



Dark Spells: Four Books

J.R. Rain , Scott Nicholson

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Boxed set of four bestselling supernatural novels of mystery and suspense, including:

CURSED

Albert Shipway is an ordinary guy, an insurance negotiator who likes booze and women and never having to say he's sorry. And he thinks this is just another day, another lunch, another order of kung pao chicken. Little does he know that he's about to meet a little old lady who knows his greatest fear. A little old lady who knows what's hiding in his heart. A little old lady who dishes up a big stew of supernatural revenge, with ingredients as follows: First you take one psychotic ex from a family of serial killers. Next add a pinch or two of an irrational childhood fear. Now thoroughly mix in an angry sister, a life-stealing great-granddad, and a notorious mass murderer—who happens to be dead but doesn't know it. Let it stew and froth and bubble thoroughly....In just a matter of minutes, Albert's life turns upside down and he enters a world where magic and evil lurk beneath the fabric of Southern California. And all his choices have brewed a perfect storm of broken hearts, broken promises, shattered families, and a couple of tiny problems. Namely, killer mice and a baby. Albert Shipway is finally getting a chance to right some wrongs. That is, if it's not too late.

GHOST COLLEGE

First in a new series featuring paranormal investigators Ellen and Monty Drew. Ellen claims to possess a sixth sense but Monty, a former P.I., only believes what he can see. She views their work as a sacred mission while Monty just wants a happy wife and a paycheck. Then the Drews are summoned to a Southern California bible college after workers report hearing mysterious voices at night. When they encounter the unhappy ghost of a young girl, Monty's skepticism is shaken, but he resolves to help his wife free the trapped spirit. Their search uncovers the Latin phrase "Non omnis moriar"—not all of me shall die—and they learn more about the site's history as a Catholic school destroyed by an earthquake. But a mysterious presence has plans of its own for the young ghost, and Monty and Ellen must go head to head with a Dark Master that's had more than a century of practice in demonic deeds. Now Monty must leave his body to do battle with the Dark Master, and he's not sure Ellen will be able to bring him back in one piece. He's not even sure what's happening is real. All he knows is that all hell is breaking loose and he's taking a crash course where an "F" means eternal damnation.

THE VAMPIRE CLUB

The first in a series that features The Vampire Club, a group of lovable, laughable, larcenous college students turned vampire hunters. Over 150 years ago, a man was killed with a silver bullet in a rural, Pennsylvanian town. A man who just might be a vampire. The Vampire Club, a group of misfits who meet regularly in the basement of Western Virginia University's library, think that they might have found their first documented case of a real vampire. Better yet, the Club thinks that the vampire might still be alive to this day, lying comatose in a hidden grave. And this is good news indeed for a group of vampire lovers. The hunt begins, and as they close in on their immortal prize, they soon realize that they aren't the only ones interested in the vampire; indeed, a powerful group of killers will use whatever means possible to keep the vampire permanently in its grave.

BAD BLOOD

They call him Spider. And people come to him when they have a problem. So when teenager Parker Cole approaches Spider at night school, he figures she's just another problem waiting to happen. But then she tells him about her father, who runs a cult called Cloudland based at the foot of mystical Mount Shasta, California. And then she tells Spider about her best friend, who is now dead, her body completely drained of

blood. Spider wonders if the death is the work of a fellow vampire...or if he's now the target of a sinister game designed to lure him to Cloudland, where darker mysteries await.

Dark Spells: Four Books Details

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From Reader Review Dark Spells: Four Books for online ebook

Pia Veleno says

I like to give an author at least two chances to win my readership, however, I didn't leave my last Rain book with any motivation to try again. So I'm giving Rain another chance through this joint venture with an author I've enjoyed before, Nicholson.

Cursed -- It is about... wait for it... a curse. Yeah, the title took away from the fun of discovery, but not too much because a creepy old lady accosts the MC right off the bat. This story was, at times, predictable, though curses do tend to follow a formula, so not a big deal. My main disappointments was that I didn't feel the MC did much growing up, and I missed the traditional horror theme of pointing out the darkness in society.

Overall, a decent, average story. 3 stars.

Ghost Story -- A ghost story, yes, but not a scary story. The MC's constant smart ass comments were a distraction. The ending hinted at something beneath the surface, but it was such a glancing blow as far as hints go, I'm more disappointed than curious.

Maybe if the MC was more sympathetic I would've enjoyed the big battle. 2 stars.

The Vampire Club -- Silly/humorous vampire story. The humor worked better in this story - a tale about a vampire club seeking out a suspected grave of a long buried vampire. 3 stars

Bad Blood -- It was good at first. I really got into the MC. And then he went to investigate a cult compound and the authors lost me. Maybe things got too weird to suspend disbelief, or maybe it was the way it was written. I'm not sure, but the point is, I lost interest, even when the Big Bad Thing was about to kill our hero. 2 stars.

Also, in this book, the authors used the word "magick" to describe the evil and dark magic the cultist used. Magick (with a "k") is used by some pagans/Wiccans to differentiate their magic from hocus pocus. Witches have a hard enough time combating hate and misunderstandings without authors spreading the misconceptions by using their words in a bad light. Tacky, disappointing, and enough that I probably won't be buying anything from these authors any time soon.

Tasha Turner says

Review pending

Doreena says

I will post this review in a bit. I need to get my thoughts together on this one.

R. Scott VanKirk says

I read this series of books because I've been a fan of Rain's other books. These stories were not uniformly terrible, but they didn't move me either.

Cursed is the story of a man cursed by a witch for his part in the death of her granddaughter. There were some interesting ideas in the story, but I disliked the protagonist so much, I was hoping he would die at the end.

Ghost College is the story of a ghost debunking/removal team coming up against a haunting at a college. While it was an alright read with potentially interesting ideas it felt flat and uninspired.

The Vampire Club is a campy vampire novel which may have been a fun short story, but which grinds on with goofball, tiring cliches and characters. It was meant to be light and silly, but is short on real laughs. Again, hard to care about the characters.

Bad Blood is about a jaded vampire troubleshooter who gets dragged into a mildly Cthulu-esque plot. This story is the best of the bunch and worth the read.

Overall, I wouldn't recommend paying more than a buck for this set of stories.

Alex Owens says

Interesting collection of different genre/ tone books (though none felt out of sorts with the others). I liked some of the novels better than others, but overall the collection is a good one and worth the time reading!

Kym Randall says

Read these Loved them
