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John Taylor is not a private detective *per se*, but he has a knack for finding lost things. That's why he's been hired to descend into the Nightside, an otherworldly realm in the center of London where fantasy and reality share renting space and the sun never shines.

Something from the Nightside Details

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From Reader Review Something from the Nightside for online ebook

Chelsea says

This book came highly, highly recommended to me, by the same friend who bought me my first Dresden and Belgariad books. Never before have I doubted her judgement.

This book was the worst example of telling, not showing, I've ever read. There was a lot of dialogue that was only there to talk about the Nightside. You leave the book knowing what kind of person John Taylor is. It's not from experiencing him as a character, but from him telling you all about himself. To illustrate this point, the phrase "...in the Nightside" appears 69 times, according to my count. If I had just counted "the Nightside," it would have been probably upwards of 200.

The book had a humorous tone, but it didn't have any truly funny parts. This lent the entire book a feeling of insincerity which stuck with me until about page 180 or so.

"Anything can happen, here in the Nightside. You can watch baby angels being aborted here in the Nightside. All of your missing socks are here, in the Nightside. In the Nightside, no one checks their blind spots. No manufacturer coupons are doubled, in the Nightside. Only shitty lager is poured in the Nightside. Here in the Nightside, there is no Target, only Walmart."

Regina says

A friend of mine that reviewed this book said it well -- this might have been a great book if it had been written differently. Initially I should say upfront that I prefer character driven stories and if a story is plot driven, then it takes a very strong plot and complex world building for me to be a fan of the book Something from the Nightside is not a character driven book and it is not a book with a strong storyline or strong world building. I think I may have not been the right audience for this book and that there are others out there who would like it.

So here are the strengths:

Interesting world descriptions

Interesting take on the supernatural and the creepy

Plot driven (if you like this sort of think)

Would make a decent movie

The writing is descriptive in such a way that the reader can imagine the scenery. The writing is almost akin to describing a painting.

The book is short, I listened to the narration and it lasted just under 6 hours at regular speed. But I was bored, the narration was okay however, the story did not hold my attention. I ended up listening to it on 2X speed. There are some twists and turns throughout the storyline. There are a few number of funny one liners and observations. Ultimately, though, I felt like the story was strung together by witty observations and comments, detailed descriptions and some fight/flight scenes. I likely will not be reading the next book in the series.

The Flooze says

Something from the Nightside is the introduction to John Taylor, the man who can find anything and anyone. He's a native of the Nightside, the seedy yet vibrant underbelly of London, where nothing is what it seems.

Simon R. Green is adept at creating likable non-heroes. The men and women of the Nightside (including John Taylor) work within dark spaces, committing grey acts that are ultimately for the greater good. John is a rogue with enemies and a reputation for ruthlessness. Yet, his purpose in life is to help others when no one else will. He's reliable and honorable, in a world that panders to everyone's darkest desires. And when a hard yet vulnerable woman needs help finding her daughter, John's softer side can't help but respond.

The universe Green creates is unique, imaginative and twisted; the characters doubly so. The promised thrills and dangers lurking in the shadows will bring me back to the Nightside for more.

Felicia says

Very good, I really liked the characters and the world. Similar feel to Dresden Files. Will buy more!

Mark says

Only thing wrong with this book is that it's a very quick read. The storytelling was expertly written engaging me interest all the way to the end.

I hadn't realised how quickly I had read it.

Going to read the others in this series.

Tammy says

Something from the Nightside was just an okay read in my opinion. Its starts off good-a detective with a gift for finding things takes on a case in which he must locate a rich lady's missing daughter. All the woman knows is that her daughter is in the Nightside.

My biggest problem is I don't like the descriptions of the Nightside, it seemed like the author tried way too hard to make it seem weird. I think it may have been creepier with subtle descriptions of the weirdness. Here's an example, when describing the Nightside John says this, *"...you can pay to see a fallen angel forever burning inside a pentacle drawn in baby's blood. Or a decapitated goat's head that can tell the future in enigmatic verses of perfect iambic pentameter. There's a room where silence is caged and colours are forbidden, and another where a dead nun will show you her stigmata."* **What!?**

I was really dissatisfied with the way the mystery was solved too. I'll eventually read the next book because there is a part of the story that caught my interest.

