



Day Watch

Sergei Lukyanenko , Andrew Bromfield (Translator)

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The second in a blockbuster series of novels from Russia's most popular science fiction author, Day Watch brings us back into the hyperimaginative world of Sergei Lukyanenko and continues the dramatic battle between good and evil, light and dark, day and night.

Set in a modern-day Moscow, the epic saga chronicles the eternal war of the "Others," an ancient race of humans with supernatural powers who must swear allegiance to either the Dark or the Light. The agents of Dark - The Day Watch - keep an eye during the day, while the agents of Light keep watch over the night. For a thousand years a treaty between the two sides has maintained an uneasy balance, but when a very potent artifact is stolen from the inquisition - an impartial group of Others who keep watch over all - the consequences are dire for both sides.

Day Watch introduces the perspective of the Dark Ones, as it is told in part by a beautiful but troubled young witch. When she falls in love with a handsome young Light One, the balance is threatened and a death must be avenged. Replete with the thrilling action and intricate plotting of the first tale, Day Watch is fuelled by cunning, cruelty, violence, and magic. It is a fast-paced, darkly humorous, haunting world that will take root in the shadows of your mind and live there forever.

(Description from the back cover of trade paperback edition)

Day Watch Details

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Author : Sergei Lukyanenko , Andrew Bromfield (Translator)

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From Reader Review Day Watch for online ebook

David says

Day Watch, like it's prequel, is divided into three parts. The first part was magnificent! Told from the perspective of Alisa, a Dark One, readers delve further into the grey ambiguities of good and evil. I was reduced to tears by the complexities of Alisa's nature. She was so self-serving, ruthless, and stubborn...yet there were moments of such tenderness, clearly illustrating her compassionate, humane side. It was breathtaking.

Part II was not as enjoyable for me. One of my main problems with this section (and with this novel) was the overwhelmingly "Night Watch" aspect of it. Instead of shifting perspectives exclusively to the activities and inner-working of the Day Watch, this novel continued with the narrations and activities of the Night Watch members...which were given plenty of coverage in the first novel, I feel.

The third and final portion of the book brought together the stories portrayed in the first two parts, which completely redeemed the novel in my mind and formed a very high opinion of this book in relation to the whole series thus far. Many questions are answered, and many natures explored and revealed through this final portion of the novel.

I found this book, in its entirety, to be just as compelling and powerful as the first novel. Moral ambiguities are further explored, and the nature of good, evil, and everything in between portrayed.

This book was indeed amazing...and frustrating, and deeply sad as well. The conclusion left a bitter taste in my mouth, and I do hope more is revealed and explored in the third installment of this series, which I can barely control my patience to read.

An amazing series thus far!!!

Uros Rakic says

I loved Alisa :'(

This book is like 10 times more sad then the 1st.

But i loved it!

Hank says

The first two parts of this were exciting and full of mysteries and 5 star stories. The last part was a mostly dry, russian, introspective, courtroom slog that seriously dinged my enjoyment. I loved the two characters in the first two parts, I was constantly engaged in where they were going and how it related to the overall story. They both had depth and although Lukyanenko clearly loves characters living inside their own heads, the first two were minimized enough to add to the story instead of weigh it down. The last piece to the overall book felt like an overly complicated courtroom drama without the drama. The pieces I did like were the vodka drinking session and the (view spoiler) at the end. 3.5 stars rounded up because Russian authors

always have a slightly different perspective than western authors that I enjoy.

I didn't enjoy it enough to immediately start reading the next one although I own it. Which means I probably won't ever read it because the "oh look a new book" syndrome I am suffering from will bury it before I get back to the series.

Kaya says

“Experience is primarily the ability to restrain our fleeting impulses.”

A solid sequel to a extraordinary start of series which is based on ambiguity and similarities between Light and Dark. It wasn't disappointing in any way, but I found myself longing for something more. More Anton, I guess. He is the true protagonist of the story and I don't see a reason for this experiment with changing POVs.

In the first part, a witch Alisa who temporarily loses her powers. The head of the Dark Ones, Zabulon, sends her to recover while posing as a camp counselor - she can suck energy from the happy young campers. Without access to her magic, she finds herself unexpectedly falling for a handsome co-worker Igor, who happens to be one of the Light Others.

