



The Darkness of Evil

Alan Jacobson

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FBI profiler Karen Vail is on the hunt for an escaped serial killer in the latest jaw-dropping thriller from *USA Today*–bestselling author Alan Jacobson.

Jasmine Marcks was a teenager when she discovered her father was a killer. First, there was the strip of bloody duct tape; then, the bloodstain on his shirt; and finally, the long nights away from home that always coincided with gruesome deaths. Roscoe Lee Marcks killed fourteen people before he was finally put behind bars. But as renowned FBI agent Karen Vail soon learns, Marcks's reign of terror isn't over yet.

After writing a book about growing up as the child of a serial killer, Jasmine receives a letter—a single blank sheet of paper mailed from the maximum-security prison Marcks now calls home. The page hides a threatening message from a father who wants vengeance against the daughter who turned him in to the police. So when Marcks breaks out of prison, Agent Vail calls on a legendary retired profiler to help her find Marcks—and keep him from making his own daughter his fifteenth victim.

Alan Jacobson created Karen Vail—one of the most compelling heroes in suspense fiction, earning acclaim from James Patterson, Nelson DeMille, and Michael Connelly—after seven years of working with two senior profilers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's legendary Behavioral Analysis Unit. Over the years, Vail has tangled with the worst serial killers America has to offer. But none compares to Roscoe Lee Marcks.

The Darkness of Evil Details

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Author : Alan Jacobson

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From Reader Review *The Darkness of Evil* for online ebook

Jen says

I got about 1/3 of the way through and just couldn't take the narrator's voice any more :(

Karen says

THE DARKNESS OF EVIL (Karen Vail, #7) by Alan Jacobson

Jasmine Markes has to cancel her book tour that she wrote about her father Roscoe Lee Marks who is a serial killer. Her testimony about some bloody duct tape and other items helped to put her father in prison with a life sentence and no chance of parole. Now Jasmine is terrified that her father wants to kill her. Roscoe Lee Marks is a dangerous and brilliant psychopath who seems to know a lot about law enforcement. Karen Vail gave Jasmine protection and it failed, so Jasmine will take her chances hiding and replacing phones and keeping her whereabouts secret.

Karen Vail is a tough and seasoned FBI profiler that inherited Roscoe Lee Marks when the famous profiler before her retired and is now writing books. Karen Vail is a worthy adversary of Roscoe Lee Marks and is doing her best to check in with Jasmine and make sure she stays safe. Vail goes to visit Marks in prison to evaluate how much of a threat he is to Jasmine and question him. When he refuses to cooperate Karen Vail thinks that she should let Jasmine know that she went to see her father. While meeting with Jasmine at a place and time of her choosing, Jasmine gives Karen a blank sheet of paper that her father mailed from prison.

Karen Vail has a colleague at the FBI forensically analyze the blank sheet of paper and it is brought to Karen's attention that the blank sheet of paper has a menacing message for Jasmine they meet again. Between the paper and Karen's interview she desperately tries to convince Jasmine to let the United States Marshall service put Jasmine in witness protection. Jasmine tells Karen that she is not a witness and reminds her that the previous attempt to have someone stay with Jasmine did not work.

This is not giving anything away about the several twists and turns that take place throughout the entire book. Everything above takes place in the beginning of the book. I don't particularly like books about serial killers or gratuitous violence. What I love about this book is the tremendous amount of research that gives this book its authenticity. The Author consulted with many different people who have specialized in different departments of law enforcement to bring this book its accuracy. I have only read this one book by Allan Jacobson. I have respect for an Author that goes to the sources and people who have worked in vast amounts of law enforcement positions. Not only does this author consult and interview these experienced individuals that he writes about, these professionals also read the manuscript for accuracy. I will definitely read the entire Karen Vail series. I look forward to the six that precede this book and anything this author writes.

CL says

Jasmine Marcks turned her father in when she discovered he was a serial killer. Now Roscoe Lee Marck has

escaped prison and is on the run leaving bodies in his wake. FBI profiler Karen Vail has been assigned to a special team to help capture Roscoe Marcks and now Jasmine has gone into hiding from her father. All clues point to him looking for Jasmine to kill her. Can Karen and the team find him before too many bodies turn up or before he finds Jasmine. But everything is not as it seems. Great read. I would like to thank the Publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

TerryJane says

Mr. Jacobson has given us a chilling and intriguing page turner here. It's the 7th in a series, but reads well as a stand-alone. Excellent read!

Sandra says

Absolutely fantastic!!!! I loved it! I connected with Karen so much more this go around. I connected so much I keep waiting for her to text me or call me!! LOL. It's a great read and so gripping. Great job Alan Jacobsononly now I'm sad it's over...lol....I honestly. Had that reaction at the end. I thought noooooooo I don't want to be done!!

Roberta says

An excellent mix of mystery, whodunnit, original twists, and page-turning suspense by a seasoned author.