Sarah Alirezaee says

Dreams can come true, in the Nightside. Everyone knows that.
But they still vanish when you wake up.

Brilliant! Don't miss it!

Lori Whitwam says

This is the first book in Green's "Nightside" series.

"You can find anything in the Nightside-if it doesn't find you first. John Taylor is not a private detective per se, but he has a knack for finding lost things. That's why he's been hired to descend into the Nightside, an otherworldly realm in the center of London where fantasy and reality share renting space and the sun never shines"

I love this series. John Taylor is the relatively normal one (which isn't saying much) in a world filled with otherworldly creatures, where reality is ever-changing and magic abounds. There are so many bizarre characters, some you come to like, and some you definitely are wise to give a wide berth. No matter the scope of mystery or impending apocalypse, Taylor finds himself not only in the middle of it, but usually the pivotal character who will determine who rules the Nightside. And sooner or later, all roads lead to Goodfellows, the oldest bar in the universe. Deeds are done, favors called in or owed, and in the end, NOBODY messes with John Taylor, though some have tried.

Mike (the Paladin) says

While this is not "my" first Nightside book, it is "the" first Night Side book. (The statement almost sounds like something from the Nightside doesn't it?)

John who is "something special" in the Nightside, is just "John Taylor" in the mundane world.

What's the Nightside? Good question, it's the dark heart of London...except it has apparently existed longer than the city itself. It's where all the dark, dangerous, magic "stuff" goes and "lives" or "exists" as some of the things walking, working, and "functioning" there aren't actually, "alive". Somehow though it's a square mile in the heart of London, it seems to be bigger than entire city itself....

If you go there, watch yourself.

This is the story that introed John and the Nightside and it's a good story. I was told that if I liked Jim Butcher's Harry Dresden books, I'd like these. I do. I wouldn't quite say there "as good" but they're close.

Megan says

Our first mention of the Nightside is (in my paperback edition) on page's 10 and 11 where we learn that,

"The Nightside is the secret, hidden, dark heart of the city. London's evil twin. It's where the really wild things are."

From that point on, Green continues to write the phrase *the Nightside* on nearly every single page, often accompanied by a lengthy description of the horrors one will find in *the Nightside*. For example,

*p.12 I considered the matter. How much, to go back into **the Nightside**?*

*p.13 ...compared to what was waiting for me back in **the Nightside**, her anger, and implied threats were nothing.*

*p.14 You know the **Nightside**.*

*p.15 Let me tell you about the **Nightside**...*

***The Nightside** is a square mile of city streets and back alleys in the centre of the city, linking slums and tenements that were old when the last century was new...*

*In practice, **the Nightside** is much bigger than that...there are those who say **the Nightside** is actually bigger than the city that surrounds it...*

*It's always night in **the Nightside**...*

*You can buy or sell anything in **the Nightside**...*

*p.16 You can find anything in **the Nightside**, if it doesn't find you first.*

*p.19 My name is John Taylor. Everyone in the **Nightside** knows that name...
so there I was, going back again, back to **the Nightside**...*

*p.20 I left **the Nightside** five years ago, fleeing imminent death and the betrayal of friends, and swore through blood-flecked lips that I'd never go back, no matter what.*

*p.21 I used to be a dangerous man, even for **the Nightside**...*

*p.22 My closest female friend is a bounty hunter, who operates exclusively in **the Nightside**...
I'm more than just another private detective, in **the Nightside**...
All routes lead to **the Nightside**.*

*p.27 Anyone can walk down the wrong street, open the wrong door, and end up in **the Nightside**. Most of them don't last long, though. London and **the Nightside** have rubbed up against each other for so long now that the barriers are getting dangerously thin. Someday they'll all come crashing down, and all the poison in **the Nightside** will come spilling out...*

*p.28 There are more worlds than we know, or would wish to know, and most of them send people through **the Nightside** sooner or later.*

*p.30 Something new has come into **the Nightside***

*p.31 We have to travel through strange, harsh, places to reach **the Nightside**. Dangerous and unnatural places, that would blast the sight from your eyes and the reason from your mind.*

