



# Darkside

*P.T. Deutermann*

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At the US Naval Academy, the students refer to the administration as the Darkside, a nickname befitting the secrecy and manipulation that occur behind closed office doors. So when a first-year student falls to his death from a campus building, the Academy tenses as the Darkside begins to creep out of the shadows to cut off any potential scandal.

Retired naval aviator Ev Markham is now a professor at the Academy. When a provocative clue connects the dead student to senior midshipman Julie Markham, Ev knows how quickly his daughter could become the easy scapegoat the Darkside badly craves. But a second body convinces Academy security chief Jim Hall that a killer is on the loose. As both men struggle to uncover the truth, a psychopath more sinister than they can imagine lies in wait, protecting the ultimate-and most deadly-secret of all...

## Darkside Details

Date : Published October 19th 2003 by St. Martin's Paperbacks (first published December 2nd 2002)

ISBN : 9780312986360

Author : P.T. Deutermann

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Genre : Thriller, Fiction, Mystery

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## **From Reader Review Darkside for online ebook**

### **Booklady says**

Deutermann is one of my favorite authors. In this story the daughter is connected to a pleb's death at the Annapolis Naval Academy and her father (a professor there) is in a race to prove her innocence between the authorities (the Darkside) make her the scapegoat. In his usual style, Deutermann puts in his twists and plots that has the reader guessing until the very end.

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### **JoDee says**

Heard this in audio, and at first wasn't sure I would like the villian's first person chapters that revealed his activities as the story built. However you come to learn the purpose of this ploy and it does enhance the experience.

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### **Carl Alves says**

This novel takes place in the US Naval Academy, following the death of one of the students after being thrown off the sixth floor of a building. Midshipman First Class Julie Markham is under suspicion of the death. Her father Ev, who teaches history at the Naval Academy is trying to put together a defense for her and figure out who actually killed the student. Meanwhile, security chief Jim Hall is trying to make sure there isn't a killer on the loose at the Academy. Fighting against this is a group of people hell bent in protecting the institution from scandal, which feels true to life when considering what happened at Penn State.

The writing in this novel felt subpar. Also the story line suffered from a severe lack of believability. It was clear that the author had done his research on the Naval Academy, and that added color to the novel, but the rest of the story was not up to par. Overall, I felt this novel was less than mediocre and I would recommend skipping it.

Carl Alves – author of Blood Street

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### **Harry Lane says**

Fast paced thriller. Seemed well-grounded in Naval Academy physical layout and lore.

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### **Chuck says**

This story takes place, for the most part, on the campus of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland from which Mr. Deutermann earned his degree and naval commission. It begins with the description of a

young man's descent from the roof of an academy building onto a plaza of polished granite several floors below. Of course an investigation follows as we must determine whether this tragedy was an accident, suicide or murder. The investigation is primarily conducted by the academy's Security Officer and an NCIS Special Agent and takes a circuitous and tedious path. These protagonists have several layers of supervisory bureaucracy that must be consulted and reported to and the story, although it is a good story line, gets bogged down with the reporting and endless thought processes and repetitive dialog. This book will be a good read for experienced skim readers.

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### **Jim says**

Deutermann is one of my favorite writers, and this is a great mystery. Good characters. Fun to have five main characters to follow and see interact until they come together in the drama and action. Book takes place at the Navel Academy which may be the sixth character in the book.

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### **Bev says**

Peter Deutermann is a new author to me. Having finished all of the Michael Connelly books, I was looking for a new audio book and went with something that was read by Dick Hill, who has done so many of the Connelly books. This was a good choice.

The story starts with a plebe taking a dive off the 8th floor of one of the dormitories of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. What seems on the surface to be an accident, or (worse for Academy image) a suicide, starts becoming suspicious when Midshipman First Class Julie Markham, whose father is a professor at the Academy, is implicated in some way, because the dead student was wearing her underwear when he took his plunge.

NCIS gets involved in the death investigation and at the same time academy security chief Jim Hall discovers strange doings in the academy's underground tunnels, which may or may not involve pseudo-vampire activity, and a character who calls himself "The Shark." Could the two events be connected? (Well, of course they are, silly!)

There is budding romance between Julie's widowed father and Liz deWinter, the high-powered attorney he hires for her, as well as between Jim and NCIS Special Agent Branner (whose first name apparently nobody knows--and she wants to keep it that way). There are terrifying chases through the tunnels that seem to go on endlessly--but somehow never bore--and an ending I felt was predictable...and then wasn't.

This was the best book to listen to on the 10 hour drive I was making by myself. The miles flew by, as did the hours.

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### **Ellen says**

Good story....quite a little twist at the very end.

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## **Tom Tischler says**

A midshipman falls onto a plaza from six stories up at the Naval Academy. It's initially classified as an accident. The Academy's administration call the Dark Side by the midshipmen attempts to cover this up. A bizarre twist complicates this and pulls midshipman first class Julie Markham into the incident in an embarrassing way even though Julie has a flawless reputation, high academic standing and athletic achievement. Her father Ev is a professor there and knows the extremes the Dark Side will go to protect the Academy. Fearing Julie is to be sacrificed to the Academy he hires Liz DeWinter to defend her. Meanwhile Jim Hall the Academy's security officer is investigating some violent pranks in tunnels that run under the Academy. The investigation leads Jim to an unsolved murder and Jim finds himself the quarry instead of the hunter. He is being pursued by an ingenious predator whose dark secrets are hidden deep beneath the Academy. This book is from 2002 and written by P T Deutermann who is a graduate of the Academy and he knows all of the things that they put you through to graduate from here.

