



The Unknown Element

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Sheriff Cole Garza denies facing supernatural forces during a terrible attack on his small town. Eccentric French priest Francois Domaine arrives on the scene and proclaims a hard truth about good vs. evil. They team with skeptical technology genius Nadine May on an incredible quest to solve a deadly mystery.

They travel first to Wales and the scene of another shocking nightmare, then on to the ISIS enclaves of Syria where the stakes rise even higher.

Can these three ordinary people find answers while Middle East war rages around them? They need to, because the potential fate of millions hangs on it.

If you like wall-to-wall suspense, non-stop action, and the inspirational story of good people standing against evil, then you'll love this roller-coaster ride of adventure and faith.

”Superbly written, no drags, no slow starts, just hop on board and ride the express to the end.” “The delicious part for me was the age-old battle of good vs. evil.” “I’m a visual person and this author was able to paint a picture with his words on every page. Awesome!” Kindle Reviewers.

The Unknown Element Details

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Author : Jonas Walker

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From Reader Review The Unknown Element for online ebook

Sarah Brocious says

review to come!

Jules says

EVIL RUNS is described as an action-packed supernatural mystery thriller, and I would have to agree with that.

This is a well written, edited and ordered novel, which runs smoothly and is easy to follow. The early part of the novel progresses slower, as we get to know the main characters, but definitely becomes faster paced during the second half of the story.

The three main characters in this novel are an interesting combination:

Cole, a Texas Sheriff, and whose wife was murdered a few years ago.

Francois, a French priest working for the Vatican, specialising in exorcisms and demonology.

Nadine, a socially awkward technology expert, who created systems used by organisations, such as Homeland Security and the FBI.

All three characters are brought together on a mission to catch Moloch, a demonic creature that thrives on revenge and intent on killing many people. Although, the three main characters have a serious mission ahead of them, I did enjoy the snippets of humour within some of their conversations.

My personal favourite character has to be Francois. He seems somewhat quirky for a priest, and his fashion entertains me. I had images of Poirot trying to dress cool. I'm sure you get the idea.

I certainly feel well travelled after reading this book, having travelled with the main characters, from Texas, to Wales, to Syria. The action in this book definitely goes up a notch in Syria, which was when I was most on edge, especially for Nadine. As if demons aren't dangerous enough, they've got jihadists to deal with too!

Although, I wouldn't really say I felt scared at all, there are some graphic killings that are a little hard to stomach, but not too long or descriptive for those who don't like that kind of thing.

This book does cover issues of religion. It has a priest and a demon in it, so how could it not. Although, we see how each character deals with their faith or lack of it, I do not feel this book preaches religion in any way, so as long as you have a tolerance for other peoples' religious beliefs, I see no reason why you would not enjoy this book. I liked the sentiment near the end of the novel, which I think can also be appreciated whether you are religious or not.

There were some phrases I had never heard of before reading this book - salmon priest, wagons ho, and half bubble off plumb. Thankfully, Google gave me the answers. It's good to learn something new.

I would like to thank the author, Vince Milam, for providing me with a copy of his debut novel, in exchange

for an honest review, and wish him success with this and any future novels.

K.M. Montemayor says

This book was given to me by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Three people from different backgrounds must come together to catch a killer.

Cole Garza is a Texas sheriff who witnesses a massacre in a nursing home in his home town. There's something familiar about the killer. He's seen the look on his face before. His wife's killer had the same look on his face right after he was caught. He wants justice for his town and answers for himself.

Priest Francois Domaine specializes in the demonic. He believes it is his mission to confront evil entities on earth. With the Bishop's permission, he travels to Texas to find Moloch-like the Canaanite god associated with human sacrifice I presume--the killer.

Nadine is a strange but brilliant woman. She is a tech genius, and with her mad computer skills, is able to locate the whereabouts of Moloch. She is skeptical of Francois' claim that the killer is a demon, but she's up for an adventure and willing to keep an open mind. She eagerly joins the two men on their manhunt. The fact that she's sweet on the sheriff doesn't hurt either.