*p.34 There are a great many mysteries in **the Nightside**, and much against my will, I'm one of them*

*p.36 The only thing that moves faster than the speed of light is gossip in **the Nightside**.*

*p.37 Many of the sleek and gleaming vehicles darting through **the Nightside** had to be new to Joanna...Taxis that ran on debased holy water, limousines that ran on fresh blood, ambulances that ran on distilled suffering. You can turn a profit from anything, in **the Nightside**.*

*p.38 I've never been sure whether the moon really is bigger in **the Nightside**, or whether it's just closer... There were wonders and marvels to be found in **the Nightside**, sights and glories to be savoured and clutched to your heart forever...*

***the Nightside** is really just like...the city streets we walk in dreams and nightmares.*

*p.39 'Welcome to **the Nightside**,' I said, smiling. 'Abandon all taste, ye who enter here.'..*

She gave me a hard look. 'I can never tell when you're joking.'

*'Neither can I sometimes, in **the Nightside**. It's that kind of place. Life, death, and reality are all flexible concepts here.'*

ENOUGH! I made it through 78 pages before giving up. Even if Simon Green didn't tell, rather than show... and even if his characters were well written... and even if this story is perhaps much spookier in his head than it is in the actual writing of it.... I am freaking sick to death of reading the phrase, THE NIGHTSIDE ~ let alone the multiple descriptions of it on every single page. Normally I am not an advocate of violence, but something really needs to be done about the person who let this book be published in its current state.

Even though the protagonist was frequently referred to by his full name, John Taylor ~ and even though that name (as always) brings me blissful images of my favorite sexy bass player ~ that still wasn't enough to rescue this horrid book. Ugh. Let me go listen to some Duran Duran, remember the good John Taylor and get this back to the library ASAP.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

If you like your urban fantasy/occult detective novel with a touch of the horrific, then The Nightside books are up your alley. John Taylor is very enigmatic. He has abilities. He can find things, usually things that don't want to be found. There are things that go bump in the night. And most of them live in The Nightside. It's a dark, scary place that is somewhere near London.

John Taylor is a wanted man in the Nightside, and has sworn not to go back. You know about good intentions. When a girl goes missing, he is asked to go there to help find her. Strapped for cash, he can hardly turn down the exorbitant fee he is offered And John feels the need to help people (although he'd hardly own up to it).

I became a fan of Simon R. Green when I read this book. He has a great sense of humor, on the wry side, often dark, but funny all the same. Yet there is a core of goodness even in the muck and yuck of what happens in this place where it's always 3 am. It's John Taylor. He's all hard-bitten exterior, but inside there is a hero hiding.

Taylor is an interesting protagonist. He has quite a legacy that he is running from, and doesn't fully understand. He doesn't know that much about his parents, except that his mother was/is a heavy hitter in the Nightside, and his father was fairly normal. As the books unfold we find out just how powerful his mom is. There is a prophecy that Taylor might bring about the end of the world if he succeeds in finding his long-lost mother. Taylor goes to the future long enough to see that it's not what any of us want, especially me (read the book and you'll find out why. Poor Razor Eddie).

This book is full of interesting and rather dark and scary, but often humorous at the same time secondary characters like Razor Eddie, Shotgun Suzie, the gun-happy, rather butch female friend and sometimes enemy of Taylor, and The Harrowing, very scary beings with no faces wearing suits and with hypodermic needles for hands, who are out for Taylor's blood, just to name a few. There are some strange and unsettling things happening in the Nightside, and for that reason I would warn a reader. Green tends to describe the violence in a very horrific way, but I feel the humor keeps the subject more light. I am a bit squeamish, and I love these books, so I think most interested readers could handle them. So if you are willing to take a walk on the darkside, come on down to the Nightside. John Taylor can tell you more than he cares to remember about this place.

Ami says

DNF at 47%

With huge apology to my buddy read (Kate), I simply have to bail. I can't continue a book where all I want is gritting my teeth in annoyance when I read it

Strike One: Alien Abductees. ALIEN. ABDUCTEES. Look I don't know, if it's the true plot or not, but when I read this line, I have to stop. I might enjoying The X-Files back in 1990s but definitely not almost two decades later. Alien is so last decade. I'm truly sorry, but anything with alien abductees thingy is not my thing.

