



# Lighthouse Nights

*Jake Vander-Ark*

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## **Lighthouse Nights** Jake Vander-Ark

Jules and Trevor take advantage of suicidal teens by encouraging them and profiting off their deaths. When Jules falls in love with their eighth target, she's forced to make a series of life-or-death decisions and a single, impossible change.

LIGHTHOUSE NIGHTS is a frightening parable about haunting regret, maniacal hatred, and ultimate redemption. This fast-paced story is as touching as it is twisted and highlights a disturbing new trend among American teens.

THE MIDNIGHT MASTERMIND SERIES is a savage anthology of pulp stories about Trevor, a charming sociopath caught between the love in his heart and the storm in his gut. Lighthouse Nights is BOOK ONE in the series, though Trevor's adventures can be read in any order.

## **Lighthouse Nights Details**

Date : Published September 2017 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform (first published January 1st 2011)

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Author : Jake Vander-Ark

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# From Reader Review *Lighthouse Nights* for online ebook

## Dayla says

**Review first appeared on my blog: Book Addict 24-7**

I received this novel from the author for review.

Dark and seductive, *Lighthouse Nights* by Jake Vander Ark is a gripping story of two teenagers who cross paths under one of the worst possible circumstances. Vander Ark displays his gift for the written word yet again, if not more precisely, in this novel about suicide, love, and the decisions we make.

What caught my eye right away was the writing style. Vander Ark disregards capitalization, save for moments where a character is emphasizing something being said, and manages to add even more darkness to his story. The lack of capitalization wreaks havoc on the most organized mind, causing momentary confusion and effectively draws the reader into the mindset of the characters. By not having the story written in the exact format that we, as readers, are accustomed to, Ark is challenging us to think beyond what we know and explore the troubles that teens facing depression may experience--all of this by simply alienating us from are previous conceptions of literature.

Of course, the characters, Jules, Trevor, and Gabriel, to name the important few, are all evidence of the darkness within these pages. *Lighthouse Nights* is a beautiful portrayal of how life can go very wrong and how decisions can affect us long after it is too late.

The format of the novel makes it a quick read--it is only 171 pages! And the style that Vander Ark portrays the different characters' narrative is fluid and easy to follow. Despite the dark concept, there are moments where the reader feels connected to the characters, even when they are angry, sad, or happy. That's the beauty of Vander Ark's writing: he has a wonderful way of making you a part of the story, despite the tone and context. Also, Vander Ark's poetic prose is hard to resist, making him a must-read.

Since this story is on the dark side, I would recommend it to those with a stronger stomach, simply because of how blatant it is about suicide. On the other hand, this novel, though knee-deep in gloominess, is a message of hope: you are not alone, there is someone waiting for you--you just have to search: sometimes s/he is right in front of you.

Read *Lighthouse Nights* and feel your heart swell and slowly break with the unexpected twist when the conclusion falls upon you.

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## Briggs Rose says

*Lighthouse Nights* was about a couple, Joules and Trevor, making fun and is trying to get certain kids to commit suicide. Joules and Trevor end up facing the deaths of many of these kids. Later in the book, Joules travels to Gabe's house to try to make him commit suicide. She stayed at his house for a while without his parents finding out. In the end, she ended up falling in love with him.

I thought that this book was very interesting. I felt like it was harder to concentrate on the idea of the book

because of the grammar. I think that it would be easier to understand the book better if the sentences and names started with a capital letter. I didn't really understand the book very much which made it hard to like it.

I would recommend this book to people who really like reading. I would also recommend "Lighthouse Nights" to people that like more fiction books for teenagers. This could also be recommended to people who like love and romance books. I defiantly think that this book should be for teens and older because of what the book is about.

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### **Nicole says**

sad story with an interesting ending

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### **Lisa Kostiuk says**

Only problem with this book is it's too short! Great writing and free!

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### **Michelle says**

I'm not a person that typically reads dark stories, but I loved Vander Ark's first book so much that I decided to give this one a chance. I'm extremely glad I did. His writing once again drew me in and kept me reading until the wee hours of the morning. There were multiple points where I was yelling at my computer screen or hugging my knees to my chest because there was just so much going on. I really felt for all the characters, even the ones I didn't really like. It was an incredibly dark, twisted, and thrilling story that I'll never forget.

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### **Katie Kenig says**

This book was really a bright spot.

I'd gotten to the point where I was reading many books that were slow-moving and just not all that compelling, and then I picked up this slim little volume and all that changed.

Jules and her boyfriend Trevor help people die. Only people that really want to die; they troll a suicide chat room looking for the lost and downtrodden, make a "pact" to die with them, then rob the corpses blind once the other party has departed. It's a good living, and after all, they have their own American dream to pursue. All of it seems pretty easy to deal with, until Jules comes across one guy who doesn't want a suicide pact; instead he wants to convince her to live.

