



Polar Night

Julie Flanders

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At noon the sun awakens as rural Dalton highway is painted on the arctic, Alaskan horizon. Silhouetted against the burning haze, a haunted asylum pierces the never-ending sky.

A woman screams.

A silken voice and a powerful grip to the throat persuades her silence. His classic Russian features, not unlike the minted image of Czar Nicolas II, remain frozen in time. "Please do not disappoint me like the others, my darling."

The doorbell chimes. He releases his hold and caresses her cheek. "Natasha," escapes his lips as he ascends the creaky wooden stairs. A calm hand opens the door. The glistening snow on the front porch pales against Aleksei's skin and charming smile.

The callused hand of a detective, Danny Fitzpatrick, flashes a search warrant. His puffy, bloodshot eyes lock onto Aleksei's ...

The young woman cries out, but only Aleksei hears. "They will never find you my dear. This beaten and hung over man does not have a clue."

Hours later, the detective crosses the threshold and shudders as if encased in a block of ice. The sun drops to sleep and an eerie shadow creeps alongside him. He shakes his head.

Aleksei watches from the peephole. "You feel my immortal essence ... do you not?" A forceful hand bolts the door. Aleksei probes his elongating eye teeth.

It is time for a new plan ...

Polar Night Details

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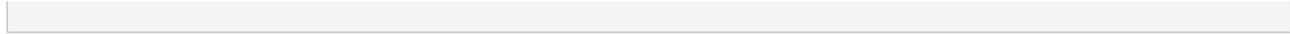
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From Reader Review Polar Night for online ebook

Christine Rains says

Detective Danny Fitzpatrick only wants to escape the horror of his past. He leaves his Chicago home and takes a job in Fairbanks, Alaska working cold cases. While he's successful at numbing his mind with alcohol, a case comes along that snaps him into sobriety. Danny links a cold case of a missing girl to a new one, and through further research, he finds several more. His investigation takes him north to Coldfoot and to the haunted establishment of Aleksei Nechayev. Danny knows something's going on with Aleksei, but can't manage to convince anyone else of the fact without some hard evidence. When he finally comes across some information, it changes Danny forever and puts him in danger of more than just catching a cold in the freezing Alaskan winter.

This supernatural thriller will chill you to the bone and not just with the wonderful descriptions of Alaska. POLAR NIGHT gives us various points of view that takes the reader on a dark journey filled with nail-biting suspense and intense emotions. Danny has the heart of a hero, but is scarred by his past and it's wearing him down. He's a flawed man and yet still admirable. Aleksei is cold and immensely fascinating. Maria has an amazing spirit even in a terrifying situation.

While there's a thrilling plot and a great cast of characters, it's the setting and atmosphere that really make this book stand out. We don't often find books that take place in the far north, and usually not in the winter. I loved all the little every day tidbits Julie Flanders included about life in Alaska. Plus, I was enthralled by the haunted asylum. The little strange happenings and scary noises added to the tension of the story and brought out an even chillier atmosphere.

POLAR NIGHT is the debut novel from Julie Flanders. I can't wait to read more from her!

Graeme Ing says

This was a refreshing change to other books in this genre that I have read. No spoilers here, but it starts as a crime thriller in the frozen north of Alaska, and quickly develops into a more supernatural mystery. The author brought great depth to every setting, with such excellent descriptions of the frigid and long nights of the arctic that I got chilled reading it. The cop characters were authentic, and there was considerable drama between them, which added rich subplots to the book.

The villain is superb: sophisticated and calculating and we slowly learn his secrets and just how dangerous he is. I loved the layers of Russian history and the way that the author wove the villain's backstory throughout the book.

This is a real page-turner. The way the book switched back and forth between the villain, the victim(s) and the heroic cop, kept me always wanting to turn the next page, to read one more chapter, then one more. It takes a riveting plot to get me to do that. I predicted some events, but not others and as the pace ran flat out toward the end, I genuinely didn't know who was going to live or die. Satisfying ending too.

