urban fantasy genre. Her first book in The Bone Angel trilogy may appear at first glance to follow a familiar path, but her tale breaks away from the pack, filled to the brim with humor, heart, an invigorating young heroine who raises casual sarcasm to an art form, and enough darkness to satisfy both dark fantasy and horror fans alike, while spinning a new mythology for both demons and angels that engages the imagination.

This was my first Yardley book, and it won't be my last.

Highest possible recommendation.

Lee Thompson says

Mercedes is such a wonderful and talented person and a close friend. Starting this I didn't enjoy it all that much. Luna seemed snarky for snarky's sake. And I don't find urban fantasy all that interesting. But then as the story unfolded and the characters started gaining a bunch of depth and complexity, I started loving the story and caring about all of them. MOUTH is probably my favorite though, and the Tip Toe Shadow is quite creepy. Very cool to see its part of a series too since the ending of this novel was fantastic. My favorite novel of hers (PRETTY LITTLE DEAD GIRLS) comes out later this year. Super excited about that. Check out her work!

James Walley says

I have to hold my hands up and admit to being one of those people who needs a book to grab them in the first few pages. Luckily, what you've got here is a story that does exactly that.

Mercedes writes with a fluidity and accessibility that instantly draws you in. The characters are by no stretch heroes, and this makes them all the more compelling to the reader. The story plays out like a gleefully twisted dear diary, and moves along at a pace which makes turning the pages almost effortless.

There's an intimacy to this book that makes you feel like you're being spoken to individually, and a turn of phrase which is simultaneously dramatic, witty and poetic in equal measure.

As the first part of a trilogy, Nameless bodes so well for the rest of the series. It is in essence a dark, modern fairy tale, told beautifully, and with portents of much, much more to come.

Donald says

With her debut novel, Mercedes Yardley proves she can sustain a longer narrative. Her "Beautiful Sorrows" is a favorite, but short stories and novels are so different that just because someone can do one, doesn't mean that they can do the other. Well, Mercedes can do both. The story of humans vs. demons is as old as religion and while enjoyable, for me the enjoyment comes more from how the narrator Luna describes the events of the story. She's sarcastic and I love her and in the depths of horrific events, she comes up with a turn of phrase or a way of describing events that you want to crack up. Then the next paragraph you're getting ready to cry, because unlike a lot of horror writer's Yardley's characters are more than meat puppets waiting to be snuffed for entertainment purposes. The ending is an example of how Mrs. Yardley can make you dread what's coming, break your heart, and make you love it!

James says

Reader beware: Do not start this book unless you have several hours free.

I know the phrase "I couldn't put it down" is beyond overused but it's quite true in this case. I made the mistake of picking this book up for the first time early one morning and ended up late for work before I could finally tear myself away. Thankfully the story is wrapped up neatly at the close of the novel and we are not left with a cliffhanger waiting for the next book in the trilogy.

Yardley's characters are believable even in a world filled with demons. It is easy to connect with them, especially the main character, and you will wince as each suckerpunch revelation hits her. Watching her sarcastic, arrogant exterior wear away from blow after blow to expose the brittle core of equally mixed fear and anger was a beautiful journey.

While some scenes are certainly dark and sometimes macabre, the overall tone of the novel is one of a fighter reeling from the punches but somehow staggering to her feet again and again. The book does deal with topics like insanity, suicide, drug use and of course the demonic but it would probably fall on the higher end of a PG-13 in a movie.

I would highly recommend this book to any teen or adult interested in the darker side of the paranormal or who like to see sarcastic females stand up to the demons and shrinks of the world.

Yardley balances gritty reality with the paranormal world of demons through the viewpoint of a smart-mouthed punk, Luna, who not only sees demons but interacts with them on a regular basis. This isn't a story where the heroine blithely waltzes around avoiding the pitfalls of real life, though. Luna's interactions with the demons don't go unnoticed and she and her entire family struggle with the effects of what the outside world perceives as her insanity.

Nisa says

For horror lovers this is an incredible read. For non-horror lovers like me, it's still an incredible read. Mercedes has a way of taking the gritty side of life and showing it in a lyrical (and snarky) way. Luna is one of my all-time favorite characters, and she takes a backseat to Mouth. The plot is full of twist and turns that will spin you straight into the hearts of all of the people filling these pages. It's an endearing, sometimes heart-wrenching, tale of love and good versus evil that will keep you feasting on words and longing for more with the final sentence.

