



Dark Thoughts

Cynthia Sax

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Can love redeem a monster?

The Refuge is home to some of the most violent beings in the universe. Kralj, its leader, reigns over the remote outpost with terrifying ease, ruthlessly squashing any rumors of rebellion, killing anyone who breaks his rules. Primitive, deadly, powerful, he's a monster, scarred both on his face and his soul. He has never met a being he couldn't control.

Until he meets her.

Dita has one mission—to kill the three targets claiming sanctuary within the Refuge. Or so she claims. For the first time in his long lifespan, Kralj isn't certain of another being's intentions. The tiny assassin is immune to his powers, her thoughts unreadable. He can't predict her movements, can't control her, can't stop wanting her.

Dita is rare, as unique as he is, and, to keep the residents of the Refuge safe, Kralj will have to kill her. But first, he'll touch her, taste her, show her how passionate the beast inside him can be.

Dark Thoughts is a STAND-ALONE SciFi Romance. The hero might be tall, dark, and scarred but don't be fooled by his appearance. He's truly a monster. This story is not for readers with delicate sensibilities.

Dark Thoughts Details

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From Reader Review Dark Thoughts for online ebook

Hollie says

I really adored both the hero and heroine in this read. I am a sucker for a strong willed/ tough heroine and this book certainly had that. The assassin and monster both pulled me into their worlds. Amazing character depth. The story had a great balance of suspense and the plot was never dull at any time. I'll definitely check out more of this writers work.

Simply Sam ? says

I'm sorry guys. This was my pick for the our group read, but I can't even bring myself to finish it. It's definitely not what I hoped it would be. It feels almost like the author was not at all familiar with the genre of science fiction, or fantasy for that matter, so just took the names of ordinary objects and gave them really dumbed down, stupid ass names and descriptions to make it "different". Ass and body coverings? Like really? WTF? Just call them what they are. Pants and shirts. Or breeches and blouses. Or trousers and tops. Seriously. The opening scene has him walking into his bar that he lives above, but instead of calling it a bar, it's the "beverage outlet" in the public chamber that's filled with mostly male miscreant humanoid "beings" (which is also what they call everyone) who are holding fermented beverages. Oh my geez. This shit was so distracting and it was NEVER ENDING. They talked about ass coverings nonstop, and if it wasn't ass or body coverings (aka clothes) it was planet rotations (days?) or sleeping supports (beds) or horizontal supports (shelves). Like the list keeps going. It made it so hard to connect I can't even talk about the story. Bleh. I'm done. Time to find some *good* science fiction romance.

Rosebud says

Kill or be killed is Dita's credo though it's accepted that assassins don't die from normal causes nor have long life spans. As the premier Dark Veil assassin she's outlived her life expectancy though it's always her personal preference to live to see another day which is why her latest assignment is so concerning.

Her mission: kill three targets currently residing in a remote Refuge Sanctuary. Shouldn't be much of a problem except that the stronghold's leader Kralj is known far and wide as the deadliest bloodthirsty ruthless being known to mankind. He rules his domain with eerie supernatural powers that discourage all but the most ignorant of breaking his laws. The only rule of importance for Dani is the one that allows for maiming but killing within the walls of the Refuge ends in the immediate gruesome bloody death of the perpetrator.

Dita's always been one for challenges so let the games begin.

* * * * *

Bottom line of this review: READ THIS BOOK !!!!!!!

This is a spin off series that definitely can be read as a stand alone. For Cyborg Sizzle series fans there are a few Easter eggs included but otherwise it's all about Kralj, who had minor cameos in Chasing Mayhem & Hers To Command as the ultimate powerful evil bogeyman of the universe.

At first I didn't realize Kralj was the same minor character portrayed in other stories, but once I did, HOT DAMN. Kralj getting his own story!!!! Seriously, who could be a mate to someone who is for all practical purposes a reincarnation of the devil.

I guess this is a good time to mention that this is a SciFi dark romance that features two antihero main characters so expect there to be blood, gore, maiming, killing, domination, snark, rough sex, and a whole lot of angst and assassin motivated action scenes. This isn't a Beauty & The Beast or Cinderella sort of story so consider yourself warned. For fans who are comfortable and enjoy dark/horror quality reads, I'm predicting you'll be laughing at my warning after reading this book as the 'dark' scenes are more heart racing vs fear factor in quality.

The story opens with Kralj surveying his kingdom (Refuge) reflecting on how things stand. This includes his back story (which I always wondered about) that included when it was realized how REALLY dangerous & deadly he was, his creators attempted to terminate him and guess who won. Kralj now resides in this remote portion of the universe by choice for his own safety but also for the universe's safety. Enter Dami. Human assassin. She dares to enter his domain without his permission and the shit hits the fan. I'm so thrilled that her character was able to stand up to Kralj though she lacked physical and mental strength. Chalk one up for my home girl as she runs circles around Kralj, in more ways than one. lol.

Secondary characters do add depth to the story. Not going to list my favorite and least fav characters as the author did the old bait and switch thing. By that I mean certain characters who initially presented as good guy/girl characters changed through the course of the story and vice versa. I don't want to possibly spoil the reading experience by including names for that reason. "Some" did make an impression on me which resulted in tissue breaks. I totally hate authors who do that to me. Getting so vested in characters that I end up crying when bad things happen to them. So not cool Ms. Author but bravo...

Regarding the adult content scenes. Definitely toe curling, five alarm, assure battery operated devices are fully charged, and have ice freely available as our two main characters have a whole lot of chemistry and years of abstinence to make up for. Passionate D/s lovers who liked it down and dirty and weren't afraid in holding back to make sure their needs were met, time and time again. Hot diggity damn. I'm still smoking my mythical cigarette sipping on my adult beverage in afterglow.