In the second part, a man finds himself on a train, with no memory of who he is, just a huge bag full of cash. In time, he learns he's one of the Others and much more. He was so utterly boring.

“Maybe it was cold and miserable in the forest, but man can bring his own warmth and comfort anywhere he goes.”

That weird Other was monotonous, but he had a few good quotes and this was one of them. It's so bizzare reading about a character who has no personality or emotions and I don't like it. There are more characters who deserve reading space.

A powerful artifact has been stolen from its guardians and it could throw off the strenuous balance between Dark and Light. The Inquisition gets involved, most of the story we see from Edgar's POV and he is very much interesting. Basically, he is in Day Watch what Anton is in Night Watch. The two of them share one astonishing conversation that makes the ongoing "cold" war between Light and Dark even more perplexing and exciting.

Essentially, it doesn't matter which side in the war you belong to because each will sacrifice its expendable pawns in the pursuit of breaking the balance. The goals and strategies are set by the leaders Geser and Zavulon and the rest are just trying to live their lives and survive.

I liked the greyness and the moral conflicts, which are especially shown in conversations between Edgar and Anton, and Igor and Anton. Lukyanenko is the master of obscurity but there is one thing doesn't have one clue of - romance. E.L. James did better job in 50 Shades of Grey with it than Lukyanenko. Relationships are awkward, all of them are insta-love, characters have no apparent reason to fall in love with each other and their bond is painfully platonic.

The middle story I found to be relatively weak, because the central character literally is not a character, as I

said before. The reasons behind this weird situation are explained, but still, I almost started skipping pages. Maybe it would've been more interesting if the plot was told from more POVs, just like in the third part of the book.

I still can't tell Semyon from Garik, or Ilya from Ignat, but I know I like all of them, lol. Wait, is Ignat the one who sleeps with everyone, but prefers boys? Hm. Oh, and I think Semyon is the one Anton had great bromance with in Night Watch. The point is, all of these characters deserved more chapters or POVs, instead romance is central to the plot - Alisa and Igor who had tragic and "epic" love story based on ONE GOOD SEX and one day of getting to know each other. Also, there are Anton and poor one-dimensional Svetlana, which seem to be one of those passive-aggressive couples who are miserable but stay together to torture each other. Oh, and the song lyrics. Stop. with. the. song. lyrics.

As previously pointed out, Lukyanenko explores characters we have already met but the perspective changes into introspection of those of the Day Watch. I thought I'd find this one more interesting than the first one, because I always like the bad guys better but the constant change of POVs really got on my nerves. The Night Watch was held together so beautifully by the continuing presence of commendable Anton and his inner moral demons. On the other hand, Alisa and Vitaly were difficult to sympathise with. Edgar was better and maybe this would've been better book than Night Watch if it was told entirely from his POV. One of my biggest problems is that Anton isn't the protagonist and the best quotes are said from wrong people.

Alisa could've been likable if ALL her thoughts weren't about sex with hot guys. Or making unimportant guys fall in love with her. She had temper and interesting way of thinking, she was also cheeky and durable, but she let boys dictate her life.

"Because love stands above Darkness and Light. Because love is not sex or a shared faith, or "the joint maintenance of a household and the upbringing of children." Because love is also Power."

This quote is so beautiful and it would've been more believable if it weren't told by Alisa. I still can't comprehend the big love between Alisa and Igor who knew each other one day. Ok, he made her come, but lets not start a revolution because of it.

Suprisingly, Edgar was the most interesting character in the book. He did what he wanted to do and couldn't care less about social conventions, but he had a slight idea of what is right and wrong. Being rational is his strongest suit and it saved his life in the end.

Anton was barely there but it was nice to see the perception others have of him. He isn't a strong Mage, but everyone respect him and wait for him to make a decision. He has this incommodious combination of caring too much and not caring enough. I still don't know how he didn't get in big trouble by now.

"If you have love in you, it's a strength. But if you are in love, it's a weakness."

This book is killing me. So many debatable quotes about love, but none of the actual relationships are worth debating. We're just supposed to believe when author tells us the couples are in love, but doesn't give a crap about actually showing it.

"Love was something different. Love was pure delight, a fountain of emotions, sensual delights, and enjoying spending time together."

I'll end my bitter ranting here.

