



Shattered Lands

Darren Pillsbury

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It's all just fun and games... until somebody dies.

Welcome to the Shattered Lands, the first truly immersive video game where you see, hear, touch, taste, and feel the game.

In this online fantasy world of dragons, elves, wizards, and magic, two best friends enter at the same time and take very different paths.

Daniel desperately wants to break free of his 'nice-guy' life in the real world... until his choices end in tragedy.

Eric wants unlimited power by any means necessary. Assassin or summoner of demons, it makes no different.

Join them on their quest – both inside the game and out – as they navigate the violence, the triumphs, the treachery, and the danger...

Of the Shattered Lands.

Shattered Lands is the first book in a LitRPG series.

Shattered Lands Details

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Author : Darren Pillsbury

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From Reader Review Shattered Lands for online ebook

BookLoversLife says

I thoroughly enjoyed this author's other series, Peter and the Monsters, and was eager to start this one. I have to say that it's way different than his other series but just as good!!

Daniel's dad has been working on a new game for a big corporation and it's finally ready for the public. It's a fully immersive virtual reality game and costs big bucks to buy. Daniel gets the console and 2 sets of the headsets so he can play alongside his best friend, Eric, who wouldn't have the funds to pay for it otherwise. The day of release, they decide to skip school early and start playing. They can be anything they want to be in the game so Daniel decides to get rid of his nice guy persona and become a thief, and Eric, who is picked on a bit, decides he wants power and wants to be a wizard, but he is turned away from the school because they see darkness in him, and he decides to become an assassin. Daniel is too nice a guy to be a thief and decides to go on adventures instead. Eric is sent to assassinate a witch but he sees power and instead, embraces his darkside!

I've tried a few LitRPG books before and just couldn't get into them because I'm not a gamer and a lot of the terms used were just way over my head, but this one was easy to relate to and easy to understand. The idea of a fully immersive game was awesome! Imagine playing a game where everything is so real. Where you can taste, touch, smell and even experience pain!! It would be unreal to do!! Daniel and Eric can not believe how real everything feels. They are excited to play and while Daniel finds it hard because he is such a nice guy, Eric's attitude is it's just a game, and he does things that shock Daniel!

I liked Daniel, he is such a sweet, kind boy and it even shows in the game! But Eric is another day's work, he is.... evil. He becomes intoxicated with power and shows his true colours within the game. I really didn't like him!! Either way, both characters are well written and developed and easy to relate to.

The plot was action packed and adventurous, though lacked depth at times. It's book 1 so did have to introduce the game and get us acquainted to all that's involved so I can understand why it was a little vague at times, eg, when they started their quest, it glossed over a lot of what happened, but I'm hoping that the next book will have a little more action and explanation. Other than that, the author made it such a way that it was easy to follow and didn't have too much "gamer" language.

In all, a great book that, while it's more gorier and bloody than you are used to with this author, I think a lot of readers will enjoy. I know my son will love it, and probably want a game like it if it ever came out!! It's entertaining, filled with magic, fantastical creatures and a lot of everything else, to keep everyone happy!! I'm glad book 2 is out already so I can dive straight back in!!

Mike Goodman says

Good Mc vs Chaotic Mc

A rich kid gets his poor best friend into the hottest vr RPG game. It's twenty thousand for the setup plus subscription. The rich kid is like a white knight while the poor kid ends up being a demon summoner mage. (Raymond Feist like story). When the rich kid finds out what he is playing he unplugs him and kicks him out of the game and his home calling him a evil POS. Can't wait for the next installment.

Sam says

I read this book and about 25% of the next book, before I gave up on this series. I did not relate to any of the characters. The book is really light on the LitRPG elements as well. No real level progression, item restrictions, quest progression etc. Any idiot can just pick up an epic sword and turn into the strongest player overnight. Which is precisely what happens.