Lastly, there are tags for paranormal for which I'm on the fence about myself. Being an alien does not make one paranormal if they have skills, anatomy, or attributes that are different than us humans. Thus I'm on the fence if those differences should be tagged with SciFi or paranormal. Personally, leaving off that tag though I know others will differ in opinion.

IMHO, this is the best SciFi book I've read so far this year. Loved LOVED L-O-V-E-D the characters and overall story line. I can't wait for the next installment **Dark Sky (Orol's story)** which has no release date of yet.

Marta Cox says

It takes a special kind of person to love a monster and that's exactly what this author has given her readers. Dita may be small but she's an assassin and right now her every thought is consumed by the need to put three violent, sadistic Clones in the ground. Slight problem though as they are hiding out at The Refuge, a place controlled by Kralj, part beast, definitely the thing of nightmares and curiously someone who Dita finds herself desperate to play with! Hmm maybe that's not a good idea but Dita is very, very persistent.

Two people who have both experienced atrocities and yet survived . This couple are surely made for each other but the real joy is seeing Dita constantly challenge Kralj. Dita just won't back down, her sense of honour empowers her and yes even though it's a violent, dark story her playfulness and ability to love life made her a truly vibrant character.

Now Dita might have accepted that life is for living and death just a heartbeat away but Kralj has a very different outlook. He lives totally unaffected by those around him, feared perhaps reviled but above all a man apart. Watching his armour get pierced by Dita was such fun but never forget that Kralj is used to being in control although with everything that happens he just might have to break his own rules! Yes this hero and heroine consider themselves less than human but this story showcases that were there's life there's hope and even monsters deserve love . Just a warning though as Kralj has quite particular appetites that won't suit everyone !

Melissa says

Hot damn!!!

Um Cynthia, we have a problem.... Your Cyborgs now have some serious and I mean serious competition. Stunned, in awe and maybe a slight drooling issue are only some ways to describe how awesome Dark Thoughts is. Dark, slightly twisted and so freakin hot, I think I may have given my fingertips third degree burns as I swiped through the pages. Umm did I mention awesome...

Laz the Sailor says

This is a very entertaining story. Sort of Beauty and the Beast, except Beauty is a killer sprite with nothing to lose.

In this universe, gene-mods are common, and the biggest baddest most-modded of them all rules over the Island of Lost Toys, where anything goes except you can't kill anyone. Enter the sprite who has pledged her honor to kill 3 clones who are hiding in this Refuge. So they start to negotiate with each other to see if the rules can be bent. And of course, the sprite ain't scared of no big ugly guy. It is delightful to watch them flirt at the point of a dagger. And of course, the sex is rough and tumble - reference the movie "Mr and Mrs Smith" but X-rated.

But while these two are teasing each other, people are dying around them, and they need to adjust their relationship to find a new balance. They make some bad choices, and they pay for them.

The book is listed at 200pp, but it felt longer. The only sign of the novella length is the resolution is a bit condensed. I look forward to the next book.

Renégade ♥ says

4 stars

Varied Books says

10/12/18 Ammy freebie

Book was more than I thought it would be. There was dark humor (a plus) but there was also some character depth & love.

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon & on iBooks today (11/14/2018)!?

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

Soooo, I really liked that the female mc was a super bloodthirsty assassin who's clearly not right in the head. That was great and she was always wanting to kill everyone off. Yay.

The male mc was a one thought machine of "I'm a monster, must protect the Refuge, must never leave." Blah, blah, blah. But since he can kill people with his thoughts, I guess it fits. I guess. Kinda boring.

The bad: the language of this book kept trying to be all sci-fi-y, like "ass coverings" vs pants is going to make me think how cool and alien this book is. It's not, it just makes me wonder if they need a dictionary because they forgot the word for pants/trousers/leggings/slacks/jeans/leathers, etc. And since these "ass coverings" also cover the groin, shouldn't they be called "ass and groin coverings", otherwise I'm imagining just a flap in the back and the guy's junk hanging out in the breeze. Bet that's frosty in winter.

The sex scenes in this book were as rough as possible, like part MMA match, part bdsm. That was off putting, even if the couple were all into it.

If the words ass-coverings, domicile, sleep support, and whatever other way too repeated words in this were replaced, I would've liked this more.

Lisa (A Life Bound By Books) says

Good. Darkish. Different. Enjoyed! Looking forward to the next book.

Dino-Jess ★ The Book Eating Dinosaur ★ says

[MAGIC SPERM THAT MAKES YOU INSTANTLY ORGASM. I REPEAT. MAGIC SPERM. INSTANT. ORGASM. *faints* (hide spoiler)]

E.G. Manetti says

I loved Dita - deadly assassin with a moral code. Kralj was a bit more clueless than I like in an alpha-male, but he got better as the book went on.

Moriah says

Y'all. This was SO GOOD.

Dark Thoughts is the first in the Refuge series. I seriously love good Science fiction romance, and Cynthia Sax delivered!

Dita is a bad ass woman! She's a great heroine. She's strong, loyal, and loving! Her and Kralj's chemistry is off the charts!

Kralji is considered a beast, monster, protector of the Refuge. His whole life is turned upside down when he catches Dita, the assassin, sneaking into his city.

This story was seriously good! It focuses more on romance than action, which was okay with me!

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says

[makes her walk naked publicly after rough sex where he just shoves it in w/o any "warmup" or anything (hide spoiler)]
