



# Dark as Night

*Mark T. Conard*

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## **Dark as Night** Mark T. Conard

A man, trying to help his brother stay out of trouble, is drawn into the violent and unforgiving world of the Philadelphia mob in this noir thriller. Morris White is the sous-chef at a first-rate Philadelphia restaurant, Le Tour de Cochon. All he wants is to leave behind his past and open his own spot. His dream comes one step closer to reality when the affair he's having with Vicky Ward heats up. Not only is she the manager of the restaurant he's working at, she also comes from money and a privileged background. She wants to make his dream come true, and the only thing that could stop them from doing it together is the one thing Morris hasn't told her about: his half-brother, Vince Kramer, is about to get out of Graterford Prison. Morris is finding it harder and harder to escape his hometown roots, which unlike the crisp, white linens of La Tour, are black as hell and dark as night.

## **Dark as Night Details**

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Author : Mark T. Conard

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## From Reader Review Dark as Night for online ebook

### Rory Costello says

This was a solid, ingenious crime thriller. All the little gears in the plot meshed. The atmosphere -- Philly's underbelly -- was portrayed vividly. The cast of characters was terrific. I especially enjoyed a lot of the secondary players, notably Lenny and Mo. Franks was a memorable bad cop. The dialogue and action are sharp too. A winner all around.

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### Dylan Hearn says

If you like your crime fiction dark, brutal and gritty; then this is the book for you. Dark as Night follows the story of Morris, a young man dying to make his way as an up-market chef having escaped a troubled past. But when his brother, Vince, is released from prison, Morris finds himself dragged back into a world he'd thought he had left behind. And what a world it is. There is no glamour here, no elevation of criminals as heroes. Cornard ensures each and every page is tainted by the grim, seedy reality of what I imagine life in the criminal underworld of south Philly is really like. This is less like Goodfellas and more like The Wire.

This is not a book for the feint-hearted. Many of the characters are deeply unpleasant. This is a world where violence, greed and mysogyny are rife, and while very few characters come across sympathetically, it is clear that these people are a product of the world they inhabit and the choices they've made. But don't think the book is all bleak. Despite his flaws, in Morris you have somebody trying to do the best in a bad situation, and you can't help but be drawn into the his story to find out whether he succeeds, or not. Recommended.

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### Pamela says

Le Tour de Cochon, a top Philadelphia restaurant, is hoped by aspiring sous chef, Morris, to be the stepping stone to his own restaurant, whereby he can finally feel as if he has fully blossomed away from his 'dark as night' roots and his talent, combined with prodigious hard work, bear fruit. Having a love affair with Vicky, the manager of the restaurant, with her moneyed background, Morris believes that he can realise his goals of a better life as she shares his dream of opening an eaterie together. Those roots, however, threaten to trip him up when his half-brother, Vince, is released from prison and comes to stay with him, given Vince's tangled involvement with the Philly mob.

The dialogue in this noir-ish, fast-paced, suspense thriller is superbly sharp: I could 'hear' the various characters talking to me from the page. Highly entertaining, this novel, sent to me by Goodreads for review, is Raymond Chandler-esque with more than a soupçon of Elmore Leonard about it, and largely faultless. I did feel that the overt reference to Socrates at the end was a little forced though, as if the author, an Assistant Professor of Philosophy, was concerned that not all readers would grasp one of the underlying drivers in the story unless explicit attention was drawn to it. However, this was a minor point in a tight yet gritty novel and one that I think would convert well to film. I suggest the author revise this into a screenplay as I would enjoy seeing it in my cinema!

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**Noella says**

time for a noir

eh. not really my style.

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**Robin Jonathan Deutsch says**

Absolutely excellent. One of the best books I've read in a long time,

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**Sheila Cohen says**

This book is not my usual type of read but I enjoyed it. It's a noir thriller and it's funny and violent. I felt sorry for poor Morris.

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