



The Silent Deal

Levi Stack

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WHEN VIKTOR AND ROMULUS, two peasant boys, dig into their town's strange past, they awaken the wrath of a mysterious overlord. As the blood brothers struggle to survive, their search for answers takes them through gambling parlors, fortune-teller dens, and moonlit forests full of monsters and men alike. But even with the help of their friends, can they escape the dark experiments that their foe is creating in Staryi Castle?
**

THE SILENT DEAL is an explosive mix of mystery, adventure, and magic, whose wide cast includes gypsies, gamblers, fire-jugglers, and thieves. The Card Game awaits...

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WINNER of 'Outstanding Fiction' at the 2013 California Writers Con.

The Silent Deal Details

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From Reader Review The Silent Deal for online ebook

Bailey says

"Dwelling on the unchangeable would only lead to madness."

-The Silent Deal

Please note that I received a free electronic copy of *The Silent Deal* from the author in exchange for an honest review. For this reason, I would like to give a huge thank you to Levi Stack!!

Rating: 6/5

(Am I allowed to do this? I don't know, but I am! That's how awesome this book is!)

In the town of Aryk, there are three rules: no playing cards, no graffiti, and no firearms. However, if you look hard enough, you will find back streets and dark alleys adorned with bold, shiny, graffiti centering on the forbidden playing cards. This is known as Brass Art, holding buried secrets revolving around the mysterious history of the Russian town. No one will talk about these topics. Not a single soul wants to bring them up. Silence is everywhere. However, demanding questions arise. Why is this happening? What does all of it mean? Young Viktor wants to find out.

Plagued with nightmares of horrific ordeals and past experiences, Viktor, a boy in a family of surfs, can hardly sleep. Years ago, he secretly went to a town meeting in which a man was hung by the infamous Captain Ulfrik for having a single playing card in his possession. Then right after, people in horrific masks raided the streets, chasing and searching those gathered around, ransacking and grabbing everyone in sight. Running, desperately needing safety, he stumbles upon the Brass Art. Years later, this fourteen year old is determined to discover the true answers that no one will give him. However, he will need a little help.

If Romulus had grown up in Aryk, it would be an impressive feat, because his past remained a mystery. No one knew him; they only knew about him. No one knew him as a friend, because he didn't have any of those. Instead he had secrets. Whether by choice or necessity, Romulus was detached from life in Aryk in a way his peers didn't understand.

Romulus is allusive and an alluring character. Under certain circumstances (which I won't spoil), these Viktor and Romulus become blood brothers. Viktor also discovers that Romulus has a playing card of his own that could get him and those around him killed. They then stumble across a dark and sinister secret that they were never meant to know, and their lives and the lives of their families are in grave danger. Soon, the men in masks return once again, the Masqueraiders, in search for them and any other remaining card holders. They are told that these frightening individuals work for and are servants of a mysterious man called the Leopard who supposedly wants the cards for himself and their owners dead. The only way to keep themselves and their loved ones safe is to find the Silent Deal, a supposed document holding evidence of the Leopard's gruesome crimes. If found and given to the tsar, everyone could be saved. However, this will not be an easy feat. The road will be paved with hardships and perhaps even some...adventure!

As you can easily guess from my rating, I thought the world of this book. To make it easier for you to

understand, let me explain. You might have read the *Percy Jackson* series. The majority of its audience members loved it, and so did I. The first book grabbed me, and I went on to read the rest of the series. I even went back to read some of them four times! I felt this love once again as I read the *Cirque du Freak* series. For awhile now, I have been trying to find something new to replace them and obsess over, and in all honesty, I felt the same love for this book and became hooked on it, just like while reading *Percy Jackson* and the *Cirque du Freak* series. Of course, it was not because of the same exact reasons, but it really made me remember what it was truly like to fall in love with a new series yet again, waiting for a few months to pass just so that you could say "Yep, I'm rereading this book just to refresh my memory on it," but secretly you remember every detail about it and simply want to relive that feeling.

