



Cloak of the Light

Chuck Black

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Author of the popular Kingdom Series returns with this thrilling new novel for young adults.

Tragedy and heartache seem to be waiting for Drew Carter at every turn. Sydney Carlyle, a mysterious and elusive girl offers encouragement through her faith, but Drew is too logical and scientific to believe that her prayer of healing was anything but coincidental in the restoration of his eyesight. As his sight returns, he discovers that the accident has heightened his neuron activity, giving him skills and sight beyond the normal man. When he begins to see fierce invaders that no one else can see, he questions his own sanity, and so do others. But is he insane or do the invaders truly exist? The only one who can help him, his genius friend Benjamin Berg, has disappeared. In Drew's quest to find Ben, he discovers that the invaders themselves are at war, for his efforts to thwart the devastating actions caused by the dark invaders are aided by invaders with a different nature. Time grows short as the dark invaders close in on Drew. With skills that no other man possesses, and help from Benjamin and Sydney, Drew initiates a plan to expose the invaders to the world.

Cloak of the Light Details

Date : Published March 18th 2014 by Multnomah (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9781601425027

Author : Chuck Black

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fantasy, Christian, Contemporary, Fiction, Young Adult

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Bethany says

To be honest, when I requested this book I was not sure I'd love it, much less like it. I'll also admit that the only reason I even thought to request it was because I'd read the author's Kingdom series previously and loved them; but it was only the author that drew my attention-not the book synopsis. In fact from the book's description, it looked like a book I wouldn't read since I don't often venture into the world of science fiction, mainly because it's so unrealistic and often a bit too eerie for my taste. However, I did know that based on how much I loved the Kingdom series, then if this book was anything like the series was then I'd love it-and I did! Although I encountered a lot of doubts when requesting this book and considered it to be a gamble between whether or not I'd like it, I am so glad that I decided to read it, because it ended up being one of my favorite books that I read in 2013!

This book is the first in a new series by Chuck Black that delves into spiritual warfare and the very real battle between good and evil. I liked how he balanced the truths of Scripture concerning spiritual battles between angels and demons with the fictional story of Drew and his friends, as well as how he gave details Scriptural references in the back of the book, explaining what truly is based on Scripture, and what was purely fictional. I think that the story line was very well thought out, and flowed very well keeping you engaged in the story at all times. The story was so engaging that I was able to breeze through it in two days since the story is written in a way that makes you want to keep reading and not stop until you are finished with the book-which is about what happened to me. :) I loved the way that the spiritual truths and the fictionalized parts were combined, and found the story to not only be a true adventure, unique and unlike any other I've read, but also encouraging and really opened my eyes to the truths of how real good and evil is. Often times in life since we don't see the battles between good and evil like Drew was able to, we get desensitized to it and don't truly comprehend that Satan wants our hearts, but this book really brings these things to light, (no pun intended!) and makes you really start to think!

Overall I absolutely loved this book! It was written in a very easy to comprehend way and is a real treat combining an exciting story with an inspirational, eye-opening plot. I'd highly recommend this book to anyone who loved Chuck Black's other books, or to those who enjoy reading inspirational stories that open your eyes to biblical truths.

DISCLAIMER :: I received a free Advance Reading Copy of Cloak of the Light from the publisher, for the sole purpose of this review. I was not paid in any way to review this book, and all thoughts expressed in my review are completely my own, honest and unbiased.

Nickols says

Just needed to write a review on this. A friend told me to read it and to tell you the truth I wasn't exited to read it after she told me it was a Christian book. But this is literally the best Christian book I've read(even chasing hope Paula) it is the perfect combination of mystery thriller, action, contemporary, and Christian.
RECOMMEND TO ALL MY FRIENDS

Shantelle says

Truly an epic and riveting start to the WARS OF THE REALM series by Chuck Black! Wow. *Cloak of Light* was adventurous, exciting, and seriously thought-provoking. I can't believe I waited so long to read this book; it is for sure one that I recommend! It was powerful, and kept me turning pages.

