



## The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2)

*By Darren Shan*

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Darren Shan was just an ordinary schoolboy until his visit to the Cirque Du Freak. Now, as he struggles with his new life as a Vampire's Assistant, he tries desperately to resist the one temptation that sickens him, the one thing that can keep him alive. But destiny is calling. The Wolf Man is waiting.

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## The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) By Darren Shan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #250556 in Books
- Brand: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2002-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .75" w x 5.50" l, .44 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

What if you were an unwilling vampire? You needed to drink human blood to stay alive, but you weren't some horror-flick villain; you were *you*, born human--a nice person, even. Thus is the dilemma of the young narrator-protagonist, Darren Shan, in this tremendously suspenseful, oft-sickening sequel to *Cirque Du Freak: The Saga of Darren Shan*. In the first book, Darren becomes a vampire's assistant to save the life of his friend Steve. In order to do so, he has to fake his death, get buried alive, and head out--half-human, homeless, and friendless--into the world. *The Vampire's Assistant* chronicles his new lonely life as a half-vampire, pumped with the cursed blood of his vampire guardian, Mr. Crepsley. Darren has much to learn about his freshly supernatural state. He doesn't grow fangs, for instance, like he thought he might. And he can't change shape or fly. Garlic just gives vampires bad breath... And they eat bagels. Some of the hardest lessons of all come when he joins the traveling freak show Cirque Du Freak, the show that got him and Steve in trouble in the first place. Readers won't be disappointed by this fast-paced, gory, but strangely amiable sequel. In fact, the plot is much better paced than the first and the dialogue far more natural. Deadly pythons, a snake boy, Cormac Limbs (bite off his finger and it grows back!), and an entire cast of dreadfully creepy characters offer excitement beyond expectation. Along the way, we come to really like Darren, who will do absolutely anything for a friend. British author Darren Shan promises more adventures in 2002. (Ages 10 and older) --Karin Snelson

### From Publishers Weekly

In *The Vampire's Assistant*, the second installment of the series begun with *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shan, the hero returns to the old-fashioned freak show where, thanks to Mr. Crepsley, he became a "half-vampire." Darren once again struggles against the urge to feed upon the human blood his health requires.

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### From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-After a breezy two-page introduction that gives the major plot points of *Cirque du Freak*, readers are plunged back into the world of a young, newly minted half-vampire (a concept that is never fully explained). With his mentor, the creepy full vampire Mr. Crepsley, Darren is learning the ropes of the undead. Readers quickly get a rundown of the facts, the most important one being that vampires, even half ones, must have human blood to survive, and Darren can't bring himself to drink. There is not much plot here. He and Mr. Crepsley return to the *Cirque du Freak*. Darren and Evra, a snake-boy, make what is ultimately a tragic friendship with a local boy named Sam and a self-proclaimed "ecowarrior" named R.V. It is R.V. who precipitates the real action as he becomes suspicious of animals disappearing from nearby farms. The first-person narration seems superficial, and there is little depth to Darren's character. That said, Shan creates heart-pounding, page-turning action that will keep kids reading. He certainly knows his horror, and this book cranks up the gore factor a notch or two. Readers will get more information about the genuinely weird denizens of the *Cirque du Freak*. There are some genuinely horrific, almost painful moments, particularly at the book's tragic climax. Readers will be turning from the page, sickened, and then come back to find out what happens next. The question remains, where can Shan take his readers from here? Just how far will he go?-Tim Wadham, Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, AZ

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Rhonda Kirby:**

This The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) without we understand teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't always be worry The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cellphone. This The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) having excellent arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Donna Eldridge:**

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write with their book. One of them is this The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2).

#### **Stephen Harvey:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a guide. The book The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

#### **Kyle Reese:**

The reason? Because this The Vampire's Assistant (Cirque du Freak, Book 2) is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book

will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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