



The Dark Path

Luke Romyn

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New York's underworld quivers at the mention of his name. Evil courses through his veins like blood and his conscience has lain dormant for over a decade while he has slashed and burned his way to the top of the food chain. Vain. The Dark Man, born of torment into an existence of death. In the underworld of killers he reigns supreme. And yet he is chosen for a task of supreme benevolence. Why would he be selected to save a young boy, the Avun-Riah, and then protect him against a horde of enemies, both mortal and demonic? Because he is the only one with any hope of success. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse have risen from the pits of Hell and, along with a fanatical army of cultists, are ranged against Vain. If the boy is slain then Sordarrah will be raised to destroy the Earth, a feat even Lucifer never managed. Evil is being used to fight evil in the ultimate battle for the outcome of all existence. Armageddon sits upon the horizon and all that stands in its way is a man whose path has always been dark.

The Dark Path Details

Date : Published 2009 by Wild Child Publishing

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Author : Luke Romyn

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From Reader Review The Dark Path for online ebook

Dianne Hunt says

This book was engrossing from the beginning to the end. The pain and suffering that Martin Roberts goes through is unimaginable. The pain and suffering that Vain delivers is unimaginable. This a great book about the journey of a man and assassin whose faith of the world depends on the path that he will take. Great twists throughout the book and a jaw dropping end. I absolutely loved this book. Money well spent.

Peggy Holloway says

WOW! I think this is the best indie book I have read so far, and I don't usually even read this genre. I love the way this author writes. His characters are so real, even the non-human ones. This is like a combination of Stephen King and Dan Brown style writing but with just enough humor to relieve the tension. It was scary, but funny at times. The character Vain was so dark but naive at the same time. The scene where he is talking to the priest was hilarious. All the characters personalities had so many layers. I have read many book that dealt with the issue of good and evil, but I don't think I have read one that was this well done.

Dee Marie says

Rivaling both Stephen King and Thomas Harris, without doubt, the edgy and provocative Luke Romyn is destined to emerge as the 21st century's newest Master-of-Horror.

In his debut novel, "The Dark Path," Luke showcases his writing talents through the eyes and actions of Vain, aka The Dark Man. Due to a horrific experience in a "past" life, Vain is transformed into a truly evil character. This raw and gritty anti-hero, charges through one scene into the next; leaving death, destruction and despair in his path. He rushes through life without making excuses for his grisly deeds, or feeling a trace of remorse for his victims. He is a man who is nearly impossible to like, but equally impossible to hate.

Be forewarned, journeying down "The Dark Path" is not an adventure for the faint of heart. The story overflows with gratuitous acts of violence, adult language and mature situations. Within the 184 pages, there are few dark-and-twisty topics that are off-limits or left unexplored. Vain ventures into the inky regions of the human psyche (literally into the depths of hell) and emerges bruised, battered and altered.

Although supernatural events are woven throughout the storyline, "The Dark Path" deals with real and often uncomfortable subjects: religious beliefs (and dis-beliefs), death (rape, mutilation, torture), greed and self-destruction. Like his contemporaries in the horror genre, Luke Romyn ecstatically crashes through the politically-correct-wall that modern society has built and fortified.

Like the writings of Stephen King and Thomas Harris, Luke Romyn pushes the boundaries of a reader's senses. "The Dark Path" will keep you up late with a reluctance to turn off the lights and venture into the darken recesses of your own imagination.

Cari Foulk says

In its originality, this novel takes the horror / urban fantasy genre to a whole new level. the quest and redemption theme in this novel is spectacular, emotional, and quite overwhelming. Could not put the book down. This is a MUST read. Vain is one of the most engaging, scary, likable, cold-blooded killers that I've ever run across in a book.

Is Vain conflicted? Yes.

Does this deter him from his quest? No.

I found myself rooting for him, even as he inflicted brutality to the extreme. His need to find his own humanity will have you questioning yours. Extremely strong debut novel, Romyn is a master at balancing action and emotion, and his prose is that of a seasoned professional.

Cannot recommend it enough.

Is there a place to add more stars?