The lack of capitalization in this book is an interesting choice. I suspect that the author was inspired by ee cummings, since the poet is mentioned in the work. If you're a reader of authors like Cormac McCarthy, or spend a lot of time on the internet (hah!) you won't notice after a while. It gives the novel a very casual feel, just like the chatrooms the characters spend so much time in.

\*This book was received at no cost through the GoodReads First Reads program.

Trev, Jules, Gabe and every other character in the story were honestly real in personality and actions. Although Trev is one hell of a sickening character for me, Vander Ark made me feel sympathy for the dirty rotten sunova at the end...that doesn't make me happy, like seriously?! DDDDD: Still I'm too nice and I will be a victim of sympathetic play for even the bad guy. :/ Regardless every character -- I believe both Jules and Gabe were my favourites -- were SO well-developed to the point I just got attached to each, even tried persuading in my own head DON'T DO IT LIFE IS WORTH LIVING JUST GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO SHOW YOU ASDFGHJKL. < / 3 Jules because she is such a multi-dimensional character and Gabe because

well he reminds me of myself in more ways than one -- well, more like the first half and he reminds me of someone else.

CURSE YOU VANDER ARK FOR THESE FEELS + FOR BREAKING MY HEART REPEATEDLY  
ASDFGHJKL. < / 3

The darkness in the novel is startling but it really shows the proper insight into the subject matter at hand. We're dealing with something that shouldn't be taken lightly, and Vander Ark pulls it off wonderfully and more. I got wrapped into the story that *Lighthouse Nights* is and it was just simply delightful, despite the deep darkness ingrained in the story.

And the poetic prose, oh my, it was like a well-deserving eulogy for those affected by suicide as well as the victims and those helpless to prevent it. A must read style of writing -- I'm jealous. It just draws you in without realizing it and next thing you know, you MUST ABSOLUTELY GET TO THE FUDGING END OR ELSE YOU'LL JUST GO ASDFGHJKL. Vander Ark's style just draws you into the story, and before you know it -- you, the reader have become a part of the story. And the honesty that this story presents is beautifully composed.

Funny story though...I was typing my own story while reading this and I just couldn't keep myself away from the story long enough to work on my own personally lol. Now don't get me wrong, this was the PERFECT distraction to be honest. Just makes me want to work harder on my own to create such an amazing character driven plot-twister stories that just WOWS readers (especially hardcore readers like myself) and stuns them ridiculously amazed. xD

Despite the darkness that this story portrays with the subject matter of suicide, but what kind of story dealing with suicide is EVER sunshine and rainbows? NONE THAT'S WHAT. Regardless of the core of this disheartening despair lies the simple message of *hope*. It is hope that drives us to never to give up. It is hope that tells us we're not alone in this seemingly dark hour. It is hope that gives us the will to live. It is hope that saves us. It is hope that at the heart of this story.

My only complaint is though...IT'S ONLY 171 PAGES LONG. ASDFGHJKL. TOO DAMNED SHORT. I WANT MORE. I DON'T CARE IF THE STORY IS SUPPOSEDLY "DONE" I WANT MORE. MORE MORE MORE MOAR LAWL. XD

I applaud you Jake Vander Ark, you've done it once again.

If you haven't become one of my favourite authors after *The Accidental Siren* then *Lighthouse Nights* certainly did. <3

Thank you for giving me the honour to read and review this personally. It really made my Christmas Break so far. Just thank you. And you've wowed me with the honesty woven into this story (like *The Accidental Siren*) to the point I could have sworn I knew Trev, Jules and Gabe in real life (which I have known such people like them, its pretty scary to see and read them in words lol).

I can't wait to read another book!

I'm still in awe...surprised I could even sleep last night, or rather this morning after finishing this book.

Just FUDGING BRILLIANT WOW HONESTLY.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of such an amazing work.

Thank you, just thank you truly. <3

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## **Melissa says**

This book gets a 5 because yet again, Jake Vander Ark has managed to leave me speechless.

When I read the synopsis for this book, I thought to myself, "There is no possible way he can swing this story and not have it turn out badly! The subject is so taboo, that everyone avoids it or slams it. People will never be receptive to this type of thing." I thought that surely I was going to have a hard time swallowing this book, and admittedly, it was a rather hard read for me at first. For as long as I can remember, Suicide has been a dirty word, and I'm sure it always will be. It happens all the time but we try to rationalize it away because it makes us uncomfortable and we want to forget. It has personally touched me in many a different way and I was afraid that my personal views were going to prejudice my opinion of the book. Turns out that it didn't.

This book didn't glorify suicide, it just made you look at it in a different light. A realistic light. One that doesn't try to sway you. It just is what it is.

