



Noir

Nathan Squiers

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Xander Stryker wants to die.

Ever since witnessing his mother's murder at the hands of his abusive stepfather when he was a boy, he has spent every day trying to reach that goal. But every night he's denied the death he craves. As his eighteenth birthday approaches, a chance for change is offered when his life is plunged into a supernatural world of vampires and other creatures of darkness.

Caught in the depths of this new reality, mysteries of his vampiric lineage begin to unravel and he's offered the ultimate choice:

Continue on with his wretched human life or begin a new one as the vampire prodigy he was always meant to be.

Unfortunately, the supernatural world can be just as unforgiving and brutal as any other and Xander's choice is met with disastrous consequences.

Now, with a little support and even less hope, the chaos of his new world collides with his torturous past and threatens to crush him once and for all.

Noir Details

Date : Published December 15th 2013 by Tiger Dynasty Publishing (first published April 18th 2012)

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Author : Nathan Squiers

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From Reader Review Noir for online ebook

Christina Worrell says

Crimson Shadow is not the kind of book I normally read. While it is paranormal my usual vices are of the romantic kind, such as House of Night, Twilight, True Blood... I always will take and someday read ANYTHING to do with vampires. Reviewing this book is hard because I keep wanting to review the author. Which I might do at a later date.

Crimson Shadow has that edge of your seat, late night wild ride feel through the whole book. You get hooked from page one by not just the plot which in itself deserves five stars but by the way the author tells the story, Xander's story. He doesn't just write, doesn't just throw down the story for you. He weaves it in such a way with just the right words to aptly detail it without going on forever. He uses words that are understandable to all but also give the reader a minds eye as if you were there. He has a strong vocabulary sense and doesn't reuse words. You are not skipping ahead to the next scene because you are bored or its way too detailed. I really like that when I read. I want enough details to see what the writer wants me to but from my own perspective.

We are taken on a bloody violent adventure from the first word. Everything flows into the next scene accurately never leaving you going what happened to (whatever)? Another pet peeve of mine.

I thoroughly found myself not only entertained but intellectually stimulated. The way Squiers portrays Xander's situation throughout the book has the reader understanding, sympathizing, and relating well. I could see myself in that situation doing the same thing.

Xander's story is paranormal, horror, and in my own opinion it has a slight science fiction feel. A teenager, nearly a man, goes through life accepting what he thinks he cannot change (like most of us) and taking literally and figuratively one beating after another by all except his mother, grandmother, and some new friends and all know more about him than he knows about himself. He dances madly with his own life, after his mother and grandmother die leaving him alone. Xander has some unique issues though that normal people don't have and those special touches make him stronger than he realizes. They also lead him to a life he never expected that changes everything about him. He finds with this brand new life a growing sense of self, strength, and a new understanding. He has a reason to live now and he will die trying to accomplish this. This is not a book you can fly through. You have to read at Squiers pace to truly 'get' Xander. His pace is perfect honestly so I feel no issue there personally. I didn't find myself going in different directions and losing the point.

LIKES: Where to begin... lol there were many. I think I explained well above.

DISLIKES: None (Unless you count lack of romance lol for those who like that kind of thing! :D)

Adult Language, Violence, Bloodshed

A book I would definitely suggest to those who enjoy vampires.

A book I would definitely suggest to become a movie.

Good job Nathan on such a thrilling book.

BookNerdette says

Read Saturday May 17, to Sunday May 18, 2014

I grabbed this Amazon Freebie March 4, 2014... I was in a Vamp Mood.

This was such a suck-you-in-so-you-couldn't-do-anything-else but read book. Even though you had such darkness, but the mystery pulled me along and like the curious cat I stayed with it for I had to know what

happen to this young Xander.

I went through several beatings with him and held my gut along with him when them damm bullies finished with us. We held our head and yet we knew that their must be more for us in this life than to be born just to be a punching bag. I knew that Xander was going to be a golden key to something great, and was rewarded.

