



## Birth of a Killer

*Darren Shan*

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# Birth of a Killer

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## **Birth of a Killer** Darren Shan

*The highly anticipated prequel to the New York Times bestselling Cirque Du Freak series!*

Before Cirque Du Freak...

Before the war with the vampaneze...

Before he was a vampire.

Larten Crepsley was a boy.

As a child laborer many centuries ago, Larten Crepsley did his job well and without complaint, until the day the foreman killed his cousin as an example to the other children.

In that moment, young Larten flies into a rage that the foreman wouldn't survive. Forced on the run, he sleeps in crypts and eats cobwebs to get by. And when a vampire named Seba offers him protection and training as a vampire's assistant, Larten takes it.

This is his story.

## **Birth of a Killer Details**

Date : Published October 5th 2010 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (first published September 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780316078634

Author : Darren Shan

Format : Hardcover 261 pages

Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Vampires

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## From Reader Review Birth of a Killer for online ebook

### Eunice says

I loved this book so much, I could cry from happiness!

It was so lovely to read about all the older characters (but when they were younger), and also find out about some of the even older characters that were dead by the time the first series occurred.

I'll probably have to buy the entire series when they're all out. :3

Also we get to find out why Mr Crepsley's hair is orange!!! :D

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### Chappy says

Began and finished in a single afternoon, impossible to put down and a fantastic treat. To return to Shans vampire stories without having to reread is a real pleasure. We get the opportunity to be reacquainted with several familiar faces, some of which we thought we would never see again and others we were hoping not to.

A brand new story with the same brilliant story telling ability from one of the all time greats. Whilst the first book may have had some of the same destinations and characters as the saga of Darren Shan, I know we are off to new and exciting places and I for one am keen to experience the new and relive the old from one of my favourite series.

Four more books from Darren Shan in the universe of the vampires, I for one can't wait to begin this new journey.

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### Rebecca McNutt says

*Birth of a Killer* was slightly more interesting than the Darren Shan series, but for the most part it tries to be overly weird despite its generic characters, choppy sentences and unoriginal story. *definitely* not a book I'd recommend.

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### Zahra Dashti says

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### **Amanda says**

I loved this book it answered a lot of questions for me that weren't answered in Cirque Du Freak. I did read the ARC (advanced readers copy) of this book so I will not be too harsh on it (though I didn't see much if anything that really needed to be changed.)

I'm not going to write much because I don't want to give away spoiler but I have a few hunches of things that might happen but I could be totally wrong. (No I'm not saying what they are)

There is a thing that bothers me that I just realized (and it's not just in this book) I like Shan's take on vampires but I like to think of vampires more as powerful, romantic and violent creatures (NO NOT TWILIGHT!) so I find it kind of gross/annoying that the vampires are mostly all drunks and they are so unsanitary. That just makes them seem weak and I don't like to think of vampires as weak. I still love this series I just don't love all the vampires.

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### **MaxiMillion says**

*Elements and style* : In this prequel to The **Saga of Darren Shan**, Darren Shan is more serious than he is in the **saga of Darren Shan**, using the more somber fell to reflect the protagonist, **Larten Crepsley**. He also provides a feel of connection to the normal series by introducing characters that appear in that series, and showing how they knew/know **Larten Crepsley**. He uses an older style of speaking, showing how this is 300 years in the past, and every once-in-a-while provides a flashback to when Larten worked in the factories.

*Characterization* : Darren shows a deep and dark feeling in the protagonist, **Larten Crepsley**, which sometimes makes him seem like a monster, or a serial killer. During most of the novel he fights this feeling, trying to avoid becoming a creature of the night.

*Plot* : This story begins in a small town where **Larten Crepsley** and his siblings and cousin work in a factory. The cruel master of the factory kills **Larten's** cousin for "not working hard enough" which causes Larten to kill him. **Larten** runs from the city, and meets **Seba Nile**, a **vampire** who offers to take **Larten** under his wing as a vampire's assistant. They travel far and wide, and pick up a boy who's been ravaged by a **vampaneze**. This boy becomes **Larten's** closest friend. **Larten** and his friend become full **vampires** and travel to **Vampire mountain**, for the yearly tournament, only to have their behinds kicked. They leave in shame, and come into the company of a **vampire** who's out to enjoy life. The book ends as they decide to travel with him.

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### **Paige Bookdragon says**

FLAAAAAAAAAAT

FLAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT





in. There, he finds Seba Nile, who is a vampire. And offers Larten to become his assistant. When he accepts, he has no idea what he is in for.

I LOVED this book. It brought back some of my favorite characters from Cirque Du Freak, like Vancha, Paris, Evanna (just mentions her), Seba and Mr. Tall. It also brought back some of my least favorite characters, like Mr. Tiny and Murlough. The addition of Wester (I think that's his name) to the book made it interesting. He is probably my favorite character now. I also liked how the Cirque Du Freak itself was actually included in the book.

I am interested to find out more of Larten's story, such as how he got the scar, how he found Madame Octa, and how he met Arra Sails. The next in the series, Ocean of Blood does not come out until April :( I guess that's my punishment for finishing this in a day. No, it was worth it.

The cliffhanger ending will leave readers on the edge of their seat, hungry for more just like I am.

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### **Thomas Silva says**

The book was the beginning of a prequel series, having the main character be Larten Crespley, so far they have introduced old characters and even a few new ones along the way, if you've enjoyed Cirque Du Freak, I definitely recommend that you read this series. :D

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