



Darkside

Tom Becker

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London has a secret: a hidden borough of monsters and mayhem, founded by Jack the Ripper and known as Darkside. It's a place of evil and danger, but also excitement and mystery - and it's Jonathan's last hiding place. Alone and on the run, he finds his troubles - and adventures - have only just begun.

Darkside Details

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Author : Tom Becker

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Hallie says

It was certainly creepy and atmospheric, and generally well-done except for odd clumsy bits, and I might have been more appreciative another time. There's lots more to come, with Vendetta, Marianne and possibly others still around and out to get Jonathan and all the mystery about Jonathan's mother too. I'm not planning on reading it now, but it might happen.

Tristan Smith says

I thought this book looked interesting, so i decided to read it. And i can say i was actually sucked deep into this book, Because it conveys a dark, deep, and mystical feeling. The book starts when a boy named Jonathan Starling's father is admitted to a hospital. When Jonathan's father is in the hospital, he decides to investigate his fathers study, a place his father had been holed up for years. He rarely talked to Jonathan and kept to himself. He finds a book there about "Darkside". That is where the story starts, now the review. The book honestly surprised me. I thought it was going to be a mediocre book, but it turned out to be a well written story and really made the reader keep turning the pages. It had a good mix of good and bad in the book, But overall i would give it a 8.5/10.

Corey says

This book is a good read for people who like horror and suspense stories. It's pretty much about two kids who get kidnapped and get taken to the other side of London and throughout the book they are trying to save one kids dad and escape.

Asphodel Parker says

[AND HECK, I KNEW IT!

Coki says

TOTALLY creepy! Like Coraline creepy - like I had to put it down creepy - why do we have this cataloged in JF?!?!? But then the action took off which took down the creepiness. But solid YF for scary stuff/urban fantasy. can't wait for the next installment.

Paige Y. says

Jonathan Starling has not had an easy life. He's never known his mother, and his father is frequently ill, suffering from what he calls the Darkening. Jonathan has basically raised himself, with the help of a friendly neighbor. So when his father yet again is placed in a mental hospital in London, Jonathan sees an all-familiar pattern restarting. But while he's visiting his father, the man in the next room is murdered and Jonathan finds a mysterious dagger in the room. All of a sudden people are chasing him and Jonathan learns that there is another, untalked about part of London. A part where more than 100 years ago the worst of the worst were condemned to live. Jonathan must travel to Darkside in order to save himself and his father.

I must admit to having a hard time getting into this book. I just never really connected with the characters. I read a review of it quite some time ago and was really excited when it came into my library, but it never really clicked for me. I do wonder how the next book in the series will be – Becker will not have to spend so much time setting up his two worlds and can concentrate on character development.

Meg Eagles says

Lets just say this book never seems to disappoint me. I have loved this series for so many years but was a lot younger when I first read this series therefore, when re-reading the series now I become quite sceptical as to whether I will enjoy the series as I did the previous time.

Throughout the story you are forever finding new parts of the Darkside world and of the character's personality's.

These books are so easy to read and can easily be read in one session. Tom Beckers writing is not the most creative or poetic way of writing but it works so well for this plot line and the world he has built!

I would definitely recommend this series of books for anyone who is interested in any other middle grade books! It is definitely a series you can sink your teeth into.

Chetgardner says

I thought that Darkside was really creative book and had an excellent concept behind there being a entire, evil side of london hidden behind the regular side of london. So overall i thought this book was really really good and i would recommend it to anyone that likes horror, suspense, or creative novels.

Rachael says

Jonathan Starling likes being invisible. It allows him to sneak off whenever he wants, usually without getting caught. But when his home is attacked and a strange trio start pursuing him, Jonathan finds he's not as invisible as he'd like to be. There are some people—or things—extremely sinister hinting through London for Jonathan, connecting far back into his family's past with secrets he never knew existed. It all leads back to Darkside, a dangerous place for otherworldly creatures like vampires and werewolves, a place of Jonathan's heritage and where he must find refuge with his sick father's old friend. But is coming to Darkside really any safer than the London Jonathan already knows?