Stephanie Swint says

This sequel to *The Night Watch* is structured into three stories just like *Day Watch*. Sergei Lukyanenko explores characters we have already met but the perspective changes from the introspection of Anton and the *Night Watch* characters to delving into those of the *Day Watch*. The whole concept of the Light and the Dark not being bad but different life choices is explored further and Lukyanenko writing the *Day Watch* shows no partiality. In fact a large point is made about both being necessary. This is a good sequel. I will say it took a moment for it to build in its intensity so that I couldn't put it down, and more frustrating, because since it is three stories it took 3 separate moments to build intensity. That being said, I truly enjoyed it.

The book follows Elisa, Vitaly, and Edgar of the *Day Watch*. The stories take loyal *Day Watch* members that are in the higher ranks from being pawns who follow orders and force them into positions they must grow and see the more complex picture of the war between the Light and the Dark. It causes them to question their commitment similar to Anton questioning his commitment to the Light in *Night Watch*. The dark are not corrupt lechers, well...for the most part. Being a member of the Dark Others is more a choice towards individualization. They do not want to be told what to do, how to think, or how to live. It's a different perspective of Dark.

If you enjoyed *Night Watch* I think you will enjoy *Day Watch*. It is a good sequel as I mentioned above. I listened to this through Audible and Paul Michael did a wonderful job with the narration. His accents are good and he differentiates his characters well so you do not question who is speaking. My only reason I did not give the narration a five is there are a few moments the audio seems to skip or pause. It does not seem to lose anything but causes brief confusion for the listener. I would still say I believe this book is enhanced by the narration.

oguz kaan says

*?lk kitaptaki kaos dolu diyaloglar devam ediyor ama biraz iyile?me var. Bu da anla??labillik aç?s?ndan çok daha kolay bir öykü zinciri olu?turmu?. Bu sefer dünyadan zevk almaya çal??an, önce ben diyen grup olan Karanl?k Varl?k'lar?n bak???ndan anlat?lan bir roman var.

**?lk hikayede bizim aptal ama gittikçe zekile?en Ayd?nl?k Varl?k olan karakterimizi görmeyince afallad?m. Fakat ilerledikçe Gündüz Nöbeti'nin hikayesi Gece Nöbeti'ne ba?lama i?ini çok iyi kotarm??. Entri kan?n, kaosun, a?k?n, büyü'nün karma??k bir anlat?da ba?ar?l? ?ekilde kar??t?r?ld??? ve çözümlendi?i bir romand?.

Suzanne says

Hodnocení: 3,5/5

Denní hlídka mi p?išla o trochu slabší než p?edchozí díl No?ní hlídka. Chyb?lo mi v ní víc akce, ironického

humoru a taky pořádný ne?ekáný zvrat a velkolepé záv?re?né vyvrcholení. Přesto se t?ším na t?etí díl Šerá hlídka, protože série No?ní hlídka pořád patří v žánru urban fantasy k tomu nejlepšímu, co můžete najít.

Celou recenzi si můžete pře?íst zde:

<http://www.suzannesworldofbooks.cz/cl...>

Kat Kennedy says

I found this book of the Watch series really hard to get into.

I suppose because Lukyanenko's morose and realistic writing was great for Night Watch but was totally depressing and frustrating in Day Watch. There's only so much human weakness, moral reasoning and realistically bad endings I can take, okay! I'm a natural optimist! It gets to me!

Ah! Much better!

It was still well written. The characters were still great. Lukyanenko is still absolutely brilliant. Sometimes though, I want to live in dream land where everything is great and the good guys always win.

emma says

Where is this going... I feel like something big is being set up
Also when did they get married?

