



Nightingale's Lament

Simon R. Green

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In the Nightside, the hidden heart of London where it's always 3 AM, Detective John Taylor must find an elusive singer known as The Nightingale. Her silken voice has inexplicably lured many a fan to suicide--and Taylor is determined to stop her, before the whole neighborhood falls under her trance. But to catch the swift-winged Nightingale, he'll have to hear the deadly music--and survive.

Nightingale's Lament Details

Date : Published April 1st 2004 by Ace Books

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Author : Simon R. Green

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From Reader Review Nightingale's Lament for online ebook

Justin says

The Nightside stories are so hard boiled it's hard to put in perspective, but I'm going to try anyway. If you took Dashiell Hammett's corpse rolled it in batter then deep fried it till black, you would have a pretty good approximation of what Simon R. Green is going for. Nightingale's Lament is the third book in the Nightside series, and follows the same mold the previous books do. The story is basically another case file for John Tayler. He's been tasked to discover the cause behind the mysterious suicides surrounding a young singer's performances. Through the course of the mystery he once again uses his reputation and collection of odd characters to help in solving the case. Simon R. Green continues to introduce new and fascinating characters into his narrative.

So far with each installment Green has tightened up the writing, and really shown how exciting this world can be. The gritty fast paced style is really starting to grow on me. Nightingale's Lament is full of memorable lines, I'll call them Taylorisms. For example:

""I don't use guns. Never have. They have too many limitations."

"That man could brood for the Olympics, and pick up a bronze in self-pity while he was at it"

"Condiments, Never leave home without them"

Those are just a few of many great quotes. The book's tone is almost always tongue in cheek, but it remains just serious enough to keep the suspense high. Green has something special with the Nightside series. I hope he continues to improve the narrative, and keeps these things coming out.

Timy says

My review can be read on my blog as well: <https://starlitbook.com/2018/04/03/ni...>

Nightingale's Lament starts with John working on a case, helping out an old friend. As a result, he manages to bring down one of the biggest electricity provider in the Nightside, causing all kinds of trouble - this later in the book comes back to kick him in the ass every once in a while. To be honest, this first chapter - and the story contained in it - was my favorite part, and it would have deserved a whole story. Instead, John is being hired to find out if everything is fine with the up and coming star Rossignol, who lately didn't seem to be herself, and there were rumors regarding fans committing suicide. John sets out to look into the bottom of it. As usual, he gets partners, and we get to know some new characters - Julian, the editor of the Night Times, Dead Boy who ends up playing a crucial role, and my favorite in this book, Otto, the hurricane page boy.

The biggest strength of this series is the world building, and that you can really never foresee what's to come (or most of the time anyway, this time one of the twists were pretty obvious to me). I also like the humor, however, compared to the first book, this book seems to lack it. Sadly. Or it might be I wasn't in the mood to appreciate it. I don't know.

And now the rant part of my review. I've read 3 books now out of 12, but I can't see the improvement in the writing (or editing for that matter). On the contrary. This series has the potential to be one of the best, but it fails to deliver, which pisses me off. Green throws around the phrase "in the Nightside" like it's a fucking confetti. I mean, yeah, by book 3 we know we are in the Nightside, thanks. You don't have to add it every second page. The repetitiveness can be boring after a while, and John's constant whining about not knowing about her mom. I hope we'll learn something about her soon, or poor John will have mommy issues sooner or later (or he has already, come to think of it). I also can't understand why the characters have to call each others names in every conversation (although I have to say, I like the names like Razor Eddie the Punk God or Shotgun Suzie). You know we readers aren't stupid, we've been reading for pages this scene, we know full well, that you are together. Meh. However, I'm starting to realise that this might be a british thing and pretty common in their everyday lives. Strange.

Anyway, I really, really, want to love this series, and I keep carry on hoping it gets better. But if this continues, I might have to reconsider reading the series and stop wasting my money on it (living in Budapest, library is not an option or second hand bookshops for that matter. I have to buy every book I read, which can be a gamble at times). So far Nightingale's Lament was my least favorite, despite music playing a part in it. The story felt off, I didn't find it interesting enough, and felt like it was just an excuse to show off different scenes and parts of the Nightside, throwing it all in one book and hoping something will come out of it. And again, one of the twists were too obvious. I find myself getting tired of books where the MC just wanders around, keeps getting injured or something just so we know he is not immortal. Then in the last 10% of the book suddenly everyone pops up, reveals some big secret then every problem gets solved in the blink of an eye. Is it me or this just really gets boring after a while? Also, these books are short, and I get that the story must be wrapped up, but felt a bit rushed to me. I hope the next book will bring back some of the humor of the first book, because that made me snort loudly, and if I have to deal with all the repetitiveness, then at least I'd like to have some fun too.