This book is of the speculative-fiction genre. It has a modern day setting and follows a young man named Drew Carter who loves football, cars, and working out. But then there's the fantasy twist, which involves epic battles of good vs. evil. Despite the speculative nature, I really feel this book brings out some essential and real truths concerning spiritual warfare - especially when Drew wonders something along the lines of: "*What if the whole of mankind walks around, caught up in their own lives, totally unaware that they have invisible enemies all around?*"

Chuck Black's writing style is a tad different than what I normally read. But I found myself quite enjoying it. The book was fairly fast-paced and action-packed. I really, really liked Drew, the POV character. He was cool, and Chuck Black wrote him in a very authentic-feeling way. (*Maybe I understand men better, haha.*) Drew isn't a Christian, but he's been instilled with good morals from his parents, and he's seeking and fighting for righteousness.

I also enjoyed the characters of his mom and Jake. And Benjamin Berg. *grins* Even though he's kind of ... interesting. The "nerd" who is obsessed with the idea of alien life.

And let's talk about Sydney. Pretty much the one prominent female character. It was absolutely great to see her being a wise young lady and rejecting the idea of "missionary dating"! Seriously, this was so refreshing to see. I hardly ever find literary characters who take this stand, so that made Sydney stand out to me. She's a sweet but independent girl with a heart for God and strong faith.

The themes of the spiritual realm and warfare ... AWESOME. The good vs. evil - angles vs. demons battles. The part that prayer plays in said battles. *Cloak of the Light* is written in a way and with aspects that I believe attracts young adults, and it also had such depth. This is a message the Church needs to hear! It was thought-provoking, eye-opening, challenging, and encouraging! A great reminder.

This book was just so thrilling, mysterious and adventurous ... this is what I love about speculative fiction! I usually read fantasy, not books including stuff about angels and demons. But I had a subtle knowing that this book would satisfy my craving for a fantasy-type adventure, and did it ever! Yanked me right out of my reading slump. Drew and friends (+ *enemies*) kept me up all hours of night. *grins*

I can't quite find the words to describe what this book did for me. Guys, it kept me up at night. I read it in about one day (*and now I'm reading the sequel*). It made me ponder spiritual warfare and get fired up about said topic and how God can work in and through me to impact this unseen war.

I loved these characters. I loved how the mystery unfolded about these massive, sword-wielding "invaders" who dwell in another dimension. I loved the message. Now, besides reading all the books by Chuck Black, I want to meet him! I've gained a respect and admiration for him and his amazing writing and strong faith.

Amber says

If you are searching for something that will challenge your mind, touch your heart, and refresh your soul, then look no further! This is one story that will not only revitalize your love of reading, but it will also drive your desire to reach a world that is in desperate need of the unconditional love and redemptive power of Jesus. A spark will be created and from it will burst forth an unquenchable and ravenous flame of desire to proclaim the freedom, love, and grace that only God can give to those who turn to Him, humble themselves, and seek His face.

Some would think that Drew Carter would have every right to be bitter and angry at the world and at God. At a young age, he lost his father to a tragedy in the military and after that things progressively seemed to just get worse. Having to move around from school to school, losing his chance at a college scholarship, and worst of all seeing a friend die right in front of his eyes brought his world crashing down around him. If all of that wasn't bad enough, he ended up losing his sight due to a freak lab accident, but Drew's story doesn't end there. In fact, this is just the beginning. His accident in the lab forced him to come face to face with something that he should never have seen. Will he leave well enough alone and live out his life as best he can, or will his fear and curiosity catapult him into a brutal struggle whose prize is the very soul of mankind?

This story is brimming with beautiful examples of hope amid despair. Jake was a very powerful illustration of how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of others. He stuck by his promise to his best friend to look after his family if he fell while fighting for his country, and as a result Drew was given an incredible father figure who molded his life in a very positive way. While Jake wasn't his real dad, he showed Drew what it meant to be a real man. He lived his life in a way that showed what true strength, courage, and honor looked like, and as a result Drew was able to see that there was still good in this life in spite of all of the bad that he had endured.

I truly enjoyed the painstaking detail that was put into building this amazing world and its captivating characters. The twists and turns were exciting and unpredictable, and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it! This is a journey that requires a strength of spirit that only you can choose to create from the pain and sorrow that this life brings our way. Nothing about this life is easy, but it is a choice that we all have to make. Live with hope and a purpose, or give into the pain and just survive from day to day.

