



## Daemon Seer

*Mary Maddox*

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As a teenager, Lu Darlington attracted national attention when she and her friend Lisa escaped a sadistic killer known as the Professor of Death. She never told anyone about the daemon who saved her life that day.

Ten years later, Lisa shows up at Lu's door, fleeing another psychopath stalker. But Lisa's not the only one seeking Lu after all this time. One by one, the daemons descend:

Voracious Chama. Sinister Black Claw. Beautiful Talion.

Chama wants Lu, but Talion claims her. The women of Lu's family have always belonged to Talion—and they've suffered deeply for it.

As the human threat draws closer, Talion demands that Lu bind herself to him in a harrowing ceremony that will destroy an innocent man and change her forever—but might save Lisa's life.

Can she navigate the violent intrigues of the daemon world without being consumed by its terrible, all-consuming demands?

## Daemon Seer Details

Date : Published February 10th 2015 by Cantralip Press

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Author : Mary Maddox

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## From Reader Review Daemon Seer for online ebook

### Emma says

I love the cover and the premise of the novel intrigued but it just didn't deliver for me. The writing felt stilted, with no flow, and the connections between scenes were not handled well. The daemons seemed to pop up randomly, throw out some orders, then disappear with no further explanation and the 'you must get pregnant because we said so' storyline held no appeal for me.

For me, the interesting bit of the book was the kidnapping of the girls by the Professor of Death. Now that story, I'd like to read.

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### Catherine Putsche says

#### PLOT

Luanda and Lisa share a devastating history with one-another that connects them in ways they never thought possible-they were both abducted and tortured by the same serial-killer several years prior. Luanda has the ability to enter Lisa's mind, when Lisa allows her to and also feels her friend's deep tormented emotions. Lisa is able to paint the demons that torment Luanda unaware that these demons are real in her friend's mind and that they are threatening to change the course of Luanda's existence. Lisa is on the run from Psycho cop who has brutally raped and deliberately planted a large amount of narcotics to force a warrant for Lisa's arrest, so he can re-claim his victim and subject her to more terror. Luanda summons the demons to help her friend but the demons only interest is in Luanda getting pregnant and bringing another baby into the world they can take possession of. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep you guessing and plenty of thrills and excitement to provoke the reader to read further and further.

I particularly enjoyed the eccentricity of this dark, twisted and macabre story of these two young women brought together in these extra-ordinary circumstances.

#### Dialogue

The book was well edited and had a very pleasant layout.

The dialogue was easy to follow, straight forward and understandable.

Very good description and dialogue by a very competent author!

## Writing

Author Mary Maddox successfully manages to combine a mixture of horror, terror, suspense, thriller and a subtle supernatural element all in one go. This is a taunt, gripping, thriller; make no mistake and it leaves little to the imagination as the pages are turned.

I'd be interested in reading a sequel to this book and would definitely recommend it to my friends.

MY Rating: 4.5 Stars

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<http://catherineroseputsche.webs.com/>

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<https://twitter.com/Putsche73>

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## Stephanie Hill says

Daemon Seer is captivating, a dark, mysterious, and riveting book that follows the lives of Luanda and Lisa, childhood friends and survivors of serial killer Rad Sanders. Luanda owed part of her survival to the daemons who saved her life, daemons that have been quiet for years before the beginning of this book. These supernatural beings were her saviors in Talion, but now that they've come to exact their price, Luanda struggles with whether she'd rather—and whether she can—live without them, and at what cost.

The fulcrum of Daemon Seer's drama is the relationship between Luanda and Lisa, a complex and believable friendship that was forged from past terrors and endures despite the women growing up and starting lives apart from the trauma they experienced. Though Daemon Seer is about their adult lives, it expertly weaves their past experiences into the present, exploring how their near deaths affect them even years later and how those same experiences motivate them to live the lives they have now. Thus, when another villain enters

Luanda's and Lisa's lives, not only are their worlds rocked, but their histories are also stirred up and magnified, becoming as much a part of the conflict as the present travail itself.

Daemon Seer also does an excellent job of weaving together the natural and the supernatural. Luanda's and Lisa's tangle with a new villain is accented by their struggles with the supernatural daemons. These conflicts mesh and culminate in a fast-paced plot that hooks the reader, forces the characters into places where they shine, and barrels forward into a fine ending, which combines the best of both the natural and supernatural worlds and lays intriguing foundations for future books to explore the worlds of daemons and what it means to be a "daemon seer." The daemons in Daemon Seer are simultaneously terrifying and attractive. The toll they take on human lives is unavoidable, but like Luanda does, readers will still understand the awe and amazement these daemons cause, the thrill of power and the hope of being saved that they represent. Luanda's relationship with the daemons is strained in this book, yet there is the remaining truth that without the daemons, Luanda and Lisa would be dead. This creates a fascinating dilemma in which Luanda wants to be free of the very beings that represent her only hope—and at the end, she must choose.

