



Darklost

Mick Farren

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Los Angeles--City of Angels, city of dreams. But sometimes the dreams become nightmares.

Having fled New York, Victor Renquist and his small group of Nosferatu are striving to reestablish their Colony in Los Angeles. They have become a deeper, darker part of the city's nightlife. And Hollywood's glitterati are hot on the scent of a new thrill, one that outshines all others--immortality.

But someone, somewhere, is meddling with even darker powers, powers that even the Nosferatu fear. Someone is attempting to summon the entity of ancient evil known at Cthulhu.

And Renquist must overcome dissent in his own Colony, solve the riddle of the Darklost (a being brought partway along the Nosferatu path and then abandoned), and combat powerful enemies to save the world--of humans!

Darklost Details

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Author : Mick Farren

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From Reader Review Darklost for online ebook

Kevin says

Modern day vampires take on an upstart religion who tries to summon C'Thulhu. HOW CAN THIS BE BAD?!?!

Alan says

As someone who is pretty much burned out on certain horror tropes of the past decade, notably vampires and zombies, I had people recommend Mick Farren's vampire books to me. While the first in the series was pretty much a straight horror read, albeit one that established the basic rules for Farren's 20th century vampires, I found Darklost not only to be a quicker read but in many ways a more enjoyable one. A darklost is a human who has had their blood taken by a vampire, but not turned into a vampire or killed. But, the book deals very little with the two darklost we meet in the course of events. Instead, I think this is one of the books where Farren started to build his metafiction reputation.

The biggest threat the vampire colony is facing upon its move from NYC to LA is Renquist's mourning over his lover's destruction, and that a new age cult is trying to bring Cthulhu across. Darklost was written in 2000, which I think we can say is before Cthulhu became everyone hack horror writer's plaything, or deus ex machina.

The book crosses over from horror into a science fiction and action movie hybrid. Renquist, at a 1,000 year+ in age, is not only the colony's master, but the one who's dream are the most tied to the race's DNA. While it is a relatively large exposition dump it is in one of Renquist's dreams that we get more knowledge about vampire history and how it is linked to Cthulhu.

It appears that not only were the vampire warriors created by aliens ruling the Earth 15,000 years ago, but that the alien masters knew the vampires were on the verge of rebellion. To quell the rebellion the masters brought in another of their servants Cthulhu.

While very little more than that is revealed about their joint history Renquist, a man who cares little for average humans, decides that Cthulhu cannot come across. At the same time he has to deal with colony politics.

Running concurrently is the story about the Apogee cult, which I considered a thinly veiled broadside at cult religions like Scientology. While most of the Apogee characters are caricatures, Orton Ghast is given a little depth. As essentially the cult's number three man (well it could be argued number one) it was he who figured out how to turn crackpot theories and beliefs in a multi-million dollar enterprise. Orton is the most human character in the book.

Among the colony vampires Lupo continues to grow on me. There is just something about a vamp who used to make his living as a mob hitman, and his stoic demeanor that I find charming and amusing. Lupo is the type who could either sit down and have a drink with you and then kill you afterwards.

I feel the story began to take on a tongue-in-cheek approach as it progressed, but not in a bad way. Yes, I

know I should read the original Dracula and Interview With a Vampire as vampire fiction classics (and someday I will) but for now I'll content myself with Farren's nosferatu (as they prefer to be called) and his metafiction underpinnings.

Stephen Piegan says

Here's my stupid blog review. It has hyperlinks and protocols and such:

<http://piegun.blogspot.com/2010/06/da...>

Darklost is the second book in the Renquist Quartet, and it competently continues the bizarre – almost ridiculous – story of a modern day Nosferatu colony.

The first book, Time of Feasting, was set in New York City, but at the conclusion of the book they colony was forced to flee in the face of an undead (zombie isn't quite the appropriate term) army. Darklost finds our lovable heroes in sunny L.A. where they adopt Brandon Wales (think Marlon Brando) as one of their own, fight crooked cops, and... something else...

Oh, that's right. They go head to head with the Apogee (think Scientology). It turns out that Apogee's head dude is pretty bad at summoning other worldly entities into our universe. I say "bad," because he actually CAN summon non-corporeal beings... He just can't control them once they get here. And this time he's hard at work bringing across the most powerful of uber-powerful beings: Cthulu.

So far the first half of the Renquist Quartet has been very entertaining. I highly recommend the series to fans SF/Vampire mythologies. The series so far has flirted with absurdity, but are so well-executed they never feel cheesy or campy.

Catherine Stovall says

This was a huge disappointment after the first book. Still not a terrible read but don't go into it thinking its going to great like the first.

Amy says

I think that this was one of the hardest books to read. I felt like he ate a thesaurus for breakfast and filled the book with the regurgitation. I lost the point in many paragraphs. Story concept made me really excited to read it, but I really couldn't chew through all the nonsense to find it.

Nicole Bunge says

Ok, this was my favorite of this series - because Vampires vs Cthulhu? Especially a head vampire who

KNOWS it's utterly silly and wrong that he's being shoved face-first into a battle with Cthulhu? You HAVE to love that kinda cynical, snarky nonsense. Because it plays deadpan and serious, and WORKS. It's not MEANT as a joke, but the black humor just plays out that way. Farren is a good writer. I still remember this book with a lot of fondness 8 years later.

Mark A says

This author never met an adverb, adjective, or descriptive phrase he didn't like. Typical example: "As far as these idiot kids were concerned, instead of a blond, beautiful, and a hundred times more stylish version of themselves, they were confronted by a towering, bat-winged, bare-breasted, she-devil from Rock & Roll Hell, eight feet tall, with pale coiling serpents for hair and eyes that glowed like windows into the Ring of Fire." This quote picked from a random page. Any random page contains run-on sentences and verbiage like this. 57 words. Even with 2 entwined (simple) plots, I think the 470 page book would have amounted to no more than 100 pages.

This author must have been relying on word count instead of book sells for his income. And where was the editor? Missing in action.

JW says

The second Victor Renquist novel works well as a stand-alone book. Farren's fun loving vampires are unliving in Los Angeles, allowing the author to take pokes at his usual targets: cops, rockers and Hollywood. His method of alternating scenes between the nosferatu colony, a darklost (someone caught between human and vampire), and their antagonists, a cult trying to call up H. P. Lovecraft's Cthulhu, is engaging and makes you sympathize with, to be honest, a pack of vicious killers. There's more than a few shades of grey here.