I loved all of it – the imagination of this author baffled me and I just considered myself lucky to be able to soak up this greatness. I love the change from anything else I have read and believe you me I love Vampires, so I've read my share.

A different storyline with interesting characters and a great magical pull with a writing style that was very easy to read. I loved it! ...until we got close to the end and me being a gal my mind got bored when it hit the matrix fighting. I understand guys need all that detail but for me it was ... bla bla bla and I skimmed until ... well I can't tell you for fear of messing the book up but the fighting was over basically when I stopped skimming. Ugh.

I like the characters and can see this going into a series so ... Yes, I would read more. I was happy you didn't have a love affair interfere with his training. Oh I was a bit confused as to why you allowed Marcus to get the crap beat outta him by a girl? Hmm, and then he run off to lick his wounds like a dog. I thought he was a great warrior.

Well now I think about all the things that made this new and original are now gone so to go on would be the same as the others. But you Nathan have a gift that I am sure you would take what you have and make it original in some way. I love creative Authors! So again I say Yes I would read on in the series.

?Blessed be,
Tresa da BookNerdette

Lissette says

For years, Xander Stryker has yearned for a death that has always escaped him. The abuse his stepfather inflicted on him has followed him wherever he goes and the memories full of pain and heartache refuse to leave him. Every moment of every day, he's forced to remember things he's tried so very hard forget. Things his shattered mind knows he never had a chance in preventing. His only solace is that his step-father is dead and he needn't put up with the abuse any longer. Or so he thinks.

With his eighteen birthday just around the corner, Xander struggles to control the never-ending rage he feels inside while lamenting the loss of the one person who has ever shown him a bit of kindness. Estella means everything to him, even if he'll never really admit it. She's better off not knowing about the extent of his pain and the odd occurrences that take place when his anger unexpectedly rises. She's safer this way and he'll do everything in power to make sure she stays that way.

When unexpected visitors show up and throw him for a loop, Xander begins to wonder what it is that he does not know. A multitude of people know of his existence, yet he's never heard or seen them until now. Transported to safety after a vicious attack, he has no other choice but to place his trust into the hands of the

people he'd once thought would hurt him.

As the secrets surrounding his past surface, Xander is introduced into a supernatural world he never knew existed. In order to come into his own, he'll need to become one with what he truly is. While the thought of doing so is daunting, he knows it's a step he must take if he's to come to terms with who and what he truly is.

When a part of his past unexpectedly surfaces, he's forced to make decisions that will change his life forever. Those very changes may spell disaster for all those involved if he doesn't learn to channel his own powers, and fast. It's his only chance to save those he's come to care about in so short a time.

I found this story quite intriguing. It's full of deep pain and heartache as a boy accepts the consequences of an abuse that's been dealt to him his entire life. Suffering abuse is painful. It sears the soul, preventing a person from truly believing in and loving those who try to give them a helping hand.

Xander's step-father made sure that the pain and suffering he delivered upon him day in and day out had lasting repercussions. The rage Xander feels inside is his way of dealing with that pain. The fact that his suicidal attempts never work out in his favor are also a testament to that fact.

I think Nathan captured the aspects of the boy's pain, his heartache, and his uncertainties quite beautifully. It's something any of us can relate to. The supernatural world he created around this character is quite different from the ones I've usually encountered when reading stories involving vampires. It's a very unique world, that's for sure.

I do think that a couple places in the story could have been tightened up a little further, though. It sometimes felt as if there were some small loose ends. Not really sure if they were intentional, but it did detract from the train of thought a little bit. There were also a couple characters that felt as if they were just there as some sort of filler. Aside from also finding a couple punctuation and grammar errors, here and there, I do think the story is a good read, as it is very entertaining to find out what happens next to Xander.