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## **Pat says**

I just didn't get into all the Academy lingo used in this book. I liked the characters, but the constant referencing to "inside" language just slowed the book down for me. And I completely skipped the "voice" of the bad guy. Another maniac. Who cares. The ending, too, was just silly.

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## **J.L. Bowers says**

Couldn't get into this one. I have read this author before, so I am familiar with his writing style, but this one just didn't grab me. The chapters were really long with backstory that sometimes had me skimming. It just didn't hold to the kind of pacing I like. If the pacing of a book isn't good, I can still like it if the writing style is creative enough, but that wasn't the case here. Anyway, I skimmed a lot and then read the last chapter. Didn't love the ending, and like someone else said, the whole book was a little creepier than I normally like. But I did give an extra star for him adding the twist.

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## **Ann says**

Someone gave me a beaten-up copy of this book, so I thought it would be a good airplane read to pass on to someone else when I finished. Bingo! This is not a book or author I would have chosen on my own, but the fast-paced thriller kept me reading not only from Boston to Tucson, but the same day I arrived in Tucson, I stayed up late to finish the book. A psycho lose at the Naval Academy? An unjustly accused Midshipman? I

entered a world of which I knew nothing and thoroughly inhabited it for 500 pages. Even better, a young Marine I know was home from Iraq on leave, so I gave the book to him to enjoy next.

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### **Stephanie Moglia says**

Man, this book was creepy. I read the first chapter of this book at the end of another Deutermann book and knew instantly I would have to finish it. Similar to his other book I read, you "knew" who the killer/bad guy was throughout the story, though in this one you didn't explicitly know the person's name until later on, but heard from them throughout. I had no trouble blazing through this one, as the suspense kept me hooked, staying up late to finish. Characters were well developed, I definitely found myself rooting for specific people/relationships. The "villain" was absolutely psychotic and as they became more heavily featured, the real creepiness and insanity came out. I thought I had everything figured out and then something I anticipated didn't happen...but then the last two pages changed my entire perspective of the book. Definitely an awesome read, will be adding this author to my favorites list.

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### **Larry says**

Originally Published on The Founding Fields ([www.thefoundingfields.com](http://www.thefoundingfields.com))  
<http://thefoundingfields.com/2013/06/...>

Larry reviews the book and audiobook of Darkside by PT Deutermann, read by Dick Hill. Published on St Martin's Press. Originally published on December 1st, 2002

A dark grim thriller about a murder at Annapolis, a smashing good read – The Founding Fields

A dark thriller set at Annapolis, the United States Naval Academy. A Midshipman plebe lands in a plaza from six stories up. At first ruled an accident, things get really weird when they find the Midshipman is wearing the panties of Midshipman first class Julie Markham. Suicide? Murder? That's what the NCIS and the security team have to figure out. Her father, Ev Markham an Annapolis graduate himself, fears that the Academy's administration, referred to as the 'Darkside' by the Midshipman, will try to scapegoat his daughter to avoid a scandal. Julie's reputation, athletic achievements, and high academic standings make her an unlikely suspect but Ev is taking no chances and hires high-powered attorney, Liz DeWinter to defend her from the Naval Crime Investigative Service or NCIS as they complete their investigation in the matter.

This was the first book of PT Deutermann's that I read, but his 6th published. I remember picking it up off of a bookshelf jammed full of free books sent to us in Iraq from supporters. The title and cover had me intrigue and I decided to give it a chance, at the time I really was not into mystery or thriller books. I was glad that I did as Dark Side really introduced me to a whole new genre of books as well as the author that I have grown to admire, PT Deutermann. Dark Side really starts off with a bang, literally as the Midshipman smashes into the ground. He does a good job introducing you to the various characters as they come up, giving you enough background to really understand them. The book does get slightly draggy towards the middle, but never enough to make me want to put it down, or stop listening to it. The ending is what sealed the deal for me, it really was top notch as the various plot twists are revealed and flow together. He writes from shifting points of view, mainly in 3rd person, but he does the arch-nemesis in 1st person in the few parts that he is in.

Some people can find this overwhelming but to me it kept the story interesting. The one main down point is he uses a lot of military jargon in this book, which is daunting for non-military folks to understand, but can be cleared up with a quick Google search if you find yourself stumped.

I recently signed up for Audiobooks.com and they have all of his books available so I decided to give them a relisten for old time sake.

The audiobook is narrated by Dick Hill who does an exceptional job on this book. He is able to change his voice enough to give all the various characters a unique personality. You know who he is speaking as, even when he does not mention their name. He is definitely a voice actor that given good material can read a story and make it better then just reading it.

Relistening to this was a blast from the past for me, I honestly enjoyed it the second time more then the first. Having the truly talented Dick Hill read a great book by PT Deutermann was a treat to say the least. I give the book itself an 8/10, and narration a 9/10. If you are a fan of military books, mysteries, thrillers or just need a good book then this would be one for you.

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## **Kim says**

I liked listening to this book well enough. I did think it was interesting that what I thought was the end wasn't. Then there was a bit of a predictable twist that seemed to be the end. Then there was the real twist and the actual end.

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