

Give Me The Night – Book Review

By **Alexander Baron** - Jan 9, 2016



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The pseudonymous author of **this book** has at times alluded to himself as The Vampire; he has also served in the armed forces and travelled a bit, so it is tempting to view the central character as based on him, but it goes a bit deeper than that.

He told me he wrote it purely to make money, but don't believe a word of it! I hadn't read a novel for perhaps ten years, but as he sent it to me free and from the other side of the world, I felt obligated to read it, and it ain't at all bad. The bottom line is that it is a new twist on the vampire genre; this one doesn't sleep in a coffin, although his powers are much diminished in the daylight, which is just as well because in the dark he is more than superhuman. Having just murdered a totally innocent waitress, he takes pity on a young redhead who although from a good home has through her rebelliousness found herself ensnared in prostitution. He offers her a chance to become immortal like him, which he keeps eventually, although he says he may well simply murder her if she doesn't come up to scratch.

Skoda is clearly a thoroughly evil character who has more innocent blood on his hands than Tony Blair, so why would anyone root for him? Because although the author claims this book has no political message, it does. In this dystopian, politically correct, Orwellian Seattle of the near future, there are cameras everywhere, and the good guys – the police – are really not good guys at all, something blacks have been telling us forever, but we never believed them until ordinary people were able to video their brutality and chicanery. These Seattle police are even worse than the present day ones, and that is before the FBI is brought in to hunt Skoda down. The Feds have been aware of the existence of what they call Omicron Predators for a decade – for Heaven’s sake, don’t ever use the V word!

Some criticisms could be made of this book but the biggest ones are really trivia; “all of a sudden” – no, “suddenly”, and there are too many “try and” rather than “try to” – this latter a personal hatred of mine – and a few other typos. Also because it is parochial, the author takes too much for granted. As I live in a city that uses an Oyster card I had a fairly good idea of what an ORCA card might be, but if you come across words and acronyms you’ve never heard before, it can be annoying to have to keep flipping to your search engine.

In places the dialogue is a bit prolix, but there are some real gems including at page 66: “...I ate your lawyer last night...” Shucks, even vampires aren’t all bad!

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