However.....There was one disappointment. Most authors, including this one, sometimes like to end a chapter with the reader left hanging with heavy drama. Readers actually don't mind having to read 2 to 5 more chapters of subplots to find out how that specific drama was resolved. In this story, the reader had to wait 18 chapters and over 100 pages to learn the fate of the woman and child who were gagged and bound to chairs in Chapter 25. Readers do not like to have to wait that long. The story should have been reformatted to avoid reader frustration.

Dee says

FBI Profiler Karen Vail is on the hunt for a serial killer, Roscoe Marcks, who has just escaped from prison. While looking for him, Karen tries to protect his daughter Jasmine who believes her fathers main objective is to kill her out of revenge for turning him into the police after she discovers he has murdered several people. Full of twists and turns that will keep you on the edge of your seat! There was a vast amount of research that went into this which made it more appealing. The end will not only shock you but, have you wanting more. I would like to thank NetGalley and Open Road Integrated Media for allowing me to read The Darkness Of Evil. I couldn't stop reading and only did so when I had to. I enjoyed Karen Vail as she is a tough woman who doesn't let anyone stand in her way. It was refreshing to see a soft side of her as well. I haven't read any of Alan Jacobson's books but sure will now! He has a beautiful writing skill that kept me interested and at the end couldn't wait for the next Karen Vail book! In my humble opinion, Alan Jacobson is the bomb diggety !!

Brooke says

The story was a little slow for me in the beginning, but once you get into it a little further it was very good. The twists in it were definitely not what you expected and the the suspense at the end was great. Very enjoyable listen.

Laura Shavers says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway. This was another Karen Vail page turner. I've handed it on to my employees at work and can't wait to see what they think of it as well

Jennifer says

I've read all of the books in the Karen Vail series and have enjoyed them all. Vail is a tough, independent FBI profiler. I love her character and the relationships she has formed personally and professionally. Although it seems like her relationships always come back to bite her in some way. This book is a page turner with action, twists, and crazy villains! I really enjoyed it.

Autumn Is Azathoth The Haunted Reading Room says

Review of THE DARKNESS OF EVIL by Alan Jacobson
(Karen Vail #7)

THE DARKNESS OF EVIL is the seventh in the series of FBI Special Agent (Behavioral Analysis Unit) Karen Vail. In this engrossing thriller, Vail is “hand-holding” (in the view of her unit commander) Jasmine Marcks, the woman who as an adolescent repeatedly informed local police that her father Roscoe was a serial killer. Finally investigated, charged, and convicted, Roscoe Marcks has been incarcerated in maximum security for the past seven years. Now Jasmine's nonfiction book detailing her life with a murderous father has been published, and simultaneously she receives threats, while Roscoe engineers a prison escape. Vail is in the midst of the new investigation, despite an arrogant U.S. Marshal who holds no approbation for the FBI.

There's plenty of violence, of course, since Marcks is a sadistic killer, but it's not gore for its own sake. THE DARKNESS OF EVIL is a well-constructed, tautly-written page-turner.

Ruth Fraley says

Karen Vail is great

Never really disappoints. Each book has an unexpected twist. The series remains interesting and a good read. This author has a good style with attention to detail without overdoing it.

Darcy says

In this book Karen was really challenged. Marcks was truly evil in so many ways. It seemed like every time that Karen had a handle on things Marcks would make a move to change things and once again Karen and the team were on the chase. I was shocked by what we found out at the end, Marcks truly surprised me at the way the law enforcement were manipulated. I have a feeling that all of them will be looking at things differently from now on.

Suzanne says

This is a really good book if you like the serial killer/mystery. It isn't as graphic as some but you still get the point the killer is a psychopath. There were no dull moments in this book it kept moving the whole time.

Darcia Helle says

'The Darkness of Evil' puts us right in the midst of tracking a vicious serial killer. We're with the FBI team, working through each detail, learning the killer's unique profile, and trying to anticipate his next move.

I liked Karen Vail's character. She's tough and smart, but also a normal woman with fears and flaws. She pushes herself hard. We feel her dedication to her job, her coworkers, and the people she is sworn to protect.

The author clearly knows his subject matter. This is not the kind of story that grips you with intensity, while you simultaneously know it would never happen. This story could play out just as it's written, and that realism might be the most terrifying aspect.

For me, this book's major strength is tied up in its one weakness. The author is a detail man, which I greatly appreciate. The plot has no holes, no loose threads, no moments that require a leap of faith for the readers. I also enjoyed the focus on profiling and getting inside the mind of a killer. At the same time, the immense amount of detail included sometimes slows the story a little too much. I also thought some of the conversations were unrealistic, with the dialogue obviously meant to educate readers in the art of profiling.

While violence is always an undercurrent in this story - clearly, we're talking about serial killers - that violence is never gratuitous or overly graphic. This is an intricate, well plotted crime novel that will grip you with the very real psychopathy of the killer.

I have not read the previous books in the Karen Vail series, and I had absolutely no problem understanding the characters or their relationships. This book works exceptionally well as a stand-alone.

I received an advance copy from the publisher, via Amazon Vine, in exchange for my honest review.

