



Guardians of the Night

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As the sole members of LAPD's Special Cases Unit, Detective Michael Gideon and his German shepherd partner Sirius work investigations considered bizarre even by Los Angeles's standards. Yet their latest case is more than strange—it might be out of this world.

Ronald "Wrong" Pauley is a homeless man long fallen from grace. When Pauley's late-night drinking is interrupted by a detonation of light, he sees what he describes as a "being of light" in the alley below. Pauley tries to help, but ends up as a witness to what he believes is the murder of a fallen angel.

Gideon and Sirius are already in the midst of trying to determine the identity of the so-called "Reluctant Hero" who seemed to magically appear just moments after shots began ringing out at an elementary school. Braving gunfire, the hero tackled the shooter, and then disappeared.

Both cases defy easy answers, but when Pauley turns up dead, the detectives are left with two murders to solve and lots of questions. Gideon and Sirius—along with help from a newfound friend—investigate that thin line between the real and surreal to make sense of these *possible* crimes.

Guardians of the Night Details

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From Reader Review **Guardians of the Night** for online ebook

Sandy says

3.5 stars

A man & his dog This is the author's second book (following "Burning Man") featuring LAPD Detective Michael Gideon & his canine partner Sirius. It's been three years since they were both badly burned while apprehending "the Weatherman", a killer who continues to contact Gideon from prison.

Three years of medical treatments, physio & command performances for the media as the LAPD's poster boy. Now they're just relieved to be back at work as the sole members of the Special Cases Unit. The investigations that come their way vary depending on whether Gideon is on or off his superior's hit list. Currently he's got two. The first concerns finding the mysterious man who heroically tackled a gunman threatening a school & promptly disappeared. Then there's the case of the murdered angel. Gideon is more than a little sceptical when a homeless man tells him he saw an angel struck down by bright lights in a back alley. But something about the guy compels Gideon to take him seriously & he starts to dig.

The trail leads him to Drew Corde, a high tech weapons developer who invents lethal toys for the DOD. He's an arrogant git with a God complex & not someone you want to cross. Gideon is not easily intimidated & what follows is a scary game of cat & mouse. As Gideon gets closer to the answers he knows Sirius has his back but at the eleventh hour, help comes from an surprising source.

This is a fast paced, well written police procedural with a wide range of characters. Gideon's life revolves around girlfriend Lisbet, a smart & understanding graphic designer & Seth who is his best friend, next door neighbour & font of wisdom. And of course Sirius, who holds the distinction of being bilingual (Dog & German). There's an easy rapport among them that feels like real people who genuinely like each other. Peripheral characters include cops, shifty businessmen & a cast of colourful, eccentric residents of the bohemian Venice Beach scene.

But the heart of the book belongs to Gideon & his relationship with Sirius. He's a decent, intuitive guy who is good at his job but still haunted by the fire that changed his life. The scars on the outside are obvious. It's the ones on the inside that sneak up on him occasionally in the form of PTSD-induced nightmares. Luckily he has Sirius to pull him through. Gideon's dialogue is economical & infused with a dry wit. He's prone to being a bit of a smart ass, especially when dealing with superiors & I enjoyed the many musical & literary references. The author even has him make a joking comment about real life writer Robert Crais whose book "Suspect" features another human/canine pair of detectives.

I really enjoyed this. The plot is tight & the main character someone you like immediately & can't help rooting for. The bond between man & dog is touching, one all animal lovers will be able to relate to.

By the end, Gideon has tied up most of the loose ends in both cases but realized he has some work to do in his personal life & I look forward to seeing where this leads him in the next book.

Deb says

Alan Russel knows how to tell a story. This is the second in his detective series keeping Gideon and Sirius his trusted partner and canine. Not disappointing at all and even better than the last book. Looking forward the #3. I did not see the ending coming at all in any respect. Keep it up!

Heather says

3.5. I liked the twist at the end.

I like the dog, but the author tries too hard to be clever.

And I really didn't give a shit about the main character's relationship with his ladyfriend, and he spent a lot of time talking about that.

And as a procedural...it pulls one of those tricks where everything is going along and then all of a sudden it breaks off and next thing you know he's explaining everything to the perp in a Sherlock Holmes kind of way. Not a good procedural. The best parts of "procedure" were skipped. And the choices the author made about what does and does not get resolved by the end...that annoyed me. (I won't say any more for spoilers.)

Something odd--the guy appears to be mildly psychic, but this doesn't really help him much with solving the crimes. Not sure what the point is of that, but it amused me.

I did like the dog. I am kind of curious enough to consider reading the first in the series (this is the second). Even though most of the story, as far as I can tell, was recapped in the book I just read.

Dlmrose says

3+

Sharon Michael says

An excellent follow up to the first book of this series. The 'Special Cases" scenario works well for the characters situation and I found the main storyline intriguing, with the touch of 'possible paranormal" interesting as well.

