



Crime Rave

Sezin Koehler

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Regathered, and regrown from their remaining body parts, they must work with the LAPD detectives Atticus Red Feather and Synthia Günn to put together the pieces of this monstrous act and face a new horror.

The science experiments of an elite underground lab team, led by Colonel Ripper Ransom—of Mai Lai massacre fame—want out, and the smog goddess Kaleanathi wants more souls to devour.

What will happen if the survivors fail? The world is full of monsters, but the worst are yet to come.

In the long-awaited follow-up to her first novel "American Monsters", Sezin Koehler has surfed a genre shift in "Crime Rave" from postmodern feminist horror to a crime and urban fantasy crossover with an all-monsters-in approach to satiate even the most hardened horror fan.

Vampires, werewolves, serial killers, war criminals, zombies, aliens, hybrids, psychics, and mutants: there's something for everyone in this fresh take on a supernatural crime novel.

Picking up right where "American Monsters" left off—and written with first readers in mind—Koehler weaves us into her tapestry of an alternate universe in which goddesses have free reign over humans, trauma goes hand in hand with superpowers, and Marilyn Monroe not only lives, but has a daughter. These are only some of the many impossible things you'll believe while reading this uniquely told tale of destruction, survival, and redemption for some.

If you're a new reader, welcome.

If you're an old one, welcome back. The scenery has changed some.

The Kindle-compatible version of the ebook is available through a pay-what-you-want basis on the Crime Rave website: <http://bit.ly/1MPE53b>

Crime Rave Details

Date : Published November 15th 2015 by The Margins Press

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Author : Sezín Koehler

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Genre : Thriller, Fantasy



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From Reader Review Crime Rave for online ebook

Jackie Rogers says

This book begins with a huge rave that kills 35,000 people. Well not exactly all as some body parts bregrow a whole body and the person is alive again. There is also an experimental lab creating powerful humans with ability to become animals. Characters are two detectives working the crime scene and watching the miraculous happen with the survivors of the crime rave. Wondered several times why I was reading this novel full of monsters and weird events. the women have been sexually exploited and misused by men of power and aliens. Couldn't put this book down though wanted to at times well most of the time. kudos to Sezin Koehler and her writing to keep me interested. Find out for yourself by reading.

CarolynAnne says

This book draws you in from the first chapter. Strong characters you get invested in and lots of twists and turns to keep you reading. Supernatural aspects are woven throughout the story and are very well written. It was a great escape and one I will definitely read again.

Derek O'Brien says

Imagine a world where 9/11 is just a date.

Where Marilyn Monroe never “accidentally overdosed”, and went on to bring down a political dynasty.

Where aliens, vampires, mutants, gods and goddesses exist - and not always amicably.

And above them all, the Mother struggles to protect and preserve the Earth and Her peoples from the murderous machinations of a potential usurper to Her throne.

This is the world of Sezin Koehler’s Crime Wave. And we’ve only just scratched the surface.

Part urban fantasy-horror, part police procedural, plus a whole lot more, Crime Rave is technically a sequel to Sezin’s earlier American Monsters, but in truth it stands alone and doesn’t require you to read the previous work (but you should still do it anyway, it’s a potent work in its own right), Crime Rave opens in the Hollywood Hills, where tens of thousands of ravers have been mysteriously wiped out by an unknown force, a wave of lost souls which we will learn later have gone to feed a most malevolent celestial entity.

But not all those who attended the rave were killed. There were a few survivors - and a few more by the parts that are inexplicably regenerating... LAPD detectives Synthia Günn and Atticus Red Feather are assigned to interview the survivors are trying to make sense of the insensible.

Which won’t be easy, when the survivors included 300 year-old vampire, a wolf girl, a cyclopean teenager with the power to turn people and things to stone, aliens, and a whole lot more.

But Günn and Red Feather find they must leave behind their preconceived notions of reality quickly, because

their parahuman survivors have attracted the attention of a clandestine agency who collect such beings like Pok  mon cards, and will do whatever it takes to Collect Them All...

