



The Darkness & the Dawn

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In Darkness the major figure lurking in the background is Attila the Hun. The story centers upon a man named Nicolán who has been sold into slavery to the Romans but escapes to Attila and helps the Hun in an effort to avenge himself on the Romans. There is also a love story involving Nicolán and a girl from his homeland and a sub-plot or two of interest.

The Darkness & the Dawn Details

Date : Published July 1st 1985 by Doubleday Books (first published January 1st 1959)

ISBN : 9780385054546

Author : Thomas B. Costain

Format : Hardcover 478 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Classics, Romance

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From Reader Review The Darkness & the Dawn for online ebook

Kenneth says

An historical novel set in the mid-5th century AD, when Attila the Hun was invading the Roman Empire. Read this back when I was in high school, I think.

Barb in Maryland says

Attila the Hun.

Jim says

A great historical novel--which I read before. Set in the 5th C., as Rome trembles before the might of Attila the Hun, the story focuses on Nicolan, an escaped slave who offers his services to Attila, then turns against him...

Liz Gibbs says

I ended up loving this book! The beginning was slow and I was having trouble keeping up with all of the characters, but I kept reading and was greatly rewarded. I learned a lot about Attila the Hun and some of the other characters from history, but I also fell in love with the fictional character Nicolan. I love that unusual name! Thomas B. Costain weaves a fabulous story of heartache and triumph through Nicolan's life and the love of his life, Ildico.

Jean says

Excellent.

Vicky says

His historicals are still as good as the present ones.

Julia says

I received this book as a giveaway and was surprised at the general age of the book since it is nowhere new. But I am very fortunate to have been given a chance to read this book so I can carry it forth into the age where older books seem to more or less vanish into the past.

The author does an amazing job to hold such a big book of characters and events together. He does an even more wonderful job in weaving the characters together, giving them strong personalities and bringing to life a time when the world was holding its breath between the clash of its world leaders while others struggled to survive both the world and life in general.

The writing is simple and easy to follow even when it seems to twist upon itself. The motives are easy to follow although giving an occasional surprise that you don't see coming and it is spellbinding so you just want to keep on diving into the pages to see how the story is turning out.

And unlike many authors Mr. Costain doesn't truly end his book. He gives the historical facts of those characters that had real breath and as for his own he just shrugs off as if by narrating the main plot that was all he was entailed to do. He implies what may have occurred to those fictitious personas that you have followed but that is all that it is a vague hint.

The main reason I didn't give it 5 stars is since there were parts that were slightly dull but with the size of the book they weren't too many. There were other faces that I would have enjoyed to see stretched upon but I could see the difficulties that it would make. Still all in all it was a great book to enjoy and a new favorite.

Received this book as part of the Members Giveaway at Librarything.com for free in exchange for a review

Hannah says

This book took awhile for me to get into, but as soon as I did I couldn't put it down. Very few books are rich like this one. I loved the details and the story line. This book is beautifully written and will always be one of my favorites. It has so much to offer the reader.

Anne says

I have read this book at least 3 times. I have a copy I have had for years,. It is a wonderful story during early Christianity and with Attila the Hun and wonderful characters. Plus beautiful horses for thehorse lovers like me. Highly recommended.

Calwriter8966 says

Nice historical yarn.

E. Writes says

I read and thoroughly enjoyed this book many years ago, and even now it is one of the story lines that sticks with me, out of the hundreds of books I have read. It is unique and refreshingly different, the setting is highly interesting and not at all over worked. The portrayals of historical persons are vibrant and work well within the plot.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes an edge on their history, gets bored with repetitive historicals, or (as other reviewers have mentioned,) likes horses. ;-)

Calla says

Thomas Costain is a master writer of historical factor, and this tale doesn't disappoint. The capricious nature of Attila the Hun is intelligently portrayed through interactions with the characters in this novel, providing a good grasp to this reader who is otherwise unfamiliar with this historical figure.

Maudie says

I first read "The Darkness and the Dawn" back in the early 1960's...a lifetime ago. This reread did not disappoint, although I paid more attention to Mr. Costain's rendering of Attila the Hun this go round...the author's view of this complex man was more interesting this time...or, perhaps, maturity has given me a clearer insight?...

Becca says

Amazing book! I learned SO MUCH about this time period. Some parts are a bit gory, but considering the setting that's kind of necessary. It in no way detracts from the story for me.

Theo says

This is one of a fairly large category: embarrassing historical novels I totally enjoyed. But really, the plot is decent, the writing's okay, and the characters could be worse.
