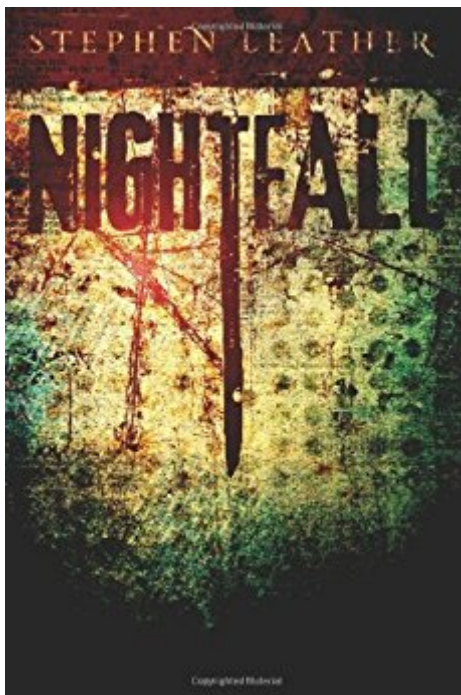


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Nightfall (Nightingale Book 1)



Synopsis

“You’re going to hell, Jack Nightingale.” These are the words that ended Jack Nightingale’s career as a police negotiator. Now a struggling private detective, the chilling words return with a vengeance when Jack inherits a mansion with a priceless library and a terrifying warning from a man who claims to be his father. Nightingale quickly learns his soul was sold at birth and a devil will come to claim it on his thirty-third birthday, which is just three short weeks away. It’s a hard pill to swallow. He doesn’t believe in Hell and probably doesn’t believe in Heaven either. But when people close to him start to die horribly, he is led to the inescapable conclusion that real evil may be at work. And if he doesn’t find a way out, he’ll be damned for eternity. Dripping with brooding intensity, unrelenting suspense, and surprising wit, United Kingdom thriller master Stephen Leather’s first book in the Nightingale series is a riveting, heart-stopping mystery with extraordinary range and power.

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Customer Reviews

I usually steer clear of zombies, witches, vampires, and anything else that smacks of the occult

because it is just not my kind of reading material. So, when I saw the second of this book series on the Kindle Daily Special, I was dubious that a book about demons was going to be anything more than a re-run of the Exorcist - which is still not my kind of reading material. However, I was in the mood to be adventurous, so I found the first book of the series, and downloaded a sample - and I was HOOKED! I devoured all three books in the space of a weekend. It is basically a story about a private detective who, upon his father's death, discovers that his soul has been sold to a demon before his birth. The other reviewers do a great job of fleshing out the details of the story, so I won't duplicate their efforts - what I will do is tell you what I found to be absolutely un-put-downable about the series. The characters are very well developed, and there aren't so many that you lose track of who is who. The detective's reaction the subject of his soul sold to a demon before birth just like you and I would ("absolute nonsense!"), but the author very skillfully builds the story, and before long, it doesn't seem so far fetched after all! All of the characters have flaws and good sides (even some of the demons!). Probably the most entertaining aspect of these books is the author's ability to grip your attention with non-stop action, and alternate humor with terror - I am not sure I have seen anything like it, except maybe the Harry Potter books/movies. I found myself alternately giggling to myself and gripping my Kindle with white knuckles through all three books - what an enjoyable read!

I am going to buy the next Jack Nightengale book as soon as I finish this review. This is the first Stephen Leather book I have read and what a surprise. A former police officer and current private investigator discovers his soul was sold to a devil/demon before he was born. This novel is about figuring out if he believes any of it and what to do about any of it. Twists and turns and curlicues abound. People keep falling dead around Jack as he continues his quest. And then there is his stalwart Jenny. A great twist on the whodunit. I am smiling right now at the whole plot.

This review can also be seen on [horrnovelreviews\(dot\)com](http://horrnovelreviews(dot)com) Nightingale is a former police negotiator turned struggling private eye. As our story opens, Jack is hit with some life-changing news: he was adopted and his real father just committed suicide. Jack now finds himself heir to a giant decaying manor that holds one of the largest occult libraries in the world. As an extra bonus, it also contains a final message from his deceased father in which he explains that he sold Jack's soul to the devil at birth and that the forces of darkness are coming to collect on his thirty-third birthday. Thanks a bunch, dad! Making matters even worse - said birthday is only a few days away! What starts off as a sick joke takes on a darker connotation when the people around Jack start dropping off like flies and random strangers point out that Jack is bound for warmer pastures. Once the

terrible truth sinks in, Jack realizes that time is running out and a nail-biting race against the clock is set into motion. Stephen Leather is one of the UK's most successful thriller authors, and he writes across genre: there is crime, spy and horror fiction in his oeuvre. His range is clearly on display in Nightfall. Leather has a facility with the crime genre and the occult touches pop because they are seamlessly woven into hard-boiled crime mystery. The book makes for a propulsive read, managing to be both suspenseful and a whole lot of fun. More importantly, Nightingale is a classic hard-boiled PI who gets under the reader's skin. We like this guy and even when the story gets a bit repetitive toward the middle, Nightingale's maverick charm keeps us engaged. The novel really picks up steam in the final section and successfully builds to a rousing finish - we want to know whether our hero can outwit the devil and escape eternal damnation. Nightfall doesn't break new ground, isn't terribly frightening or disturbingly graphic. It has an urban fantasy flavor (think of a toned down version of John Constantine with less hardcore violence and scares) but is highly engaging and offers some intriguing glimpses into occult ritual. The freshest part in terms of horror is the subculture of occult book collectors that the novel explores - millionaires who made deals with dark forces and now spend their dying days biding their time inside protective pentangles, hoping to renege on the pacts they made in their foolish youth. Nightfall is the first book in a series (there are three more volumes available, Midnight, Nightmare and Nightshade with Last Light, the fifth volume, scheduled for early next year). If your taste runs toward more hardcore fare, Nightfall may be a tad too tame. For my part, I enjoyed the book immensely and went ahead and ordered the rest of the series - can't wait to see what spooky troublemakers Nightingale encounters next!

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