Fast-paced and full of danger and excitement, *Darkside* is an enthralling read. The story is mostly plot-driven, but that isn't a bad thing since Becker creates action exceedingly well. There is something so thrilling about *Darkside*, partially because of its sinister atmosphere and inhabitants and partially because it's hidden nearly in plain sight in the middle of London. I love how Becker expertly sets the coexistence of *Darkside* and *Lightside*, or the world as Jonathan used to know it; it opens up realms of possibilities for trouble. As with many action novels, the characters could've been better developed; in fact, with the descriptiveness of Becker's writing, I'm surprised Jonathan and the other characters didn't feel more real because despite Jonathan's central role, the most that can be understood about him is his sheer determination. Also, I would've appreciated learning more of Jonathan's and *Darkside*'s histories since disappointingly little was revealed. Still, I found *Darkside* a highly entertaining read and one with lots of potential for a sequel.

This action-filled story will be enjoyed by fans of *Eighth Grade Bites* by Heather Brewer and *Foundling* by D.M. Cornish. I look forward to reading *Darkside*'s sequel, *Lifeblood*.

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Garret Haug says

The book *Darkside* is one of those books where when you first look at it you think it doesn't look like you want to read it. But it is actually pretty good. It's like *Stranger Things* with the upside down without all the creatures in the movie. It all starts out with a troubled kid just not a regular family this kid doesn't like to attend school. He is constantly skipping but one day he goes home and he is up in his room then he hears someone come inside the house he isn't sure what it is or who it is. The suspense in this book keeps you wanting to read more and more every day. I don't want to give anything away that's for you wanting out figure out how good this book is. You should take the chance to read this book and learn what this book has to offer shows you both the good and the bad side of what really goes on in a troubled kid's life. I'd suggest putting this book in your library or reading it on your free time. This one of the many books I would recommend if you need a book to read this is the book. I loved this book from cover to cover.

Klaudyna Szarafinski says

DNF at 75%, the story was becoming a snoozefest.

Rebecca McNutt says

Darkside was interesting, a huge sea of all things creepy and paranormal to rival even *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. I'm not big on vampires and werewolves simply because they're so predominant in the horror world already and it's difficult to bring anything new to these creatures that we haven't all seen or read about before, but I did like the underlying family plot between Jonathan and his bizarre, strangely ill father and the way everything unfolded. It's not a bad mystery for kids and it's very entertaining, even if the Jack the Ripper stuff may be a bit dark for some younger readers. There's lots of surprises and excellent eerie scenes to make it a worthwhile novel.

Reagan says

Interesting in the beginning and end but boring in the middle

Aaron says

Jonathon has always had a life that was on the edge of normalcy. He is 14 years old, and he would be more than happy to have a boring life that is shared by other London teens. You see, his father Alain has a bit of a dark addiction. It is a little mysterious, but it has a habit of making him sick. So much so that Alain ends up in a coma for long periods of time.

Now, his father is once again suffering from a coma, and someone is hunting down Londoners. It all starts when Ricky Thomas is kidnapped by a mysterious trio from the Darkside, a mirror London that developed when Queen Victoria and her forces pushed out all of the seedy and unwanted citizens into it. It is filled with werewolves, vampires, bounty hunters, and murderers.

It turns out that Jonathan and Ricky have been targeted by Grimshaw, an important denizen of Darkside who is hoping to use them in a gladiator-style fight with some wolves. Jonathan is able to use his father's research to get a better understanding of what is happening and finds help in the form of Carnegie, an old friend of Alain's who is a werewolf.

Thanks to Carnegie, Jonathan learns that he and Ricky were targeted because their mixed heritage allows them to pass back and forth between Lightside and Darkside more easily and allows them to feel at home in both locations.

The story is fast-paced and will be sure to keep many younger readers on the edge of their seats with this interesting and well-designed suspense work. The character development is not strong, but it never is in this type of work. The tale is plot driven, and it is a great ride. Think Goosebumps, but much better drawn.

Vanitas says

Page-Turner! Ich habs echt an einem Tag durchgelesen....das passiert sehr selten.
