



Twice as Dark

Glen R. Krisch

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This omnibus contains the novels WHERE DARKNESS DWELLS and THE NIGHTMARE WITHIN. A monster of a volume, this single ebook is over 195k words (or 700+ pages if in print).

WHERE DARKNESS DWELLS

Summer, 1934. Two boys, searching for a local legend, stumble upon the Underground, a network of uncharted caverns. Time holds no sway there; people no longer age and their wounds heal as if by magic. By morning, one boy is murdered, while the other never returns.

Below a town ravaged by the Great Depression, an immortal society thrives, built on the backs of slavery and pervasive immorality.

THE NIGHTMARE WITHIN

Maury can pull dreams into the waking world, giving them corporeal form. From a boy named Kevin, he removes a nightmare dubbed Mr. Freakshow. Mr. Freakshow knows the rules: a dream becomes immortal by killing its dreamer. When the nightmare escapes his confinement, he has but one goal.

Will Kevin survive his nightmare?

Twice as Dark Details

Date : Published (first published October 3rd 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Glen R. Krisch

Format : Kindle Edition 563 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction

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From Reader Review Twice as Dark for online ebook

Stanley Townsend says

I almost want to review these two (totally unrelated) books separately but in the end decided I'd give them both 3 stars.

Jon Recluse says

A pair of brilliant dark gems that showcase the author's incredible imagination and finely honed writing skills. From a subterranean society that would have given Arthur Machen nightmares, to a nightmare that hunts its creator in the waking world, these tales will linger with you long into the night.

Chris says

Ok, now reading The Nightmare Within.....

I have already reviewed Where Darkness Dwells and will put both reviews together once I finish Nightmare.

Where Darkness Dwells:

This book is certainly aptly titled because it is indeed a very dark story. And it is clear that the darkness of which Krisch writes has many dwelling places, including the human heart. Beneath the surface of Coal Hollow there lie two undergrounds. One is the Underground Railroad which transported slaves to freedom. The other Underground leads to eternal imprisonment and damnation while giving a mockery of paradise and eternal life.

Yes, it is a story of contrasts. Light (sunlight) and darkness; good and evil, hope and despair, the living and the undead, religion and myth. It is a novel where sometimes redemption is only achieved through the ultimate of sacrifices. Where eternal life is a curse and liberation can only be sought through death. Where evil and good live on and continue to battle beyond death.

The people of Coal Hollow are complex. They are flawed. They are weak, afraid, or simply vain and selfish, and yet in spite of this are also capable of supreme sacrifice and heroism. There are touching (and heartbreaking) scenes in which goodness shines through in the darkest of places in this novel. Choices are made: some refuse to be tempted and flee while others take up arms against the evil that emerges from the Underground to drag the living down to Hell. Yet no character's action is without cost.

This is a very dark, and ultimately heroic and redemptive novel that escapes the nihilism that tales of this type often fall prey to. And it is not soon forgotten. A scene of a child searching for a home, a scene of young parents sacrificing all for their baby, and a scene of eternal suffering and damnation that would chill Dante himself run through your imagination long after the last page is turned.

Yeah, I probably need to read a book about puppies right now; but I will remember this book for a long time and will be reading more by Glen Kirsch, both now, and I am sure through the years.

The Nightmare Within:

Not nearly as dark as The Darkness Within. The Nightmare Within made me think of where our dreams come from, from what part of us, and the impact that they have on our lives. Born of trauma, or of lust, or the imagination or perhaps a replay of a beautiful or painful memory---dreams can almost have a life of their own.

I found the premise of a "dream museum" very interesting. If I have one complaint, I really wish that we had gotten an exhibit by exhibit tour. You know, where you put on the headphones and you get this great narrator telling us all the good stories behind the exhibits? I would have liked to have followed more of these dreams as they roamed our world too. There is alot there, I am sure, and I wanted more. To be sure, we got to know Freakshow very well in all his nastiness.

What I loved about this book was Kevin. That kid had heart. Not a false note there. He felt real and I was very moved by his story. And that really makes a novel for me. A good main character really drives the bus and Kevin is as good a main young character as Mark Petrie in Salem's Lot, and for me, that is saying alot. His story is heartbreaking yet he is courageous through it all.

Kirsch also drops some really good surprises in the last 20 or so pages of the book. I mean good in that when the surprise is unveiled and you nod your head and smile because all the clues were there. Sophie's story in particular was really well done. In fact I was very satisfied with the resolution of all of the story lines and that is actually rare for me. Whether the resolution was dark and destructive, or tender and heartwarming, Kirsch knows his characters and he isn't afraid to let them be themselves.

Angie says

Putting this one back on the Kindle shelf for now - just not keeping me interested . Maybe another time !

Bethica says

Two tales of horror that keep you up reading late into the night with the blankets pulled over your ears!
Absolutely a must read!

Marilou Johnson says

This is another free book that looks really good! Can't wait to start it.

Christina says

If anything, read this book for the first novel - "Where Darkness Dwells." It hooks you in from the first page and the revelations that gradually occur will likely keep you in your seat reading non-stop until the very last

page. The concept of the second novel - "The Nightmare Within" was fantastic but admittedly fell flat due to the sheer brilliance of the first one. Perhaps, if read separately rather than continuously, I might have had a different reaction.

Five stars for "Where Darkness Dwells" and three for "The Nightmare Within."

Irene says

I can't believe I lucked into this when it was free. Two full novels for the price of none! But before you kick yourself for not having snatched it up when it was free, it's more than a bargain at the current price. I've paid 3 times this price for books that I haven't enjoyed half as much. I do not give out 5 stars lightly. Strongly recommended for any true horror fans.

Char says

I was so impressed with this book (two, really) I scarcely know where to begin. I picked it up for free. So first, I thank the author.

This book contains two complete novels in one, beginning with Where Darkness Dwells.

As much takes place Underground as does above. Yes, that Underground. But also a different underground entirely. An underground where even death fears to tread, for nothing dies there. The writing style is this author's alone but his way of bringing the reader into the story is reminiscent of some of my favorite authors. This story in particular brings the essence of Robert McCammon's Boy's Life to my mind. Possibly because of the old isolated lady, or the young boy trying to find his way, or maybe because of the unidentified lake monster. In no way is this derivative of McCammon's story, but these same elements are presented in an entirely original, unflinching way. This story contains all of the beauty and the ugliness of small town life and people. Actually, there is hell of a lot of extra ugliness in this small town. Do you dare go underground? The second story is The Nightmare Within

What a premise! Imagine a guy who can pull your dreams(both good and bad) right out of your head. Then he can put them in a museum and you can watch them walk around. Pretty weird and kind of fascinating, right? But what happens when one of those walking nightmares doesn't want to be a dream anymore? Enter Mr. Freakshow. That's right, Mr. Freakshow. A big, bad, blue skinned Freak. (This one strummed my Clive Barker nerve). How can a young boy on the cusp of manhood face down a monster like that? You have to read it to find out!

I would recommend this book to any fans of dark fiction or horror.