No? Well I will add them here-> *****

THE DARK PATH Is deserving of ten or more. Don't miss this one, you will re-read it many times over.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

For a full review, check the Bitten by Books website: <http://www.bittenbybooks.com/>

Amy says

Hmm. I'm still not sure how I feel about this book. The blurb about it made it sound like a very good horror book, but instead it was more of a semi-predictable, heartwarming tale of redemption. I guess? Then there was the ending that was either meant to be a twist or it's a blatant call to read the future sequel to it. It was well written, but I had to go back and re-read the description at a few points to make sure I wasn't reading an entirely different book, or that it wasn't actually in the Christian or Spirituality section rather than horror.

Ana says

After entering Nick's mind in Ricochet, The Dark Man/Vain was an enormous let down from the get go.

Just in the first few pages:

"The force of his emotions shook him to his very foundations".

Does this look like a contracted killer to you? Someone cold?

And a couple lines later:

"Voices shot like arrows through Vain's memory...The assassin crumpled into oblivion." - meaning he

fainted. Fainted! From his memories! Seriously? I present to you the most feared man in New York's underworld ladies and gentlemen.

So...yeah. Me and this book? Not happening.

Maybe if I'd read this before meeting Nick? I don't know. But this definitely does not sound as something I'll enjoy in the long run so I'm backing out now. For me a good assassin has to be cold-blooded. Unfeeling. Callous. Frightening. This Vain Guy? Everyone seems to be afraid of him in the book but I honestly do not get it.

**Not rating this book since I only read about 4/5 chapters.

Kenn Crawford says

"Vain" is one of the nastiest, cold-blooded killers that I've ever run across in a book. And cold-blooded is an understatement. This guy is so heartless he is nothing short of a monster... and your heart will go out to him because he is such a likable character. You'll find yourself rooting for Vain as he does what he does best - kill.

I was immediately drawn into Vain's world and even though I was pretty sure I knew where the story was going and how it was going to end, I still could not put it down! I had to keep reading.

Once author Luke Romyn leads you down The Dark Path there is no getting off it.

Angie says

I really enjoyed this book, I wasn't expecting what it gave to me at all.

You have Vain, or Dark Man, who is the best assassin around. He lives his life in an unemotional state other than the dark pit of rage that lives inside of him. You follow him around as he makes a few kills and get a feel for who you think this man is. He is given the task, or really chooses it cause no one can tell the Dark Man what to do, to watch over a young boy named Sebastian and to protect him from an evil cult that wants to use him to free their god.

What I wasn't expecting from this book was all the religious background. It was in no way preaching at you, but it was very interesting the way it was incorporated in.

Even though Vain is made out to be a bad person, I really liked his personality and his sense of humor. The way he just told people what ever he wanted to was great and had me chuckling to myself more then once.

I liked that you also got other points of views. I love when books do this, but its hard for people to do it good and Luke Romyn did. Getting into the other characters minds was a good way to get to know exactly what was going on.

The only thing I didn't like was the way the time moved, I never really got a time frame for everything that was going on. I knew everything was suppose to take place within three month, but all that happened between that time is kinda floating around, and some of it just seemed like it would have made everything last longer then the three months they had.

Would I recommend this book? Yes, it was very interesting and I have a weak spot for characters that are jerks and Vain was one.

<http://zephyrbookreviews.blogspot.com/>

Raeden Zen says

Trippy, Fun, Unique, Terrifying Novel

As I read the first couple chapters I thought, Punisher. As I read more, I thought, T2. And as I continued to read I stopped trying to compare this book to anything I've read or seen because it really is unique and holds its own. The humor is dry and well-placed within the context of the primary protagonist, Vain, and the setting, a parallel world in which there isn't only Satan and God, but also Sordorrah.

Vain is a three dimensional character who is adept at killing, especially the bad guys. He actually isn't necessarily very good but that's what keeps our attention; ultimately the struggle between good and evil is within Vain and outside of him. It encompasses every aspect of this novel.

A couple of scenes, including the terrorist on the plane and the cancer patient, I could have done without. But, I can't think of a novel where I've agreed with every plot point and both of these scenes serve a purpose; the latter of which was much more important, in my humble opinion. Namely, that Vain really has changed and is indeed capable of good.

The bottom line is I'd highly recommend this novel to fans of horror/fantasy as Luke Romyn takes us on a trippy, fun, unique, and terrifying adventure every reader should be fortunate to take.

Jason says

5 stars.