I commend JVA for taking on something so touchy. He walked us through quite a few different perspectives in the course of this book and they all were relatively spot on. For instance, I had to choke down the douchebaggery that was Trevor, the psychopath, and remind myself that he was fictitious. He seriously needed to see the inside of a gas chamber. Just sayin'!

Jules - that poor girl - was horribly broken and insecure. She was the typical battered woman who hung on to a dream that was never going to come true. Trevor preyed on her just like all the others he victimized. Constantly kept her down and doubting herself and he used her love for him as a bargaining tool. It was disgusting and so realistic. I didn't really like Jules till the middle of the book. She was an enabler and had little to no respect for human life. She was self destructive until she met Gabe. Gabe was her respite. A place for her to be free of all the stress and death in her life - a place to blossom. I'd venture to say he was the only good thing in her life, ever. Gabe saved her and she destroyed him. She did redeem herself later on however and I just fell in love with her.

Gabe was probably my favorite character in the book. Even when he face dove into prickville, I still loved him. I don't think that he could have been a greater character, honestly. :)

As for the book as a whole, I LOVED every single minute of it! So dark and sinister and just twisted - it was almost like an adult Alice in Wonderland but instead of chasing the white rabbit, they were chasing the lives of others. It makes me shiver just thinking about it!

I strongly encourage EVERYONE to pick up this book and be open to not only the story, but to the people within it. You just may know an Emma or John or Blake and this book could be the reason you listen, when you might otherwise have not. Just think about that!

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## **Susan Barton says**

Trevor and Jules are a dysfunctional couple who take advantage of suicidal people they meet in an internet chat room. They encourage deeply depressed individuals to end it all so they can steal their valuables. Trevor is clearly psychotic, with no qualms whatsoever about what they're doing. Jules, on the other hand, is running from a tragic past and has more of a conscience. When it comes time to help Gabe Jones commit suicide she falls in love with him instead, driving Trevor into a dangerous and murderous rage.

Lighthouse Nights is definitely dark and twisted. The author clearly has the ability to tap into an evil side - a sign of a gifted writer. As I read, I found Gabe and Jules to be likable characters and I was able to care about the outcome of their relationship. Trevor's villainous character was also well written.

The author chose to write the entire book in lower case, which, although I found it unusual, I found it worked well and wasn't distracting like I thought it might be. The book is a fairly quick read, but it's a deeply engaging story. I suspect the author's screenwriting experience has much to do with it - no long-winded dialogue or superfluous narrative here.

If you're looking for a unique and dark romance, Lighthouse Nights is it. While this book is written about teens and twenty-somethings, the subject matter should appeal to readers of any age. Just be aware that the story is intense, but in the end the take away is important - life is hard, but we're not alone, all we need to do is reach out to seek help.

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## **Courtney says**

lighthouse nights is gritty poetry. It is both intensely disturbing and exhilarating, a suicide-themed love story that should not work but does. Vander Ark creates a fast-paced story with beautiful attention to detail, a rare and wonderful achievement few writers can manage. Ultimately, lighthouse nights is a story of redemption, of striving to become a better person after spending too much time wandering through a personal hell. It grabbed me from the first page and didn't let go until well after I reached the end.

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## **michelle says**

Holy mother of pearl. I think I literally just said "holy shit" aloud about five times in a row--even after finishing the book.

I'll start off by claiming that I can't seem to enjoy novels by self-published authors often, if ever. This isn't saying professionally published novels are always great; more like, good self-published authors are hard to come by. But Jake Vander Ark--he's good. Save the occasional grammar mistakes, his writing style is absolutely fluid.

*Lighthouse Nights* is all sorts of messed up. Jules and her boyfriend Trevor make a living off of stealing from the dead--Jules coaxes the victim into having a suicide pact. When said victim dies, Jules and Trevor take what they can get their grimy hands on. All ends well until Jules falls in love with what should be their last victim: Gabe. Gabe is not a suicidal victim. Gabe, whose only purpose is to convince Jules to live.



The novel is gritty and psychotic, but also endearing in few places. It's a story told from different perspectives of suicide. Some follow the idea of helping those who are helpless. Others follow the mind that teen suicide is self-absorbing. But each thought is very real--maybe in a real suicide victim or their helpless friend or an onlooker who doesn't know shit. As twisted as the book is, as far-fetched as the plot may seem, it felt very, very real. And this is exactly how suicide should be portrayed: very, very real in very different perspectives.

The novel focuses around three central characters: Jules, Trev, and Gabe. Each has a will and a way of living. And each is emotionally wrought out and grown by the end of the novel.

I didn't think such a good synopsis could occur in less than 200 pages. Nor did I think character development could occur. But boy did it ever.

*Lighthouse Nights* has all the emotions down to a tee--I went from being horrified with Jules and Trev to adoring Gabe to adoring Gabe and Jules to wanting to strangle every single main character in the book at least once. The climax and ending were quite possibly perfect though it had me urging to read more.