This was an interesting plot as the three travel all over the world in search of this entity that can take over people's wills and make them commit murder. At times, I wished for more action and less hand wringing and reflection. And I'm not clear on how Nadine was able to find the killer so rapidly and in different countries. I wish the tech side of that had been explained better. The ending was a bit of a surprise. (view spoiler) But it felt a bit rushed and tied up too quickly.

But those are just small quibbles. Overall, it kept me interested and turning pages. Recommended for those who want a character driven story that isn't too scary.

Lorrea - WhatChaReadin'? says

A French priest, a Texas sheriff, and a female CIA agent walk into a bar looking for Evil. Sounds like the start of a corny joke, but it's not. *Evil Runs* by Vince Milam is a religious thriller that takes these three on a trip around the world to destroy the evil that has disrupted their lives.

Still grieving the loss of his wife, Sheriff Cole Garza is now dealing with multiple homicides at a nursing home in his small Texas town. Leaving the scene, he sees a most peculiar man who appears to be running away from another man with a long gray ponytail who is just as peculiar. Looking into the eyes of the murder suspect, Cole sees something familiar, something he saw in the eyes of his wife's murderer. When Father Francois Domaine appears in Texas with orders from the Vatican, things begin to really get strange. They have a suspect in custody and are currently looking for his accomplice, Adal Moloch. He was the

peculiar man seen leaving the crime scene, and the hunt is on. With the help of Nadine May, a CIA operative with unbelievable tracking and computer skills, they are able to follow Moloch wherever he goes. Will they find him and bring him to justice before more people are hurt?

This is a book for those who believe in a higher power, or for those that don't, you just might after reading this book. Adal Moloch is not your typical suspect. He is a demon sent to have his evil bidding done by anyone who is willing to follow him. Destroying him is going to take more than a bullet to the head, but also a faith that God is stronger than him with that faith you can destroy anything. We always wonder if faith is enough. Can our faith in God destroy the evil that is around us? Can we rise above the evil and do what is right? At first, I was a little skeptical about this book thinking it was going to get a bit paranormal, but it didn't which made me thoroughly enjoy it. This is the first book in a series and I can't wait to read what is next.

I was given this book by the author in exchange for my honest review.

Sue says

I was asked by the author, Vince Milam, to read his debut novel, "Evil Runs: A Supernatural Mystery", and I have to admit that I don't usually read supernatural thrillers, but more mystery, crime, suspense, psychological thrillers, but I have to say I was not disappointed. I was immediately drawn into this fast-paced story, and found Vince Milam's writing style very satisfying and easy to read, and hard to believe that this is his debut novel.

There are three main characters in this novel; Cole, a Texas Ranger, whose wife was murdered by a gunman a few years, Francois, a French priest now working for the Vatican and Nadine, a IT expert, who created applications used by Homeland Security and the FBI.

Cole received a 911 call to a nursing home, a massacre, a mysterious old man, Adal Moloch, was seen leaving the scene. But then the Vatican Priest comes to help Cole with the investigation. Cole along with the Priest and Nadine, are off to solve this case, and track down this killer.

This book does cover some issues of religion overtones. There is a struggle between good and evil; Francois, a religious priest versus Adal, a demon-infected killer. In this story we get to see how each character deals with their faith or lack of it.

Don't underestimate this new upcoming author. I enjoyed reading this novel, and loved the humor of the priest. This novel will appeal to a wide range of readers. Definitely check it out.

Courtney Wells says

**I received this book, courtesy of the author, in exchange for an honest review **

Spiritual horror (i.e. demons, angels, biblical proportions) has become its own subgenre. Honestly, it's not one I'm an avid reader of so – if you consider yourself a fan or this is a go-to premise for you – please take

that into account while reading this review.

First things first; if you're not a fan of folksy Americana and quaint, salt-of-the-earth characters you're probably going to have trouble getting into EVIL RUNS. It's got that small town vibe horror – such as "bad things happening to well-meaning, maybe god-fearing folks". It sets a scene and tone, truly, and absolutely compliments this brand of creepy. It adds a little dreadful isolation to the conspiratory implications, which is a trick in and of itself. I applaud Mr. Milam putting those subtle touches in to bring personality to a plot much bigger than a small town's problems.