The first thing that drew me into *The Silent Deal* was the setting. The story takes place in Russia from about 1839-1840 with a couple of flashbacks from earlier years. I remember my seventh grade history class when we talked about Russia, and I recall becoming immersed in this period. It is easily said that I have read little to no books with a Russian setting, and the book really excited me because of this. Then Stack adds on layers of mystery, secrets, almost fantasy like elements. It was simply a perfect blend of stunning scene after stunning scene. There were beautifully described forests, colorful tents in a sudden community, and a mystifying castle.

The second thing that drew me into *The Silent Deal* was the array of characters. While I loved all of them, I was especially intrigued with Romulus and his past. It was shrouded and distant from the reader at many points. He practically just walked out of the woods one day. He has a wolf to protect him and definitely owns an enthralling story. There were gaps that are indistinct, and he was constantly lying about his true identity when it came to his childhood, and I don't mean these to be bad things. He himself was such a fascinating topic in the story whenever he came up. I really wanted, **needed** to know more. Then there were the gypsies. I loved them! You just have to read it to understand.

Thirdly, there was the atmosphere of the story. While this is impossible to ever possibly describe, I can only try. From the very first page, the novel was simply captivating, compelling, and ultimately appealing. I think that this was largely due to Levi Stack's writing style. For this being his first book, you would never know it. His writing was perfect. I truly believe that he wove a real masterpiece. There was plot twist after plot twist, and most I never saw coming. His topic and story line were not only absorbing but also enchanting! I just can't describe how much it drew me in. Everything was clever and the anticipation just grew and grew. *The Silent Deal* portrays what a perfect book actually is. When I started the story, I fell into and never wanted to come back out. It was like ripping off a bandaid when I did, unpleasant and unwanted.

The Silent Deal is now my go to recommendation book! I **highly** encourage all people to read it! It would blow my mind if you even didn't remotely enjoy it. Honestly, I can go on and on forever and ever, but I'm sure you don't want that. So, just go pick up the book and treat yourself to what I promise you will not regret. Go on...do it now! You're in for the ride of your life!

You can see reviews like this one and more at <http://knightingalereviews.blogspot.com/>.
(<http://knightingalereviews.blogspot.com/>)

Nicole says

What a fun read! Mr. Stack offered me a free copy of *The Silent Deal* in exchange for an honest review, but I had been interested in this book before being contacted. I'm a sucker for action and adventure, and Mr. Stack

did not disappoint.

I was pleasantly surprised to discover the setting of The Silent Deal is Russia circa 1839. Not the usual setting for a middle grade adventure story, but that is just the beginning of what helps to set this work apart. Mr. Stack has done his research on the era and regional folklore in crafting a detailed and believable world in which our young protagonists, Vicktor and Romulus, search for answers to the mysteries that plague them and the town of Aryk.

Vicktor is the main character and yet he is not exactly the hero but more of the sidekick. It is interesting and refreshing to experience the story from this perspective. We see the flaws of the hero, Romulus, and the doubt at times that others have regarding his leadership and motives, but also how Vicktor holds to his faith in their friendship. The boys are thrown together in a fight against the elite class and administration of their town, led by a mysterious character called the Leopard. The Leopard appears to be responsible - directly or indirectly - for the death of Romulus' parents, and no one in the town will talk about the past. I want to say more, except that I feel I would be running too high a risk of giving too much away.

The complex plot builds throughout the book, and once the dominoes start to fall there is no stopping the action. The last several chapters are quite intense, and I actually did not see a few of the twists coming. The Silent Deal could almost be a stand-alone book, but there are a few questions that remain (it is a series, after all) and I am happy to say that book two, The Magic Trick, is already downloaded and ready to read.