Shayna Gier says

What I Loved:

I love how complex Xander is. He's been through a lot, especially for a young teen, and he has his faults, but despite the dark, suicidal, and homicidal thoughts and tendencies, he is still a good guy- in the most complex definition of "good" you can think of. There is nothing I love more than a non-human character that retains their humanity, and despite all odds- Xander does this. There's plenty of reasons for him to just be "bad," and I think that many readers would cheer for him if he was, but through all the shit he goes through, he retains a sense of decency.

Also, I absolutely loved the character of Trepis! Always a voice of reason for Xander and his closest (in more ways than one) friend, I was really sad when-- well, read the book to find out.

What I Didn't Like:

I have never read a noir book before, and I have to say I don't think I'll become a fan of the genre. It wasn't bad, just very very dark, with a good ending. I like dark elements, but this was a little much for me. Also,

while this is not a "what I disliked," those of you that are bothered by content please note this book contains gory death scenes, suicide attempts, graphic abuse and harsh language.

My Overall Review:

Crimson Shadow is perfect if you are someone that loves dark fiction. The characters, especially Xander, are complex and motivations deep on different levels. There's an overall happy ending if you read through the entire book, which I really enjoyed. I won't become a huge fan of the genre, but an occasional read every now and then wouldn't be horrible either. For me, it's closer to a "3-star" than a four star, but that's purely because I don't care for the genre, so I'm rating it a 4-star for those that do.

Disclaimer:

This book was provided for me at no charge, nor was I given compensation of any kind for this review. This review only reflects my personal opinion.

W.H. says

OMG Vampires and Tigers! My dream come true in an amazing, dark, and compelling read! NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART!

Xander Stryker embodies so many characteristics that we, as humans face today. I won't go into it any farther than that, because you need to read this book to get the full effect of the Author's story ~ let's just say his story spans from coming of age in a dark and twisted world to a place where choices need to be made for his own survival. Tormented and traumatized by the events that took his mother's life right in front of him, leaves a bitter taste of rage within Xander. It is how it deals with that rage that spoke to me.

Nathan has built a multi-layered, dark, world of action-packed fight sequences, self-discovery, pain, loss, grief, abuse, betrayal, anger, and more. It grabbed my attention from page one, and stayed with me until I had the opportunity to finally finish it! The characters are fresh and new, introducing two different types of vampires, both just as deadly as the other, then there are the other creatures introduced, ones I would not want to meet one in a dark alley that is for sure. Xander is awesome, refreshing and I absolutely LOVE his four-legged friend and companion, a powerhouse in his own right, a gorgeous white tiger. I wonder just what the next installment unfolds as these two handle whatever might come their way.

I highly recommend this book to all Vampire lovers 18 and over out there, due to the graphic language and scenes, however, be warned, these are NOT your SPARKLY Vampires.

5 out of 5 Hearts

Lovetiggi's Book Reviews

Jacquie Talento says

I couldn't wait to download this book by Mr. Squiers and when opportunity knocked, I opened his book. His writing technique is so fluent and well said I was trapped in not wanting any escape plan at all. I think it's our win for having the chance to read his works. What a priveledge as a follower of his work to get to read. This is a definite must read and your loss if you don't.

Zander doesn't have the happiest life when the one person he loves dies and he wants to join her. He plans it out and executes it every night wondering if it will be his last night on earth. But when something happens to change things for him, will he change his thoughts? This was a great job Mr. Squiers. You are the best.

Megan Parker says

Crimson Shadow: Noir is an incredibly dark tale about the story of Xander Stryker. As an origins story, I was deeply moved by Xander's struggles. The book starts right up where we're taken into the Xander's world and his nightly rituals with a pair of custom revolvers and his ritualistic game of russian roulette.

After reading that scene, I admit that the dark elements of Xander's life were really unsettling and this story is definitely not for the faint of heart.

However, once you delve deeper into the book you find a glimmer of hope for Xander as he's presented with a new world that he had always been a part of. Xander seeing this chance welcomingly takes it and begins to see a bright glimmer to his life.