What a true joy to find such a beautiful talent in this incredible work by Chuck Black! I have been won over by the unassuming yet brilliant gift that God has blessed this author with. When words leap off the page and make their home in your heart, you know that you have found a truly inspired and deeply precious treasure that you will always remember and forever enjoy. I eagerly await the next part of this journey, and I challenge you to join me on this extraordinary ride.

Gabrielle says

A wild ride. Incredibly thought out and detailed, it's a fantastic story of the battled between good and evil. Cannot wait for the next to come out!

Ages: 15+

Violence: 2/5

Sexual Content: 1/5

Language: 0/5

Intensity: 5/5

Laura A. Grace says

Wow! I absolutely loved this novel despite that it gave me the chills at times! However the message about spiritual warfare that Chuck Black delivers is well worth it!

The overall plot of the story is an interesting and unique one! It was fascinating how Drew came about seeing into the spiritual realm and how his past affected his view of it! There were a few times though that I did chuckle because of Drew's ignorance concerning his own ideas and beliefs. As a Christian I know what is written in the Bible about spiritual beings and I thought Chuck did a great job of realistically portraying the thoughts of an unbeliever if he experienced what Drew had!

There are many conversations that Drew has with friends/strangers that are extremely eye-opening concerning the truth of God's existence as well as good versus evil! I was glad that at the end of the novel Chuck gives Scriptures and a short blurb to tie in with each chapter! His insights gave Biblical truths concerning situations that happened throughout the novel!

In the Author's Note it states that liberties were taken in writing this novel. However it was not to contradict the Word of God, but "rather to inspire and challenge you to consider the reality of spiritual warfare in a whole new way." I do believe that this was fulfilled in "Cloak of the Light" and I highly recommend this if you're looking to be inspired and challenged about spiritual warfare! This book was not only Biblically sound, but extremely eye opening in many ways!

I give "Cloak of the Light" a 5 out of 5 stars!

*I received an ARC copy of this book in a giveaway by Multnomah Books and was not required to write a positive review! All thoughts expressed are my own! *

Deborah says

Drew is caught in a world of light - just inches away from the dark.

What if...there was a world beyond our vision, a world just fingertips beyond our reach? What if...our world wasn't beyond their influence?

Tragedy and heartache seem to be waiting for Drew Carter at every turn, but college offers Drew a chance to start over—until an accident during a physics experiment leaves him blind and his genius friend, Benjamin Berg, missing.

As his sight miraculously returns, Drew discovers that the accident has heightened his neuron activity, giving him skills and sight beyond the normal man. When he begins to observe fierce invaders that no one else can see, he questions his own sanity, and so do others. But is he insane or do the invaders truly exist?

With help from Sydney Carlyle, a mysterious and elusive girl who offers encouragement through her faith, Drew searches for his missing friend, Ben, who seems to hold the key to unlocking this mystery. As the dark

invaders close in, will he find the truth in time?

My Review:

I had a great deal of interest in this book from just reading the description, and I was in for a treat by novel's end. It is the first book in the Wars of the Realm series, and a stellar beginning for what is to come. This was an epic war of souls that was exhilarating from the very first chapter. The unseen world between good and evil will get your pulse racing and your heart beating to the cadence of the excitement that Black weaves into the story. Part mystery, part adventure, and part spiritual truth, Cloak of the Light will keep your mind reeling, your imagination alive, and you will fall in love.

This book was provided by the publisher for free in exchange for an honest review.

Bethany says

It seems like life is destined to be hard for Drew Carter. Tragedy just seems to follow him. When he loses his eyesight in a physics lab accident the doctors have no hope of him ever seeing again but they were wrong. As his vision begins to return he begins to see dark and light "invaders" from another dimension in a battle over the world of men.

Only one other person will understand, his friend Ben Berger but he has disappeared and finding him without drawing attention to the dark invaders is a daunting and seemingly impossible task... they know he can see them and they will stop at nothing to destroy him.

I really enjoyed this story! Having read the Knights of Arrethrae I was afraid that an "adult" book would diminish the straight forward and concise writing style of his other books. Not a chance!