Full review here: <http://ennleesreadingcorner.wordpress...>

Patrice Angeli says

This book hooked me from the first chapter. I had a hard time putting the book down, building up my excitement for the next book in the series! I became completely immersed in the world of Viktor and Romulus, as the plot twists and turns had me on the edge of my seat. It is a book for all ages, whether you are a teen or an adult. This new, talented young author is someone to get excited about, as he has the imagination and skills to be a literary force in the future. I highly recommend this novel!

Selina says

I won't go into too much detail as the book description pretty much explains all you need to know without spoiling the story, but I loved this book. I barely put the book down from start to finish!

I was contacted by the author, Levi Stack, after applying for the Goodreads giveaways and offered a free copy of the ebook in exchange for an honest review. I was so pleased because I was already really interested in reading the book anyway and I wasn't disappointed.

The plot was really clever, fast-paced and complex and kept me wanting to read on. The main character, Vicktor is more of a side-kick to the story rather than the hero, who befriends Romulus, the relationship that develops between the two feels really authentic, there are clearly flaws in their characters and their relationship which makes them even more believable. I can't wait to see what happens next!

I would love to recommend this book to anyone and everyone.

Lauren Stoolfire says

I received a free copy of *The Silent Deal* from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Viktor and Romulus, two young Russian serfs, awaken the wrath of a mysterious overlord as they begin to investigate the mystery shrouding their town. Their search takes them through gambling parlors, fortune-teller dens, and dangerous forests they've never seen the likes of in the past. But even with the help of their friends, can they escape the dark experiments that their foe is creating in Staryi Castle?

The Silent Deal was such a pleasant surprise for me. I wasn't exactly sure what to expect from the story, but it's a great beginning to *The Card Game* series by Levi Stack. The prologue had me hooked right from the beginning.

There are so many elements I enjoyed when it came to the story. I haven't read that many YA (or possibly upper-Middle Grade) novels set in 1830's Russia, so that aspect alone is quite fascinating. I also liked the fact that Stack weaves Russian folklore into the story.

In regards to our cast of characters, both Viktor and Romulus feel quite realistic, and they're both likable. Although Viktor is the lead, he is actually more of a sidekick to Romulus, which works well as we unravel the mysteries surrounding the town and the cards. Of the supporting characters, I did Belch - I mean, even if he's a bit annoying he's still funny and quotes Shakespeare.

Finally, that brings me to the complex plot and the mystery. I don't want to spoil too much, but the detailed intricacies and the twists kept me going. Levi Stack is a fantastic storyteller and he has a way with words. I found myself really caught up in it all during some of the more intense scenes.

The Silent Deal by Levi Stack is a gem that comes highly recommended from me and I can't wait to read it's sequel, *The Magic Trick*.

Emmett says

I received a free ebook copy of this novel directly from the author, after showing interest in a giveaway of the novel in the Goodreads First Reads program.

I was overall very impressed while reading ***The Silent Deal***. I did not anticipate enjoying the novel as much as I did, it being both the author's debut novel and also geared toward a young adult audience. That being said, the novel does not suffer for being Stack's first and I think the story could definitely be appreciated by older readers as well as young. Overall, the story was a fantastic one and the setting for the novel (first half of 19th century Russia) felt particularly fresh and interesting. The novel definitely leans more towards fantasy than historical fiction, but with only a touch of "magic" hinted at throughout, leaving the reader to decide for himself how fantastical the world of Aryk and its surrounding forest is.

The number one way I would describe this first entry into The Card Game series is simple: FUN. Even reading as an adult, I was entertained at all times during the story and really felt the story had some weight to it. Although I have only watched the films and not read the books, I imagine the Harry Potter novels have a similar feel to them; clearly marketed with a young adult in mind, but easily enjoyed by an older audience as well. The plot was fast-paced, engrossing, and had just enough mystery to keep my interest piqued throughout. The idea of using playing cards as the central theme was particularly unique and wove the story together incredibly well. No prior knowledge or interest in card games of any type is needed to enjoy the way everything is interwoven around playing cards.