But, the author titled as the "Literary Dark Emperor" of course wouldn't let that be how it ends and that glimmer is dashed away from Xander as he awakens into his new life in a (pardon the pun) "Crimson Shadow".

However, the story moves on and Xander begins to accept his calling (and even rekindles his friendship with a female witch named Estella!).

This novel is filled with action-packed fight scenes that really give a cinematic tone to the writing and each fight scene made me more excited to see how Xander handled the next enemy thrown at him.

The ending fight scene is a fight you do not want to miss!!

Look out, vampires! Xander Stryker is making his debut!!

5/5 stars

Heidi says

I received this book from the author for an honest review.

I couldn't put this book down! After loving the prequel and some of the Author's short stories from the Crimson Shadow Series, I was most eager to read this book. It was fantastic and brought the whole Crimson Shadow world to life! A different look into the world of Vampires and Mythos, Noir is a step out of our comfortable box and into a world full of horror, magic, death and violence. The Author has an uncanny ability at bringing the characters to life in a very dramatic way. You feel the pain, the anger and frustration that Xander has as a young boy being abused by not only his stepfather but from a group of bullies in school. He is tormented by visions of his mother's death and when there is nothing worth living for, why live? As trauma seems to follow him, the only person he thinks is left in his life is taken and he ends up having to trust strangers with a dark secret from his past.

We are transported along with Xander as he reawakens what has been laying dormant within himself since before he was born. Once these powers are brought forth, and he is trained by his Mentors Stan and Marcus, we start to see a path that opens up for his future. But first he is left with facing the darkness from his past that must be taken care of in order for him to move forward and lay his past to rest. With Yin and Yang at his side, we see a broken man turned into a warrior... whoever said revenge wasn't sweet needs to read this book. Yes it has a darker element to it and one I do not usually enjoy reading, but in this context and the way the Author is so skilled and gifted in his writing, it makes the story a fantastic read and one I would highly recommend. I can't wait to see what comes next!

Meledy Blumberg says

Nathan Squires is a new author for me i am not a big paranormal fan i do love my vampire books because each of them have there different kind of style. You have Xander who has seen his fair share of heart ache with the loss of a love one. He finds out a few things after spending most of his life playing Russian Roulette with a gun. I did love this book at first it was slow pace but it soon came out and you did not want to let go after ward. Nathan brought out a breath of fresh air considering all the other vampire books so if you love this kind of genre you really need to click this book you will not regret it.

Heather Alexander says

I was given this book in return for an honest review. Xander Styker is a teen who has been abused by his stepfather and his classmates his whole life. The rage that burns inside of him and the self destructive behavior he exhibits, makes you want to take him home with you. I fell in love with the kid right from the start, I love an underdog. But is he? Xander has only had 2 friends in his lifetime, A girl named Estella and the voice in his head, named Trepis. He alienates himself from Estella, but Trepis is always there. He also has a teacher at his school who he is somewhat comfortable with, named Sam, who isn't what he seems. Throughout this story Xander will discover who he really is, who Trepis is and What they both are. Xander is attacked one night by things that he doesn't understand, luckily he is saved by another group of supernaturals. He comes to find out that the things he thought were myths, are actually based in reality and he is a big part of it. Marcus, one of his rescuers, among others, will be his mentor. After an attack on the safehouse and the death of the supernaturals that were there, he is taken by Marcus to Sam, who it turns out is very, very powerful. Xander learns about the Mythos, creatures of all kinds, based on mythology. Xander is a hybrid of 2 different types of vampire and his father was a very powerful vampire as well. He is being hunted. These aren't your everyday vampires though, Auric vampires feed on emotion & energy, Sangs feed on blood. Xander is both. Stan and Marcus only have a short time to train Xander, and during that time he will learn secrets about himself, his family, and the mythos that will change everything. In the end it all comes down to an epic battle that you will not believe. I cannot wait to see where this goes next. I thought this was a very original take on vampires as well as being a refreshing relief from the same old vampire stories.