Strike Two: Our hero, John, is supposed to be well-known *in the Nightside* and his name scared some people's too. But when his first reaction to his greatest enemy is shaking in fear, and cannot really do anything except being saved by someone else ... well, I lose my respect to him entirely. Oh, and that first kiss with the damsel in distress? Again, ANNOYING. Not when the damsel mistaken John for her savior when all John does is cowering in fear.

Strike Three: All these words of *in the Nightside/to the Nightside/the Nightside* combination. GAH!! So distracting and frickin' annoying. Yes, yes, I know that *the Nightside* is scary and freaky, but darn telling me about it for gazillion times will not make me *think* it's scary. Show me!!

So maybe I will not know when the next book is better or not. I decide NOT to find out. Sorry John, you're not the hero I'd like to read more about...

Dan Schwent says

After five years in London, John Taylor gets drawn back into the machinations of the Nightside when Joanna Barrett hires him to find her daughter. The trail takes him all over the Nightside and nothing is ever as it first seems...

I've had this on my bookcase for over a year and I finally gave it a read on vacation. It's light and obviously the first in a long series but I dig it just the same.

The Nightside is a pocket dimension that lies in part of London populated with all kinds of nasties. John Taylor has a vaguely described gift that lets him find lost things. Pretty cool. I like that Taylor is far from being a superhero and actually not very brave. The supporting characters are good, not cardboard like many

secondary characters in books of this type. Razor Eddie stands out in particular, as do the Harrowing.

Easter eggs about. The one that really stands out is a cameo by Michael Moorcock's Jerry Cornelius.

Not a bad read. Fans of the Dresden Files and Glen Cook's Garrett books will enjoy it.

Catherine Ford says

For the full review click:

<http://www.bookrantorrave.com/blog/so...>

Phew, how to describe this book! First of all, let me tell you that it is amazing, no more than amazing – it is a true master piece! I have never read anything like it and doubt if I will. The Nightside series is sort of a mix of Terry Pratchett meets James Bond meets hell. Perhaps the best description I can come up with is that it is a black comedy action urban fantasy, and that still doesn't quite cut it.

The book is told from a first person point of view, that of John Taylor who is nearing thirty years old. He is hiding out in downtown London, parading as a special investigator. You see, John Taylor can find anything and anyone, even if they don't want to be found. He was forced to flee The Nightside, a pocket Dimension in the middle of London, five years ago, by monsters who had hunted him since he was a child. But, when Joanna Barrett turns up at his decrepit little office, begging for his help to find her lost daughter, Cathy, John Taylor decides it is time to go back to the Nightside. And so the adventure begins.

Anita says

This book is written like an old-school down-on-his-luck PI mystery, complete with the rich dame that waltzes into the private eye's life desperately seeking his help. There are plenty of bleak monologues, just like you'd expect in that genre. That said, it's a contemporary urban fantasy setting that the author calls the Nightside. The Nightside is like a parallel dimension connected to London through the subway system. All sorts of crazy creatures from various dimensions, times, and planets come and go through the Nightside. There's very little law - pretty much just survival of the fittest. The PI, John Taylor, was born and raised in the Nightside, but left for good 5 years ago to live in London. Joanne Barrett, a rich business woman, shows up desperately looking for her teen runaway daughter, who is in the Nightside. John is broke, so he takes the case (plus he's a sucker for a dame.) While in the Nightside, John has special powers - mostly psychic ones that involve finding things. The story takes the reader through a few death-defying scenarios and introduces the reader to many violent cartoon-ish characters during the quest for the daughter. The book comes off as a script for a movie more than a novel - it is visually interesting and action packed, but there is very little character development. I was frankly shocked to learn near the end of the story that John was developing romantic feelings for Joanna. I was also a little peaved that John suddenly had an extra power the reader didn't know anything about just in the nick of time at the end of the story - I found that conclusion lazy on the part of the writer. Despite all the violence and gore, the book wasn't disturbing - it came off as cartoonish, and the characters were so shallow, I never really cared enough about them to be scared. So, good enough, but not great. Maybe the rest of the series gets better.
