



The Enemy Within

Christie Golden

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Sir Tristan Hiregaard of Nova Vaasa appears outwardly to be a kind nobleman who would never harm anyone. But his sinister alter-ego, the evil crimelord Malken, finds no act too base when it comes to extending his vast criminal empire.

The Enemy Within Details

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From Reader Review The Enemy Within for online ebook

Arlene Allen says

Another Ravenloft!

Diane says

I have decided that if Strahd is not involved (that interesting vampire bastard), then Ravenloft is boy for me.

Peter Greenwell says

Another fast-paced and enjoyable Ravenloft tome. Like most of the others, it's pure popcorn fiction, but it's also suitably ghoulish and chilly when needed. And yes, it's a rewrite of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, but I found that no impediment to the book's innate enjoyment. As I keep saying in these D&D novel reviews - it's all good fun.

Sud666 says

The Enemy Within is one of the darker stories written in the Ravenloft series. Considering that this is a gothic horror series, that is saying something.

Sir Tristan Hiregaard is a honorable nobleman. He is the commander of the Guard and a close friend of the King of Nova Vaasa. But, when that King dies and is replaced by his stupid heir, Othmar, things start to go terribly wrong. Othmar feuds with a young Vistana named Amasa. Eventually this leads to Amasa's death and Sir Tristan is blamed. Yet, he still travels with the boy's body to the Vistani encampment to make amends. He survives the Vistani trial, yet the boy's sister Rozalia is consumed by hate for him and unleashes and awful curse that draws Nova Vaasa into the mists of Ravenloft.

This curse is also the birth of Malken. Malken, in a Dr. Jekyll and Hyde style, is the malevolent alter ego to Sir Tristan. Malken finds a cult devoted to Sehkmaa, the Cat God. It is merely a cover for the vast criminal organization founded by Malken. The story then follows Sir Tristan and the City guard in trying to solve a series of brutal murders and the strange behavior of all the cats-from the great plains cats to ordinary domestic cats, all of whom seem to have become feral.

This tale is part detective story and part magical struggle between two sides of Sir Tristan's personality. While it is considerably darker than the usual Ravenloft story, I just couldn't bring myself to really care for any of the main characters, with the exception of Sigfrid who is second in command of the Guard. Rozalia is one of the most dislikeable characters in the book. Her mindless and unthinking rage are the cause of this entire mess. In many ways she is far worse the villain than Malken, who is a product of her curse.

The character of Malken is also not to my liking. Many of the other dark lords of Ravenloft from Strahd to

Azalin are awesome characters. Malken? Not so much. His attempts to wield a vast criminal network seems a little banal compared to the goal of the other dark lords. Still with a grim ending this story is a good one. While never rising to the levels of the other Ravenloft works, it is a rather good story. The fact that Sir Trsitan knows what he is and tries many means to fight Malken is also rather interesting. All in all this is a 3 star story for me. Other's may like it far more than I did, but I leave that up to their judgement. To me this is one of those "yep I read that" kind of books that I am unlikely to pick up again for years, if ever. Whereas some of the other Ravenloft tales are so good that I often revisit them when the mood strikes me.

Brian says

I just couldn't finish this one! It was very boring and the pace was horribly slow. Not much was going on and nothing seemed to be happening! Skip it if you are inclined to read fantasy!

Frank says

At times this book was so insanely predictable, and at other times all over the place. Probably the weakest of the series thus far.
