



Lord of the Night

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Driven by years of bitterness and hatred, Commander Sahaal of the Night Lords Chaos Space Marines will do anything to seize control of an ancient relic that will help him regain dominion over his armies, and only Mita Ashyn, an idealistic young telepath stands in his way. Original.

Lord of the Night Details

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Author : Simon Spurrier

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From Reader Review Lord of the Night for online ebook

Milo (BOK) says

Original Post: <http://thefoundingfields.com/2012/03/...>

Lord of the Night was one of the few purchases that I made at Black Library Live 2012, and I enjoyed it so much that I devoured it on the homecoming journey. Written by Simon Spurrier, you may recall that it was released several years ago as an original novel, with a different cover art that will be shown below. Unfortunately, I was yet to discover Black Library books back then, and this is why I seized the opportunity to pick up Lord of the Night from among the many Print on Demand titles that they had there, ranging from The Gothic War to the Kal Jericho Omnibus. And, was it worth the £13 that I paid for it?

Yes. A million times yes. I loved Lord of the Night, and I can see why it is the namesake of fellow TFF member, Lord of the Night. In fact, and I'm probably going to get viscerally beaten to a pulp for saying this, but I believe Lord of the Night outclasses Aaron Dembski-Bowden's Soul Hunter and Blood Reaver (Although Void Stalker may change things.), for several reasons, which will be explained below. But, before I do that, you're probably wanting to know what happens in Lord of the Night, so here's a brief blurb for you. There's no spoilers, as it's exactly the same summary as what you'll get from Black Library's page for the Print-On-Demand Title:

Young Interrogator Mita Ashyn struggles to prove herself worthy to her master despite her growing feelings of unease at the hypocrisy within the Inquisition. When they visit the remote and sunless hive-world of Equixus, she suspects nothing more than minor corruption and heresy.

Night Lords Commander Sahaal has been in exile for ten thousand years, plotting to defeat his treacherous rival Acerbus and once again rule over his dark army. To do this he must find an ancient artefact that was stolen from him, and nothing – not even the Inquisition – will stand in his way.

The full horror of the Night Lords Chaos Space Marines is revealed in this pulse-pounding SF thriller from author Simon Spurrier.

The last thing by Simon Spurrier that I read was The Culled, published by Abaddon Books and part of The Afterblight Chronicles, a multi-author series of which the review (For three books), can be found here. I enjoyed The Culled, but like Aaron Dembski-Bowden's titles, I found Lord of the Night to be a cut above that as well.

One of the book's strength is its characters. With Mita Ashyn and Zso Sahaal are strong, and develop throughout the novel, to the point where neither can be described as simply the 'good girl' or the 'bad guy', as they both have positive and negative aspects about them. Both get roughly the same amount of page-time, with different chapters alternating between different points of view. Whilst in some books that I've read, I find that having two different perspectives running throughout the whole novel can slow down the pace a bit, it doesn't here. In Lord of the Night, the pace is constantly fast moving throughout the novel, and there is no slow moment in the entire book.

Ashyn is a very strong female character, and is perhaps one of the strongest that I've read in science fiction and fantasy, and she's just as much a key player to the story as Sahaal.

The novel itself is defiantly one of the better Warhammer 40,000 novels out there, despite the somewhat hefty £13 pricetag that is slapped on the Print on Demand edition. After all, this novel only has the same

length as your average Black Library book. However, the quality of Lord of the Night makes up for it, as I couldn't find any negative thing in the book.

The action scenes in this novel are many, and are well-written. Gory, bloody battle scenes are another one of the novel's strengths, and I'd say this is as close to a Horror novel that we've seen published from Black Library (unless I've missed something). In fact, this novel is actually pretty different to any Black Library novel that I've read before, in particular the language used. Spurrier has created something that is not what a regular Black Library fan is used to, but nonetheless – it is a joy to read. I loved every minute of it.

This book has described as being similar to the Hannibal Lector novels, and although I haven't read any of them yet so I can't make a comparison myself, if they're anywhere near as good as Lord of the Night was, but I defiantly now want to go and find out more about them.