Timothy Ward says

While this may be Mercedes Yardley's debut novel, she has built quite a reputation with her short story collection, *Beautiful Sorrows*, and novella, *Apocalyptic Montessa* and *Nuclear Lulu: A Tale of Atomic Love*. Mercedes blends the fantastic with the weird, often with the budding of a romance or journey through a mother's love and loss. Simply put, she writes some of the best fiction out there because of how she can wow and peel open the emotions of the heart.

Nameless: The Darkness Comes seems like a perfect type of story to craft for her debut novel. Luna is a young woman who has seen demons since her childhood. She's got a bit of an attitude about this burden, but there is kindness under her shell. *Nameless* is the story of her encountering forces strong enough to break open her shell and how she'll respond, either to become more hardened or to find a way to let the loving person out without becoming weak, as she fears.

Mercedes wields her gift for strange and fantastic imagery to show us her version of the demon world and

combines that with her sensitivity to multiple forms of human relationships, each striking open strong emotional reactions. Luna lives with her brother and his very young daughter. His wife left him years back and Luna has helped him take care of her. They have a troubled past because their parents are dead and father killed himself. Luna meets a troubled guy with attractive green eyes and begins to fall for him. Around this time, the demon world interferes, pushing them apart and threatening the lives of everyone she loves.

The story starts out with everything I wanted from Mercedes, touching moments of loving people facing the darkest our world has to offer mixed with her unique narrative voice that blends humor and attitude seamlessly. I knew right away that I loved the world she was revealing, with its demons that slither around like snakes only she can see. I enjoyed how her and her brother have some animosity over him not taking seriously her claim of seeing demons, as well as how she loves on his child as her own. When she meets Green Eyes, I was already reading with a constant grin at the snarky humor, and often laughed out loud.

As the story unfolded, however, the meat of what I enjoyed so much in the beginning thinned out into minimal interest. Part of this may be because of how Luna became separated from the characters, taking away the exchanges that made the first part so enjoyable and stealing opportunity to strengthen my empathy for whom she cares for. Her snarkiness also lost its humor. There were action scenes with demons and a haunted house, but they just weren't as powerful as her best and seemed to hold back at times for a grand finale. This could also be because she was chasing after people I hadn't developed enough sympathy for.

Around the 75% mark, the story turned around and ended very well. The pieces laid by scenes I marginally enjoyed ended up having significant impact on her journey and struggle. An event around the 60% mark really made her relationship with her brother take hold. Another made me feel her connection with the girl. Really, from 75% on there is wave after wave of strong emotion and fantastic imagery in the action.

Nameless is the first book in a trilogy that promises to uncover the rest of the iceberg of this war with demons. The heroine, Luna, is strong, funny, and rooted in empathy through all the emotions we experienced with her in this first installment. I'm hoping for the second and third books to more consistently display the kind of unrelenting story elements and narrative voice that made the beginning and end of this book so memorable and enjoyable. Mercedes is so gifted, I have total faith that she can.

Rachel says

2.5 stars. It was a cool concept but I found the story to be repetitive and a bit exhaustive. The main character is constantly screaming, shrieking, yelling, cursing, punching, and stalking away or riding away on her bike. She was always cranked up to a 10 and that got annoying fast. There are many moments where characters have certain important, crucial information but fail to disclose for no reason and that was frustrating to read. I also didn't understand why certain times she freaked on a demon going to someone and then other times it was no biggie to see a demon approach or touch someone. I must have missed something. I did like the character of the Mouthy demon (even if he was one of those "I know something you don't know! Don't say I didn't warn you even though I haven't told you anything!" characters); he wasn't a stereotypical demon so he provided some complexity and I enjoyed his interaction with the MC (even though she was yelling so much!).

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Thanks to a lucky streak, I've discovered a few fantastic indie reads lately, and *Nameless* by Mercedes Yardley is a shiny star among them. It is a dark and edgy mix of genres, a novelty both in urban fantasy and in horror. As an author, Yardley makes her own way, leaving behind all well-worn paths and familiar tropes. If you think we've seen it all, think again. With *Nameless*, surprises are around every corner.