Apart from the highly imaginative background and diverse cast of characters, what sets Crime Rave above other works for me is the cinematic sweeping pace, how easily Sezin's descriptions bring the characters and their actions to life. As I read it, I could see it all happening, hear the voices - and watch the carnage.

But there's more to the story. The best, most lasting horror goes beyond the surface, where monsters are more than just what you see. The parahumans, good, bad and all shades between, have many different origins - but most if are victims. Victims of physical, mental, sexual abuse, victims of sick individuals and sick societies.

And while the characters in Crime Rave still react to their traumas in ways we expect - denial, escape, rage - they can also manifest powers to help them cope. Who wouldn't want to produce indestructible steel throwing blades from their skin?

But you don't need to be deep into it to enjoy Crime Rave, because it stands on its own as a rollicking good read. And it's just aching for a sequel - Hint hint!

Catherine Yigit says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and found it difficult to put down once I started. The combination of page-turning suspense, action, delicately drawn characters, gods and monsters, incredible powers combined with human stories, humour in among the horror and redemption in spite of evil was just perfect. By locking the monsters into a police procedural their inherent weirdness is contrasted and it provides measured view of the wonderful cast without losing any of the impact and momentum.

Koehler is truly developing her talents and has produced memorable characters with future potential in Atticus Red Feather and Synthia G  nn. Their partnership revolves around different reactions to the weirdness around them and their interactions with people and monsters alike. Even the supporting characters are fleshed out and become like old friends in just a few lines. Familiar faces from the first book "American Monsters" are back but the book stands on its own without needing any introduction. The book requires some suspension of disbelief and with a huge cast there's a handy list at the back to help the reader out.* Interesting to note that the most evil characters are nearly all fully human. The relentless momentum reminded me slightly of John Connolly but with the brakes off, in fact brakes shot out going downhill at 100 km...

*Based on a review copy of the e-book version.

Lee Parker says

I received a copy of this for free through Goodreads First Reads

This was by far one of the most unusual books I have ever read. However I truly enjoyed it. The amount of different things happening keeps you really involved throughout.

Moon Shine Art Spot ~ Lisa says

Reviewed by:
Moonshine Art

My first thoughts about Crime Rave by Sezin Koehler were, "What in the he!! have I got here? Whattt ?? Oh, no that's just too much ... Awe no, I can't, what tha?" BUT I didn't put it down did I? NOPE. I found myself completely captivated by the "creatures" that lived through the rave and once the vampire came on the scene with his "unique" way of feeding I was hooked regardless of believability. The vampire's feeding experience at the rave was just so very unexpected that I had to read it twice to make sure I wasn't misunderstanding. As far as some of the monsters being a lil unbelievable, I mean which monsters are actually believable to begin with? All of them maybe.

I like the way the book was told from multiple perspectives giving the reader a peek inside the thoughts of the characters being interviewed after a rave location they were partying in was destroyed. The various participants were monsters of varying degrees with an array of powers, talents, ... Vampires, were, all matter of creatures I've never even heard of. The writer definitely has an amazing imagination and I at first thought it was going to be too far fetched to even make any sense, but after the first few chapters I was anxious to hear more because surprisingly the characters were fascinating.

I am not crazy about a lot of books that are told from a detective's perspective, but I loved the unique detectives in this story as well. Even though the book started a little crazy for my tastes I could not put it down and thoroughly enjoyed the well developed characters and the many twists and outrageous characters. It takes real talent to make a book like this work.

I did not read the first book, but this read just fine as a stand alone. I received this book free for the purpose of providing an honest review.

BOOK DESCRIPTION

Women, survivors, warriors—the hardcore ensemble from "American Monsters" survive the worst act of domestic terrorism ever to occur on American soil when 35,000 ravers are murdered in cold blood.

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Picking up right where "American Monsters" left off—and written with first readers in mind—Koehler weaves us into her tapestry of an alternate universe in which goddesses have free reign over humans, trauma goes hand in hand with superpowers, and Marilyn Monroe not only lives, but has a daughter. These are only some of the many impossible things you'll believe while reading this uniquely told tale of destruction, survival, and redemption for some.

