



Trials of Death (Cirque Du Freak: Saga of Darren Shan, #5)

By Darren Shan

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The trials: seventeen ways to die unless the luck of the vampire is with you. Darren Shan must pass five fearsome Trials to prove himself to the vampire clan ? or face the stakes of the Hall of Death. But Vampire Mountain holds hidden threats. Sinister, potent forces are gathering in the darkness. In this nightmarish world of bloodshed and betrayal, death may be a blessing...

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-This is the fifth novel in the continuing saga of the youthful half-vampire assistant to Larten Crepsley, a full vampire. Crepsley has brought Darren to Vampire Mountain to undergo the Trials of Death, an elective ritual periodically undergone by vampires in order to bond with the clan and prove their worth. As a half-vampire, Darren is in more danger of failing the trials than the others who usually participate, but he is determined to go ahead. The penalty for failing without dying is execution. In the background a new conflict looms, involving the vampaneze, purple-skinned killers who resemble vampires but who are nothing like the beings whom Darren has come to respect and admire. When it appears that he will not survive the trials, his vampire friends urge him to escape. Escorting him out through the mountain's underground tunnels, they run smack into an incoming vampaneze invasion. In the final pages, the plot and action finally pick up to fever pace as Darren is caught between invaders, defenders, and possibly a traitor in the ranks of the faithful. Characters are mostly one-dimensional, and the plot plods along until the final conflict heats up the action. Although the story stands on its own, there isn't much reason to read this one aside from following the series.

Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA

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Review

"Fans of the series will again line up to devour this latest installment of Darren's story. Loads of action and gruesome adventures cram the story of a young man coming to terms with his vampiric nature. Darren begins to grow a bit as a person, a rarity in most serialized characters, making this book as interesting to read as the first installment in the story. Of course, there is plenty of gore to satisfy the bloodthirsty, with the promise of much more to come. There are far too few horror stories to offer middle school and junior high students. This series, although grisly in detail, is still appropriate for the younger fans of the vampire genre. Any chapter would make a riveting read-aloud as they end leaving the reader wondering what will happen next." -- VOYA

"Compulsively readable." --*School Library Journal*

"With loads of bone-chilling action and near-death battles, Shan takes Cirque du Freak to an even scarier level in this fifth book. Scenes of Darren being gashed with stalactites and savagely burned are gruesome and cool, while the story provides surprises that will make your jaw drop. *Trials of Death* will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat." --Barnes & Noble, editorial review

"Fast-paced and full of macabre touches." --J. K. Rowling

About the Author

Darren Shan was born in London but at an early age he moved to Limerick, Ireland, with his parents and younger brother. He grew up watching old Dracula horror movies and reading spooky comics, which were the inspirations for this series. Trials of Death is his fifth novel in The Saga of Darren Shan.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Johnson:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, short story and the biggest some may be novel. Now, why not trying Trials of Death (Cirque Du Freak: Saga of Darren Shan, #5) that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading behavior all over the world can be said as the way for people to know world a great deal better than how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be stated constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for every you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you could pick Trials of Death (Cirque Du Freak: Saga of Darren Shan, #5) become your personal starter.

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