Daemon Seer excels at all of the elements of a good thriller—it moves fast, it never lacks intrigue, it keeps the reader guessing and asking what will happen next—and excels as well at creating an engaging and affecting story, cast with colorful characters whom I hope will stick around for many more books. In future books, I hope to see the aftermath of the tolls the daemons exacted on Luanda's family and friends. I hope to see future books explore Luanda's strained relationship with the daemons even more; I wonder how close of a relationship Luanda could possibly have with daemons who have done to her what they did to her in this book. I hope to see future books branch out further into the world of daemons and involve Lisa once again in this set of conflicts outside her experience.

In all, I hope to see the elements of Daemon Seer amplified and continued for many books more. Daemon Seer is highly recommended—a thrilling and thought-provoking book!

\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

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### **Diane says**

Daemon Seer provides the stuff that superior horror is made of, with more than a dose of fantasy thrown in to capture audiences outside of the usual horror circles. They are stories of bonds forged and broken, heritage challenged, human killers encountered and fought, and the costs of love, marriage, and bondage.

Here, also, are gifts that come with consequences, ribald language (be forewarned), psychos and killers (both human and not), attempted rape, and scenarios where the perceived good guys become bad. So, if it's an engrossing saga of ownership, possession, and change that is desired in a fantasy that fuels its passions with overtones of horror, then Daemon Seer is the item of choice.

Daemon Seer is anything but predictable, and holding a dash of violence, it's compelling. And if prior fans of Mary Maddox recognize the characters from Talion (which followed the two girls' original encounters with demons and psychos alike), be advised that this is not so much a sequel as the beginning of a new adventure, and thus is presented as Book One of a projected series.

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### **Gwen says**

If you having a really bad day and in need of cheering up this is not the book for, boy I know I like my books a bit black, but I think the life was sucked out of me in this one. Even I like a HEA and I know that is pathetic but that's how it is, but like a wound that hasn't healed for some reason I want to know what happens next. So if you are feeling in the mood for a bit of depression with a swirl of misery this one is for you.

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### **boekverslaafde says**

I received this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lu and Lisa, thrown together in life by a serial killer intent on making them his next victims. 10 years after their escape finds the girls on their own paths in life, suddenly thrown back together. Another madman is stalking Lisa, and Lu knows she needs to protect her....See...something happened out there on the mountains, with the serial killer, Rad. When they escaped, Lu knows they were really saved by a daemon, Talion. Talion, whom the women in Lu's family have been tethered to for so long. Now Talion has come to make his claim on Lu, just when she needs to be strong enough to save Lisa. Hiding from this new madman, Griff, and fighting Talion's advances, she's already struggling. Add in a new Daemon, Chama, and the Knot ceremony that will ensure she conceives a new tether for Talion, and now Lu is not just fighting for Lisa's life, but her own, as well as her neighbors, Galen and Adam, who have now become, unwillingly, drawn into the mix. Incredibly fast paced, and well written, this is a great story of good and evil, and shows how no one is truly ALL good, or ALL evil. It also shows that everyone has weaknesses, and breaking points.

I'm very impressed with this book, I think it would make a great read for older young adults.

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### **J Webster says**

Different and Interesting !!!

This book starts off with Luanda who is one of the main characters who lives on her own and just trying to get through life. Fast forward 10 years later, Lisa shows up at her home seeking her help and fleeing from a psychopath stalker. Luanda and Lisa share a tragic history together they both escaped from a sadistic killer named Professor of Death during their teenage years.

Luanda has never told anyone about the daemon who saved her life that day. Now Tailon is seeking her and demands she binds herself to him, through the years the women of Luanda's family has always belonged to him. There is a race to see who Luanda would belong to as other daemons are also interested.

I would class this series as dark fantasy, it has some gory bits but that did not distract from the story. The writing is fluid and engaging, I really enjoyed this and would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a different and interesting read.

This book was given to me via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Aly says**

This book was ok for me. I think this book was a bit slow in the beginning but as the book went on it got a little better. I enjoyed the Deamon aspect of the book, I was just wanting more from this author. \* I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Mary Maddox says**

it's my book. If I don't like it, who will?

