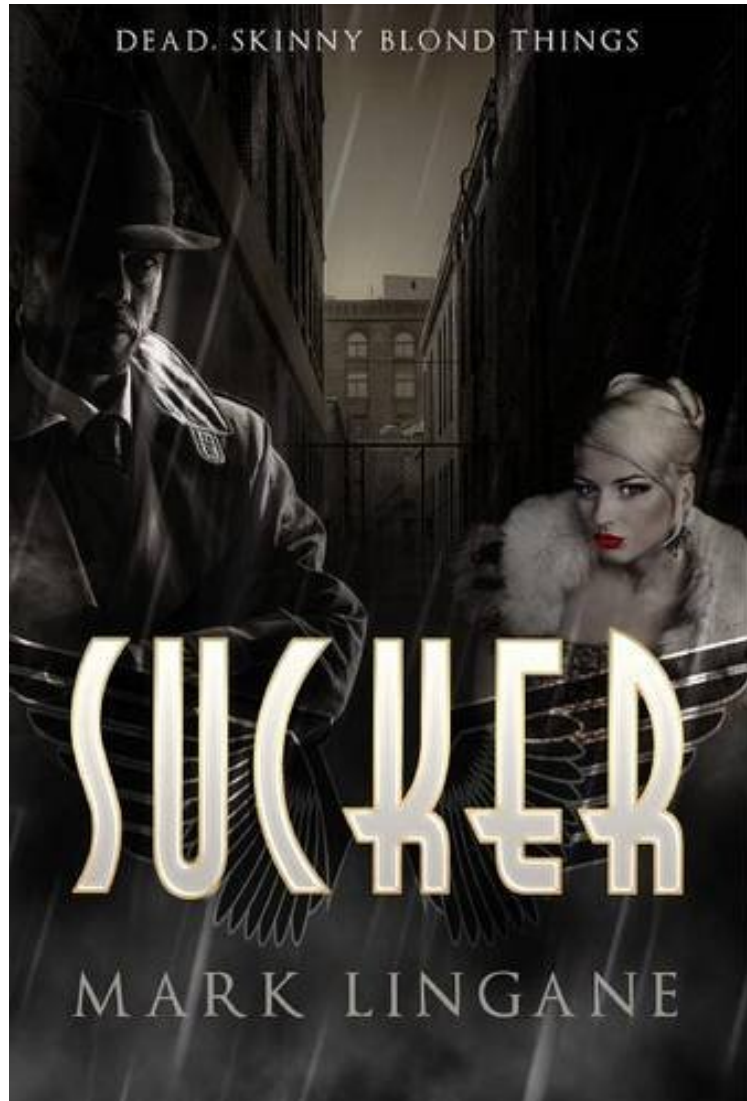


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Sucker

Mark Lingane

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Mark Lingane : Sucker before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sucker:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unique, but needs backstoryBy Phil BolosSucker (Para-noir-mal Detectives Book 1) by Mark Lingane truly lives up to its name. Private investigator Van Avram has been using his good looks to get by and pay the rent. One night, a seductive woman offers him a job to track down a skinny blonde that had wronged her and run off with her husband. At first, Van declines. The next morning there is a skinny blonde body quite literally on his doorstep. From there, things go from bad to worse as Van finds himself in sleazy locations

with devil worshippers and blood covered alters. As Van continues to investigate, it becomes clear that he is now being hunted by those he is chasing. The question then becomes can he catch the crazed killers before they catch him and end the hunt? Sucker definitely threw me for a loop. The story is reminiscent of old detective novels and the dialogue and specific words brought a smile to my face. It reminded me of the old time police radio dramas my dad still listens to from his childhood. From there though, it became very difficult for me to understand what was really going on. Van would suddenly be thrown into jail for no apparent reason. Then, while in jail, the man in the cell next to him would suddenly be assaulted by demon birds and hell hounds. Why? I dunno. Your guess is good as mine. The setting was interesting, futuristic yet based in the past at the same time. Although, again it is unclear why certain things were happening. For example, Van is riding a conveniently empty flying bus back to his part of town when suddenly "something black" hits it and forces it to crash on a rail line and be smashed by an oncoming train. This whole event, while not entirely making sense in the story, happens in one paragraph. Maybe it's just me, but I think some more meat in the story and adequate back story for the characters would have done lots to progress the story and get me to feel for the characters.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Believe in the possibility of everything

By Rizbi Started as a noir, turning into a romantic, paranormal with smart and witty dialogues. Van H. Avram got a call for a normal missing person case. He was adamant in not taking it, but it seems like everyone and everything connected to it is just drawing him in. When he finally decides to pursue the case, he came across various characters that seem to know more about his past than he does; except Laura. Laura is the only pure one among the 'women with curves'. Saving her will force Van to face who he really is.