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Joe says

A follow-up of sorts to 2011's American Monsters, Crime Rave opens the day that novel's climactic explosion destroys the site of a huge rave and takes the lives of 30,000+ party-goers. (It makes no difference if you haven't read the first - all the background you need from the original story is pulled into this one.) Detectives Red Feather and Gunn are dispatched from the LAPD to interview a dozen survivors at a hospital in Beverly Hills. Simple enough save that two of the survivors are escaped from a heavily militarised alien research foundation (in Roswell, natch), so the leader of that crew is roped into the action. Throw in a wealthy baroness who blackmails the politicians she bankrolls and has a few skeletons of her own in the closet, a reincarnation of the classic Blob, and a coterie of gods from a new mythology and you have a compelling new addition to the genre of supernatural horror.

The survivors of the event are the heroes of the story and we learn, in the course of the police interviews, that they've survived far more than than the attacks of the previous night, but with enhanced capabilities.

Whereas American Monsters was a meditation from the front lines of 'the culturally entrenched misogyny wars' (as one Amazon reviewer put it), Koelher takes the themes of victimhood and female empowerment into more straightforward and more balanced territory. She makes it clear that it's the uses of power that corrupt or heal, whether it's the physical power of the rapist, the hard power of a military organisation, or the evil of an ascendant goddess seizing control. The contrasts she creates between the antagonists and her survivors who are each coming into their own powers makes for an engaging and thought-provoking read.

The late 90s Los Angeles setting enables Koelher to capture a certain American decadence before the War on Terror turned things rather upside down.

Disclaimer: In addition to sharing pages with her in the collection Red Phone Box, I'm also a friend of the author. She's well cool.

Tammy Salyer says

In this dark, gritty follow-up novel to *American Monsters*, cutting-edge visionary Sezin Koehler brings readers back into an iconoclastic world of murder, mayhem, and revenge, where being a victim is merely a prelude to being an avenger. And what vengeance the characters who've returned from *Monsters* wreak!

Crime Rave is not a novel to expect easy, comforting sequel-like closure from but a thrilling gut-punch to the psyche that'll keep you simultaneously hungry for justice and spooked about just what that might mean. If you like your morning coffee with a shot of whiskey and a filterless cigarette Irvine Welsh style, you'll want to add *Crime Rave* to the alchemy.

regina says

received copy for review

A sci-fi/fantasy with a fun, noir element, Crime Rave hooks you from the start with otherworldly characters, corrupt power-plays and a terrorist attack that propels Los Angeles police into a surreal investigation.

Without giving away too much, let's just say it's an entertaining contrast to see straight-up/normal type characters dealing with some crazy events -- it really draws you into their corner. You'll be rooting for them to adapt, succeed and evolve.

What grounds this fantastical tale is the weaving of believable, familiar evils throughout. The threat of these complex, likable "monsters" is frightening, but it pales to the crimes of the humans. Humans that have so much more power to exploit -- and get away with their horrors.

The juicy cliff hanger at the end will have you wondering if, or how, this dynamic might change (in a sequel).

***Oh, and I almost forgot to add the thing that sets this apart from most sci-fi/fantasy -- most of the characters are women! Aaaand, the storyline deals with misogyny. Very cool! ***

Overall, a fun read for those who enjoy sci-fi/fantasy, as well as crime stories -- and who crave a story that has some complex female characters.

(Warning: contains violence/gore, but it's not at all gratuitous or OTT for the genre).

Jen says

** I received a copy of this book for free through a Goodreads giveaway. **

This is a book that grabs your mind, twists it around and then just keeps twisting. Interesting characters, good world-building, a nice mix of mythologies and belief systems and some real kick-ass female protagonists. Definitely for an older audience (some very mature content and violence) but not gratuitous or over-done. I was intrigued throughout and was very sorry to come to the end of the story!

Scoop Erickson says

This book takes genres, gives them a good shake and sculpts them into something new. Jaded detectives, hybrid human/aliens, vampires, a corrupt mayor, and a DJ of Death are just a few of the performers in this swirling carnivale.

