



The Masks of Monsters

Narayan Liu

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In 18th century Europe, Darius, a young man who commits a heinous murder and flees on a self-imposed exile, encounters Aeron, a monstrous vampire who snatches him away from the world he once knew and hurls him into a new one full of demonic creatures and merciless warlords. So it is he fights to escape this terrible world as well as the monster he has become. He isn't the only one. Aeron, though renowned for being the paragon of his race, battles the flicker of doubt that emerges in himself. It has been so long since he was human and for so long he has soaked in death without mercy, shielding himself away from the guilt and regret. Now it is time to face the beast within. What are monsters truly made of?

The Masks of Monsters Details

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Author : Narayan Liu

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From Reader Review The Masks of Monsters for online ebook

Sal says

I've known the author since we were in middle school and was pleasantly surprised to learn that he wrote a novella, which I only just now finally got round to reading. I love the concept. The characters are fascinating and engage in thought-provoking dialogue on revenge, remorse and other moral issues concerning the blurred lines between good and evil. As I understand, *The Masks of Monsters* is a sneak-peak of a more elaborate universe that Narayan is constructing. In the future I hope to learn more about the pasts of the characters introduced in this book and the world in which they live reside.

Now for the fine print. The edition I read, which I downloaded from Amazon in early 2015, is full of inexcusable grammatical errors. I spotted lapses in tense and misuses of "they're" vs "their", among other so-called writer's felonies. Most of these I shrugged off as careless mistakes, but what really roughened the reading experience was the way dialogue was formatted, making it extremely hard to follow who was saying what (i.e. "he said" was so often ambiguous). Similarly, multiple descriptions took the form "he [blank] his [blank]" where "he" and "his" referred to different people. These are totally understandable for a brand new writer--I know for a fact that Narayan is a bright dude and would never make these mistakes after a simple proofread. In fact, I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt and assume that all has been rectified in subsequent editions.

All in all it's a promising start to a fascinating universe; I can't wait to see where Narayan takes it. Well done and keep it up, man.

Boundless Book Reviews says

This book took about halfway through before I actually got into it. The storyline is ok as it follows some vampires who are dealing with their life as monsters and as they deal with the fear of an upcoming war. It is not your typical vampire book which was good.

I have to say that Darius was my favorite character. He seemed to have more to lose and he did throughout the telling of the story. Most of the story I did not like Aeron, but nearing the end I began to see him as more compassionate than he first seemed....Stormi

<http://www.boundlessbookreviews.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/BBReviews>

Avid Bookivore says

Okay, so I was expecting a book similar to 'Dracula' but it wasn't quite there yet. But, *The Masks of Monsters* is an enjoyable read and has a ton of potential. Maybe it just needs to be fleshed out a bit more with much more descriptive moments. With only 100 pages, you can only get into a story but so much. Narayan Liu's *The Masks of Monsters* is about Darius, a newly turn vampire who, has trouble with the lures and nature of being a monster, a vampire. Darius is a unique character and his story has so much to offer a reader, I don't think his story filled that potential. Hopefully the author writes another vampire story, as I

LOVE them, but with better content and backstory.

Aly says

How many ways can author reinvent the vampires stories and still make them something I will read?? This author has done just that. I think this book is great and a new spin on vampires. I was intrigued to read the different way the story unfolds. I am picky about my books they have to keep my attention or I don't finish them. This book does keep me reading more. * I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review*

Connie Jordan says

Monsters, is it true that they are born and not made? Darius, was he a monster, made from an evil deed? Born or made, is there truly a difference?

Can real monsters be redeemed and what of those monsters that were born, do they have the option of redemption or do they live forever in their sin, watching behind friendly faces.

“They are the ones who come for the innocent trying to steal everything they have, be it their most treasured possessions, their honor or their lives; Not because they must, not because their very existence relies on it, but simply because there is a thrill in it for them.”

Do vampires really exist or are they simply fodder for fairy-tales and myths. Were the deeds Darius committed, as a made vampire, truly evil when compared to the deeds committed by the man he killed? After all, Darius needed to feed if only to remain in the world after he embarked on the life of a vampire. Did it really matter when what he gained was immortality?

Fear is truly an aphrodisiac in this dark existence of the creatures of the darkness, yet in the world of mortals where war is everlasting, motivated by greed and the need to control, who indeed are the true monsters in this realm. Does it all boil down to power?

Although I am not really into vampires based on the fact that they are indeed too much like the monsters that are born who attempt to suck the life out of you just because they can, this book moved with a seductive grace of rhythm as it floated you through the devious disasters of treachery, greed and evil, and their temporary fulfillment.

Trang Tran (Bookidote) says

If you are in need of a little scary and fun story on this day of Halloween, this book is for you! Only 100 pages long, this beautifully written novel is about Darius, a young man who commits murder and comes face-to-face with Aeron, who is one of the most terrifying creatures on earth: a vampire. He will be enrolled in their world and will have to confront the lust, the temptations of the underworld. With a roller coaster of actions and suspense, I was not disappointed at all.

In fact, I finished the book in less than 4 hours. My favourite aspect of the novel is the social context. It happens in the 18th Century and I have always loved stories in that period of time. What's even more surprising is that it's happening in Rennes, France ! One of my childhood town and probably my favourite French town ever (Yes I used to live in France ;)). Narayan Liu's new take on the vampires also make the reading really entertaining. I admit that for a vampire fan, I have read a lot of stories about them in high school and I was expecting a cliche story. But it was not that at all. The Masks of the Monsters is unique, thrilling and engaging. With a drop of fantasy, Liu sets up the right decor and landscape for the reader. I got to immerse myself in that same crazy universe as those creatures and actually enjoy it. Thank you to the author for giving me this free copy in exchange for an honest review.

For the full review : <https://bookidote.wordpress.com/2015/...>

Trang - Book blogger and Book reviewer

Ana Meyer says

I was apprehensive about taking his novel when it was offered to me and even questioned the author prior to accepting the book, "Do they sparkle?" However I was really happy to find that they didn't sparkle and were the darker deeper vampires that I love. The story was interesting to read in that the main character was in real conflict about what he was and who he was going to be. I think that the vampire fans out there will really enjoy this short yet fulfilling novel about the underworld of vampires.

J C Steel says

The Masks of Monsters, by Narayan Liu, is set in the late 1700s, when a young English nobleman, Darius Burke of Farnham, murders his father in revenge for his treatment of his family. Taking refuge from his deed in the forest, Darius meets a mysterious, winged being, who snatches him away from everything he knows. Surrounded by danger and wrapped around in political webs woven millennia before he was born, Darius faces the unknown from the moment he opens his eyes in the catacombs beneath Rennes, and there will be hard choices facing him if he wants to survive.

The Masks of Monsters offers a refreshing change from the glamorous vampire stereotype common to the genre, showcasing everything from vampires able to pass for human to skeletal, leathery-winged monstrosities drawn directly from medieval myth. The plot flirts with elements ranging from pre-Christian history to family in-fighting to the ethics of survival, but I found that the flurries of adjectives that punctuated the narrative, along with the occasional technical issues in the writing style, made it hard for me to stay in the story. However, for those looking for a vampire novel that breaks with the glitzy romance common to the genre, this novella is definitely worth the read.
