



Darkened Demigod: Weapon of War

Shawn H. Phillips

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Imprisoned miles below the surface of the post-apocalyptic Earth he crafted, the first modern-day demigod must come to terms with his failings that led to global annihilation. From the charcoaled ashes of remorse and uncontrollable anger must rise the embodiment of what he was meant to be—a savior for all humankind. However, who he is saving them from and why propels this demigod on a pained journey beyond his home planet, where he must face much more than just an advanced offshoot of humanity. He and the diminutive Bookworm will fight for Earth, but at a cost even a demigod will not be able to rectify.

Darkened Demigod: Weapon of War Details

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Author : Shawn H. Phillips

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From Reader Review Darkened Demigod: Weapon of War for online ebook

K.J. Simmill says

Imprisoned, observed, goaded. This was the life the Demigod had endured for over a decade. The people who held him sent a new observer, the others had met their end, more often by his hand, or more precisely, his thumb. This one he named Bookworm, and to him he finally begins to divulge his secrets. He whispers of how a demigod is created, of sacrifice and of worship. This demigod had failed his people, failed to uphold the values they had expected of him, and he brought about the end. It had started so innocently, a desire to better the country, create a sustainable life, but allies became enemies, robbing him of his family, his motivations, but this had been his beginning, the time his power awoke. They need to understand him, to understand their kind. This demigod was the cause of the apocalypse, and now it seems he is the sole hope of the survivors.

There is a hint of American Gods within the pages of Dr Shawn Phillips' Darkened Demigod: Weapon of War, specifically how worship creates power, although the mechanics take on a slightly different twist making their own miracle interventions via a petition for prayer. The characters are well-developed and their little mysteries and histories are slowly revealed as the characters gain depth and grow throughout the involved plot. Despite a steady paced start you'll soon see a rise of momentum to create a super powered, dystopian, science fiction. There are some fascinating ideas, and many the scientific aspects are well explained, especially for those who know their stuff; clearly a lot of time, thought, and research was spent perfecting this aspect. This book has a bit of everything from comedy to involved science and philosophy, not forgetting the occasional twist or surprise to keep the reader on their toes. If you enjoy a science fiction space drama, then this will certainly appeal, and as a bonus it also gives the reader a little something to think about themselves.

Chris says

Book: Darkened Demigod: Weapon of War by Shawn Phillips

Characters: The characters in the story are interesting. The main story characters have a chance to develop. Some of the changes are interesting and unexpected; others you are just waiting for the characters to arrive at. Even many of the minor characters are given enough of a backstory to make them interesting and memorable.

Theme: The author seems to be going for a scifi-fantasy anchored with religion and a dystopian future.

Plot: The plot is definitely interesting. It was written well enough to keep me reading the book day after day. My biggest gripe was with certain mechanics happening with no explanation except for "just because." I don't think it is necessary to explain scifi or fantasy ideas to the point that they would actually work in the real world, but a little more depth for how things 'work' would have been a nice addition. The flip side of this is that the story mechanics don't get so confusing that you have to reference earlier parts of the story to understand what is going on.

Similar books I've read: The Coldfire Trilogy by C.S. Friedman is the set of books that come to mind after reading this story.

Recommendation: I would recommend giving this book a read, it is definitely worth the time invested. If my favorite books and my favorite authors were an A rating, then this book lives up to a B.

Monika Iszard says

This is a Goodreads Win--I actually enjoyed this book. I think that it was well written-no one character over powered another. You become immersed in the story. If you are into sci fi then this is the book for you. I would recommend this book and this one will be reread later this year.

Matthew Travagline says

I'm stuck on this one. Leaning toward a four, but ultimately will decide on three because of a few issues.

My main issue is the kind of disconnect between the first and second half of the book. Between merely getting to Mars, and the aliens. I know for a fact that if there were more concrete foreshadows to the aliens leading up to the Mars mission, the novel would not have seemed so disconnected. One really big place which could've served as a foreshadow was in the manifest of the cargo ship to Mars. Let Bookworm tell the president what was shipped (besides the material).