I hated ALL the characters equally. Daniel, the "hero", cannot seem to understand he is in a game. He is also a terrible friend. Eric, the "villain", acts like a 13 year old, not an adult (he is supposed to be 18). He is a complete gaming addict. Mira is supposed to have a crush on Eric, but turns on him at, literally, the first opportunity without a second thought. And finally, the raid group consisting of a fish guy, Drogar (Game of Thrones wannabe), and a 13 year old dorky Goblin, are such entitled little pricks that their very existence grated on me. (Spoiler alert: stop reading this if you don't want a spoiler) After like 1 day of game play, this merry party of noobs set out on a nightmare class dungeon. Eric goes ahead and effortlessly clears it, then ignores the massive heaps of treasure to go after a magical cheat item that triples mana (This alone should be reason enough to stop reading the book.) Meanwhile, the other ungrateful twats cakewalk to the treasure room, walking by heaps of dead monsters mysteriously piled up everywhere, see a massive treasure and then have the nerve to actually say they should cut Eric out of it, since he wasn't around. His best friend, Daniel, feels a little uncomfortable at this point (Something about this bothers you? Really?). But he isn't upset that this guy he doesn't know, who hasn't done anything at all to deserve this treasure, is trying to cut his friend out of it. Did I mention the party passed thousands of dead monsters along the way? It should have been obvious to anyone that Eric had cleared the dungeon for them. Such character incompetence should be in a Y7 novel, not an adult LitRPG.

Eric is an addicted moron who is so ridiculously overpowered for a noob it crosses into the ridiculous. He acts like someone exploiting a game cheat that should be patched, not someone developing through progress. He has no spine, just occasional rage, and lies to his friend about his dark superpowers because he doesn't want to be judged by him. He keeps saying it's just a game, but his actions don't make it look like he thinks it's a game. He comes off as a weak junkie liar. His best friend Daniel, really can't tell he is in a game at all, and tries to turn his friend in, in the real world. I think if these kids would have been 14, their actions would have been slightly more believable, stupid as they are. But I hate plots that depend on stupid characters to move the story. Like some crappy B horror movie where the girl panics and runs instead of locking the front door.

daniel says

I couldn't finish. Really tried. Made it 82% of the way

I've read virtually all lit rpg with 4+ star reviews. I enjoyed the beginning of this book and had high hopes. They crashed. The characters were not relatable or likeable. Lots of whining. One character went from 18 year old kid to dark "monster" virtually overnight. Epic overpowered loot and skills discovered way too soon without a feeling of struggle or ingenuity. One character cleared a nightmare level dungeon solo. What?! Made no sense and just left me feeling I wasted my time.

Tobyann Aparisi says

I love this author's Peter and the monsters books! I truly believe Darren is an extremely talented author with a very vivid imagination and whether it is this RPG story or the Peter series, he is able to transport you to another place for a time that is truly magical. Really that is what a great author does. They take you on a journey you have never been on. I have never read an RPG story before and I would have to say this one was an absolute jump from my normal taste of reading.

With that said, the characters were well defined (maybe not all of them likable) and the story line was one that you could follow easily enough. For Darren's books, I will admit this is not my favorite, I do prefer the Peter books but it is a story, I do think my nephews and even my son could appreciate. I kind of liked that this was a bit on the darker side and a bit more mature than the Peter books and the journey is by no means boring. I mean you are fully entertained and well engaged with the characters and where they take you while reading this story. I will read book 2 to see how things will progress and to see where the characters will go now. I will also recommend this story and book 2 to my nephews and my son as this is really up their alley. All in all, I was entertained and transported for a time and that is what a great story does.

Brad T. says

I enjoyed this book a lot

Chris Block says

As one of those people who get emotionally involved with characters, I hated this story. The main character is impossible to root for, he is just a complete turd, to anyone and everything. It's impossible to root for him cus ass he does is screw everyone else over (especially the people he cares about for no reason). If the main character being like that doesn't bother you, then this is a decent LirRPG, that is super light on the RPG elements.

Heath says

Good Read.

A LitRPG story. A new immersive game. A new player wanting great power quickly. The game changes at the Book's end, leading to the next book.

Matthew says

Good start to the series. I enjoyed the game play and character progression. One of the MCs is very OP and while I usually enjoy that for some reason this time it left me wanting something else, probably bc of his best friend that he starts the game with. If you read the book you'll see what I mean. All in all it was worth the time to read and I found it hard to put down.

Nefarious18 says

Great book

I loved it. I couldn't put it down. Well written, good plot, and fast paced. Quite a bit of OP but that is the point.