Nameless came to my hands entirely by accident. I so rarely accept random review requests these days, but I've heard a great many wonderful things about Ragnarok Publications and I was determined to give them a chance. After reading *Nameless*, I'll never hesitate to buy one of their titles again.

Luna Masterson has been seeing demons since she was a little girl. She inherited the horrible ability from her father, a wonderful, yet tortured man who killed himself years ago. Luna and her brother are all alone, and they live together in Seth's house and raise Seth's baby daughter all on their own. Luna is far from your average heroine. She is headstrong, prickly and extremely difficult, but the amount of sympathy she provokes makes all her faults instantly forgivable. Despite being a bit hard to like at times, Luna is a character I had no trouble understanding. Her awful temper and solitary ways are a direct consequence of her ability, and she's always quick to hurt those she cares about before they get a chance to hurt her.

The secondary characters are every bit as strong and well-developed as Luna herself. The moment Luna meets Reed Taylor, it's clear how important he'll become in the overall storyline and his character is developed accordingly from the start. Their relationship did feel a bit like instalove, but it was so multi-layered and messed up that the term simply didn't apply. My favorite character by far, though, was Mouth, a demon determined to help Luna in any way he can, even if said help was less than welcome. In order to accept and even befriend Mouth, Luna had to overcome years of ingrained prejudices, but she did it in her usual prickly and obnoxious manner.

It should be said that the elements of horror become stronger as the story progresses and that the final part is especially gruesome and disgusting. But even if you're not a fan, trust me when I say it's worth it. The emotional impact this book had on me is a rare and beautiful thing and I doubt it would fail to touch any of you.

There were a few minor problems I cannot talk about for fear of spoiling the delightfully unpredictable plot. Some very important moments felt rushed and not properly explained, and the choices some characters made (one character in particular) seemed far too extreme. There was also the small matter of Luna referring to Reed Taylor as 'Reed Taylor', name and last name, every single time*, which certainly took away from my reading enjoyment and threatened to drive me bonkers. That said, *Nameless* is a read not to be missed at any cost and Mercedes Yardley an author who will surely give us many more exciting reads.

**I call this an estepism after Jennifer Estep, who used to do the exact same thing with her character Donovan Caine.*

Bark says

Seregil of Rhiminee says

Originally published at [Risingshadow](#).

Mercedes M. Yardley's *Nameless: The Darkness Comes* was a nice surprise for me. I'm not a big fan of modern urban fantasy books (I admit that I tend to avoid reading them), because most of them are more or less boring and their authors recycle the same plots over and over again. This book, however, caught my attention, and I found it enjoyable, because it was something a bit different.

One of the reasons why I like this book is that it manages to be both whimsical/funny and dramatic (and also macabre) at the same time. There's a nice balance between the dramatic scenes, funny moments and macabre happenings. This is something that is rarely found in urban fantasy books.

Mercedes M. Yardley shows her readers the gritty and darker side of urban fantasy in this book. She combines dark happenings and grittiness in an intriguing way.

Here's a bit of information about the story:

The story is told from the protagonist's (Luna Masterson) point of view. She's a great narrator, because she describes things and happenings in a sarcastic way. She fights against demons and can talk to them. When her brother, Seth, gets into trouble, Luna decides to help him...

Mercedes M. Yardley has created good and interesting characters. Her characters feel realistic and they have their own personalities. Luna is an especially intriguing character, because she's a strong and courageous woman, but she also has a vulnerable side to her. This is good, because I've often felt more than a bit frustrated when I've tried to read urban fantasy books, because the protagonists in them have been as shallow as possible and I wasn't able to find anything interesting in them.

Here's information about the characters:

- Luna Masterson has been able to see the demonic ever since she was a child. She tries to hide the fact she can talk to demons and see them, but sometimes she slips up and that causes her problems. She often talks and interacts with the demons.

- Seth is Luna's brother. He takes care of his daughter (Lydia) with Luna, because his wife, Sparkles, left him.

- Reed Taylor is Luna's friend and doesn't judge her. He used to be a drug addict.

- Sparkles is Seth's wife. She isn't a very nice person. (Readers will find out interesting things about her.)

I have to admit that I was amazed at the author's ability to add sarcastic humour to the story and dialogues. Luna's thoughts and opinions about several happenings are delightfully sarcastic and sharp and I couldn't help but laugh out loud at certain points.