Same thing with the whole not having Bookworm observe the domes on the way to crash. We would've seen the ship much earlier and it would've kept things connected.

I liked the Bookworm character and the relationship he has with the president, however I was not a fan at all of the spiritual system which essentially gave the MC an out at every instance. I get that this was the point. This book is a literal deus ex machina, but there is a reason they detract from writing and being blunt, obvious and humorous about them here does not dilute that detraction.

I also found implausible the near-instantaneous prayer = send to Earth and disseminate across Earth = evoking exactly the same prayer across the entire world = send back to MC. It didn't sit well with me, logically, even in a soft-SF setting, and coupled with the aforementioned plague of the deus ex machinas, my enjoyment of the literal character change and development was spoiled.

I do like the setup for the rest of the series, but I don't get/understand/like the explanation for how MC was able to expel the aliens from controlling him. (Also why didn't they on the ship fight back more after he pulled the first one out of his neck?)

All that said, I really enjoyed the characters and settings. The plot, while laden with the DEMs, was enjoyable to read as well.

I received this book for free through Goodreads Firstreads.

Tony Parsons says

The Marsians rule the planet now.
All the collars around my neck, arms, & legs are unbreakable.
Bookworm tells Mr. President (creature) there is no food for me today.
He heads out the cavern entrance into the mine shaft.
Bookworm seems to take a fancy to Mr. President, & Mr. President to him.
Mr. President clues him in on the history of America.
Bookworm was once a F/T educator at the 1st. University.
Stanley was warning Magnate Palmer about the incoming spaceship on a collision course.
Sergeant Rinch confirmed that also.

Will the crew survive & continue on to a new mission?

I did not receive any type of compensation for reading & reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers & authors, I am under no obligation to write a positive review. Only an honest one.

A very awesome book cover, great font & writing style. A very well written outer space book. It was very easy for me to read/follow from start/finish & never a dull moment. There were no grammar/typo errors, nor any repetitive or out of line sequence sentences. Lots of exciting scenarios, with several twists/turns & a great set of unique characters to keep track of. This could also make another great sci-fi movie, an animated cartoon or better yet a mini TV series. It was just OK for me so I will only ratee it at 4/5 stars.

Thank you for the free author; Goodreads; MakingConnections; Making Connections discussion group talk;
YBCoyote Press; 1 edition; Amazon Digital Services LLC.; book
Tony Parsons MSW (Washburn)

Esther says

I received this book in a goodreads giveaway in exchange for an honest review.

((I'm not particularly good at reviews, so my review might look really mixed. Here's my TLTR review: Not a bad book, I really enjoyed it. I wouldn't highlight a book unless I really loved it. There's something I can't pinpoint about what that lacking 5th star is and this book was a little hard to finish...I did skip a good maybe 5 or 4 chapters near the end, but I did finish the book with almost a tear in my eye. Great characters, vivid fight scenes (something that I as a casual writer find very hard to write), and so much character growth and development that I've grown attached to them. Great book and lots of wisdom. 4.3/5.))

Actual Review:

I am FINALLY finished. This book was a bit long and almost impossible to finish. I can't decipher between whether it was the genre that I'm not used to, the final hurdle of schooling (finals month), or the writing style but this book took forever to finish.

I kept debating between 3 and 4 stars and ultimately settled on 4 stars maybe a 4.3 actually. Because any book that gives me feels of any kind deserves an entire star alone for it and the ending ALMOST made me tear up (almost).

I usually can pinpoint what I like and dislike about a book. I don't know why, for some odd reason, I can't put a finger on why it was so hard to read. I think that the biggest factor was the writing style and (towards the end) the actual alien stuff. I might not have read the blurb too closely when choosing books. It's been a LONG while since I've dabbled in sci-fi.