Christoph Fischer says

“Noir” by Nathan Squiers is the first in his Crimson Shadow series. It concerns Xander, a boy who gets bullied at school and who lives with his grandmother. The only good friend he has is a voice in his head, yet that voice cannot protect him from his enemies either.

Then one day he gets rescued by a group of vampires, the Odin Clan, and becomes part of their community, a rare type of vampires who are feeding from blood and from personal power. He receives training and enters into battle against their enemies.

This is as much a vampire tale as it is symbolic for the struggle for personal power and good use for it. Having been a victim has changed Xander and makes him an unlikely candidate to join “bad” creatures. His feelings of rage need to be contained – there is a sensei/ teacher in Xanders training who helps him with these struggles.

Very well written and perfectly paced the author has given us a great read and a skilfully developed character in Xander. I will say that this type of story about supernatural powers and the struggle for personal control and self-discipline has been done many times before but this is one of the few times where I actually bought it.

Chelle says

First I must say I had to read this story twice to be able to do a review. I was just so sucked into the story the first time I was lost for what words to use to explain the story.

Nathan has such a way with words and writing that you are sucked into every twist turn and emotional

tourment the book has to offer. His characters are well developed and the plot flows flawlessly from one scene to the next. His writing style will rival any movie you have watched, this story will play out in your mind as a movie and leave you emotionally involved in the horrors and cruelty of humans.

Xandar is a teenage boy who has experienced more abuse and loss than one person should ever have to go through. He spends every night playing Russian Roulette and trying to end his horrid existence. Conversing with the voice in his mind known as Trepis. He has very few friends and pushes away those closest to him to protect them from the violence that is his existence.

Finding a group of vampires that knew his father. Xandar finally sees a glimmer of hope. To at least know his father if even through the memories of others. Deciding to go all the way into the Clan of vampires and become one of them. He sees a new start for himself. That glimmer of hope is quickly extinguished as disaster strikes the night he takes on the change.

Take a journey with Xandar and see if he can finally overcome the darkness that is his life and undeath. This story is action packed and will keep you on the edge of your seat as you read through the fight scenes and life of Xandar.

I was definitely not disappointed in this story and highly recommend it to anyone who loves a great dark vampire story and not your Hollywood sparkly ones

L.E.Olteano says

Well, I'll begin by saying I was on the fence with this rating, I still can't much decide between 3 and 4 butterflies, it's right up on the edge there, lol. But as usual, if I'm not feeling a clear 3 then I'm going with a 4.

Now, there are two schools of thought regarding info about plots: the one that thinks information is info-dump and much prefers to dive right in the action (more commercial approach, in my opinion, plot/action-driven view), and the one that thinks information is essential to characters and their actions/reactions making sense, that it gives circumstances and helps the story make better sense character-wise (more literary approach, in my opinion, character/development-driven view). I'm clearly and undoubtedly of the second. I'm all about the character development, even in commercial-ish reading. So I want circumstances and the intro to the story before getting into the action, whereas others will call this "info-dump".

There was no "info-dumping" in this story; I would have enjoyed it more, I think, if I would have had some facts prior to the action per se. But that's just me.

The characters were interesting, particularly Xander. There was this dark vibe about him that always draws me in a character (or a person as well), and yet because it reminded me so much of someone specific it made me feel odd throughout the read. This is the second time I've had this happen to me with a read, and the fact that something about a character makes me constantly think of someone I know I find alters how I perceive the story. On the one hand, I get a lot more emotionally involved with that character and thus I'm more curious about what happens and how the story goes, on the other hand though, it makes the tough parts of the read tougher, you know? So I'm conflicted by default, lol. The read has a lot more impact in these circumstances, and as always I feel I need to be really straightforward about it with you guys.