One of the perils of writing "demonic" evil is it can be presented in a way that relies on shock-value and senseless violence. What makes something genuinely "horrific" at times isn't always inhuman or unfathomable but in confronting a reader with a darkness they could bear responsibility for. Not to say EVIL RUNS was the worst offender but being a little over 200 pages with an emphasis on the value of one's faith doesn't allow for much exploration into sinister motives or rationalization behind what drives such forces. For me, the methodology of evil is always scarier than its magnitude and books as short and ambitious as this focus on the bigger picture.

Another unfortunate consequence of such a short novel is characterization. Those reading the blurb might feel the key players in the story sound a bit troupe-laden and the number of pages in EVIL RUNS didn't allow the characters to really break that mold they were presented in. Not to say everybody was unlikable or underdeveloped, more they were very functional for the story. Everybody did their job, contributed to the plot's atmosphere and progress. They were suited for and defined by the events surrounding them but lacked traits that rose above or stood apart from their immediate, dire circumstances.

Despite my few criticisms, I'm not disappointed with EVIL RUNS and feel Mr. Milam has promise for writing that would be better appreciated in a longer story. Most novels are about 300 pages and – in my opinion – those hundred pages would have been welcomed opportunities to not only illustrate the overreaching plot but embellish upon the characters swept up in it.

For what it was – and what it was definitely stood on its own, enjoyable merits – EVIL RUNS gives readers a quick, tense read that might be just the thing for somebody willing to take a chance on a spiritual horror without committing to a full novel.

Luucy says

You can find this review on my blog: <https://makingdaysbetter.wordpress.co...>

Cole was a such powerful, brave and amazing man:P. I loved that he'll protect his friends no matter what and that he was so independent and wise :). He was also really smart, he always found solutions for the problems very quick.

Francois was fearless, powerful and an amazing person and friend <3. The thing I liked about him the most was that he wouldn't doubt in any circumstance, he knew what he had to do and that he'll do it no matter what ;). Sometimes he was too sensitive but it was nice to see some "weakness". :P

Nadine is my favorite character! <3 So powerful, hard-headed and clever. I like that everybody who knew

her know that when she planned something nothing and no one could make her change her mind :P . I loved her because she hated being treated like a little flower, she wanna be like any other person. The only thing I didn't like about her was that she was too annoying with Cole I don't see them as a perfect couple :/

I really enjoy this book and all the characters were really great :D . The narrator was incredible, it was great to read a couple of chapters in the murder point of view. The thing I didn't enjoy a lot was the end because it was very confusing for me and I don't think I totally get it :/. However, it was a very entertaining and fast reading. ;)

Terri Wino says

2-1/2 stars

I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review.

I feel badly that I don't have a glowing review for this book, as I see a lot of 4 and 5 star reviews, but I just didn't get it. I read a lot of genres and feel like the author should have picked one and stuck with it instead of trying to include them ALL in this one book.

The characters of Cole, Nadine, and Francois were interesting, but part of me felt as if I were told this is cliché character #1, this is their personality quirk, you don't really need to feel any connection to them, just accept you like them and move on. This is cliché character #2...and so on.

I actually liked the start of the story and the supernatural aspect. The demon seemed particularly vicious and had the story continued along with the havoc and carnage caused by the demon, I think it would have drawn me more into the story. Instead I got a trip to Syria in the middle of a war with more cliché characters thrown in (the CIA operative, the nun, the evil terrorists). The worst thing was, I at least expected an epic battle with the demon after they finally tracked it down halfway around the world. Instead the ending just sort of fizzled and the demon was just gone.

I will say that I thought the book was well-written for the most part, other than some of the conversations between characters. Especially when Cole would revert to the Aw shucks I'm just a sherriff from big ole Texas type speak.

The author asked for my honest review and that is what I have provided. I feel there was a genuine good concept to this book, but the execution didn't live up.