Nancy Oakes says

This is book #3 in the Nightside/John Taylor series; The other two are Something From the Nightside and Agents of Light and Darkness. If you want a good escape read, this is it. I absolutely love this series...a kind of a cross between horror, sci-fi, and crime noir. Give it a try.

The Nightside is now home to John Taylor, who previously lived in the Nightside, left it to work in the outside world and has now returned. He has many enemies, but he also has some amazing powers which tends to keep his enemies (and everyone else) at bay. The Nightside is found in a dark corner of London (the way to the Nightside is obscured and only those who know about its existence can find it). In the Nightside, it's permanently 3 in the morning; it has its share of ghosts, ghouls, monsters, zombies, and other creepy folk. But other than that, the same type of living goes on in the Nightside...there's commerce, there is law, there are parts of the place smart people never go to and everything is taken in its stride.

In this installment, after having solved a mystery as to where a certain power plant has its energy source, John goes into hiding. While he's laying low, he receives a visit from one Charles Chabron asking him to look into the welfare of his only daughter, Rossignol. She is a singer, and lately her singing has inspired several people to go home and commit suicide. As John goes about the Nightside seeking help in finding and saving Rossignol, he meets with a host of creepy characters who try to get in his way.

At times funny, Nightingale's Lament does have at its core a good "mystery." It is simply a good fun read

and does not aim for more but it is fun on a higher level and does not insult your intelligence. I mean, by the time you finish one of these books, you're scratching your head going "hmmm. Maybe...."

I would recommend this book, but even though someone noted that this book could be a stand alone away from the series, I would recommend reading them in order; the character of John Taylor and his experiences are built upon in each installment.

read: 5/03/2005

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Nightingale's Lament (Nightside, #3), Simon R. Green (1955)

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LJ says

NIGHTINGALE'S LAMENT (Fantasy/Detective) – VG

Simon R. Green – 3rd in series

Ace Fantasy, 2004 – Paperback

John Taylor has been hired to find a local diva who has cut herself off from her family. While her voice is gaining fame, it is also causing those who hear her to commit suicide.

*** Taylor's world is not a place one would ever want to visit: a part of London called Nightside where it is always 3 a.m. But, except for the monsters, has the feel and elements of a classic detective novel. If you enjoy Jim Butcher or Charlaine Harris, you might give these a try. I'd recommend starting at the beginning of the series but do feel this is the best so far. I shall be eagerly awaiting book four and the next visit to Nightside.

JK says

I honestly don't know why I keep reading these books... the man just has no sense of subtlety whatsoever. I'm pretty sure the only thing keeping me reading these is to see what new ideas Green can come up with, I will give him that, the man has a fascinating imagination. If he could just harness some of Jim Butcher's ability to tell a story and make you feel for the characters, Nightside would rival The Dresden Files.

The stories thus far just come and go far too quickly, things just seem to happen rather than develop. Characters do things and change without really easing into it. I so terrible want to enjoy the series more than I am, but I'm just not feeling a connection to these characters enough to be able to. John is given too much of a reputation to ever put the guy at fault really, it's just gotten him out of way too many things to make me even think there will be something that can stop him. The times when his mere reputation doesn't get him out of something some random person shows up to bail him out of trouble or he uses his "gift" like a cheat code

to just instantly come out on top of the situation. I'm still wondering what the heck his little bullet trick is too, it just kind of popped out of nowhere with no explanation, only that he developed it because of what happened with him and Suzy.

The thing with John's mother... oye, this is where the subtlety really needs to be applied. There's just far too much blurred out about this that's it's really not much of a mystery what the deal is with her. Every time John comes up against something strong it tells him about his mother and how powerful she is... it's like Green doesn't think the reader would be able to piece together clues so he has to just come out and practically tell you what's up with her. I like hints, figuring things out, not just being told what the mystery is out flat and then being told over and over again.

... I should learn to write things in a more coherent way, instead of rambling.