Holli says

Nightwatch was told in the voice of just one of the Light ones, Anton. This book continues the story, weaving in threads from the previous book while creating a whole 'nother cluster fuck for the characters involved. It is brilliant. It is also in three parts, but this time each part is told by a different Dark One. The first part is told by a love struck witch called Alisa. Honestly, the author did an amazing job, but I wasn't sure I could stand a whole book about her. Luckily it is the perfect amount. I even began to pity her myself. (Kristin, I think you'd really like her part in everything.) The second part is told by a powerful magician who is suffering a bit of amnesia. The climax of his story is beyond words. The third part is told by the magician Edgar, the temporary stand in for the extremely powerful, 'vacationing' head of the Daywatch. He himself is not that powerful by any means, so he is trying to figure out why the hell he was called to Moscow. (Stevie S. this is the story for you!) All three stories connect in the end, beautifully woven in and out of each other. Love, Tragedy, Conspiracies, Magic, Religious debates, Ethical dilemmas. Fucking good. For a while good, sweet old Hufflepuff me was considering joining the Daywatch! It has all the good vs evil banter of Good Omens, but it is taken further in the absence of God and The Devil. And the ending! ooooh that bastard Lukyanenko! My fist was raised, shaking to the heavens. He got me! I thought I had figured it out, but he got me! well done!

FUCKING GOOD STORY! Can't wait to pick up the Twilightwatch!

Robert says

Another three stories, following on from the events of The Night Watch, which had resolved matters quite nicely, thank you. (There was a time when this series would have been published as a nanology not a trilogy.) The Nightwatch had a somewhat unsettling habit of switching from the first person perspective of Anton, Nightwatch Agent, to a third person perspective whenever the author felt the need to describe events Anton was not witness to. The first story in the volume switches to a first person perspective of a character encountered briefly a number of times in the previous volume - and she is from the Day Watch. Other first person perspectives are used in the subsequent stories and again third person is used whenever the author feels like it. All this switching around is a little distracting and detracting....

The witch Alisa, protagonist of the first story in the present volume is not a likable character (downright unpleasant, in my view) and I'm confident she is not meant to be. Yet at the denouement I found myself sympathising with her more than a little - that is quite some achievement on the part of Lukyenenko, who is, at his best, a very capable writer.

The middle story I found to be relatively weak, because the central character literally is not a character - Lukyenenko thereby defeating his own great strength of making his protagonists believable. The reasons behind this weird situation are explained, but still, the story is not what it perhaps could have been.

The final story sits perhaps between the other two in quality, this time because I felt that dragging Germanic and Christian mythology to the forefront of matters was a mistake. It somehow distracted from Lukyenenko's own imaginative creations.

Over-all this volume is weaker than the first and it is because it is more disjointed. The changes of perspective between characters leave you without the unifying influence that the use of Anton's first person view in all three parts of The Night Watch provided.

Dacko says

Se?am se samo da mi je bila vrlo zabavna dok sam ?itala... i ni?eg više. To me, doduše, ne spre?ava da pro?itam i poslednji nastavak u serijalu, ve? samo da knjizi dam ve?u ocenu od 'dopala mi se'.

Asia says

3.5 stars

Christina says

[
Part One: Hi there, you're hot. Hi there, you're also hot. *Sex* Wait a second, you're a Dark one! Holy shit, you're a light one? *Luke Skywalker-like "Noooooooooooooooooooo!" all around* But I love you! But we must fight to the death! *death*

Part Two: Who am I? Who are you? No, really, who am I? We don't know who you are, but we don't like you very much.

Elaine says

4.5 stars

This is the sequel to "Night Watch" and was wonderful! All the best characters are back, including some new ones that totally blow you away. This is basically a continuation of the first book. I was a little disappointed it did not continue with the main character from book one...but after I got past that I LOVED IT! It was refreshing to see how the dark ones went about their business. Not as interesting a conclusion as in the first one but I think that was mainly because of the set up for the third book. It is so great to read such deep writing, having numerous, seemingly unrelated events come together to form a single tapestry in the end. I also enjoy such stories that show that, though there is a struggle between the forces of Light and Dark, it could be disastrous if either side ever gained a significant advantage.

I highly recommend it for fans of non-traditional fantasy. My only complaint is that sometimes all the plotting gets kind of complicated. I think that was intended, though.

Julie Davis says

Continuing my rereading of the series and it is proving a satisfying experience, which is always the test of a good book for me. The first time through one is taken up in the excitement of the storyline unfolding. The second time around when one is more relaxed and looking around the neighborhood (so to speak) is when a story shows staying power or the lack thereof.

My original review is below.

=====

Loneliness, dejection, the contempt or pity of people around you--these are unpleasant feelings. But they are precisely the things that produce genuine Dark Ones.