Carolyn says

I enjoyed the well written, fast paced plot of this debut novel and the eclectic mix of the three characters who band together to hunt down evil in the form of a demon called Moloch. Cole, the Texas ranger, Francois, the Vatican priest and Nadine, the tech savvy nerd were all interesting and I hope will be back in future books. While the plot moved well and the story was engaging, I thought the book would have benefitted from being a little longer. In particular, I would have liked to have seen a more development of the characters to fill them out and make them feel more real. I wanted to like them but didn't really feel any sense of emotional

engagement with them. Similarly with the main crime scenes I felt a few more pages could have been devoted to setting the scene prior to the main crimes to bring home the full horror of the crime. For example, at the blind school a short scene describing the children and Jenni's daughter going about their day would have built up the tension and made the subsequent events even more horrific to us.

I also felt that I wanted to know a little more about Moloch and to understand his depravity better, for example, why had he left the group of terrorists he had built up in Syria to travel to random parts of the world to incite killings of fairly small numbers of people when he could have incited mass murders. His character is also fairly shadowy and could have been developed a bit more so that we got more of a sense of how evil and demonic he is. I was also disappointed that the final scene was over fairly quickly rather than building up to a tense battle between good and evil with Francois and Moloch confronting each other. However, these are only minor niggles and did not detract from what is an action packed supernatural thriller.

I received a copy of this ebook from the author to read and review

Angie Rhodes says

Creepy , and atmospheric, It reminds me of James Herbet and Stephen King,,

Jan says

I received a free copy of this book from the author for an honest review

Evil Runs is a fast, easy read about good versus evil. Well-edited and entertaining, but not without some room for improvement.

The 3 main characters Cody (Texas Ranger), Nadine (IT /Government expert), and Francois (Vatican Priest), come together to fight evil after a senseless act of violence invades the town where Cody works.

From Texas to Syria the 3 head out on a task to revenge the lives that were lost and take out the mastermind responsible. They get some help along the way from a well-informed CIA operative but not without getting themselves into a lot of hair-raising situations first.

My only criticism would be that I kept wanting more...

~More back story on the characters

~More lead in on the bad guys who performed the violent acts

~More lead in on the background of Adal and how he came to be, etc.

There seemed to be a lot of unnecessary words dedicated to things like the food and drink that they consumed that could have been better spent elsewhere.

All in all, for a first time author I was very impressed and look forward to more of what's in store for the 3 unlikely heroes in book 2!

Connie says

I was asked by the author to read his book and give a review and the following is what I thought.

When I first read the synopsis, I didn't think I would like it because it has elements that I am not comfortable with. One of them is a book about God or Religion. Another is, a book that has elements of horror in it. I did see that this was about a Gulf Coast town and that had me interested and also it was about a sheriff. So, I thought I would give it a try and I am glad I did.

I enjoyed the humor in this book and when reading the synopsis, I didn't get a sense it would be funny, I had the sense this was a serious book about evil and how it can be contained. The interaction between the characters of Cole, Francois, and Nadine at times was priceless. I especially liked all the different clothes that Francois wore in this book. He was a fashion statement unto himself.

I thought the main characters were well defined and the story was one that kept you reading to see what could possibly happen next. I felt at times it was a little over the top, but that is okay too because it was a tale from the beginning to the end.

For a first book, I was impressed. I can't give it 5 stars, but I am giving it 4.5. I wish this author only success in the future. He reminds me of Jim Butcher in a way. I do believe this book is hard to classify as there are elements of fantasy, mystery, suspense and horror, especially with the exorcism.

Well done, Mr. Milam.

Angela says

The prose is fantastic and the descriptions are such that you could almost feel yourself there experiencing what the author depicts.

What of the characters? Well, Cole is a likeable, rough around the edges, Texas sheriff whose wife was sadly murdered some years previously, Francois is a charming but occasionally irritating Vatican Priest, and finally, Nadine, who works for the CIA, is the computer geek with autistic tendencies and someone whom Cole trusts deeply.