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### **James Goltz says**

Daemon Seer is the second published novel by Mary Maddox and a sequel to Talion which was published in 2012. I noticed immediately upon receiving the book that “daemon” was spelled differently, and presumably had a different meaning from, the more familiar term “demon,” the latter a term familiar to most of us as a malevolent spirit capable of inhabiting and causing serious mischief in the human host. Consider, for example, the Gerasene Demoniac in the Christian New Testament, Mark V, 1-17 who is possessed by a legion of demons, banished from his village, abuses himself with stones, cannot be constrained by chains and wails among the tombs until the demons are exorcised by Jesus. Daemons, on the other hand, are also spiritual beings but, based upon the terms Greek origin and Latin interpretation, can be either malevolent or benevolent beings. They influence human behavior and, more seriously, select some people as on-going hosts and control their behavior. These supernatural beings in their Greek origins are lesser divinities existing somewhere between the gods of the Greek pantheon and humans. But they are definitely more powerful than the humans they inhabit.

The daemons that appear in Mary Maddox novels are both benevolent and malevolent, in some cases; good and evil are embodied in the same daemon. Talion is the daemon prince who inhabits Lu Darlington along with Black Claw, a more sinister companion of Talion. Lu is the main character, a woman of 25 who tries to maintain a normal human existence despite the periodic presence of her daemon companions and who now reemerge after a ten-year period and compel her to have a child, in daemon parlance create a “knot,” so that Talion can be present to influence human events as he sees fit. Lu is a “seer” and continues in a generational line of seers who have kept Talion in the physical world. Talion has some affection for Lu but seeks to dominate and force compliance with his needs which are not necessarily commensurate with those of Lu, his host and seer.

In Maddox’s first novel, Lu is a 15 year-old girl whose parents are abusive and her friend Lisa is pursued by a serial killer. But thanks to Lu, with daemon assistance, the serial killer is dispatched though Lisa is gravely wounded and disfigured. Fast forward 10 years. Lu is working a nowhere job and without warning, Lisa appears still reeling from her near-death encounter with the “Professor of Death” and badly strung-out on pain killers. Once again, she’s fleeing, this time from a sexual predator, a renegade cop with a demon (this one is purely malevolent) of his own. This is a smart and imaginative novel with relentless action. My advice is to read Talion first and you will hit the ground running for Daemon Seer. Like Talion, Daemon Seer is a fast-paced well written thriller—a book that will keep you up late and may invade your dreams.

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## Rickus Bookshelf says

DNF at 20%

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## Danielle says

When I started reading this book, I was not aware that another had been written that took place before this. I didn't have an issue reading this novel and keeping up with what was going on so I personally don't feel like you have to read *Talion* to know what is going on in this novel. But, if you would prefer to do so, then by all means, go ahead!

I want to start off by saying that I really enjoyed this book. I finished it in one day and as I have had very limited time for reading lately, this is a huge thing for me right now. If I hadn't have had to go home in the middle of reading, it would have been completed in one sitting.

There are a number of things I found unique about this book. First off, the writing style really communicates the main character well. You get a sort of...blankness from Lu that makes sense when you consider her past. She is a bit detached emotionally and the author did well communicating that without making the character too boring. Lu has been through hell and back, and is just trying to live some kind of a normal life.

Then we have Lisa, the "co-star of her worst nightmare" as Lu puts it. The two survived a serial killer together and while Lu seems to have come out relatively normal, Lisa has been destroyed. She's broken mentally and physically. She's not quite all there and again, the author does well in showing us this effectively.

There is also a unique approach to demons, or Daemons, as Lu has dubbed them. You are given bits of information, enough to keep you curious but without you ever knowing exactly what is going on. At no point did I ever feel overwhelmed with the amount of information provided, especially on this subject. It was just enough to keep things interesting.

Throughout this book there is a sort of detached horror that manages to make the reader uncomfortable all on its own. It's almost like when you see a show about a child who has been abused and just has sort of come to terms with it. They don't scream, they don't cry, they don't protest. They know it's coming and are just...used to it. Seeing this is the same feeling as reading this book.

I am looking forward to adding *Talion* to my reading list and learning more about these characters. I really believe it's going to offer an excellent insight to the characters and will really make this book for me. I absolutely recommend this book and hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Rating: 4/5

Note: I received a free copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Tahlia Newland says**

Wow, I can't believe the slew of low starred reviews of this one. No book is everyone's cup of tea, but reviewers are completely overlooking the fact that even if they aren't comfortable with the story - it is dark - this is a brilliantly written book. It's even received an AIA Seal of Excellence, and rightly so. I don't usually go for dark books, but this one is not without light. The 1 and 2 star reviews here are totally unwarranted.

Daemon Seer is an expertly written, highly engaging page turner that is much more than a simple thriller. Its smooth prose and superb handling of the nature of drug addiction and the after effects of trauma give it the quality of literary fiction. Daemons normally mark a book as fantasy, but this novel is too real for that label to do it justice; the daemon's relationship to human depravity gives their presence more a metaphysical than a fantastical function.