The Dark Path by Luke Romyn strikes the perfect balance of over the top brutality and an underlying positive message. I have said before how much I love the Biblical Horror sub genre, well this book would fall into the Biblical Thriller genre.

Romyn has created an alternate world very similar to our own, adding to our Christian Beliefs by creating an additional fallen angel named Sordarrah . This book centers on a cult that through out time has been trying to resurrect their fallen God. To do so they must kill the Avun-Riah, a young boy that through his death can unlock the gates imprisoning the fallen angel. Unfortunately for the bad guys in this story, the Avun-Riah(Sebastian) is protected by the Dark Man. Our hero is a former Police Officer, a former Husband, a

former Father, and some would say a former Human.

Wow, The Dark Man is the awesome reduction of a once good man that finds everyone that he ever loved killed and removed from his life. He is the result in a Man giving in to all of his darkest emotions and feelings, leaving only rage and death within. Vain is an apt name for his former self, The Dark Man fits him better today. He is an amalgamation of The Punisher, The Dark Knight, and

The back story quickly tells us the how and the why behind Vain the assassin, and after a somewhat slow start this book takes off. I loved the scenes of Vain moving around the city and through the shadows. His encounters with Priest are awesome. The main plot unfolds and we are treated to more than a sick vengeful killer.

The story takes us from cities to sewers, from roof tops all the way down to Hell and back again. There are Demons, Angels, Lucifer, and the Four Horsemen, and of course the scariest monster of all, The Dark Man himself. This is a fast paced thriller that only had one fault for me, and that is that I want more.

Top all this awesome story telling, Romyn is a gifted writer that does a great job at portraying atmosphere, action, and even some humor.

""... I have existed for eternity, but I don't think I've ever had a single day of life as a human would know it.
" Seikel paused.

"Today I feel alive, and it is wondrous," he explained finally."

""Alright, I think we've established that you guys have a combined IQ of a slowly-roasted peanuts. so I'll go over the simply, " Vain continued."

A fabulous read for fans of the genre. I will definitely be seeking out other works by Luke Romyn as I loved this book. Highest recommendations.

Aymee says

A dark and twisted story about faith, redemption, and the meaning of life. Very well done, if a bit violent (which isn't an issue for me, but may be for others) at times. I'm amazed at the transformation Vain makes throughout the story, despite fighting that transformation every step of the way. Very thought provoking.

Miranda McHenry says

This book grabbed me by the throat and didn't let go until I finished the story! An amazing story about the most gruesome and lethal assassin you can ever imagine, who will discover more about himself and others

throughout his endeavors and eventually has to make some decisions.

Luke does an incredible job telling the story and it really pulls you inside. I can't wait reading his next book!

Eric Thomasma says

Let me state for the record that this is not my genre. I usually avoid the horror aisle in the bookstore and I don't like horror movies. I even feel cheated when I go to a sci-fi movie that is actually horror with sci-fi elements. I bought this book because I enjoy the author's interactions on Twitter and wanted to support his writing. I knew that *The Dark Path* has won awards and that fans of the genre had praised it highly. But, as I said, I don't like horror.

But I loved *The Dark Path*. I was quickly drawn into the story and couldn't put it down. If it weren't for real life interruptions, I would have been lost in Vain's world for the duration. Vain is not the sort of person you want to identify with. He is both feared and revered, but mostly just feared. The life events that created Vain are horrific, and give real insight into how he came to be. Those insights set the stage for the journey he makes and helps the reader understand why he does what he does, both before and after meeting the mysterious Priest, even if Vain doesn't always understand it himself.

Now, don't be deceived, this is indeed a horror story with plenty of blood, gore, and horrific acts, and this is what normally keeps me away from the horror genre. I seldom think they add anything to the story being told, but in *The Dark Path*, these events come across as almost reluctantly shared. Not the reason for telling the story, but simply a necessary element for understanding it.

I highly recommend *The Dark Path* for adults who enjoy a great story, well told.

Lee says

This is an excellent book , bringing us into the realm of the supernatural through believable and compelling characters. The end result is that we are drawn down a Dark Path and into a world of spiritual warfare, deception and greed that seem to appeal to the hero's. But there is good here too, a good that draws the character's toward an ending that reminds us there is no redemption without sacrifice.

A page turner, highly recommend.