To begin with I wasn't entirely sure if *Evil Runs* would appeal to me because the suspect they are seeking to capture is a demon. In fact, this isn't a book about paranormal entities. Instead it is a very humanistic, realistic exploration of how far our faith and beliefs can take us, while questioning our abilities to rise above such evils. Please don't be put off by the mention of 'faith' as it is not a preachy religious story by any means. I enjoyed this debut novel very much and I'm extremely grateful to Vince Milam for his generous gift. I wish Vince success for the future and I have no doubt he will be.

I was even introduced to a new word; 'dang'!!

Alisha Webster says

Cole is a God fearing sheriff in Texas. He is pretty much exactly what you would picture in a Texas sheriff, minus the cowboy attire. He lost his wife to a gunman a few years previously, that sat heavy on his heart. Cole took acts of violence very seriously, as anyone would. When he received a 911 call to a nursing home he didn't know what to expect. It was a massacre, a mad man was loose inside the building. By the time He arrived, it was too late. Cole was on the search for the mysterious old man he saw fleeing the scene. Cole soon discovers that things aren't always what they seem when a Vatican Priest comes to help him with the investigation. Cole along with the Priest and Nadine, A CIA/homeland security contractor, are off to solve this case.

I wanted to read *Evil Runs* because I haven't read a supernatural thriller in a while, and the mystery aspects interested me. I was immediately snatched up by this book. I really appreciated how fast paced it was, definitely lives up to the 'Thriller' genre. *Evil Runs* impressed me in more ways than one. I found Vince Milam's writing style very smooth and easy to follow. I was actually shocked when I found out *Evil Runs* was His debut work! I can honestly say it is one of the better debut novels I have read. If you're looking for a fun read, you should grab a copy of *Evil Runs* by Vince Milam. I am happy I got the opportunity to review this book, and I am really looking forward to his second novel. 5/5

Kristine (The Writer's Inkwell) says

Posted originally on my blog:
The Writer's Inkwell

The idea of a chain smoking Vatican priest chasing after demons is a fun idea for an adventure. Francois certainly is an entertaining character and though I was never convinced simply compelling demons to be gone would have worked, it was a joy to read about his quest. Tuned with the ability to recognize true evil that walks among this world, Francois has felt the calling from above to rid the world of the evil.

Enter Cole Garza. A small Texas town sheriff, Cole is just trying to make his way through life in the wake of his wife's murder several years earlier. When the force of evil decides to turn its sights on his small town, Cole soon finds himself pulled into a battle of good and evil. Despite his own reservations, he as well as a fellow colleague, Nadine decide to assist Francois in his quest.

So why does it sound like I'm giving a summary of the book? Because even now, weeks after reading it, I find myself torn about it. As a whole, I liked the book. I felt the author had a fantastic idea for an adventure and he did a great job keeping me interested as a reader. He displays no fear when it comes to orchestrating the horrible acts committed by those who were enticed by the demon, Adal Moloch, to give in to their darkest thoughts. These thoughts lead to mass murders of the worst kind and I was pleasantly surprised to see this author push those boundaries. We live in a dark world at times and these kinds of events actually do happen. So it was a nice touch to see the author throw some really tough situations into the mix.

The plot was great, the pacing was fast and steady and the book was well-written. My hesitation comes not from the quality of story, but one particular character, Nadine. I despised Nadine from the moment she was introduced. She's meant to come off as quirky and a bit of an oddball. Instead she comes off as a pushy and annoying. Especially in her desperate pursuit to convince Cole that he's in love with her. I just felt she didn't

fit in well with the trio, in this particular book.

My distaste for one of the main characters really clouded my view of this book and it's a shame, because it's a really good book. So here's what I have to say to anyone reading this review: don't take my opinion to heart. I feel this is one of those situations where you can read a great book and just not connect with it. That's clearly what my issue was with it. Also, I'll admit, I accidentally started Pretty Little Creatures first and it wasn't until I was about 10% into the book that I realized my mistake. In that book, my issue with Nadine is nonexistent. She had me laughing and I really enjoyed her part. So clearly, all things are not lost and I think if you enjoy books that are willing to touch on darker issues, like I am, you'll really enjoy this book.

Reviewer's note: I received this book in exchange for an honest review.