The characters, my favorite character and my favorite character development must be bookworm. Though it's too complicated for my tiny brain to wrap around the concept that the watch is bookworm...but a programmed version of him, but it's not actually him, but a machine/hero-graph, but it also is human, but also is like superhuman in his own non-demigod way, and going from a cold program to a very distinct human thing...I don't know. I'm just so attached to this little guy. Maybe I just have a thing for little nerd sidekicks, who knows. I enjoy his dry humor and sarcastic personality and his development as a character that is separate from the original bookworm and his development with the protagonist.

The demi-god. The last time I dabbled with a demi-god it was watching Moana. I know that they are amazing and him being the first ever demigod gives him an advantage and makes him different and so much stronger than other demi-gods, let alone the mortal beings around him. I don't like him, but also don't dislike him. He too grows a lot. He always maintains this shred of humanity to him and it's that human side that ultimately saves him. I just have a small thing that irks me. I know that he is all mighty and whatever he needs, his followers (try to) provides. I just have this weird feeling (and correct this bad memory reviewer here) because he seems to find a solution to every situation. The gills....the claws....make his skin into steel....Granted, to move on, most protagonists can do this. He just feels like superman. though I guess as a demi-god...he kind of...is....Maybe it's just, I'm SO used to seeing a character with a set list of abilities and not a list of strengths that are temporary. He gets a normal appearance back after transforming, his gills leave, he can learn to cope without oxygen by turning off the human side of him, etc. I must say though, he had a (Ton) of fair share of pain. He does not go through this book without pain and certainly does not OP and power through. He fails and has to resort to plan b and imperfect plans are what makes the world go round no? Cause...it's reality!

My last favorite character is probably that cocky boy. Don't know, I just like him.

So in the end, I love the characters. Everyone has a start, a personality, huge growths, has strengths and weaknesses. The writing style is very descriptive. I must admit there was a chunk I skipped in order for me to continue reading without being bored. Maybe it's too technical? I haven't read sci-fi in a long time, but glad that this book is my first one back. It truly shows an amazing world and in the end, I really enjoyed the book. Maybe there was a major block in the middle of the book I had to skip, but everything else was fantastic. The characters were written so well. I need a bookworm of my own...

If you really like a sci-fi alien invasion kind of book with lots of philosophy thrown in, (I haven't highlighted a physical book in so long! This one has tons of flags of wisdom!) this is the book for you. This concept of how demi-gods work is really intriguing too.

"The demigod creates the ripple, and they follow behind but with a ferocity that I would even fear." Human

kinds' greatest talent is the ability to be nearly annihilated and brought to its knees and somehow, no matter what, they always manage to get back up and conquer what was there to kill them...and thrive too. Thanks for any great read! And thanks for all the words of wisdom in this book!

J.N. Bedout says

This was an exciting mix of science and fantasy. The demigod seemed like a natural extension of cultural idolatry of celebrities. The ePET technology was interesting, and it was not just a cool background tech, but something that had several key influences on the how events started and evolved. The journey progresses at a good pace and has some interesting twists along the way. The relationship between the Earth and its Martian colony was fascinating, especially once we, the reader, learn more about it through the demigod's eyes and experience.

One fact that the story captures exceptionally well is the inherent arrogance of a semi-supreme being. Because they are more powerful than humans, live longer, can regenerate and transform, etc, there is a natural tendency to look down on people who lack such powers. This starts out with the demigod thinking of popping off Bookworm's head with his thumb. Furthermore, the demigod never calls people by their names. Instead, he simply calls them names like "bookworm", "boy", "Magnate", or "Lanky." The inner dialog is brilliant throughout the text and in many places really carries the story.

There are also some interesting tie-ins with current space exploration ventures, but I'll abstain from spoiling that.

The text is easy to read, including the techy parts, which by the way were really well articulated. It was almost like having Data, from Star Trek, explaining it to you, after which you'll nod and admit that it makes perfect sense. An excellent read!

Miriam Smith says

Won in the Goodreads Giveaways

An excellent science fiction / fantasy story, well written and full of intrigue. If this is your genre I highly recommend.