Dan Schwent says

While in hiding for causing blackouts all over the Nightside, John Taylor gets hired to find out why fans of a singer called the Nightingale are killing themselves. Taylor hooks up with Dead Boy, an undead youth eternally 17 years old and the trail takes them up against Mrs. and Mr. Cavendish, the Nightingale's managers. What sinister secret is at the heart of Nightingale's strange behavior, as well as that of her suicidal fans?

Simon Green is one sick bastard. I mean that in the best way possible. Who else could string beasts from the Outer Darkness, transvestites, sleep walking thugs, a shapeshifting prostitute, and the creepiest pair this side of Croup and Vandemar from Neverwhere? Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish were extremely unsettling in their behavior. The nod to Doc Savage in the form of Julian Advent, Victorian Adventurer was a nice touch. One of the things I enjoy about the Nightside books are all the easter eggs thrown in.

As always, the dark biting humor is present, as well as a generous spoonful of gore. The story was good although it wrapped up a little too nicely in the end. I am pleased at how quickly the overall plot progresses in the Nightside books as opposed to a certain other series I could name. I won't mention names but it rhymes with Darry Dresden.

The Flooze says

John Taylor is back, and with him comes the delightfully macabre, the grotesquely interesting world of the Nightside. Hired to inquire after the welfare of the Nightside's newest singing sensation, John must face ever-more malicious forces in his attempt to do right by his client. The story is a tangled mess of terror, mixed with well-placed humour. The Nightside may not be a place I'd want to live, but I'm loving visiting there again and again.

Aisha Mahmoud says

This one is actually better than the first. Keeping you on the edge and eager to read more. I've been eagerly

reading at any moment I can to find out what happens next. The ending had a surprisingly but interesting twist. Better written and you finally get to experience a lot more of the horrors of the Nightside than just hear people babbling on about how horrible the Nightside is. John Taylor has finally stopped giving too many long, unending, out of the blue talks on how horrible the Nightside is too which was a relief. All in all a great book and finally something that is taking me away from the Christian theology. Missing it but am managing to distract myself from it.

Mike (the Paladin) says

This was my introduction to the Nightside and I plan to read more(as a matter of fact i've already made a trip to my favorite used book store and picked up several). I like some Urban Fantasy (for example the Dresden books are some of my favorite novels) and these are starting out great. Nightside, a dark city within the city of London is a place you wouldn't want to get caught, but the stories are enthralling.

No spoilers here, but our hero in this volume sets out to investigate an insidious night club and some insidious agent/managers of talent, and to find out if dark powers are at play with a young singer.

Lel says

Ever listened to a song so sad it makes you want to commit suicide? Well this is what John Taylor is up against in the 3rd installment of The Nightside. A worried father sets John on the trail of Rossignol, a singer just about to get her big break. But the songs she sings are causing a mass of suicides. Are people of the Nightside that easily led or is something more sinister occurring.

This book has all the humor and character of the previous two. We meet some new characters as well that will steal your heart and some that you will love to hate!

AmirHosein says

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Gareth Otton says

Nightingale's Lament, the third book in the Nightside series, was a step in the wrong direction.

Its predecessor had put in some work of expanding on John's and the Nightside's histories and crafting characters with more to them than the jobs they were doing and their attitudes. This novel was basically a standard detective procedural with a magical twist and set in a magical world, which was a little disappointing. There is the opportunity for this series to become something epic but this book was a filler novel in the series that didn't progress the story but rather maintained the status quo.

That being said there is still the same high quality of writing, a well paced story and a considerable amount of interesting elements to the fantasy world Simon R Green has created. Throw that all into a book that is relatively short by comparison of most fantasy novels and it is not all that big a problem that this novel didn't add much to the series. You can enjoy it as the interlude that it is and quickly forget it as you move on with the rest of the series.

Overall a mildly disappointing read when judged by the standards of a long running series but not enough to put you off reading the rest of the books remaining.

Ben Truong says

Nightingale's Lament is the third book in *Nightside* Series written by Simon R. Green and centered on John Taylor, the main protagonist, who is not a private detective per se, but he has a knack for finding lost things.

Taylor was hired to find the singer Nightingale, who silken voice has an inexplicably power to lure many of her fans to kill themselves and Taylor is determined to stop her, before Nightside falls under her trance, but in order to catch her, he might have to hear the deadly music for himself and survive. Dead Boy is introduced in this book and is Taylor's backup, who as his name described is an undead youth – eternally at seventeen years old and can't be killed – at least not for long. So, he is the perfect companion to face Nightingale.