In conclusion, a must read for all Warhammer 40k fans, and even non 40k fans may enjoy this book. It's a character driven, intriguing novel that is extremely awesome.

Verdict: 5/5

Dmitrijs Prigodics says

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Ethan says

Interesting WH40K book in that it is written mostly from the perspective of a traitor space marine (not a chaos space marine, that distinction is important) who has been isolated since the Horus Heresy and wakes on an unfamiliar world hunting for something stolen from him. Worth reading as it provides interesting history and perspectives on the Night Lords space marine chapter.

Pat says

This book is a lot like a hannabol lector book in that the plot is twisty and everything has a sinister touch to it. The book follows a Night lord whos looking for a stolen item that will revive his army that he had ande the inquisition thats after him. Through and through though the book is really good and "Ave Dominix Nox"

Bob Cacdac says

Should have read it sooner. Night Lord gets stuck on a planet and creates an army, uses them to his purposes. Liked how it highlighted his tactics of fear. I like how he's betrayed in the end, and I like how his brother heretics come to save him and pillage the world

Chris says

A great Warhammer 40K universe read, that delves into the to the History of the Night Lords. Mita is an inquisitor brought on a mission to the world of Equixus. Zso is one of the Night Lords awakening from a long slumber in the Warp to reclaim his heritgae. What follows is an interesting trip whereby these two characters are heavily developed and keep intersecting until the climatic ending of the book, with a very interesting Epilogue. Time to read more.

Johannes Haan says

Not a five-star, but really great!

Zare says

Chaos Marines are rather disturbing folks and the most disturbing Chaos Marines Legion is of course the Night Lords Legion. I wonder who ever, I mean ever (!!) thought up this guys to be good-guys (a any point in W40K time-line) is beyond me.

Using techniques and methods that are horrendous this Legion is the only Traitor Legion that lives with Chaos in some weird sort of symbiosis (never truly succumbing to it) and has extremely low opinion of and holds some very very very bad feelings towards the Emperor.

Throughout this rather bloody and grim SF horror tale we get the glimpse of Night Lords' heritage, main characters doubts and fears and end up (at least I do for quite some time after reading W40K novels) with questions - what truly is the goal of the Emperor, is it possible that he-who-knows-oh-so-much just wasn't able to predict how his sons (Primarchs) will behave? Also are all the Traitor Primarchs truly traitors or...?

Very interesting book (if you like SF horror stories you'll like this one even if you are not into W40K lore).

Recommended.

Loki says

Wonderfully atmospheric cat and mouse game set in one of the grimmest and darkest corners of Warhammer 40,000's grimdark future. A Chaos Marine and a young psyker working for the Inquisition match wits - but are they both just pieces in some larger game? Does their conflict, depict in miniature both the futility and the nobility of the the imperium's never-ending struggle against chaos and heresy? Who cares, it's another cracking good read by Si Spurrier.

Emily Berry says

Although wordy at times this is an excellent book to get introduced into the world of Warhammer 40k.

Callum Shephard says

Lord of the Night is one of Black Library's fan favourites, comparable in some circles with Storm of Iron and the original Gaunt's Ghosts novels. While often overlooked due to the Night Lords trilogy these days, it's still easy to see why; serving as a fascinating character study of the Imperium's servants, faith, trust and corruption.

The story focuses upon the hive world of Equixus as it has received an important delegation of visitors, an Ordo Xenos Inquisitor and his retinue, as they root out tauist cells within the city. Amongst them is the psychic Interrogator Mita Ashyn, yet to earn her place in their eyes and distrusted for her skills. Unseen however is a much more sinister figure. Trapped within a Warp storm for ten thousand years, the Night Lord commander Zso Sahaal stalks the city, hunting the stolen gift bestowed upon him by his primarch.

The two protagonists serve as contrasting yet comparable figures following the same path from opposite ends. Each having a near mythical figure they serve, each acting as very much the outcast isolated from their kind and each does not know the full truth of their kind as the other does. But whereas one is loyal the other is a traitor, whereas one has seen the face of his god the other is only understands him through prayer and blind devotion.