One is easily thrown into the world of Aryk; Stack writing to inspire an effective vision of his world in the reader's mind without the use of over-description. The tone of the novel throughout is rather dark and mysterious, inspiring a sense of foreboding in the reader, even if aimed at children. Viktor's perspective in the novel was particularly interesting, given the fact that Romulus was more the man-in-action moving things along, while Viktor was more of his sidekick and pupil. The characters' relationship as blood brothers did help in solidifying their dependency upon each other, but it did at times seem overstated. Although the main characters Viktor and Romulus have personality and characters like Dimovna and Ulfric come off as having a sinister quality almost palpable, certain secondary characters like Charlotta and Evenova fall flat. The girls seemed to help the boys out throughout the story without a true motive other than being romantically interested. Viktor's family also fails to feel important and sometimes the reader is left wondering how his parents aren't more present in his daily life.

There are very few negative things I can write about the novel, other than minor formatting and grammar issues and the fact that the story sometimes seems to shift from one scene to another a little too hastily. At times there is an overabundance of exclamation points or question marks that comes off as a bit childish even for a young adult novel and occasionally the onomatopoeia is too common. There were also a few instances of words being stated twice or words that were left out of the sentence altogether, but that may have been an issue present only in the ebook copy of the novel. Overall, I would say that the writing is strong, but could definitely use a bit of tightening up and some extra editing.

After reading **The Silent Deal**, I can say I am excited for the following entry, and if the cover art of the first two novels is any indication- the story will continue to both mystify and entertain. I would like to thank Mr. Stack for providing a copy of his excellent first entry in the series and I look forward to more of his writing.

Jay Kennedy says

I was given a eBook copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review. From the beginning the prologue and following chapters ensnared me in a journey that refused to let my interest slip. Levi Stack has written a brilliant book here, and I can't wait to read the sequel, as well as see what he writes in the future.

Read my full review here: [Captured In Words](#)

Andrew says

I received this novel directly from the author, in exchange for an honest review.

The novel is set in the Ural Mountains of Russia in 1825. A man discovers the corpse of a woman cradling a near-dead baby in her frozen arms in a clearing in the forest. As he scoops the babe up, a parchment falls out of its shawl with a name on it scrawled in blood: Romulus. A ghostly wolf watches on, and ominously follows the man.

Fourteen years later, in a town called Aryk, a young schoolboy called Viktor unwittingly witnesses a public hanging of a man in the Town Square; the condemned man's seemingly minor crime being in possession of a playing card. Viktor has nightmares about this incident every night, and of the mysterious graffiti riddles which cover the town's alleyways, called Brass Art.

Aryk has three laws: no playing cards, no graffiti and no firearms. Viktor's questions about the playing cards are hushed by his family; it's a cursed subject. There is some deep secret in the town connected to playing cards, which has a strong emotional grip on the adult residents, and Viktor makes it his personal goal to find out what that is.

Re-enter, Romulus; a mysterious and rebellious "boy of the forest", as Viktor's classmates brand him. Upon showing Viktor that he is in possession of an illegal playing card, the King of Spades, Viktor becomes fascinated with Romulus, especially as he seems unaware of the layout of the town of Aryk, but can draw incredibly detailed maps of the forest. Viktor follows him into the forest one day upon a dare from his classmates, and in getting lost, Viktor stumbles into the part of the forest Romulus said to avoid.

Romulus and his wolf guardian save Viktor's life from a ferocious bear attack, and the two form a pact as blood brothers, vowing to solve the mystery by discovering the history of the playing cards, as well as that of Romulus' veiled past. Romulus does indeed live in the forest, and shows Viktor his den, filled with a number of homemade explosives and projectile weapons, which they may well need if they are to solve the secret of the playing cards. The quest will test the limit of Viktor and Romulus' friendship, and they will risk their lives and those that they love, in trying to get the answers they seek.

