



Dark of the Sun

Chelsea Quinn Yarbro

Download now

Read Online ➔

Dark of the Sun

Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow

Dark of the Sun Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow

It is the 6th century of the common era. The vampire Saint-Germain, known in this time as Zangi-Ragozh, is peacefully doing business in Asia when the island of Krakatoa explodes in a massive volcanic eruption. Tidal waves swamp harbors hundreds of miles away, destroying trade ships and their cargoes; tons of ash and dirt are flung into the air.

In the months to come, the world grows colder and darker as the massive volcanic cloud spreads across the globe, blocking sunlight. Sea trade is ravaged. Crops fail. Livestock, and then people, begin to starve. Disease spreads. Panic rises.

As always in times of trouble, foreigners-and the vampire is always a foreigner-become targets. Fleeing toward the West, where he hopes to find safety and sanity, the vampire travels with a nomadic tribe led by Dukkai, a female shaman who soon becomes Zangi-Ragozh's lover.

But Zangi-Ragozh's problems are far from over. His vampire nature is discovered by an enemy; he begins to starve; he is betrayed by one he cared deeply for; he loses everything, even his last sack of his native soil.

With the True Death looming, Zangi-Ragozh tries to reach sanctuary in his ancient homeland. Transylvania.

Dark of the Sun Details

Date : Published September 1st 2005 by Tor Books (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780765311030

Author : Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow

Format : Paperback 464 pages

Genre : Paranormal, Vampires, Historical, Historical Fiction, Horror, Fiction, Fantasy

 [Download Dark of the Sun ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dark of the Sun ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Dark of the Sun Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow

From Reader Review Dark of the Sun for online ebook

Wiley says

Freelance Internet Marketing campaign.

Wesa says

A volcano erupts, and the world goes to hell in a handbasket.

When Krakatoa erupted in the 6th century, the only people who knew about it - albeit briefly - were those who lived in the immediate vicinity. Others soon learned; those living on nearby islands suffered from catastrophic tidal waves and shipping lanes were disrupted. In China, where Saint-Germain is living peacefully on the proceeds of his shipping business, when trade is disrupted, the economy falters, and he finds his property and money confiscated. With his companion Rogerian, Saint-Germain travels west as the weather deteriorates world-wide. Years of unseasonably cold summers and unreasonably cold winters wreak havoc on the world's economy and ecology as Saint-Germain travels to the one place where he is always truly at home ... Transylvania.

Jamie Collins says

I continue to be entertained by these books, even if they all have a very similar plot superimposed on a variety of historical settings, and even if Yarbrow's dialogue is ridiculously stilted. The rest of her prose flows smoothly enough, but as soon as any character opens his or her mouth, we get something that sounds like clumsy ad-libbing for the benefit of suspected eavesdroppers. People state the obvious and repeat themselves, especially Saint-Germain and Roger, who have the same conversations in every book.

The setting is interesting: Asia during the 6th century, when the eruption of the volcano Krakatoa has caused unusual weather patterns leading to trade disruptions, crop failures and famine. Distressed by the calamity, which is outside of his vast experience, Saint-Germain and his eternal manservant travel slowly westwards towards Saint-Germain's homeland, constantly beset by hunger and the hostility of desperate people.

Actually, the natives aren't much more hostile than usual. In his travels Saint-Germain routinely encounters the most horribly suspicious, greedy, and duplicitous people, as if the author is anxious to emphasize her protagonist's relative humanity. I continue to be frustrated by Saint-Germain's passivity, as neither vicious attack nor heinous betrayal provokes anything more than sadness and resignation on his part. There is a nice scene where Roger expresses a similar frustration, though.

Sandra says

I found this in the Horror section and it promised a dark vampire protagonist amidst a gigantic volcanic eruption that causes the entire planet to fall into hunger and darkness. Honestly I don't think it lived up to even a tenth its potential. It's hard for me to tell people to NOT read a book, but this could easily be a waste of time for many.

