

"John Marks has written the best vampire novel since . . . *Interview with the Vampire*." — *The Buffalo News*



# FANGLAND

A NOVEL

JOHN MARKS

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# Fangland by John Marks

John Marks

because the acclaim for Elizabeth Kostova's bestselling *The Historian* proves, there is constantly an viewers bloodthirsty for quality, page-turning horror. Now, in a marvelously frightening turn, John Marks-a former 60 mins producer-sinks his satirical the teeth into twenty-first- century media. In *Fangland*, Evangeline Harker is an worker of the mythical television information journal *The Hour*. despatched on project to Transylvania, she can provide greater than a narrative while mysterious e-mails, coffins, and a creepy man named Torgu descend at the long island office. This darkly humorous story will entice vampire and horror aficionados in addition to an individual who is uninterested with what passes for "news" today.

What a strange, ambitious, and problematical book. *Fangland* is a retelling of *Dracula* within the present, with the twist of including a television information convey because the novel's focal point. The *Dracula* model is fascinating for readers of Stoker's novel. The similarities are numerous. *Fangland* starts off with a personality named Harker who travels to Transylvania to hook up with a mysterious, strong guy a couple of company deal, then issues pass awry. The villain travels to a strong imperial urban - here, long island - and starts *Fangland* to damage havoc. either books solid themselves as collections of documents, even supposing *Fangland* falls brief in this rating (little use of tech; a few "documents" lack materiality, and one is overtly made up by way of the editor). there is a Renfield within the Marks version. In either the villain (view spoiler)[is destroyed on the end, with Harker(s) enjoying a key position (hide spoiler)]. The ameliorations are intriguing, past the updating of time and place. the point of interest at the *Hour*(clearly a parody of/tribute to *60 Minutes*) returns to Stoker's use of technology, and implies an unremarkable argument approximately television changing empire. Jonathan and Mina Harker are changed through *Fangland* one protagonist, Evangeline Harker, and her husband, who is useless, uninteresting, and faraway from the plot. Evangeline breaks from Stoker in her post-Romania sojourn. rather than purely recuperating in a nunnery, as with Jonathan, this heroine has surreal adventures round jap and valuable Europe, culminating in (view spoiler)[the destruction of a very fascinating character. Clementine is a missionary, or a mystery agent, or a move among the two. yet Marks by no means fleshes out her background, a thread left dangling pointlessly for the novel's moment part (hide spoiler)]. The specialise in a television express finally breaks the book. Marks dwells on it lovingly, giving us a shiny lesson on glossy television information production. It soaks up many of the book's action, characters, be aware count, and emotional intensity. part the time this seems like one other novel, a satire of television news... yet that satire by no means particularly connects with the *Dracula* plot. Are television information exhibits vampiric? might be (I'm persuaded), yet Marks does not move in that direction. we will be able to overlook there is a vampire for chapters. Another distinction is the character of the villain. Ion Torgu at the start seems as a *Dracula*-style vampire: charming, scary, mysterious, removed, powerful. yet Marks turns him into whatever strange and noteworthy. (view spoiler)[Torgu does not chunk people, partially simply because his tooth are awful (!). as a substitute he stabs a person, bleeding them right into a bucket, then quaffing from that container. Moreover, his m.o. is predicated on one of those ghost history. Torgu speaks with and for the murdered dead. His curse is to endure witness. Draining blood powers that,

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somehow. He does not flip humans into conventional vamps, yet into... drained, Fangland loss of life witnesses. This subject matter is advised by way of an epigraph from the Odyssey, the good scene the place shrewdpermanent O. feeds a trench with blood to summon the dead. (hide spoiler)] it is a also, Fangland and extra to the point, a desirable riff on that fab Stoker passage beginning: "We Szekelys have a correct to be proud, for in our veins flows the blood of many courageous races who fought because the lion fights, for lordship. Here, within the whirlpool of eu races... (link to passage) I want Marks had performed extra with this idea. It by no means progresses, easily repeating, a lot as Torgu and his sufferers repeat a litany of atrocity position names. Worse, this new vampire mechanism makes plot activities challenging to follow. (view spoiler)[Can we kill Torgu with a sharpened stake? do we edit his cursed videos? Fangland Did it in simple terms take a kiss to kill him?Speaking of which, the competition of sexuality to vampirism can also be intriguing. The scene the place Evangeline makes use of her sexualized physique to disgrace Torgu is incredible and powerful. however it isn't really transparent why this works. Does the villain's curse render him a prude, and, if so, how? Later within the novel Evangeline opposes lifestyles and death, by some means aligning herself with lifestyles (which does not make loads of sense, given her anti-life actions: now not having a child, committing murder, etc.), might be in Fangland a type of Norman O. Brown form Fangland of thinking. yet this cuts opposed to the best way people eroticize homicide and death. it really is counter to the erotics of vampires, or even of ghosts, that may be what Fangland is absolutely about. it is the contrary of, say, Chris Hedges' conflict is the strength that offers Us Meaning. (hide spoiler)]Another twist to the Stoker novel is the book's 11th of September theme. i used to be first Fangland and foremost ambivalent approximately this, because it appeared gratuitous within the beginning, then very likely appropriate given the character of the villain's curse. however it went nowhere by means of the end, store for giving a few pointless history colour to the television crew.The plot proceeds at a reasonably compelling pace. the outlet area is exciting, then issues decelerate in ny (a/k/a Whitby and London). the ultimate difficulty ramps issues again up.The haunted media point is good. Torgu files a few interviews, and everybody who sees them (view spoiler)[gets contaminated via the victim-witnessing curse. a few kill themselves in response. a marginally of Ringu, eh? Then the curse infects the television show's construction system. It does not transcend this, yet it is a Fangland great idea. (hide spoiler)]Some small issues irked me, just like the department of the radical into books. Too many. 385 pages isn't really adequate for 15 "books", particularly whilst a few "books" are composed of a unmarried chapter. The British celebrity chamber wasn't an 18th-century factor (266).Overall, a unique with a fascinating concept. worthy studying for these drawn to vampires of the non-sparkly sort.One fast note: the villain's final identify is Torgu. i cannot aid taking into consideration Torgo, from the wonderfully undesirable motion picture Manos: the fingers of Fate. Sigh.

## Fangland

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