The story is tight, tense and dark, but there is hope there, not the melodramatic kind, the real, hard-won kind born of the determination to survive and to keep caring. There are no quick fixes in this story, no easy answers and no saccharine endings. This is as messy and gritty as life must be when evil walks on two legs and is out to get you.

True 5 star books show their quality early on, and this one certainly did. The author's ability to write clean, concise and elegant prose was immediately obvious. Her words flow with the confidence of a seasoned writer, and she expertly weaves description into the action in such a way that we feel we are right there in the action, experiencing the scenes with all our senses, not just reading about them.

By the 20% mark the author had the whole story set up. The protagonist and antagonist were clear, the main complications (the daemons and their relationship to the central character) were established, the game was set and I was already invested in Lu's survival. This is how such books should be. The story and relationships became more complex as the book progressed and it built to a dramatic and powerful conclusion. I cannot fault the craftsmanship in this one at all.

Right from the beginning, there was never a moment where I was tempted to put the book aside, a sign of excellent pacing and engaging action. And the characters leap off the page as real people with believable flaws, insecurities, hopes and fears.

An easy 5 stars on this one. I highly recommend it for anyone who likes a good gritty thriller.

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### **Pretty Sassy Cool says**

**x stars.**

This review also appears on Pretty Sassy Cool.

So, the cover and blurb is what made me excited to read this book.

The first chapter is interesting because I thought it would start off from a flash back or prologue, but nope it

goes straight into the present and little by little it gives you tidbits of the past. Unfortunately, it didn't keep me interested—I feel like I remember reading something with a similar plot, and I barely went past the first chapter or first pages of the chapter.

The story was forgettable. I honestly cannot remember anything about the characters. Both are haunted by the past, but Lisa even more so, and it has affected her life and led her to some bad choices. When she comes running to Lu, she leads the past right to her door.

The writing was good, but not enough to keep me reading. I usually don't read books about the otherworld unless it is written well.

Lu seems like the strong one who is determined to move on in life.

Lisa seems like the more vulnerable type who will always struggle.

Lovers of the otherworld would love this book but I'm not sure if it's for most readers.

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### **Jessie says**

The book is somewhat interesting at times but difficult to follow. In the beginning chapters the author doesn't explain things with enough detail for the reader to get a clear picture of what is happening in the story. Instead Maddox provides a little more understanding the deeper you get into the story. If done correctly, this can be both frustrating and genius! In this case, I would say I was left feeling frustrated and wondering what was happening and why the characters responded a certain way. The book is really slow and hard to get into. Around chapter 9, the book became more interesting a little less confusing. Overall, the book was both disturbing and fascinating.

Luanda or Lu has had a difficult life.- alcoholic parents who didn't care, grew up in a trailer park, and an uncomfortable abusive childhood. After watching her father be killed by a serial killer and being one of two survivors, Lu desperately tried to move on with her life. Unfortunately life wouldn't allow her to forget and move on from her past. Lu's boss Ken has discovered her secret past and Lisa, the other person to survive and escape the serial killer, has come running back into Lu's life for help. Lisa needs help from Lu because she became mixed up with a dirty cop. He rapped Lisa and framed her for drug possession. And now he is coming after her.

Lisa and Lu are far more connected than the kidnapping they experienced together many years ago. Somehow they are able to send images to each other's minds and almost know exactly what is happening to each other. While Lisa draws demons she has never seen before, Lu has what she refers to as moments. This is where she not only sees the same demons Lisa draws but is able to communicate with them.

The connection Lu has with the demons is complex. She is "owned" by Talion, the demon who saved her, who "owned" her mother, and who she fell in love with. Talion shows up and demands she creates a child by having sex with any male five times. During this time, the demon would enter the male to create a knot that will tether the demons to earth. The downside is whoever is chosen as her disposable mate, the demons mess with their minds and they end up self destructing and die before long. Talion forces her to have sex with

her nice neighbor. This is one of many uncomfortable scene. Lu is trapped in her mind while her body is being possessed and she gets transformed into 'animal Lu'. So even though her body is leading no encouraging the sex, Lu herself doesn't want this and feels like she is getting rapped. This type of scene, her being raped, happens a couple times throughout the book.

I didn't really care for Lu or Lisa's character. They are both weak characters who seem to make foolish decisions. Lisa plays the helpless card and hides behind/uses her kidnapping as an excuse to act without thought to consequences. She is more the soiled brat who would rather feel sorry for herself and drag those around her down than address her issues and move on. Lu's character is similar in how she just accepts what is happening in her life and to her without putting up any fight. Half way into the book, Lu begins to fight back. And by the end of the book, her character has transformed into something stronger. But even so, her character is annoyingly fragile and you can't help but feel sorry for her.

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