First off, the lines and the references; hilarious. There was a particular scene that stands out for me; when Angelina was healing Laura and she had the fake accent. 'Now vi vait'. That entire scene was so vividly funny; almost straight out of a B-movie. The manner the various genres was put together was quite smooth, and the way it was wrapped up in the end was very effective. A rewarding ending after running back and forth with Van Avram to save the 'world'.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting read.

By C. J. Anaya Author of The Healer Series This story left me a little befuddled because I kept checking to make sure that I was reading book 1 in the series and not a continuation of a paranormal detective series. The author seemed to take for granted that we already knew the main character. Van's shaky history with law enforcement appeared to be a longstanding irritant for both detective and police. There just wasn't much character development, and I had no idea he was in love with L. Mallory until his internal dialogue came right out and said it. Revelations kept popping up out of nowhere with some seriously obscure foreshadowing, and I had a difficult time keeping some of the characters straight because, again, they were presented as if the reader should already be up to date on their history and bizarre behavior. Due to the spotty character development and the outlandish situations that kept cropping up out of nowhere, I had a hard time following the plot and figuring out where the main character was running off to next or even why. Structurally, the plot was a bit disjointed. I don't need things spelled out for me, but this just baffled me. There was a lot of blood, guts, fighting, and crazy things happening with little or no explanation. For example, why is the police officer a rabid dog, and why did he/it attack Van and then attack Phoenix who I thought had previously been killed by Levi due to the fact that his body was struck by a lightning bolt and then charred to a crisp? Where were all of the police officers when the tank exploded? Why is Van so ambivalent toward the girl he supposedly loves until more than halfway through the book? These are just a few things that kept giving me serious reader whiplash. I think the premise is great and the artistic, almost lyrical language is intoxicating. The opening sentence alone really grabbed me. "The phone rang, all innocent and coy." It caught my attention because I could just picture the phone pretending there isn't someone on the other end of the line a person might want to avoid like the plague. "The glass had little more than ice and a bucket load of regret." These gems are sprinkled throughout the entire book. I only wish the development of the book was as wonderful as the descriptive nuances. I think the mood and tone are great, but this book would be a far better read if a content editor took a look at it. All in all, I wouldn't label this as a real detective book. It reads more like a paranormal adventure with extremely bloody elements.

Multi-award-winning detective-noir black comedy featuring vampires and demons, set against against a background of a war-ravished world wrapped up in vintage fashions and flying diesel-powered vehicles. The breakneck pace balances Van's laconic voice, pulling readers headlong into a maelstrom of violence, magic, and prophesy. Dark-fantasy fans will enjoy this gritty supernatural mystery and its memorable protagonist - Publishers Weekly

From Publishers Weekly The breakneck pace balances Van's laconic voice, pulling readers headlong into a maelstrom of violence, magic, and prophesy. Dark-fantasy fans will enjoy this gritty supernatural mystery and its memorable protagonist. -Publishers Weekly A brilliantly humorous mashup fantasy-sci-fi-Noir, like Bogart on some kind of spacey drug in a distant-planet bar, with a hint of Sherlock Holmes and a dash of Bob Arctor. It's hard to say who would enjoy this book, and actually who wouldn't, because there's a whole new ambience going on here that has the sense of a new audience being formed, a new genre being formed somehow. Yes, Lingane is that good. There's a Sin City narration to the prose that comic book fans will love, and some real corkers of one-liners -SelfPublishing .com" It begins as a normal missing person case for PI Van H Avram but then all hell is let loose. Oh yes, the author/gen

chameleon Mark Lingane goes back to detective noir/fantasy/sf also raising suspicions that he's the literary love child of Dashiell Hammett and Neil Gaiman." - The Bookbag.About the AuthorMark Lingane is a professional writer and currently lives in Queensland, Australia. He writes the occasional book and the occasional song.