This is such a thought provoking book it will satisfy any philosophical reader and enough adventure to entertain the most demanding science fiction lover!

I highly recommend!!!!

I received this book free in exchange for an honest review. The opinions expressed here are my own!

Kara says

My Comments

I've never read this author before, but when I heard about this book, even without a summary available I knew I wanted to review it. Then I found out that it was about a young man who could see into another dimension and has skills beyond normal human beings. I really thought of authors like Frank Peretti and Ted Dekker who have written supernatural stories and speculative fiction and figured this story might be similar to their writing styles. I was very wrong. I've never read a book like this before.

FIRST PART OF DREW'S JOURNEY----TRAGEDY

Drew Carter is 8 years old when the book starts and his father, an army special forces soldier, has been killed in combat. Drew knows his life will never be the same again. Then Jake visits them, he was Ryan's best

friend and made a promise to Ryan that he would take care of his family in any way he could. Jake makes good on that promise and becomes a lifeline to Drew as a father and brother.

The first few chapters are summarized (some other parts are summarized also), which I normally would be unhappy about, but with Black this really works. This author wants to introduce a character to us without going into too much detail until later in the story when things REALLY liven up! Drew doesn't live a normal life and his story is filled with sadness. I didn't cry in any of it, but much of it stunned me or had me in disbelief. The first part of the book I simply couldn't believe all he endures, but I couldn't put the book down. There is so much tragedy and adjustment he has to deal with, but all the while I couldn't help feeling that he was being protected by God. And for every hardship he has to face, something beautiful does come out of it.

NEXT PART OF DREW'S JOURNEY----TRAINING

Drew meets Benjamin in high school and they become allies at first. By the time Drew graduates from high school, they have become best friends and that loyalty stays strong in both of them. They end up at the same college together and one day Ben confides in Drew about something sinister that has taken place and asks him to accompany him to the lab Ben works in. Something goes terribly wrong, they're both badly injured, and this is where Drew's journey REALLY begins. My favorite scenes in the book were with Ben, he's such a great character and the only one who believes Drew. They both take great risks for one another and rely on each other greatly. They couldn't be more opposite in personality, but their intelligence and skills complement each other. More than once, Drew comments how strange their friendship and conversations are, but this friendship makes up most of the plot and enhances the story line greatly.

It was difficult for me to believe that a science experiment is what causes Drew to see the supernatural world. One is physical or metaphysical and one is spiritual yet despite me not completely understanding that part of the story, it came together nicely in developing Drew's capabilities. It's obvious he's chosen for a special purpose in life way beyond getting a college degree or playing football.

The three things that I found compelling in the story as well as unique....Drew is seeing into the supernatural, but he doesn't believe in God. The author still creates Drew to be a GREAT character because he has morals and can't walk away when he sees others helplessly in danger. He calls the supernatural beings invaders and unknown attackers, the good ones he calls light invaders. I got a kick of these nicknames and two of the main ones he gives official names.

Another thing, the girl in the story, Sydney, has strong chemistry with Drew and they also become solid friends. Sydney also takes great risks to help Drew and Ben. However, Sydney is in love with Christ and won't make promises to Drew since he doesn't believe. She repeatedly expresses her concern for Drew and promises to keep him in prayer.

The last thing I thought was interesting in Drew's lack of faith, he doesn't have the right methods in fighting/escaping/defeating these invaders WITHOUT belief in God. I thought it was obvious that he was seeing demons, but he has to analyze their presence with Ben and while "off the grid" to figure out what he's dealing with. The best thing he uses is ignorance. Drew doesn't realize that in his unbelief, he's in the most danger. He describes these entities as unearthly, dressed in black clothing and a trench coat, carrying a sword on their back, and their movement is incredibly fast.

HYPERSensitivity= HIGHLY OR EXCESSIVELY SENSITIVE (IN DREW'S CASE, ALL 5 SENSES EXPERIENCE HYPERSensitivity TO HIS SURROUNDINGS)

Drew spends much of the plot coping with his hypersensitivity (which the doctors can't understand), searching for Ben, and getting away from invaders while helping citizens caught in their traps. In this book, both angels and demons can be killed. Drew's enemies include the FBI and gang members in Chicago as he searches for Ben. The story ends quite abruptly hinting that much more of Drew's journey will be continued in Book 2. The ending was completely unexpected and Drew is warned that more "invaders" will be coming for him. There is considerable violence in the story, but nothing gory. I couldn't put the book down and it ended far too quickly as things intensified!