As with the previous book in the series, The Night Watch, this is comprised of three stories. Unlike the previous book, this is told from the Dark Ones' point of view and by three different protagonists. Intriguingly, it begins with statements opposite to those which open Night Watch. We are told that this text is not approved because it is deleterious to the cause of Light (signed the Night Watch) and deleterious to the cause of Dark (signed the Day Watch).

The first story is told from a Dark witch's point of view as she is sent to recover from a difficult assignment. It was definitely dark and almost kept me from continuing. It's funny because it isn't as if the story contained anything that I haven't encountered in other books and it definitely isn't because it is told from the dark point of view. There was just something about it that made me not want to read it, which is a tribute to the author's ability to convey atmosphere in his storytelling.

I thoroughly enjoyed the second story which was a mystery within a mystery as a man riding a train realizes he has amnesia ... and is an Other. The third story brought the other two together in a climactic trial by The Inquisition.

As in Night Watch, each story examined a facet of Dark or Light. I was especially interested in the third story where most of it is shown from the point of view of Edgar, a Dark Other, or Anton, our familiar Light Other from the first book. Several times each was judging the other for the very same thing while thinking, "Just like a Light/Dark Other..." In this story we also hear about how Inquisitors see things and it was an interesting contrast to the Others.

Day Watch uses these engrossing stories to examine good, evil, love, and sacrifice, continuing the themes found in Night Watch. As such it gave me pause while I thought about the author's representation of the very thin line that separates good from evil, and true love from a self-serving pretense of love.

It was quite good overall, although it was not quite as good as Night Watch. Definitely recommended.

Tracy Reilly says

This probably explains it..I'm unhappy because I thought there were twenty more pages, but it's an excerpt from another in the series. Luckily I have the next book. I want to know why the movies don't really follow this plot very closely. Maybe the answer is in book three. I am resisting the urge to watch the movies. Again.

I changed my mind about liking the first one better. They are both together, and cannot be separated. It is still true that Anton Gorodetsky is still my favorite character, and he again has a significant part that is obvious in the cliff-hanger ending.

I like how this series blends mythology, legend, science and religion--probably because I have a tendency to never thoroughly dismiss any of these as a possibility for explaining the world. Also, there remains a sense of mystery to the world Lukyanenko has created. Reading it one gets the sense that there is an undiscovered layer to be explored, like an onion. Instead of a plot twist, this just takes each book in the series to another layer of understanding--about human nature, about our desires and attempts to wrestle with morality and the greater good while getting what we need to live. It is a very thoughtful book, and I'm already off to read the next one.

Oh, yes, this book spends more time with characters who are attempting to sort out the machinations and motives of the leaders of the Day and Night Watch. Gesar and Zebulon. They don't really seem all that different, although Zebulon comes off as a rather cold fish for using a lover in a seeming manipulative way. By the end, we don't really know why what's happened, has happened--only that it wasn't what we thought.

And there's going to be a baby.

Nataliya says

2014: ***** The reasons why I will never read another one of Lukyanenko's books are at the bottom of this review *****

2013: Unless you happen to be a chessmaster in the neverending chess game of life, you are nothing but a pawn to be sacrificed when the strategy demands it.

"The game is eternal; only the time the figures spend on the checkered board is finite."

It really doesn't matter which side in the war you belong to because each will sacrifice its expendable pawns in the pursuit of victory. And no pawn is ever safe - because, regardless of your rank among the minions, you are still nothing more than a piece to be moved and manipulated.

"And really, all our aspirations and speeches are meaningless. We are marionettes. Nothing more than marionettes. Trying to become a puppet-master is a hopeless feat since you need special abilities like Geser's or Zavulon's, and those abilities are exceedingly rare. And all the seats at the chessboards are already taken. No chessmaster will allow his place to be taken by a chess-piece, even if it's a chess king or a queen."

--- From the semi-drunk, in the Russian fashion, conversation between the enemies Edgar (the Dark One) and Anton (the Light One). Both are, of course, pawns on the chessboard of life. ---

Ultimately for the pawns, the 'little people' with little power involved in the 'big kids' games led by those select few who hold the reins of power, the side that they take in the war really does not make that much of a difference. **The goals and strategies are set by the leaders, and the rest are just trying to live their lives, to survive, to do well in life; they work and love and have friends.** This is what Lukyanenko focuses on in *The Day Watch*, the sequel to *Night Watch*, now showing us more of the happenings on the other side of the virtual barricades in the neverending war between the non-ironically named the Light Ones and the Dark Ones.