There was another particularly notable character for me in this story, and it was Kyle. I'd love to watch him impersonate a potato in a big and steamy bath of boiling oil. Enough said. :D

The plot was really interesting, there was a lot of juicy conflict and it had me stewing in my own juices for basically the whole read. What I really loved about this read was the creative dimension of the let's call it paranormal side of things. There was enough action to give me a rush, but not so agitated that it would bore me.

I know, odd, but agitated action (like Chuck Norris, Steven Seagal, Dolph Lundgren and such movies) bores me to death, it's as interesting to me as peeling paint - maybe less, peeling paint does have its intrinsic charms, you know? I've began growing quite impatient with agitated action.

This plot was dynamic and alert without becoming agitated, without losing sense or direction. This is how action is supposed to be, as dark or not as it may be, this is the optimal pace of things, and Nathan Squiers has hit it just right for my reading pleasure.

As always, I'll comment on the cover a bit, because, I mean...just look at it! Hot or what, right? Totally awesome. I'm a real coverwh0re, and I do buy books based on covers simply because I love the covers. I'm actually more likely to buy paperbacks of books either because I already read them and loved them, or because the covers are just so freaking amazing. For my reading curiosity I'll most likely go with the ebooks :D I'd get this baby in paperback :D

So, overall, I say this was a fresh and interesting read. I really liked the vibe of the writing, the pace of the read and I'm looking forward to the next installments in this series.

Butterfly-o-Meter Books

Julie says

I enjoyed this story! It was fast paced, and suspenseful. Xander had a tragic childhood filled with sorrow, where life and death are a thin line. He's an interesting character. A loner most of his life, but wasn't quite his choice, just the way it had to be. He can't let others know how his life is at home. Xander is looked upon as different and strange and can't connect socially with his peers. When things couldn't get any worse, he is drawn and pulled against his will by others and into a world he never knew existed . He may see his life has a destiny and can't give up. I was surprised from beginning to end! The story does not have a cliff hanger, but there are more novels to follow. It's a great story you won't want to put down! I highly recommend this book of Noir!

Carrie says

I received this eBook from the author in exchange for an honest review and I want to thank Nathan for this thrilling story!

Xander Stryker has had all he's ever loved ripped violently from his life by those that are only supposed to live in nightmares and horror movies. Tormented by nightmares of a reality no child should have to face, and the ever present torment from his classmates, Xander tries very hard to just vanish from the life he has been given. But when you're the child of one of the most powerful Auric's in the world, ceasing to exist is not an option.

Raised by his grandmother after his mothers violent death by the hands of his step-father, Xander has no idea

who he truly is.. until it's to late. Guarded from the truth in order to protect him by those he loved, Xander faces a whole new reality where the beings of his nightmares are more real than anything he has ever known.

Xander has always had power. Unable to grasp the power that surges with his violent emotions, he finds solace in isolation, where he can speak to the voice in his mind that has been with him since birth, and his one and only friend Stan who is more unusual than Xander even realizes.

After the horrible death of his grandmother, Xander finds those of his kind. Beings he feels an instant kinship with, if for nothing more than their memories of his father. A man Xander never knew.

Or did he?

After accepting the ceremony that will fully bring him in to his dead father's world, and Clan Oden, Xander wakes to find that the terrors are far from over... And the true fight has just begun.

I absolutely loved this novel. I fell in love with Xander from the first page, my heart breaking for him with every nightmare, every emotion he couldn't name. We walk with Xander through his trials, his growth in his new world, and feel every pain, every happiness- though few- and every small triumph he accomplishes.

The first full length novel in the Crimson Shadow series, this is an amazing start to what is bound to be one of the most popular in it's genre. Written so beautifully you feel as if you are there in the shadow's with Xander himself, Nathan Squiers has captivated me with his dark and emotional tale, and I can not wait to see what our tortured hero faces next.

I would give this a hundred stars if I could, but have to settle with the measly five we are offered. This is a definite must read to any who love the dark, sometimes twisted tales of Vampires, Werewolves, and Magical beings that fill Nathan's Mytho's world.