A. E. S. says

Pros: This book has valuable insight into Franciscus' past, which IMHO we don't get enough of. His backstory probably needs its own full-length novel, but alas Yarbrow has a tendency to jump around. In case you're wondering, YES I am attempting to read the novels in order, and yes it does make the transition from century to century a LOT smoother. I'm going to stop for awhile until I'm sure she won't add another book around the time period I'm reading. The effects of the explosion of Krakatoa are presented in horrifying detail: the sun was blotted out, crops failed and everyone starved. I didn't know until reading this that that was the case. Lots of interesting action scenes!

Cons: THIS NOVEL WAS WAY, WAY TOO LONG. It could have been cut down by half its own length and still presented the same quality of story. Other than one serious near-death scenes for one of the characters and the problem with the weather, where is my plot?

Michelle says

Eruption of a volcano in 6th century, leads to an endless winter, with famine and destruction of life as people knew it.

This is good historical fiction, with a vampire, Saint Germain as the main character. Saint Germain was based on tales of the real life Parisian nobleman.

Julia says

The violent mega-eruption of Krakatoa in AD 535 threw enough volcanic matter into the earth's atmosphere to blot out a huge portion of the sun's rays, and this was the start of several years of almost ice-age-like conditions. Written records and other tangible evidence exists from China to the Americas of the tragic effects this event had on humans everywhere. Crops failed, famine came to pass, stillbirths increased, disease became rampant, trade slowed, and internecine wars were waged for food and also out of a paranoid sense of horror. Most of all humans became reactionary and turned to their gods for answers and for comfort. From Byzantium to India, Saxon England to Coptic Ethiopia, xenophobia reigned, foreigners were persecuted as possible offenders of the gods, and order disintegrated on a frighteningly vast scale. Life across the globe was disrupted as by the tens of millions people wondered if they were truly witnessing the end of the world.

This is the scene of Yarbrow's seventeenth Saint-Germain novel. In the pages of Dark of the Sun, the perpetually-exiled Carpathian nobleman goes from a prosperous life as a merchant in Liang-era China to the life-threatening undertaking of traversing the Silk Road, a journey of three-years' duration, in order to return to the west. With Saint-Germain, as always, is his faithful companion Rogers, and along the path of the dauntingly perilous expedition west, Germain witnesses a world gone mad in the wake of unimaginable cataclysm.

Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow revives a global catastrophe we had somehow forgotten, and uses it as a backdrop for a slow but detailed novel that takes her readers on a trip across nearly the whole of east and central Asia, from China to the Carpathians, sparing no detail or sociological observation along the way.

Viktor says

As a story, this book is disappointing. It's a string of unfinished incidents, an unending list of encounters with people who fade in and out with no ultimate significance.

The journey from China to Transylvania - in spite of the extreme weather conditions and resulting tragedy and lawlessness - remains remarkably uneventful. Or, rather, the events which lead us to expect dramatic scenes and major conflicts, all seem to fizzle out rather colourlessly.

What is valuable is the insight into the consequences of the 2-year darkened sun - the very real hardship, famine, strife.

We also learn something of the various religious beliefs and practices: Pagan rites to appease the lords of the Earth involving animal and human sacrifices; and the Christian attitude of accepting, even welcoming, suffering and deprivation both as punishment for sin and as preparation for the life to come.

The fact that the MC and his henchman are vampire and ghoul - 'unliving', feeding on raw flesh, blood and the sympathetic company of women - seems almost incidental. In particular, the vampire comes over as wise, gentle, kind.

The story has no real end, just as the bustling commerce at the start also evaporated into nothingness.

Much of the dialogue is stilted and artificial.

Michel says

Ach ja. Saint-Germain, maar dan wel niet zo'n goeie Saint-Germain. Komt traag op gang, wat zeg ik? komt eigenlijk niet op gang. En net als het dreigt interessant te worden, zitten we op een handvol pagina's van het einde en moet het rap-rap-rap afgewerkt worden. Nee, niet aangeraden.

Claire says

I didn't love it because a Saint Germain book is always a depressing reminder of the nature of humanity, and the plots do tend to the same (honestly will that man never learn to pick women? Admittedly not as disastrous as Csiminae but still).

However they are fascinating accounts of historical periods and I find them very enjoyable on that level. If you pick your time period - I like early period to the late Middle Ages - they are excellent even if there are a few questions like how exactly does the native earth thing work? What even is your native earth? Why can't he see himself? What happened to the other vampires? Why doesn't he teach these poor women to make gold etc like he can?