The author writes amazingly well about such difficult things as insanity and suicide. I think it's good that she writes about how people feel about when Luna talks and interacts with demons, because what's normal to Luna is crazy to others. For example, the dialogues between Luna and Seth reveal a lot about how a member of her own family feels about her ability, because Seth can't see demons and has difficulties understanding his sister and her behaviour.

There's a well written and realistic scene about a suicide attempt. In my opinion the author writes about the suicide attempt in a surprisingly realistic way and manages to awaken the reader's sympathy for the characters. Considering that this book is fast-paced entertainment, it's amazing that the story contains a difficult scene like this.

I liked the ending, because the author has written it well. I won't reveal what happens at the end of the story, but I think that readers will like it very much. I'll also mention that I think that fans of H. P. Lovecraft will be delighted to see a certain cosmic entity mentioned briefly in the story.

Mercedes M. Yardley is a relatively unknown author, but I think that she will become a popular author, because she has a talent for writing interesting urban fantasy and she can create fascinating characters. Because I liked this book and found it interesting, I intend to take a look at the author's novella (Apocalyptic Montessa and Nuclear Lulu: A Tale of Atomic Love) and short story collection (Beautiful Sorrows) in the near future.

Nameless: The Darkness Comes is an exciting, fresh, fast-paced and entertaining urban fantasy book for readers who are interested in modern urban fantasy books. It's one of the best modern urban fantasy books available for readers, because the author has written a good story and knows how to move it fast forward. If you want your urban fantasy with style, attitude, grittiness and good characters, Nameless: The Darkness Comes is the book to read.

Good entertainment!

Nathan says

Fantasy Review Barn

A young girl sees a shadow that no one else does. Luna isn't crazy; her father knows what she is seeing is real. But being seen as crazy makes for a lonely life, and when the 'crazy' father commits suicide her ostracized spot in society is cemented for good. Armed with quick wits and a smart mouth Luna has put up with seeing demons her whole life. But when these spectral beings start messing with family? It is time for Luna to put the hammer down.

Yardley is showing me that she has the ability to show us something new in what should be a tired old story. My first taste of her wonderfully messed up style was Apocalyptic Montessa and Nuclear Lulu, a fun little road trip love story...involving two serial killers. Now I read Nameless and see a trite tale of rescuing a kidnap victim. But it feels fresh, and not just because of the whole talking to demons aspect. No it is stronger than its foundation because I actually believe in Luna's love for her young niece throughout the story. Plus I may still be singing Let it Go on a regular basis; woman taking her own initiative to save another woman character still rings awesome.

Oh hell that last paragraph may be a bit spoilerific but I really can't pretend to care. Because if there is a weakness to this story it is how telegraphed the first half was. Look, all I am saying is if you didn't realize that the niece was going to be kidnapped by something tied to demons and Luna was going to have to save the day then you have never watched a cop drama. But that is OK, there is nothing wrong with following a familiar path when you keep it fun.

How this book remains fun is something of a mystery. It deals with big nasties in the dark, hell houses complete with creepy kids and hanging ghosts, accusations of mental issues and a decent amount of drug use. But a wonderfully snarky main character combined with an almost as good lackey of the devil (well, I assume they are hell's demons) who gives as good as he gets; and provides something of an odd couple relationship with our favorite person who yells at the sky.

Nameless is fun and funny despite dealing with some serious stuff. I enjoyed it quite a bit. But I can't go to crazy in my praise. It was strong, and much more up my alley than the serial killer love story I had read earlier, but this isn't a book that will stay with me. As mentioned before it was fairly predictable. With its tight focus on Luna I found almost every other character faded completely into the background; fine if that is the intent but I feel I was supposed to care about or feel hatred for some of them. And the final confrontation seemed to me to rely on a criminally stupid set of choices made by the big evil.

3 Stars

Copy for review provided by publicist.

CasPerfitz~SLiTsReaD says

3.5 Stars!!!!

A paranormal story about a girl who sees demons.

Luna sees demons ever since she was a child. She wasn't scared of them plus it helps that her father understands and sees them too, which makes her NOT "crazy." Now all grown up, she found a way to deal with the demons and how to hurt them if they bothered her. Then she met Reed Taylor, her love interest in the book. Then her niece went missing and demons are involved... and the crazies begin...