Debbie Christiana says

I love vampires and I love thrillers so I was happy to pick up Polar Night by Julie Flanders. The plot is original and interesting - the author threw in some wonderful historical facts of the Russian front during WWI and Russian vampire legends which pulled me deeper in the story.

Danny Fitzpatrick is an emotionally broken and borderline alcoholic cop from Chicago who moves himself to Fairbanks, Alaska to escape his past and ends up working the city's cold cases. A recent disappearance of a young woman resembles a cold case he's working on and the fun begins. We soon meet Aleksei, the psychotic

undead villain of the cold, dark nights that runs a wonderfully haunted asylum during the tourist months with charm and goodwill - only to stalk out his next 'guest' to keep him company during the cold winter months.

I see others have written about the plot so I'll conclude by saying this was an enjoyable read. It wasn't terrifying, scary or overly explicit in blood and gore - if horror isn't your genre. However it is suspenseful like a good thriller should be.

The end tied up everything nicely but left doors open and I hope Ms. Flanders continues writing about Danny and Aleksei. I would definitely like to see more from them.

Lisa M says

Thank you good reads giveaway! This was a great read! Took it on vacation and had it read before day 2! I feel that it was left open so maybe another book in the further with the interesting characters! Thanks for the opportunity to find another author I enjoy reading!

Nancy Johnson says

Polar Nights has a mellow start and makes you wonder where's the mystery going to come from. You meet Aleksei and think "interesting." Then you get to really know Danny, the main character, a cop on a track to ruin after the death of his wife, and you're hooked in the story: Crazy killer and the alcoholic cop after him. What really grabs you is the dialog, which rings harshly real and makes you feel for the characters. And it ends with a nice finishing touch.

T.B. Markinson says

A thrilling read that kept my interest to the last page. Looking forward to the next installment.

Lilian Flesher says

Polar Night is a horror thriller written by Julie Flanders, wow what a great read. It is set in the state of Alaska where there is cold and snow year round. She does a great job of setting up the horror by using the environmental elements plus an asylum.

The book is about a detective Danny Fitzpatrick, who has escaped his life that he had in Chicago and sends himself to Fairbanks, Alaska. He is running away from his past and numbs himself with alcohol and sifts through cold cases. Until, that day when he connects a cold case to a current case and goes out to find out what is going on. I do not want to give anything away because you are going to want to read this book for yourself.

I will tell you this there is a handsome villain named Aleksei Nechayev, who runs a tourist attraction in the Artic town of Coldfoot that was once an old asylum. Aleksei Nechayev is hiding a terrifying secret that no one could ever fathom. A secret that will forever change Detective Fitzpatrick's life and view of the world in a way he never imagined.

If you enjoy a good thriller with some added horror in a cold and dangerous climate then you will definitely enjoy this book. You will enjoy the characters, the twist and turns along the way. I highly recommend this book.

I was provided a copy of this in return for an honest review.

Lisa Regan says

This is a great, super fast read. I couldn't put this down. The main character, Danny Fitzpatrick is just the right blend of damaged and vulnerability with a good, healthy dose of skepticism. He's very haunted by his former life and that leaves him open to what he finds when he begins searching for the missing women in this book. You'll be rooting for his redemption by the end of the book! Flanders' use of the cold, dreary Alaskan winter setting is brilliant and sets the mood in this book. It's really a fabulous backdrop to the events of the book. I don't want to give the plot away but I'll say this: the theme/premise in this book is not something I normally like to read but I couldn't put this book down and that says a lot about Flanders' writing and her execution. It's also amazing to me how Flanders can make a couple of characters doing research in a library keep me on the edge of my seat! A great, fast read you won't be able to put down till it's nail-biting conclusion.

Luanne Smith says

Fun, fast paced read. Not what I was expecting at all, with the supernatural elements, but entertaining for sure. The cold Alaskan setting is like a character itself in this one.

Melissa Ann Goodwin says

This isn't usually a genre I'm drawn to, but Julie pulled me into the story quickly and I didn't want to stop reading. And she has created two characters that have tremendous appeal - our hero, Danny Fitzpatrick, and our villain, Aleksei Nechayev.