Again, a solid 4-star, with my only concerns the ongoing 'relationship' between the imprisoned arsonist/killer from the first book and the somewhat intrusive nature of the main character's flashbacks.

Maureen DeLuca says

The 2nd in the Gideon and Sirius series. I had trouble with the story line, but I really enjoyed Gideon and of course (his dog) Sirius. Not the worst book I read- a bit of a disappointment- but I'm a sucker for a dog!

Alicia says

I liked this book, especially the interplay between the detective and his dog, but there was a bit too much profanity in it for me to recommend it to anyone else.

Sharon Shearer says

Smooth-plays like a movie in my head

This story maintained my interest, beginning to end. The main character is complex, heroic and flawed, funny and too self-serious. As the author designed, I love Gideon's dog. Makes me think that if only people who had to go through horrendous things had a dog, they could get through the pain. Of course, like Lisbet, I also have faith and that makes a world of difference. I believe I will look up other books in the Gideon and Sirius series. I enjoyed the literary and musical references as well.

Valerie says

Solid Character and plot

I liked the balance of good plot and development of the main character. The unexpected at several turns kept me reading.

Marcia Witherspoon says

I guess you have to be a fan of his work

It was not my type of read, maybe I was expecting something else when I selected this book. I got bored very early on and found it hard to continue so I skipped from chapter 13 to chapter 27 and still felt I hadn't missed anything exciting. No suspense or mystery to speak of in my opinion.

So, I Read This Book Today says

So near is falsehood to truth that a wise man would do well not to trust himself on the narrow edge. – Cicero

You think you're the only one who can quote an ancient philosopher? Plato said: 'He was a wise man who invented beer.'

"Does that mean you're ready for another?"

"Far be it from me to contradict Plato." –Seth and Gideon - Guardians of the Night

There is no instance of a nation benefiting from prolonged warfare. - Sun Tzu

From secrecy and deception in high places, come home, America. From military spending so wasteful that it

weakens our nation, come home, America. - George McGovern

Military contractors. Self-serving, obsessive, narcissistic. And often? Well, let's just say "above the law" often comes with governmental protection – no matter what the contractor does. And sometimes, what the contractors do is beyond horrifying.

Guardians of the Night is an unusual novel – a cutting edge look at cutting edge military technology, to be sure. But it grows well beyond a simple military suspense thriller. That is an amazing story line in itself. But there is a strong literary bent as well. There are literary and movie references galore, music and history and things that go bump in the night. Add in a well-developed, believable character list, convoluted storytelling, and of course, Sirius, a police dog beloved by all who meet him – and you have a police/military thriller that is much more than the genre it nestles within.

Gideon and Sirius are heroes. They ran into a burning building to capture a serial killer, and the public, of course, went wild. There is an undercurrent, a second storyline around the serial killer, Haines, which weaves through the story in a horrifying manner – much like watching the dead eyes of a Black Mamba... you wait for the strike – the strike which will steal your life.

And then there is "The Reluctant Hero" – the man who saved a playground full of children, yet will not identify himself. After a run-in with the Chief, (well, and the Mayor too) (Sirius really shouldn't write snarky emails, ya know? Well, it was funny . . .) Gideon and Sirius are on the hunt for a man who doesn't wish to be found and dragged out in front of the public. No one can protect their privacy in today's world of political one-upmanship.

Can Gideon and Sirius stop a megalomaniac, find a "Reluctant Hero" without destroying his life, solve the murder of a homeless man with an incredible story to tell –and possibly solve the murder of a Angel?

I received this book from Amazon "First To Read" Program. All thoughts are my own – and I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys a great story with a modern, terrifying message.

Publication date: January 1, 2015

Sarah says

Loved the second as much as the first!

Denise says

Enjoyable free Kindle book -- I believe this was the December Kindle First selection that I chose.

The main characters are a quirky and very witty detective, Gideon, and his police dog partner, Sirius. They solve two interesting cases in this story, and they're not at all your usual cases. Gideon and Sirius are the "special" case team, which leaves them room for some interesting and perhaps atypical police work. I found the first 2/3 of the book really entertaining, well-developed, and well-written, but the way the ending came together was a bit unbelievable to me and, after such a great beginning, a little disappointing. Still, it was a

quick and enjoyable read. I have not previously read The first book, burning Man, but this worked fine as a stand-alone book. My guess is that those who have read them both would enjoy this second one even more.

Germaine Irwin says

Solid writing and the characters are multi-leveled. It is hard to not be enamored by Sirius, the police dog. He is my favorite.

Kushnuma says

I received a free advanced copy of this book from Amazon.

I quite enjoy crime novels and this book I did enjoy. I didn't realise that this book was book 2 in the series, but luckily I wasn't too confused with some of the events that occurred or were mentioned.

I absolutely loved the Harry Potter mentions. And I understood most of what he said when it came to the Watergate Scandal and the other stuff.

Overall, a good read.