Mike Siedschlag says

I won a print copy of Darkened Demigod: Weapon of War by Dr. Shawn Phillips in a Goodreads Giveaway.

Author Dr. Shawn Phillips has created his own genre with this book: fant2sci. A blend of fantasy and science fiction. As the first example of this genre that I have read (I don't know if there even are any others) I have to

say he blends the two masterfully here.

Set in the future, far future, this post apocalyptic story recounts the creation and activities of a human created demigod. That is a great story in itself. Techno-geeks will find much here to nerd out over, whilst fantasy fanatics (like me) will dive into the fantasy quest aspects of the story. Our hero (anti-hero?) is a grumpy demigod who is carrying a boatload of anger. The story begins with his imprisonment in a subterranean cell chained to the walls.

The crux of the story is this demigod (there are more than one)(mini-spoiler) is responsible for the global apocalypse and by a twist of the authors creative abilities, he now is the hope of the remaining human population.

Our author is able to speak (or more correctly write) at many levels at once. He easily transitions from discussion on quantum physics to references as mundane as "Where's Waldo?" and all points in between.

Darkened Demigod is as full of twists and turns as any mystery you can name (even though it is not a mystery, that would be a fant2scistery). While reading, it often seemed that I was nearing the end of the story, but would notice that I had a fair amount of book left and then, Bang!, the story would gallop off in another direction. The quest would be recharged and continued. All in all a very exciting read that kept me engaged throughout and finished leaving me well satisfied. A great epilogue.

I found myself considering philosophically oriented questions (I usually hate when that happens). This story lends itself to discussions of philosophy, spirituality, the human condition, good vs evil and such. Though you won't catch me in such a discussion (my days of waxing philosophic are well past me), those who indulge in such esoteric activities will find much here to fuel many a discussion.

No sex, no romance, a fair amount of violence, some graphic most not. Lots of great action, dry humor and of course, fantasy and technology. Darkened Demigod; Weapon Of War by Dr. Shawn Phillips; a great read. Enjoy!

Mike

Phillip Murrell says

An unpredictable tale that pleasantly keeps you guessing

I won a copy of Darkened Demigod in a Goodreads giveaway. I'm so glad I did. The book was amazing and had everything I like. It's a mix of dystopia and superhero powers. There's much more. If you like banter, personal growth, and action, then read this. It would make a great anime series. The rest of my review will contain spoilers.

The Good.

I loved the concept of literal powers from worship, especially once Bookworm used instant relay to worshippers.

Both The President and Bookworm are fantastic characters. Their banter is fun and witty.

Using alligators as throwable objects in a fight is simply genius.

I had fun imagining the Wyndelace fight on Mars. Pillowcase lawn dart attacks were fun. Again, make this an anime!

The way the Wyndelace "beat" The President was a surprise. I'm glad he overcame it, but a part of me wondered if the book would end in his defeat.

The Bad.

I found it too coincidental that Arthuren was one of two demigods on Mars. I understand it was for closure, but we don't always get it.

The Wyndelaces monologue too much. It makes sense that The President does this. His hubris forces him to, but the aliens were supposed to be less emotional.

The Technical.

This book is written in first person present tense.

Shelly Hammond says

This book is crazy good.

This is a book that just takes you all over the place! This book starts out with a chained up demigod in a mine being questioned by a lone figure he calls Bookworm. As the demigod begins to unravel the mystery about his life and why exactly he's chained up, some major stuff happens. However, you'll need to read the book to find it all out. I'm not going to tell you. That would be cheating. I will tell you that you get to go on an interplanetary bumpy (to say the least) trip where a whole cast of characters are waiting to play with your mind.

The characters in this book are all very complex and so much more than they appear on the surface. The author did a terrific job in making sure that they were all completely different from each other. A lot of time is taken to fully develop the main character so that you feel as if you know all there is about him. Over the course of the book, sometimes through little 'clips' here and there, you are given all the information there is

about him. It's refreshing to know a character so well. He sticks with you well after you have put the book down. The side characters, especially the one that is with him the most, is as developed as needed for the story. Also, the descriptions of the places and things going on are described to where you can visualize most in your mind clearly as you read.