Danny is a classic cop hero - he's from Chicago, self-exiled to Fairbanks, Alaska after events that have left him badly damaged emotionally. He's working cold cases, drinking too much and barely holding himself together. The great part about that is that it makes him a guy with nothing much to lose, and that of course, makes him willing to take risks. And, it's not that our villain, Aleksei is a likable bad boy, no, indeed. But he is definitely compelling.

A current missing woman case leads Danny to make a connection with the cold case he's working. Pretty soon, he's on to something BIG, but where it leads him is a whole lot bigger than he - or we - expected! That's all I'm going to say, because saying more would take away surprises, and Julie has done a great job with her surprises.

She's also vividly captured Alaskan winters and used that very effectively to create setting and mood. A former insane asylum in a remote Alaskan location ... well, it doesn't get much more unnerving than that.

It feels to me like Julie has left space for a sequel, or even a series. I think that Danny Fitzpatrick could develop into a classic cop hero along the lines of Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch. The potential for his long-term redemption - or total defeat - is fun to contemplate. I don't know what Julie's plans are for him - if any, but I'm hoping we haven't heard the last of Danny Fitzpatrick.

Chrys Fey says

Polar Night takes place in Alaska during winter and follows the events of a supernatural mystery.

Maria Triebel was kidnapped by a tall, strange, powerful man named Aleksei, who wants Maria to be a the woman he loved and lost, Natasha. And he fully expects her to be Natasha, to replace her, not just pretend to be her.

Danny Fitzpatrick is investigating Maria's disappearance, which is just like another one that happened three years ago when Anna Alexander vanished. We follow Danny as he searches for answers, and Maria as she endures her captivity. We also get glimpses into Aleksei. An unexpected player is Amanda Fiske, a jumpy librarian who knows more than anyone about these disappearances. As her character grew, I found myself liking her a lot. And liking her relationship with Danny.

It took me several pages to get into this story, but once I read Chapter 2, which was in Maria's POV, I was intrigued. We learn of Danny's haunting past and Aleksei's dark past.

Julie Flanders crafts a paranormal mystery with a good balance of detective investigation, suspense, and the supernatural that will not bore and will keep you turning the pages.

I noticed spelling errors with a name a few times (Christine to Cristine). There's also some head-hopping when we're in one character's POV. The only thing that had bothered me slightly was how Tessa, the other detective, wasn't as involved with her case that Danny took over. He should've worked with her instead of going off alone in the beginning.

This was a very enjoyable read with nice twists and a satisfying ending.

Diane says

First I have to say that I usually never read vampire books. In the last 20 years most of them are about sex and no real story. **Polar Night** is definitely NOT like those. It has a very refreshing story line.

Two men: one a murderer, one a cop. Both have had tragedies in their past and lost someone dear to them. Aleksei's tragedy was losing his unrequited love over 100 years ago. Since then he has been obsessed with replacing her. Danny Fitzpatrick is a Detective with the Fairbanks police department. He lost his wife not long ago to a murderer in Chicago.

Danny is working on a cold case, a blond haired, tall, thin woman was taken a few years ago and the case was never solved. Then a woman that fits the same description is kidnapped out of a store parking lot. Danny thinks this is too much of a coincidence. He finds a woman who escaped from an attacker and she fits the same description and has some unusual impressions of her would be kidnapper. They join together and find a never ending nightmare. Danny has a reputation as a lush so no one at the precinct believes him when he draws his conclusions.

Aleksei has been trying to find a replacement for his very first love and it is not working out well. He desperately wants a love that will become his Natasha. He has been looking for the last 100 years and has failed. Many look like Natasha but none are truly like her.

Julie Flanders does a great job of intertwining the past and present of both Danny and Aleksei. The reader goes from both characters darkest days to each of them taking hold of their lives and moving forward. I felt the way she wrote the ending was really classy as well. **Polar Nights** is not your average vampire story.

I received this book through Freado.com in return for a review. If you want to learn more about Julie's other books check out <http://julieflanders.blogspot.com/>

Melissa Maygrove says

I have wanted to read this book ever since I read the blurb. I wasn't disappointed. The plot delivered everything I'd hoped for and more.

