



The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2)

By Darren Shan

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Darren Shan was just an ordinary schoolboy until his visit to the Cirque Du Freak. Now, as he struggles with his new life as a Vampire's Assistant, he tries desperately to resist the one temptation that sickens him, the one thing that can keep him alive. But destiny is calling. The Wolf Man is waiting.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

What if you were an unwilling vampire? You needed to drink human blood to stay alive, but you weren't some horror-flick villain; you were *you*, born human--a nice person, even. Thus is the dilemma of the young narrator-protagonist, Darren Shan, in this tremendously suspenseful, oft-sickening sequel to *Cirque Du Freak: The Saga of Darren Shan*. In the first book, Darren becomes a vampire's assistant to save the life of his friend Steve. In order to do so, he has to fake his death, get buried alive, and head out--half-human, homeless, and friendless--into the world. *The Vampire's Assistant* chronicles his new lonely life as a half-vampire, pumped with the cursed blood of his vampire guardian, Mr. Crepsley. Darren has much to learn about his freshly supernatural state. He doesn't grow fangs, for instance, like he thought he might. And he can't change shape or fly. Garlic just gives vampires bad breath... And they eat bagels. Some of the hardest lessons of all come when he joins the traveling freak show Cirque Du Freak, the show that got him and Steve in trouble in the first place. Readers won't be disappointed by this fast-paced, gory, but strangely amiable sequel. In fact, the plot is much better paced than the first and the dialogue far more natural. Deadly pythons, a snake boy, Cormac Limbs (bite off his finger and it grows back!), and an entire cast of dreadfully creepy characters offer excitement beyond expectation. Along the way, we come to really like Darren, who will do absolutely anything for a friend. British author Darren Shan promises more adventures in 2002. (Ages 10 and older) --Karin Snelson

From Publishers Weekly

In *The Vampire's Assistant*, the second installment of the series begun with *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shan, the hero returns to the old-fashioned freak show where, thanks to Mr. Crepsley, he became a "half-vampire." Darren once again struggles against the urge to feed upon the human blood his health requires.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-After a breezy two-page introduction that gives the major plot points of *Cirque du Freak*, readers are plunged back into the world of a young, newly minted half-vampire (a concept that is never fully explained). With his mentor, the creepy full vampire Mr. Crepsley, Darren is learning the ropes of the undead. Readers quickly get a rundown of the facts, the most important one being that vampires, even half ones, must have human blood to survive, and Darren can't bring himself to drink. There is not much plot here. He and Mr. Crepsley return to the *Cirque du Freak*. Darren and Evra, a snake-boy, make what is ultimately a tragic friendship with a local boy named Sam and a self-proclaimed "ecowarrior" named R.V. It is R.V. who precipitates the real action as he becomes suspicious of animals disappearing from nearby farms. The first-person narration seems superficial, and there is little depth to Darren's character. That said, Shan creates heart-pounding, page-turning action that will keep kids reading. He certainly knows his horror, and this book cranks up the gore factor a notch or two. Readers will get more information about the genuinely weird denizens of the *Cirque du Freak*. There are some genuinely horrific, almost painful moments, particularly at the book's tragic climax. Readers will be turning from the page, sickened, and then come back to find out what happens next. The question remains, where can Shan take his readers from here? Just how far will he go?-Tim Wadham, Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, AZ

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rose Slagle:

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book to read? Maybe the book with the subject *The Vampire's Assistant* (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) suitable to you? Often the book was written by well-known writer in this era. The book entitled *The Vampire's Assistant* (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) is one of several books that everyone reads now. This specific book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new dimensions that you ever know just before. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily know the core of this publication. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. So you can see the representation of the world in this book.

Ned Aguayo:

A lot of people always spend their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with their family or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spend that free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you would like to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spend the whole day to reading a publication. The book *The Vampire's Assistant* (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too fund but this book offers high quality.

Damon Smith:

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