The similar path they take is what gives the novel its driving force and is easily its best part, exploring their thoughts, personalities and history. Frequently using the on-going plot itself as a device for them to work off of rather than, as seen in some novels, having them serve largely as devices to further the plot. The changes they undergo in the story and events they follow means that by the end neither is the character they were introduced as. While often heavy handed these portrayals they stand head and shoulders above all other characters in the novel, unfortunately for all the wrong reasons.

While Sahaal and Ashyn's characterisations are a point of praise, everyone else serves as a one dimensional device for them to be developed from. Far too many points in the plot feel like they're being driven by the stupidity of the side characters and frequently the Imperium's paranoia is ramped up to ludicrous degrees. The crowning examples of this are with Equixus' arbites. Notably an obstructive commander causing problems because he has heard of the inquisition blowing up worlds for minor heresies, not even considering that his own actions could be grounds for accusations of heresy. Also an unnamed subordinate of who shuns Ashyn upon realising she's a psyker, instantly forgetting she just saved him by fighting off a traitor astartes. You can't help but feel the novel would be much shorter if Equixus' population had a few more brain-cells between them.

The only positive upside of this is the satisfaction of seeing most of them get killed in one of the book's many bloody skirmishes. While not holding a candle to what was seen in Fire Warrior, Spurrier clearly knew what he was doing when dealing with Sahaal, having him perform the Batman style stealth assaults his legion have become known for. While lacking in some descriptions these are again another aspect used to further the characters in many aspects, building them up and establishing them in the eyes of the reader.

If there is a definite flaw to be found, besides Sahaal's jaunt in the Warp, in this it's that the book reserves far too much of its payoff for the last chapters. While this might sound strange, aside from the character insight much of the book up to Part Four feels like it's spinning its wheels. It just keeps hammering in the

same plot points, using the same cardboard side-characters, and focusing upon them for far longer than you'd want it to without any real indication of progression. Any developments never seem to bring the character's closer to their goals and it's only in the last few hundred pages that they actually do start to make serious progress and the reader gets answers. This also leads to Sahaal only having a brief exchange with the members of his legion which have seen the last ten thousand years, most of which is isolated to one character. It lacks much of the impact for the payoff you'd want despite the revelations it gives and final stages of Sahaal's development.

If you are looking for a novel which explore characters, many aspects of faith and obedience but willing to stomach its failings with pace and secondary characters, definitely look this one up. In spite of its flaws it's a very good entry into the Night Lords books and was responsible for popularising many now well-known concepts such as Konrad Curze's split personality and the role of the legion in the Crusade. Just be ready to get infuriated every few pages though.

Tim says

I finished this book after reading Soul Hunter and Blood Reaver by Aaron Dembski-Bowden. But I admit I had to re-read the parts where ADB mentions the main character of this story. In hindsight, lucky I forgot, because what is told in Soul Hunter puts a radically different perspective on how the main character sees what happened.

Like the Night Lords trilogy (or probably the other way around), this story gives an insight on the psyche of this traitor chapter, and the reasons why they joined the heresy.

The main story, told from two different viewpoints (one 'evil', one 'good') is captivating as hell and despite the sheer impossibility of it ever happening, brings the two views together in harmony.

A great thing about the story is that the portrayal of a chaos marine of the first founding in the current 41st millenium gives the Space Marines again the respect they deserve: I have to admit that reading that many marines fiction made me almost look at the Astartes as "normal, bit stronger" humans.

The author is not a Black Library regular, and it shows. His use of language is surprisingly different to what I'm used to, but I'll have to say that it's refreshing.

I'd recommend this book fondly to anyone that is just getting past the introduction stories of the WH40K universe, and anyone that wants to see some finer points about what's good, and what's evil about the world.

oh, and by the way, the scene in which the Night Lord is making an astropath send a telepathic message is FUCKING SCARY !!

Nick says

For some reason, I didn't think I was going to enjoy this book; maybe it was the hyperbolic caption that "The master of terror now has something to fear" (after finishing the book I still have no idea what this means), or maybe it's the fact that the cover has a evil Space Marine hefting a chainsword seemingly peering at the viewer from a big glowing vagina (although I'm not sure how that could be anything but awesome now that I'm thinking about it).