After the first few chapters, the story really takes off; and by the midway point, it races toward a satisfying finish. It kept me up reading way past my bedtime.

Flanders' hero is likeable. He's damaged and imperfect, but he quickly found a place in my heart. She also writes Aleksei very well--better, even. He's a worthy villain who will chill you more than the Alaskan climate in which he resides.

I found the setting perfect and the Alaskan weather to be a clever aspect of the story. It added a layer to the victims' confinement that left me feeling nearly as hopeless as they. Even if they could escape, where would they go?

Another thing I liked was the paranormal element, and, going into the story, I wasn't sure that I would. I won't ruin it, but I will say that the author handles a potentially cliché topic in a way that felt fresh and

realistic.

The only thing that could have made this book better for me was if the writing had been tighter and the wording and descriptions a little more enthralling and varied. That said, the fact it kept me reading at break-neck speed despite these things is a testament to the talent of its writer. She can definitely craft a killer plot.

Bottom line? Polar night is a well-paced, skillfully-plotted book that is quite worthy of your time.

Nick Wilford says

"Horror thriller" is the best way I can sum up this engrossing read, and Flanders does a great job of both keeping us hooked in to the twists and turns of the plot, and keeping the scares coming without drowning us in gore.

Aleksei Nechayev, the cool, collected vampire first seen in *The Turnagain Arm* has been up to his nefarious goings on in Alaska's frozen North for nearly a hundred years now, but someone is onto him. Enter Danny Fitzpatrick, a really likeable creation; a grizzled detective who ran away from his former life in Chicago after devastating events. He drinks too much, annoys the hell out of his boss and goes out on a limb because he has nothing to lose. When looking into the case of one missing woman, and then another, he has to defeat his scepticism when faced with the testimony of one who got away that the perpetrator might be a monster in a rather more literal sense.

The story turns into a race against time with Danny dealing with both his own misgivings and those of his colleagues. Flanders really ramps up the tension and you're left shaken as things escalate to a thrilling climax.

I really liked the police procedural elements, as well as the slices of history told first hand from Aleksei's POV, which really round out the character and make him much more than a cut out villain. It all adds up to a package that's deliciously different, and I highly recommend *Polar Night*.

Akira Ravens says

Usually crime/detective novels aren't really my kind of thing and to be quite honest, the only reason I got this book was the last sentence of its summary that says "And when the truth is finally revealed, the world as he knows it will never be the same."

This small hint at something supernatural happening was what caught my attention and made me curious - and I am really glad it did since "*Polar Night*" turned out to be one of my early 2013 favorites.

The story revolves around Danny Fitzpatrick, an ex-detective from Chicago who moved to the small town of Coldfoot in Alaska to get a fresh start after his wife was killed. Now working on cold cases he hopes to help those who would otherwise be left forgotten and at the same time sort out his personal trauma. When a recent missing person case shows remarkable resemblances to some of Danny's cold cases, though, Danny is drawn into an investigation that will lead him far beyond anything he has ever thought possible - as his main suspect turns out to not only be a dangerous serial killer, but one that's also a vampire.

"Polar Night" was one of the most refreshing reads I've had in quite a while. Though the actual action passages of the book are rather few the constant witty dialogue and Danny's own reflections never cease to entertain and keep the pace up. The characters are well-drawn and interesting to read about, especially Danny himself, Amanda, his partner in crime (or in this case in solving it), and the undead perpetrator Aleksei, who's my favorite of this book not only because of his somewhat schizophrenic disposition between hyper-intelligent and downright insane but also because his maniac behaviour actually makes sense once you get to know about his own backstory. Also because he's not your typical run-of-the-mill teenage vampire.

"Polar Night" is meant to be the first in a series and personally I hope for many more books to come. Those who prefer closed endings don't need to worry, though, as it does leave some threads open but does not end on any kind of cliffhanger.

I clearly recommend this book to all of you who enjoy stories with a supernatural twist, whether you usually like crime/vampire novels or not since it's on-topic enough to satisfy genre-lovers but at the same time different enough to positively surprise everyone else.