Is the crime procedure and government response realistic? Of course not. A mammoth tragedy such as that in the book, would see the immediate response of the federal government, with an army of FBI, NSA, FEMA, as well as the literal armed forces, swarming the iconic city. At first, this bothered me, but I realized this is

not meant to be primer on law enforcement procedure. Instead, it takes a well known and beloved genre, LA noir, and drops it into a fantastic grotesquery, then steps back and lets the weird fun evolve.

A word of warning: This book contains graphic descriptions of violence, often sexual in nature. While abundant, it is not gratuitous and it is an essential driver of plot and motives.

By the end of the book, I cared about the characters, human and not so. I want to hear the rest of their stories. Did Detective Gunn follow her heart to a life with deadly pheromone-spewing non-human lesbian? Did Detective Red Feather leave the force to reconnect with his Native American roots and spirituality? And let's not forget the looming smackdown between the ancient Mother and upstart smog goddess. Please tell me there will be a sequel!

Maria Beltrami says

Un meraviglioso miscuglio di fantascienza ucronica (apparente punto di divisione temporale il mancato suicidio di Marilyn Monroe), urban fantasy e crime, questo è uno dei libri più spassosi e fuori di testa che mi sia capitato di leggere da un po' di tempo a questa parte.

Dentro ci sono tutti gli stereotipi possibili e immaginabili, dal vampiro che beve sangue mestruale alla donna d'affari che tiene in mano il sindaco per i suoi segreti, ma ne nasconde di ancora più orrendi, dagli ibridi uomo-alieno, ai non morti, ai terroristi stile 11 settembre agli dei di secondo livello dediti a una sanguinolenta scalata al potere.

Ogni pagina è una sorpresa e, nonostante il livello di tensione e di efferatezza non cali mai, la storia è talmente grottesca e surreale che non si riesce a smettere di leggere.

Ringrazio Sezín Koehler e Netgalley per avermi fornito una copia gratuita in cambio di una recensione onesta.

A wonderful mixture of alternative history sciencefiction (apparent point of time division the failed suicide of Marilyn Monroe), urban fantasy and crime, this is one of the most amusing and freaked out books that I've ever read from a bit of time now.

Inside there are all imaginable stereotypes, from the vampire drinking menstrual blood to the business woman holding the mayor for his secrets in his hand, but that conceals even more horrendous ones, hybrid alien-human being, undead, from terrorists in the style of September 11 to second level gods dedicated to a bloody rise to power.

Each page is a surprise and despite the level of tension and cruelty never declines, the story is so grotesque and surreal that you can not stop reading.

Thank Sezín Koehler and Netgalley for giving me a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Christina Brzustoski says

You might not think a novel about a horrific terrorist event that results in thousands of deaths could be described as a breath of fresh air, but Sezin Koehler's Crime Rave defies convention at every turn. This book features many familiar monster archetypes and themes, but all are presented in such a fresh, unique, and creative way. As an avid book lover, the highest compliment I can give a novel (especially one in the fantasy genre) is that I've never read anything like it before. And Crime Rave is one of those rare books. Highly recommended!

Rose Margaret Deniz says

Sezín Koehler's second book hooked me from the first lines. Nothing like witches and smog to set the mood right for a page-turning sleepless night. The delicious writing and engrossing world gave me shivers. Fast paced and tightly written, Crime Rave will make crime - and monster - fans happy.

J.F. Lawrence says

It's All Saints Day in Hell A, city of demons, and detectives Red Feather and Günn have to face their own demons while bringing down evildoers and coping with supernatural weirdness of mind-fucking proportions. Crime Rave is a police procedural/horror story with a difference, mashing up the influences of Ellroy, Chandler, King, Rowling and Rice with X-Files conspiracy and lashings of blood, entrails and humungous firepower. If this sounds like your cup of regenerated meat (there's a hint there!) then you will thrill to Crime Rave. Unless you are scared of vaginas, that is.