Through meeting a group of gypsies called The Crossbones Clan, the duo are led to their camp called Kasta Way, and hints are dropped to Viktor and Romulus of a document which may answer a lot of their questions, called The Silent Deal. This key to the mystery may lie inside the reputedly haunted Staryi Castle, where Molotov, the owner of the town rules Aryk upon the orders of a legendary figure called The Leopard. Molotov walks the fine line between following The Leopard's orders and protecting his citizens, though a dangerous race against time begins when news emerges that the King of Spades card has been sighted in Aryk.

This novel was one of the most enjoyable reads I have had in a while, with a blistering pace, some really heart-stopping moments and wonderful settings. It is refreshing to have a novel set in a small town in Russia, far from the metropolis' of 19th century Europe, and I experienced a genuine thrill as the mystery of the playing cards was revealed.

Levi Stack is a writer to keep an eye on; he has a strong ability to weave a plot around legends, puzzles, fear and seemingly everyday objects in the way few other contemporaries can, save perhaps Carlos Ruiz Zafón, which is high praise as I am a huge fan of his also. It was very easy to picture each scene, as Stack has a real knack of putting the reader there with his descriptions and dialogue, as if the reader were a third member of the blood-brotherhood themself.

The two lead male characters are a great duo, with just enough mystique surrounding Romulus to keep the relationship fresh throughout. The main antagonists, The Leopard and General Ulfrik, are truly terrifying; each scene featuring these two sends chills up the spine. The Masqueraiders – sent out to enforce the three laws upon the local populace – also add a sinister element to the novel, with their Venetian carnival masks (which I have always found creepy) and taste for brutality.

I am extremely excited that there is a sequel to this novel, as there were a few unanswered questions from the novel, though the novel can probably be read as a standalone book. It will be interesting to learn what comes next for Romulus and Viktor, and I hope to see more from the supporting cast such as the girls, Charlotta and Evenova, next time around.

Kelsi says

While I'm always excited when authors send me a copy of their work, I'm not usually one to read on any of my electronic devices. For that reason I felt like it would maybe take me awhile to get through and that it may be less enjoyable. I was very mistaken! Levi succeeded where others have not and kept me glued to my computer screen until the very last word of *The Silent Deal*. It was an exciting tale with a wonderful blend of fantasy and realism. I was intrigued by the story right off the bat and enjoyed sharing the surprise with Viktor at each twist and turn. I was surprised by the depth of the plot and the character development in so few pages. *The Silent Deal* was an easy and exciting read and I can't wait to join Viktor and Romulus as they continue their adventure in *The Magic Trick*.

Michael Araujo says

Imagine having the power of taking an ordinary object, something that we barely pay attention to, and making it the most interesting and mysterious piece you have ever seen. I'm not even talking about the story itself, I'm talking about the author. The power and talent this author holds to transform something as simple as playing cards and turn them into this peculiar power is beyond what anyone can expect from a debut author. The story is about two peasant boys, Viktor and Romulus, who live in the Russian Empire and come across secrets that they wouldn't dare imagine. Featuring mysterious cards, Romani Gypsies and a dark forest, the novel sets itself up for a world that can only grow into something spectacular.

Starting with the world, I loved the universe that Levi Stack created. It played like a movie in my head as I read it. We all know how movies have color tones to match the mood of the scene. Some movies will be played in blue tones, others in brown, etc. etc. The thing with Stack's world, is that it changed depending on the scenes. At times it was blue to match the mood of Viktor and where he lived. To show the fact that the people weren't happy and neither was he, and that it was a cold world. Yet when he went to the Romani Gypsy camps, it was full of browns and greens and reds, like the Earth itself, to show how alive the people were. And towards the end of the novel, everything got dark and it was amazing!

The characters in the book are everything one could ask for, plus more. From the main characters who make real choices and show real emotions, to the supporting characters that feel like our very own enemies and friends, to everyone else who is only mentioned in passing. I do have to say that out of them all my favorites have to be the Romani Gypsies who remind me so much of my family. Colorful yet dark and mysterious, and they have this thing that brings light to the novel and yet doesn't ruin the dark tones. Reading about them was like sitting in front of a fireplace with a nice mug of hot chocolate while the snow fell outside. It made me feel completely comfortable and at home and that's what we want books to do.