Anyway worth a read if you love history and vampires.

Chris says

The character that makes this book is the Thetis. In many books in this series, the Count is prefect or near perfect, which is could be why he is so popular among female readers. Thetis actually changes the Count's

preception of how he treats women and how women are treated even if they gain freedom in the world of her time. It was nice to see that. Her comments might explain why some of the women in the books don't cross over.

Kristy says

I have this listed as read, but to be honest I couldn't get past the first 30 pages or so. I just didn't find the story engaging at all. I just couldn't force myself to keep reading.

Margaret says

For some reason I really loved this book. There were times when I wondered why I did. I suppose after reading 17 books in this series there's no hope for me. Ms. Yarbrow sucked me in with "Hotel Transylvania" and I've been hooked since. Each book: rich, vibrant history with the same quirky hero and his devoted puppy... and often unusual femme fatale. But I keep reading them! On to #18!

Samantha Brady says

This one had a little more of Saint Germain and his companion Roger in it. It made it a little more interesting you learn a little bit more on Saint Germain and Roger that you never knew before. I liked it but I want them to be in our time so I can see how they cope with all the new gadgets. I am sure they will find some of it very interesting.

Linda Suzane says

Fans of Saint-Germain will be absolutely delighted at this addition to the saga of the legendary vampire. It is the year 535 AD and Saint-Germain, aka Zangi-Ragozh, is a successful merchant in China. Called to wait upon the Chinese Emperor, Zangi-Ragozh starts to cross China with a small caravan and his faithful servant, Rojeh, when distant Krakatoa erupts in a mighty volcanic explosion that is even heard in distant Peking. Following the eruption, tsunamis destroy coastal towns and much of the shipping. (Shades of what recently happened in that area.) Tons of ash and sulfur are thrown into the atmosphere, ringing the world and causing severe weather changes. The sun dims. Burning sulfur rain and yellow snow fall. There is no spring, no summer, crops fail, famine and fevers plague not just some of the world, but everywhere. Many people believe that the end of the world is coming. Zangi-Ragozh decides to return to his homeland, the book covers his long and perilous journey.

Those who know the series will find the glimpse afforded into Saint Germain's beginnings fascinating and the trials and tribulations that the hero must overcome interesting reading. Those new to the series may be surprised, for this series certainly is not like any other. Be prepared for a rich historical novel where the hero just happens to be a vampire rather than a vampire novel. There are no bloody animalistic feeding frenzies. While Saint-Germain does enjoy sex with his food, the heightening of emotions increases the power of the blood to sustain him, the stories lack the elaborate sexual fantasies of the typical vampire romance. And while Saint-Germain has his past anguishes, he is no brooding hero living in the throws of despair. In fact,

having lived 2500 years has made him rather cautious and conservative. He tends to plan for the worse and believes in taking extra precautions. Still, he is very much a hero for the kindness and generosity that he displays, especially towards women, making him much more human than the humans around him. Nor have his vampire powers made him something of a super hero battling evil. No extraordinary powers such as an ability to change form or control minds. He possess the usual strengths, imperviousness to cold, excellent night vision, and an amazing ability to heal himself. But he is not dead to the world during the day nor does he burst into flames when touched by sunlight. He is weakened by running water and sunlight, but that can be countered to some extent by his native soil, which he keeps in the heel of his boots, stuffed into his saddle, and in a crate to sleep on. But Saint-Germain is more than a mere vampire. He is an intellectual, an Alchemist capable of changing lead into gold and making precious jewels, and a healer, who makes what he calls the sovereign remedy out of moldy bread. While we care about Saint-Germain, the author tells more than just his story as she blends letters from various ship captains, merchants, and friends to tell the story of the people he comes in contact with and the world in general during this time of crisis. This is not a fast read, but it is an interesting read, giving the reader a feel for a time and place from long ago. It is a worthy addition to what may possibly be the longest vampire series.

Reviewed by Linda Suzane March 20, 2005 midnightbloodreviews.blogspot.com / www.midnightblood.com

First published Vampire Books and Authors at Suite101.com

For more information about the series.