"But for the Others people are a source of existence. Their roots and food. For the Light Ones and the Dark Ones alike, regardless of what the Light Ones blab about on every corner. They also take their energy from people's lives. As for the goals... We have the same goals. Both us and the Light Ones are trying to beat our rivals and be the first to reach the goal."

Night Watch had its fair share of moral greyness and ambiguity, showing that the distinctions between the Light and the Dark are not as obvious as their names suggest; **underscoring how even the 'good guys', especially those with power, will not hesitate to manipulate and use their followers to get what they want.** *The Day Watch* shows us that the same is true for the other side, and that, honestly, the 'pawns' may have more in common than they think. Except they are not always open to seeing that, to reconsidering their ingrained, deeply prejudiced views of traditional enemies. But sometimes they cannot help but see how pointless the distinctions between them can be, and the failure to do so can lead to tragedy.

"And Anton thought yet another time that the Dark Ones in their seeming simplicity are sometimes more humane than the fighters for the grand ideals - the Light Ones."

The leaders of both sides in this eternal standstill of the Dark (Zavulon) and the Light (Geser) would very much love to upset the tenuous balance and bring the long-awaited victory to their side. **Little will stop them, and the methods they choose are eerily similar despite the presumed differences in etiology - the age-tested political strategies rooted in intrigues and manipulations and deceit and the willingness to move the pawns on the board whichever way they please and easily sacrificing them once need comes for that.**

That is not a new approach all in itself. What was different about this book is that the said pawns have no misconceptions about their leaders' lack of hesitance about reaching their goals regardless of the costs. And

yet, contrary to what you'd expect, they do not rebel much. They know about the lack of honesty in their respective Watches - and yet continue following the same leaders, continue following the ideologies they were raised with, continue sticking with their side and their rulers. **It's to me a very Soviet way of looking at things, stemming from the time where there was no doubt that the intentions of those in power may have nothing to do with your well-being and that you may be easily sacrificed in order to achieve "the greater good"**. And you don't need to know about these plans in order to unwittingly help carrying them out.

"Keys are never told which door they are supposed to unlock."

There's not really a "lone wolf" mentality, no true attempts to overthrow the status quo by rebelling - well, in all honesty there are a few tries at going against the big guys - but it seems that the end result invariably ends up being what those in power envisioned and planned for. And so little people get screwed and life goes on. If you decide to do something about this, you just may realize that your rebellion or actions is exactly what was planned for you, the expendable pawn. *Good pawn, you did your job well, as planned, goodbye now.* And the lone ranger fails to change the course of events yet again - so unlike the approach usually accepted by the more individualistic Western society.

"You're the Dark One," said Anton. "You can only see evil, treason and vileness in everything."

"I just don't close my eyes to them," Edgar retorted. "And that's why I don't trust Zavulon. Almost as much as I don't trust Geser. I even trust you more than them - after all, you're also a pathetic pawn, accidentally painted a different color than me. Does the black pawn hate the white one? No. Especially when the pawns are peacefully drinking beer together."

Lukyanenko has this annoying habit of creating almost a playlist for his books, using the lyrics from well-known Russian songs to illustrate the ideas and the feelings of his characters, and sometimes trying to use the message in the song as a soundtrack for the story, highlighting the points he's trying to make, and sometimes almost using them to introduce certain plot points ((view spoiler). If it were a movie, the songs he uses would be playing in the background as the characters ponderously stare past the camera.

This approach got quite a bit of eye-rolling from me - except one instance where he uses a song "Tin Soldiers" by the famous Soviet singer-songwriter Vladimir Vysotsky - a song seemingly about his six-year-old son playing war with his toy soldiers, with equal numbers 'dying' on each side - and with the question of how exactly does he make a choice which ones live and which ones die. A few of Vysotsky's short verses so aptly underscore the point that Lukyanenko makes over pages and pages of this book - **the arbitrariness of what side in the war you end up on, the cruelty of chance, and the pointless demise of the pawns in somebody else's war.**

The English translation of the song is under the spoiler tag - unlike Lukyanenko, I will not be forcing it on you, but it's quite good:
(view spoiler)

This was overall a good book, and I liked the ambiguity and the greyness and the moral conflicts. Stars are docked for frequent over-moralizing and a subpar use of Norse-Christian mythology that seemed to be semi-awkwardly tacked on at the end. But overall it's a **solid 3.5 star read**, and I will be gladly picking up the next one in the series, hoping to see more of this world that I find is quite growing on me.