There were times I got confused while reading the book but that was only because the author knows his stuff! All the science and astronomy and so on was so fully developed and thought out I found I had to stop and really think about what I was reading a few times. In other words, the book at times was well over my head! That however was the fault of my own brain which only made the book that much better. It's a very good book with just so much in it!

I didn't want to give away the story as I think if you were to read the synopsis you would probably have enough to jump into the book. There are a few things that happen that are fun not to know about beforehand so I wanted to make sure not to spoil them. This is a good book so if you are even curious about it I'd say give it a shot. You may find a new favorite!

Barbara Senteney says

Loved it, I loved the ideas behind the Demigod, I like that they started out as human and changed with idol worship, and also loved who the Demigod is, but I ain't telling you must read and find out for yourself. I really enjoyed the banter between the Demigod and Bookworm, Awesome story

The Demigod/Mr. President was in a prison of his own design for many centuries. He has no idea how long he has been held in this cave until he asks bookworm, (one of the men sent to question him and write down his responses and activities.)Earth is in trouble, Mars and the Martians might be the end of human kind. Now the Demigod must rise and fight to save his world, or perish with it.

Lavender says

Placeholder

I won this book via Goodreads Giveaways.

Shawn Phillips says

First, I'm the author. So why read my newest novel?

- It's his story, the first and last, modern-day demigod. Recounting a life and choices that lead to the Global World War, which transforms into a journey to save what's left of humankind.

- It's not the norm and not what you expect. The storyline is unique, with many plot twists and right turns that will surprise the reader without leaving one feeling betrayed or misguided.

- It's written by the author of The Doppler Affect (4/5 stars on Amazon & Goodreads, Amazon Best Seller).

- Because I write to entertain others, to pull one into a different world with characters that you'll love or love to hate.

Ben says

An exciting find

I won a copy of Darkened Demigod from Goodreads to read and review. And very happy that I did. Shawn Phillips has written a novel that amazed and beguiled me with fine writing, awesome world -or worlds- building and a stunning concept. It deserves to be on everyone's list, whether sci-fi/ fantasy is your usual metier or not.

While the story is such that I can only give a brief plot synopsis for fear of dropping too many spoilers, I will give a taste of what lies between the covers.

He was one the president of The United Americas, a nation made of many nations, a super-conglomerate grown rich and powerful . As president he grew ever more in strength, power and perception ,loved by his people. They were prosperous , their skills led the world. They worshipped their president, who feasted on their worship.

The demigod had succeeded in setting up a colony on Mars , called Marsia, for expansion. But then , as other smaller rival nation conglomerates grew envious and fearful, small Wars broke out on earth until the world was shattered by the The Last World War.

Ninety-seven percent of the world population was destroyed in nuke strikes or in the lingering radiation. The president, grown into a demigod a dozen feet tall, immensely strong and powerfully perceptive awakes in shackled , deep in a mine shaft when he can no longer control anything or anyone. How long has he been there-he has no idea. His only contact is with an occasional interrogator. Then a new voice in the darkness, a voice he names The Bookworm, tells him that he is needed. He is told that the survivors on earth of the holocaust have been enslaved by the Marsian colonists to provide what Mars needs to grow; they cry for freedom to the man they made a demigod.

That is only a hint of the direction the story is to move. The reader is placed in in almost unimaginable world where the unimaginable happens-except the author imagined it and composed it in a fascinating, exciting and compelling way. The Darkened Demigod never goes in quite the direction one might expect, neither space opera nor demon- driven hyperbole. Mr. Phillips , though it may be hard to beleive, gives his demon-man depth of character and emotion with which the reader sympathizes. It is that and the pure imagination that make the book so worth the reader's time.

Ok- this review has grown too long, so I will end it by recommended The Darkened Demigod for your enjoyment.