In the beginning I was a curious to find out how a playing card could ever make a story so interesting and make me keep reading. But, as I read, I began to grow more and more intrigued with the idea that this normal object held so many secrets and so much power, that I wanted to get to the end just to discover what was going on. And once I finally learned the bits that are revealed, I wanted more. Sadly though, the book was done and I was forced to wait for the sequel.

Levi Stack is a storyteller at heart, forming his words into sentences that pull you along and don't release you until he says so. One can call this an evil villains plan, but I call this an amazing author. He's an author that we have to keep an eye out for the amazing things that are to come. He got me hooked with his first book, and I'm "patiently" waiting for everything else he's going to release.

Precious says

Originally posted at Fragments of Life.

The Silent Deal started out with an otherworldly narrative by Leshy, the spirit of the woods, in the lush, mysterious forest of Russia. Although delivered in English, the Russian vibe was kept alive through delving deep into the waters of Russian culture and mythology. The integration of Russian mythology into the story was one of the reasons why I loved The Silent Deal.

Viktor was a 14-year-old serf under the rule of Master Molotov. His perspective changed after he witnessed a man's hanging for possessing a playing card. Since then, he has wondered and searched for the truth behind the cards. Although daring, he still remained to be the rational one of the duo, weighing the consequences and implications of every move. Romulus, the boy of the forest, was the one who intrigued me more. He was a waking mystery, never failing to tickle my curiosity. Living in the first, he had distanced himself from the society of Aryk. Secrets cloaked him like a second skin. Distrustful, wild and uncontrollable, Romulus always did as he pleased. I loved how Stack delivered good character development in the persona of Romulus and Viktor. From a fearful, rule-following serf boy, Viktor hardened into a freedom fighter, thirsty for the truth. Meanwhile, Romulus softened into a trustworthy blood brother.

The gypsies of Kasta Way, fiery, bold and passionate with their music, art and horseback riding, were part of the reasons why I love The Silent Deal. The Crossbones clan were an entertaining bunch. Everything about them screamed daring and fearless. Belch, who was constantly quoting English plays, appealed to my theater-loving self. He was quirky, weird, and sometimes downright mental. The lot an side by side with the blood brothers Romulus and Viktor in their search for answers. Between two serf boys and gypsies, every little thing was bound to be amusing.

The Leopard was a blackhole sucking me into its darkness and mystery. I kept reading on partly because I

wanted to find out who he really was. The mystery was well thought-out, from the past to the present, puzzling me, haunting me and intriguing me beyond expectation.

The plot was like an intricate and detailed tapestry, twists and turns were woven into the heart of the story. It was entertaining, injected with adventure, cryptic suspense, jolts of startling violence and death. Although I initially thought of recommending this novel to middle grade readers and younger teens, it seems that the level of maturity of *The Silent Deal* surpasses the bounds of Middle Grade fiction.

The Silent Deal is one of a kind, unforgettable and addicting with its well-developed characters, unpredictable and twisty plot and well-crafted, vivid story world. The story world was complex enough that you could lose yourself in its folds. There was never a boring moment for me. Each page promised new secrets to be revealed and more dangers to be encountered. Be prepared to be captivated with a haunting mystery, a chilling history and a perilous search. I highly recommend this for Young Adult historical readers, enthusiasts of Fantasy and mystery lovers. This is the best self-published debut I have read so far.

Camila says

I downloaded a free eBook version of this book and a few days later the author contacted me and asked for a review after I had read it.

I wasn't expecting much to come out of it, as I haven't had much luck in the past regarding digital books. However, this one blew me away.

The setting is Russia in the 19th century, which is uncommon but gives the story a unique background history and an amazing scenery in which the characters can unfold. I think the author did a great job in regards to researching and then weaving the landscape of a Russian town into his story.