Even though this story is incredibly written and draws the reader in quickly, I would only recommend it for those who like speculative fiction (unconventional stories with supernatural beings and a young man with remarkable fighting skills). Drew, Ben, and Sydney are easy to love and cheer for, but much of the story is harsh for Drew as he deals with one tragedy after another. It's not difficult to see why he has trouble believing in God, but this only causes the reader to feel sympathy and hope for Drew that one day he WILL believe. He just has to deal with losses and injustice first. His character was made for greatness and it will be epic what ends up happening to him next. The last impressive thing about Book One is that even though this is a Christian book, two of the main characters DO NOT believe in God, yet the story is preparing their testimony for when they DO believe. THAT will make the sequel even BETTER!

I want to thank Multnomah Books/WaterBrook Multnomah for the review copy provided. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions expressed are my own.

Angel says

Originally posted in angelroman.org

This is the first book I read by Chuck Black. It was shortly after I started to read that I found out he's better known for his 'Kingdom' series. I was drawn to the story for its speculative attributes and it didn't disappoint me, I really liked it.

When I started to read though, I must admit I dropped the book several times. The introduction of Drew and the rest of the characters was a little bit slow and didn't catch my attention but at the end I must admit it is important as a background for Drew's lifestyle and way of thinking.

The introduction to the supernatural element in the story also took much time to be presented. And when it did it seemed Drew, the main character, never knew anything about it. One thing is to be a skeptic and another to be ignorant and I couldn't believe it never occurred to Drew the possibility of the invaders to be actually some sort of you know, angels.

The way the angels were described was interesting. I gotta say I felt their description matched somehow with another angel from a tv show named Castiel, don't know if Black had this in his mind. What I didn't like about the angels was the stereotypical elements assigned to each side, black for the bad guys and white for the good guys but it didn't stop there, black eyes for the evil ones and pale blue for the good warriors. I'm thankful the author stop there and didn't add blond long hair for the 'light invaders'.

Maybe you're wondering why after criticizing some of the story elements so much I said I liked it and that it didn't disappoint me. Well to be honest, I liked that after a few chapters it became a quick reading and I

couldn't put the book down until I was finished. After many pauses I finished the book in only two days. Another positive thing is the way the angel combats are described. I could imagine with enough detail many of the fighting scenes in the book thanks to the way Black described the events, this gave a lot of intensity and tension to the story.

The message of the book is not only about angels fighting with swords, but also the truth behind this war. We live in the midst of a spiritual realm and everything that happens there affect us somehow. Our beliefs about God define our position in this war. I believe one of the intentions of Chuck Black is to make us conscious about this reality and to know indifference is not an option.

Disclosure: I received this book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group for an honest review.

Alice says

Brilliant. Literary genius at it's best - Chuck Black has come up with a plot so intricate and well thought out, and yet it directly concerns what's going on right now in our society regarding good and evil - we should all be aware of this stuff! Chuck Black has such a way of describing things- specifically fight sequences (which this book is full of!) -that is really easy to follow and creates an accurate mental picture; unlike so many suspense novels where I get totally confused trying to follow the characters actions on my mental "television screen".

Spoiler This is one of the only Christian books I have read where by the end the main character still has not accepted Christ as their Savior. Also- there was NO closure! Everything was left open and Drew still has barely any answers to what he's been working on the entire time; and there are some characters that you've kind of lost track of that are a big part of the story. These things didn't bother me, however, knowing that this is book 1 and that book 2 is in the works. So I didn't totally freak out- but it did come as a bit of a shock when I finished the book and realized all that I wasn't able to figure out. :P

I didn't know how I'd like the book, having fallen so totally in love with Chuck Black's Medieval stories- and this is such a different setting. And yet- it wasn't. It was still the same style of writing and even had all the cool "cloak and dagger" stuff- literally! :D

Drew and Sydney made a really great hero/heroine duo! They put me a little in mind of Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy... but Drew Carter was way cooler!