In any case, I of course shouldn't have judged the book by the cover, as it's quite good. It's about a Chaos Space Marine who's just woken up after being trapped in the Warp for 10,000 years and his search for the Corona Nox - all you really need to know is that it's the mcguffin - with his actives falling under the investigation of an Inquisitor who is the other POV character. And it's very good; for once I can't even really think of any little details to complain about. The author makes POV switches easy to follow by just printing the character's name at the start of a chapter - why more authors don't do this I have no idea - and both of our main characters are wonderfully fleshed out, to the point where I felt conflicted not knowing which one of them to root for when they came into conflict. On top of that, Spurrier has an excellent grasp of the Night Lords and the W40k setting in general, and I really enjoyed how he showed a single Chaos Space Marine being able to stir up an incredible amount of conflict and strife in the hive city that he comes to call home as he pursues his goal. It's too bad Spurrier only wrote one more 40k novel that I can find; he knocked this one out of the park.

Mark says

This was a very dark book. I know that the Warhammer 40K series is a dark series, the whole of humanity is essentially constantly at war, internally and externally. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoyed the read, it was my first venture into the Warhammer series (I've sadly never even played the game - one of my dreams). The writing was fine, but well above an average reader. I only say that because for the first time since I was 10 I had to use a dictionary to look up words that were being used. I don't remember then off the top of my head, but 6 syllable words to basically say "oily" - and there were a lot of them. The character development was great, by the time I was done I really felt like I had connected with the two main characters, what their driving forces were and why they were motivated to do what they did. The ending though, that's why killed it for me. Out of nowhere we get the introduction of a third party that explains what's really been going on and it felt hacked together. I love the game Deus Ex, not the literary device though.

I really felt like this was a great first read in the universe because it touched on the history of the "present" conditions, why things are the way they are, but didn't focus in the past, it was very much set in the present. So, if you don't mind explicit violence in your reading and you're curious what abysmal future the makers of Warhammer 40K have imagined for the human race, you could very well enjoy the book.

Adrian Edwards says

Characters: The characters in this novel are very well described. Their mental and physical state is described throughout the novel. My like of the characters is questionable. At some points I feel as though I can connect with what the characters are going through or feeling. But I can't say I like them, at most I respect the characters and their actions. The characters do stay true to themselves, for the most part. One of the characters, Sahaal, stays true to himself and his motive. But I feel that the other main character, Mita, does not stay true to herself. As for later on in the book she starts to question herself, her motives, and why she does what she does.

Rating: 5

Setting: I think that the setting is important. Because of the setting, events or action happen the way they happen. Basically, the characters use the setting, which I consider to be important. At times the setting seems to drag on, but other times it seems to fly by. I do not believe it would have been possible for the story to happen the way it did if it took place in a different place and time. Because the characters used the setting and the time on the planet the story took place on. In the universe this novel takes place in and the way these

novels are written you are never on the same planet, or even a similar planet, twice. Could it be similar, yes, but it could not be the same.

Rating: 5

Plot: In the novel the story was not told in the usual order, the author threw in several plot devices. I was surprised by the ending. The author did a great job of making it difficult to guess what would happen in the end. A Lord of a traitor Space Marine legion was exiled and needed to find an artifact to enact his revenge on his nemesis. While an inquisitor of the Inquisition is sent to the planet expecting only minor cases of heresy, but is shocked by what she finds in its place.

Rating: 4

Theme: I do not believe the novel had a theme, possibly because I did not analyze the story well enough. But I think it was written more for the fun and enjoyment of creating a new story, and a new adventure to take readers on. The title has nothing to do with the theme. In fact, the title is about one of the main characters in the novel. As the title is, "Lord of The Night", and one of the characters is a Night Lord.

Rating: 1

Personal Response: I really enjoyed this novel. Because I prefer books with lots of action and suspense, books that make me want to keep reading and this was one of those books. I would recommend this book to a select few, because not many people have heard of Warhammer 40K, which is the universe the books takes place in. I feel that people would become confused as to what's happening in the novel, or why things happen the way they do.