It was a fun read! I liked it. Except for the lengthy conversations with the demons.... and plus she's the only who can see them, so I'm picturing that one out, she would definitely look like a lunatic.

Luna's character is strong, brave, loving, funny and quite a bit of a mouth. She doesn't listen and when she don't wanna listen, she takes off and run... that is a bit annoying.

There's a demon she named Mouthy who warns her and wants to help her, but she was told by her dad that "demons lie and they are never good" so she doesn't trust him. I like Mouthy, I know he loves Luna, he has been watching over her since she was a child. I love the banter between Mouthy and Luna up to when Luna spoils it but acting like a spoiled child.

I also find it funny that she calls Reed his full name, Reed Taylor.... I love Reed... Reed really loves Luna... and he will do anything to help her. I was really rooting for Luna and Reed... And I still have lots of questions regarding his angel? Where did it go?

Then there's her older brother Seth.... he is not as strong and brave as Luna though. He doesn't see demons... but he believes Luna does... though he has a secret and that was a surprise.

Let's not forget the angels which Luna calls the demon police. Though I don't see them doing much policing in the story.

This book will introduce you to Luna, her story and her abilities. It was funny, action packed, suspenseful and touching.

To say I'm looking forward to the next book, definitely.

Review also posted here :

FB Page/ Blog : <https://www.facebook.com/SLiTsReaD>

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

Update: An interview with the author <http://bibliosanctum.blogspot.com/201...>

3.5 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.blogspot.com/201...>

Luna Masterson is an odd girl who sees demons. Reed Taylor is an odd guy who hangs around with an angel. And when girl meets guy, things get pretty crazy. This is probably THE thing I love best when it comes to Mercedes M. Yardley's stories, the fact that when she gets two people together, you know you're not going to get just any old boring relationship!

I must say I learned that lesson well with Apocalyptic Montessa and Nuclear Lulu, Yardley's not-quite-horror-not-quite-romance love story novella that I read last year. What amazed me most about that book was her treatment of her two outcast characters, the way she gave them each a purpose and emotional depth even though as serial killers they are far from deserving of any admiration or sympathy. The characters in Nameless are perhaps not quite so extreme, but I likewise experienced some of those same vibes from Luna and Reed Taylor -- two very unique individuals who find in each other a kindred spirit...so to speak. I had a feeling I was going to be in for something special, and I was right.

So how does a girl deal with being able to see things that nobody else can? Luna's never had many friends, and the only people close to her are her brother Seth and 1-year-old niece Lydia. Perhaps this is why she

comes across to me as socially awkward, sometimes doing and saying strange things or acting like she can't make up her mind. At the same time, I had to admire the brave and positive face she puts on. The way she takes the "Luna the Lunatic" comments in stride or shrugs off the weird looks she gets when she's talking with the demons only she can see, all that just makes me want to cheer her on. So as to whether or not you'll form a connection to her character, I think it can go either way.

But if there was one thing that really touched me, it was Luna's devotion and love for her niece. When Lydia is kidnapped by the worst sort of demon, Luna's anger and desperation felt so raw and close to the surface that it was practically palpable. As the mother of a Sweet Baby Girl myself, at times it was almost gut-wrenchingly difficult to read about Luna's distressing search for Lydia, simply because every one of her fears was like a piercing knife to my heart. In my opinion, this part of the book was done very well. Not only did it make Luna feel more real for me, it also made me care about this story and want to see it through.

The overarching plot is quite good too, even if at times it felt a bit rushed. If books had remote controls, imagine that someone has pressed the fast forward button through some of the scenes in this novel. Perhaps the book could have been a little longer, giving me more information and letting some of the major happenings sink in. The way Luna's narration sometimes zipped from one event to the next didn't give me enough time to digest some of the things that went on, especially when it came to her meeting and subsequent relationship with Reed Taylor. Regardless, their love story was an interesting one to say the least! I think the impact of the story would have been even stronger if there had been more time to let those feelings deepen.

But in the end I was very happy with the way things turned out. Well, okay, maybe a little gutted by the ending, but still happy! Yardley's brand of storytelling and writing style is tremendously addictive and her characters are a treat, I'd looked forward to reading more of her work ever since I got my first taste. Nameless left me very impressed, especially as a full-length novel debut for the author and the first installment of a planned trilogy. I can't wait to see what's coming next.