I highly recommend this to those who enjoy Christian suspense novels, and allegories. I would say it's a little intense for younger children, but this is great for teens- and I think adults would definitely enjoy it as well.

"It's wrong to do nothing when you have the power to do something."

I received this book for free from Blogging for Books for this honest review.

Kelly says

Cloak of the Light is the first book of the "Wars of the Realm" series by Chuck Black. Drew Carter is the main character in this book, and an accident in a physics lab leaves Drew blind. However, his sight miraculously returns, and Drew discovers the accident has given him skills and sight beyond that of a normal man.

Drew witnesses things normal humans cannot see — invaders, causing him to question his own sanity. Then he meets Sydney Carlyle, a girl he is attracted to, who offers encouragement through her faith. However, Drew wants nothing to do with that kind of faith in his own life.

Then he begins to notice the actions of the invaders as well as the actions of human beings. Is there a connection between the invaders and the humans?

Drew becomes involved in a battle as he simply tries to help people he sees in need. In so doing, he angers a tough street gang who want him dead. The dark invaders also seem to want to get rid of him. Will Drew find the truth of the invaders in time?

What a great read! I could NOT put this book down, and it ramped up my emotions as Drew faced danger in order to help others, and yet, Drew was missing something and I wanted him to find it which also ramped up some frustration. But I could not stop turning pages. I was too invested in these characters and the plot line. I had to see how it would all end.

By the end of the book, Drew is a little closer to finding the truth, but there's still the problem of the invaders. Therefore, it didn't take me long to pick up the next book in the War of the Realms series: Rise of the Fallen. There is one more after this: Light of the Last, and I'm sure I won't be reading much of anything else until I get through this trilogy.

If you like books filled with danger, suspense, action, mystery, with a little sci-fi and romance tossed in, you'll love Cloak of the Light by Chuck Black.

Cindy says

One of my favorite scenarios to read about in Christian fiction is Spiritual Warfare. Maybe it comes from reading This Present Darkness by Frank Peretti when I was first introduced to Christian Fiction many years ago. Anyway, if a book description mentions it, I will get it to give it a try. That is what drew me to this book. I've never previously read any of the author's other writings so was not at all familiar with his style.

Drew Carter is a college student and has a very good friend that is strongly into physics experimentation to try to see other worlds and aliens. Drew goes with him to the lab to help and ends up blinded when the lab explodes. Gradually he recovers his eyesight but when he does, is able to into another dimension where there are aliens or what he calls invaders. Has he gone crazy or is what he sees real?

The invaders, both good and evil, are pictured differently than what I have previously read but that isn't a negative in any way. As the reader and as a Christian, I could see what the invaders actually are but Drew Carter is a non-believer and doesn't understand. I'm hoping though that before the end of the second book, he will come to know. Bad thing is, the second book doesn't come out until first of next year I believe.

The pacing in some parts of the book was very slow but the story kept me intrigued and wanting to know where it was going. If you like reading Speculative Christian Fiction, I would definitely recommend this one.

Hayden says

I fully admit that I wasn't really interested in this book from the description on the back; the reason I picked this book up for review is because I'm familiar with Chuck Black's other series and enjoyed them, so I decided I'd try his newest books.

I'm not usually a big fan of speculative/supernatural fiction because a lot of it is, well, speculation, and sometimes the theology tends to get a little strange. However, I did like Cloak of Light much more than I was expecting to; unlike most of the books in this genre that I've tried reading, it seemed more coherent and believable and in the back of the book the author is very clear on what the Bible says about angels and demons and what parts were purely fiction.

The story did have a bit of a superhero quality to it, also, which was interesting. My only quibble is probably that sometimes the author's writing fell into the tell-instead-of-showing trap. His writing style isn't bad, but it's not particularly amazing or poetic. Still, it was an interesting read that I think that guys, especially, will like it. (I know my brother was interested in reading it after me)

I received this book free from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Hailey Rose says

This is one of the most amazing, thought-provoking books I've ever read. Definitely going on my list of favorites. I can't wait to read the rest of the series!