Nightingale's Lament is written rather well. Green has mixed fantasy, science fiction, urban fantasy, horror and humor rather well and it flowed exceptionally well. There was some world building, but it is rather enjoyable – the more I learn about Nightside – the more that I'm interested in this hidden place in London. The cast of characters continues to impress with being both horrific, grotesque and awesomeness at the same time.

All in all, *Nightingale's Lament* is a wonderfully written book and a very good continuation of the series, which I plan to read in the very near future.

Karissa says

This is the third book in the Nightside series by Simon Green. It was an excellent and very creative story.

John Taylor is contacted by Charles Chabron to find out the whereabouts of his daughter Rossingol. Rossingol came to the Nightside to hit it big as a singer. She has signed up with some new managers, the Cavendishes, and is selling out all of her shows. Her success is coming with a strange side effect; after hearing her sing many of her fans commit suicide. As Taylor struggles to figure out what has been done to Rossingol, he finds out her managers are more dangerous than he ever imagined.

This series just seems to be getting better and better. The cast of characters is creative, amusing, and very colorful. I loved Julien Advent and Dead Boy. Dead Boy in particular added a lot of wry humor and fun to the book. The Nightside continues to be a surprising and darkly amusing environment. I don't know how Green thinks up all of this stuff but the surprises and creative environment flies at you from all sides. The writing is action packed, descriptive, and moves along at a fast clip. The story is, once again, fairly self-contained.

The overlying doom of what John Taylor is and who his mother is still hovers over the overall story arc. So far I have just absolutely loved this series. I want to go out right away and buy all of the books!

Yona says

Loved it, I can never get bored reading about John Taylor and his cases.

Soo says

Best thing about this story was the short story in the beginning and Dead Boy. I do love the gamble of odd characters that make up Nightside. =)

Jason says

4.5 Stars

Nightingale's Lament by Simon R. Green is the third book in the Nightside series. These stories are classic noir like private eye mysteries in an urban fantasy setting. They are perfect for my interests today. I have been reading a lot of urban fantasy lately. Combine my new favorite genre with a detective noir like story and you have made me something special. I loved this book. I loved the writing of Green. I loved the world of Nightside. And I especially loved our main character (can't call him the good guy), John Taylor.

Green paces this one perfectly, never stopping to get the reader up to speed but rather taking us along for a brisk ride where just enough backstory is told along the way to keep us interested. I couldn't put this book down. The characters make this story work...

Awesome fictional place, somewhere in space and time...a place called Nightside!
Don't forget that the place called Nightside is probably the main antagonist of the story.

Nightingale's Lament is a tight urban fantasy story that is just plain fun to read. This is a more intimate story than the previous two with even more emphasis on magic. The Nightingale is an amazing concept and I immediately picture Alice Glass singing like that and capturing us all in her magical web.

I really enjoyed this book and highly recommend it. I look forward to reading more from John Taylor and the Nightside series.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Ever heard the phrase, "Killer Voice?" Well, Rossignol (translates to Nightingale in French) is a girl in the

Nightside who literally does. Her voice has the power to drive people to kill themselves. It didn't used to be that way, but something changed, made her sad, so all she can do is sing dreary songs (think Depeche Mode at their most downer moments). John Taylor has been asked to find her since she disappeared. That's where this journey begins. This is a dark journey, even for Taylor. There are horrific moments, funny moments, and even poignant moments. Why do they always leave Taylor?? This is probably the goriest of the Nightside books so far. Yet I am still hooked. I think Simon R. Green is an incredible writer with a great imagination. Can't wait to read more Nightside books.

Monica Perez says

I cannot get enough of these books! After having read the previous book I was really curious as to what the next case would entail. At first, it seemed a bit trivial since it seemed like the solution was not going to be too far out of reach but it took a turn for the best. I did enjoy the introduction of the new characters since it made up for the lack of Suzie and Eddie. The characters were well constructed and it is awfully pleasant to know them- even their weaknesses. The characters of Julien and The Masques was interesting because I also would have never seen it coming. Green amazes me in how he knits up these details into the plot so seamlessly. As well as, how he manages to wrap up the story. Especially, for this case (no pun intended) because it left a heartwarming feeling that made me almost tear up, as creepy as it was.