**What I absolutely loved about this little piece of work were the characters.** Each one was so different, kind of psychotic in their own way, and felt very heart-breakingly real. I romanticized with Gabe and ached for Jules and wanted to punch Trev in the gut. But I also wanted to slap Gabe and shake Jules by the shoulders and hug Trev. By saying that, I mean, even when the characters were so easy to hate, they were very well-developed and evoked a ton of emotions, both good and bad. They were each terrible people at times, but they also all had wonderful moments that gave a small reminder that, they're human despite the crazy shit that happened.

#### **Things that were kind of off to me:**

One, I found it rather strange that, with how much Gabe loved Jules, (view spoiler) I mean, I get the whole make-up and wig shabam and only knowing her a couple of days, but eyes are pretty hard to forget once they're engrained in your mind. They're like souls to identities. (view spoiler)

Two, the lack of capitalization didn't do much for me. Whether or not Vander Ark had purpose for the lack of capitalization, however poetic it may be, it went right over my head. It looked meaningful, but it made me more irritated than it did help my understanding of its purpose.

Other than that, I didn't find much else that I didn't enjoy.

I don't give 5 stars often--but *Lighthouse Nights* definitely deserves it, even with the small things I didn't enjoy. If you are up for the task of a dark and twisted tale with a splash of romance, *Lighthouse Nights* will not disappoint. (AND IT'S FREE. What more could you ask for--though you should purchase if you enjoy. I'll probably buy myself a hard copy sooner or later.)

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#### **Dianne says**

Internet predators, they are not just of a sexual nature. Trevor and Jules fed their twisted tastes in entertainment while lining their pockets with stolen goods by entering chat rooms created for those contemplating suicide. Instead of being a support system, they became the spark that ignited the final blow

that would end one's life. They would act as a co-conspirator, a fellow crushed human who wants to escape the pain of life, but cleverly they would encourage the victim to go first, then loot what they could to sell off.

For Trevor, these were cheap thrills, feeding his demented mind. For Jules, it was a game, as she blames it on her unfortunate upbringing, all went relatively smoothly until their latest puppet of doom came along. Gabe wanted to die, but he awoke some humanity and fed Jules' withered heart. But will their relationship cause more trouble? How will Trevor react when i game is interrupted long before Gabe took his final breath?

Jake Vander Ark's **Lighthouse Nights** is dark, moody, intense and twisted into a horror of epic proportions. Is this what society must turn to receive a new high or to find entertainment? Do NOT expect any shiny moments or a sweet and fluffy tale. The desperation of those who felt suicide was their only way out is gut-wrenching. To watch them being manipulated into following through on that last, gruesome act is the things nightmares are made of.

Mr. Vander Ark is a gifted author, he caused me to cringe, to never be comfortable in his world and yet, I couldn't leave until I knew the final outcome. Not for the faint of heart, or stomach, but if you dare to peek inside the mind of pure evil, Trevor's is an open book.

I received this copy from Jake Vander Ark in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## **Tess says**

Very dark, but very good.

Voice is very clear even though it's in the third person. Each character has a purpose, and a motive. Even in their darkest moments, you could see the reason behind their actions, no matter who it was. You feel just as connected to characters who have been there the entire book (Jules, Gabe, and Trevor) as ones that were for only one scene. But most of all it shows realistic reactions to hard topics, such as lying, depression, and suicide. These things are not easily forgotten in the real world and they shouldn't be in a book either.

I enjoyed this book very much. Though it's not for everyone, I'd say you should give it a shot.

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## **Ramisa says**

I believe Jake Vander Ark is one of the most brilliant (and underrated authors) out there. *Lighthouse Nights* is even better than *The Accidental Siren*, and that alone was wonderfully written.

*Lighthouse Nights* focuses on two people, Jules and Gabe, who have completely different personalities from

the beginning of the book to the end. The character development is almost unbelievable. We watch the characters suffer, then heal, and find what they're missing in each other... although, by the end, the "other" has changed.

The book itself deals with suicide, deception, lies and dysfunctional childhoods. It's not a book for every audience, and deals with mature themes. However, it's an intense, stunning story that leaves you with an empty feeling.

Even hours after finishing the book: Wow, that was amazing.

It's currently FREE on Smashwords and Amazon, so please get yourself a copy. Also, it's an indie book that is severely underrated.

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### **Alli says**

"lighthouse nights" is a thrilling, fast-paced page-turner that's the perfect mix of drama, violence, adventure, love, deception and redemption. It's beautifully dark and tragically touching. The author uses a unique writing style that's original and intriguing, stealing the reader's attention from page one. This book is an eye-opening piece of truth wrapped up in a sexy, entertaining work of fiction. In the world of literature today; one that's been flooded with sad clichés, poor writing and bad vampire-rewrites, "lighthouse nights" is a breath of fresh air.

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