The plot revolves around a young boy called Viktor, who has lived his whole life clouded in the mysteries of his town - Aryk - in which no one will talk about the past, everyone is wary of each other and terrified of the ruthless rulers who oversee the serfs, mysterious graffiti decorates dark alleys, and there is an absolute ban on all kinds of playing cards. Early into the story, Viktor becomes friends with the shadowy forest-boy; Romulus. Both boys share a secret fascination for cards, but are far from any understanding about their history, their use, or why the penalty for having them is death by hanging. They are determined to figure out the mysteries of Aryk's past and the dark figure that is rumored to rule over it; the Leopard.

I won't say more, because I don't want to give away the story, but rest assured that what starts out as an exciting and mysterious adventure does not falter all throughout the book, bringing in new characters, clues, action, trouble, laughs and even more.

The story unfolds slowly but surely, and while I could see some things coming, many twists and turns caught me completely by surprise. I found myself losing track of time and reading late into the night just to find out what happened to Viktor and Romulus, and as soon as I finished the book I started to look around for the next one in the series, which I am sure will be just as amazing as this one.

Congratulations to Levi Stack for writing such a great first book!

Anne Riley says

When I review a book, I look for four qualities: story, character development, description and grammar. I was not disappointed with The Silent Deal.

Story: This was such a fun story, perfect for teens and young adults. It had the pacing and adventure of a video game, while retaining the joy a reader acquires from picturing a new world in his own imagination. The foundation of the story, a mystery about playing cards, at first seemed innocuous. Playing cards? How could they be a problem? Indeed, the concept was so unusual I was constantly curious about how such an innocent item could cause such trouble. It is the sign of a great story-teller when the reader stops trying to guess what is going to happen, and just sits back and allows himself to be taken on an inventive and imaginative ride. The Silent Deal did that for me.

Character Development: I loved Viktor and Romulus and the host of supporting characters in the book. There was more action than lengthy character development, which is preferred in books for young adults, but the reader was able to get a great sense of who these young people were, as they entered and then emerged from one scrape after another. And with each mini-adventure, the reader connects with the characters more and more.

Description. There is an old adage in writing: "Show, don't tell," and it means that the writer should relate the point of the story through action and dialogue of the characters, and not just tell the reader what he is supposed to think. I think the author did a great job in this area. Russian history was conveyed through the conversations between Romulus and Viktor. The terror of the Silent Deal was displayed long before it made an appearance; in the darkness of Viktor's dreams, in the bleakness of the lives of the serfs, in the cruelty of the schoolroom. The author painted the pictures briefly but effectively throughout the book.

Grammar. If a book is not written well, I just can't make myself finish it. No problem here. The usage and grammar were nicely done. If I had one complaint, and it is a minor one, it is that every once in a while the characters would utter a word or phrase that didn't quite belong in 1840. It didn't occur much, but when it did, it stood out, primarily because I was thoroughly transported to 1840 Russia at the time!

All in all, this is a terrific book that would appeal to young adults and keep them interested until the very last page. The author left just enough open questions for me to want to find out what's next for Viktor and Romulus...

Elizabeth says

This book was offered to me on my kindle for free by the author in exchange of a review. This book was an amazing read. I really enjoyed the story and the characters. I'm curious as to who or what Romulus really is as he seems as though he might not be entirely human. It will be really interesting to see the aftermath of the revelation of the silent deal. I think things will get a lot worse before they get better. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Plaguedoctor says

I received a PDF version of The Silent Deal from the author in exchange for an honest review.

I wish I had more to say about it. It was a good book, but it just didn't really pop out to me or really enthrall me. I think the problem lies within the characters. The characters themselves were alright enough in their own right, however, I just couldn't really get attached to them. When I can't get attached to a stories characters, it kinda takes me out of the book instead of being immersed. I felt like they were one dimensional and didn't know them very well. I would recommend this book to people who just want something to read and not really care about character development.