My review of *Night Watch* - the first book in the Watch series - is here.

2014: *** Here are the reasons why I will never read another one of Lukyanenko's books. ***

The conflict in Ukraine has been all over the news. Regardless of which side you take, or whether you even care about anything that goes on in that part of the world, the disgusting remarks by Mr. Lukyanenko are impossible to ignore as they are filled with such vitriol, contempt and hate that it's hard to believe anyone would spout something like this in public, gleefully demeaning an entire ethnicity:

Taken (and translated) from Lukyanenk's blog and his comments (<http://dr-piliulkin.livejournal.com/5...>

"As for a Ukraine... Yes. Alas. Treachery is one of the qualities of the Maloross character ['maloross' coming from Malorussia, literally 'little Russia'- the old imperial Russian name for the southeastern part of Ukraine that used to be a part of 'greater' Russia]. Simply for the reason that the Malorosses are a peasant branch of the a Russian people. And peasants are always traitors by nature. That's life."

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"There's not such a country as Ukraine. There's only an obmylok [used-up remnant of a bar of soap] with inflated ego and a bare ass. It's time for this soap remnant to realize its place in the world."

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??? ?, ????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ? ??????

Disgusting.

There are plenty of other writers who (a) write better than Lukyanenko, and (b) are not douchebags. Therefore I'm not wasting any more of my time reading his works.

Skip says

Second book in the series, featuring the ongoing struggle between "the dark" and "the light." Like the first book, it is told in a series of three interwoven stories, but the changing narrative styles are somewhat hard to follow. Much of the book describes the battle between these forces, and the two organizations established to monitor their actions: The Night Watch, which is staffed by Light Magicians (virtuous), and the Day Watch, which is staffed by Dark Magicians (freedom-loving libertarians.) At the center is a treaty, drawn to restrict

the use of magic and to license the activities of vampires, werewolves and other creatures. There is a doomed love story, a powerful relic on the loose, and the mysterious agendas of the two leaders of the Watches, while they sacrifice their chess pieces in an attempt to emerge victorious.

Katy says

Please Note: Read and reviewed in 2007.

My Synopsis; In this, the 2nd book of the Others' series, we are again treated to three separate, yet intertwining stories: first, the young Dark witch Alisa loses her powers in a struggle over an illegally practicing Dark witch and is sent to Artek (the most elite of the camps for the Young Pioneers during the Soviet era) to regain her strength. There she falls in love with another of the camp leaders ... In the second story, a Finnish group of the Dark Ones called the Brothers of Regin steal the mystical Talon of Fafnir and attempt to bring it to Moscow. Vitaly Rogoza, an Other who seems to have lost his memory and is gradually gaining it back, along with stronger and stronger powers, gets in the line of several murders, causing the Light Others to attack him. There is not much more I can tell about this story without completely ruining it - you will simply have to read it for yourself. In the third story, we are treated to a gathering of the Inquisition to determine the guilt or lack thereof regarding these events.

My Thoughts: This story is told more from the point of view of the Dark Ones, which is very interesting in that it seems to show that most of the scheming and problems are caused by the Light Ones, because of their misunderstanding of the ultimate goals of the Dark Ones, and their refusal to even try to understand. The Dark Ones are shown to only wish to live their own lives in freedom and do as they wish as long as they don't infringe on others' freedoms - which is very similar to the witches' creed: "An it harm none, do as thou wilt." The Light Ones, however, believe that everything the Dark Ones do is a direct attempt to "start something" and/or are lies. It is truly a tragic situation.

The addition of many references to Russian pop culture means that there will be little bits and pieces here and there that people who aren't familiar with Russian modern culture might find a bit abstruse; however, this does not lessen the enjoyment of this very well-done book. I highly recommend this series to anyone who enjoys thought-provoking works, epic stories about the struggle of Light vs. Dark, paranormal alternate history stories, or just a good book.
