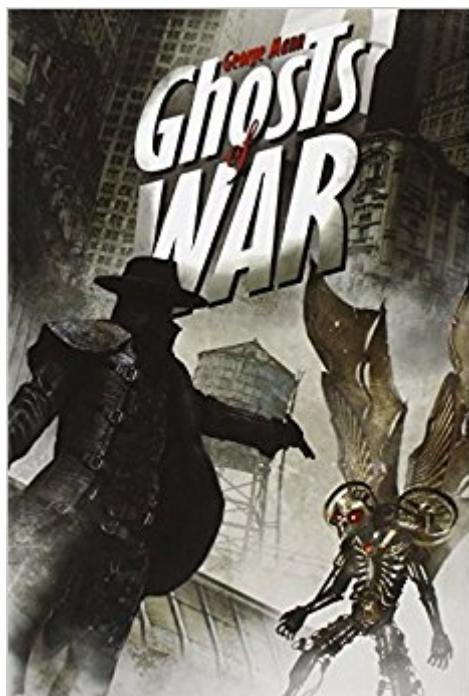


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Ghosts Of War



Synopsis

Ghosts of War picks up the story a month after the end of Ghosts of Manhattan. New York City is being plagued by a pack of ferocious brass raptors – “strange, skeleton-like creations with bat-like wings that swoop out of the sky, attacking people and carrying them away into the night. The Ghost has been tracking these bizarre machines, and is close to finding their origin: a deranged military scientist who is slowly rebuilding himself as a machine. However, this scientist is not working alone, and his scheme involves more than a handful of abductions. He is part of a plot to escalate the cold war with Britain into a full-blown conflict, and he is building a weapon – “a weapon that will fracture dimensional space and allow the monstrous creatures that live on the other side to spill through. He and his co-conspirators – “a cabal of senators and businessmen who seek to benefit from the war – “intend to harness these creatures and use them as a means to crush the British. But the Ghost knows only too well how dangerous these creatures can be, and the threat they represent not just to Britain, but the world. The Ghost’s efforts to put an end to the conspiracy bring him into an uneasy alliance with a male British spy, who is loose in Manhattan, protecting the interests of his country. He also has the unlikely assistance of Ginny, a drunken ex-lover and sharpshooter, who walks back into his life, having disappeared six years earlier in mysterious circumstances. Suffering from increasingly lucid flashbacks to WWI and subjected to rooftop chases, a battle with a mechanized madman, and the constant threat of airborne predators, and with the fate of the world hanging in the balance, can the Ghost derail the conspiracy and prevent the war with the British from escalating beyond control?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This sequel to *Ghosts of Manhattan* pits the superhero protagonist against a mad scientist in an action-packed story patterned after the pulp fiction novels of the mid-20th century. Fans of steampunk and noir fantasy should enjoy this unassuming adventure." -Library Journal

George Mann is the author of *Ghosts of Manhattan*, *The Affinity Bridge*, *The Osiris Ritual*, and *The Human Abstract*, as well as numerous short stories, novellas, and an original Doctor Who audiobook. He has edited a number of anthologies including *The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction* and *The Solaris Book of New Fantasy* and a retrospective collection of classic *Sexton Blake* stories, *Sexton Blake, Detective*. He lives near Grantham, UK, with his wife, son, and daughter. You can follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/George_Mann.

While I enjoyed the first book *Ghosts of Manhattan*, *Ghosts of War* blew me away. Parts I felt were missing from the first book were dealt with and expanded upon. Not only do we get a history of Ghost's world we get more of the unique Ghost action scenes and the brilliant fusion of steampunk and magic set in a world we can relate to. Corruption and mistrust drive the story into the unexplored region of international intrigue and the tragic loss of Ghost's love brings Ghost face to face with his dual identity and emotional conflict. Ghost now has to face not only his greatest enemy but his greatest fear.

George Mann continues to keep me entertained with the Ghost series...Karnak is next up for me. Great work once again.

I like George Mann's books so I decided to ignore some of the negative reviews. I should have listened. A steam punk take on a Batman like figure could have been fun but it wasn't. It was too derivative and I found it hard to summon any interest in the characters or plot.

Ghosts of War was a bit better than *Ghost of Manhattan*, if only because the internal drama was cut down in favor of more plot. It's clear to me that George Mann is essentially writing a sort of steampunk Shadow, or Batman, and feels that he must give us all of the main character's interior angst, which tends to drag the story down. Maybe that's just me, but I feel the story does better when we are caught up in the action over the self-reflection. This story continues where the last book left off, and ties back to it nicely with secondary characters returning to give aid and support to the

Ghost. I admit to a little annoyance at a new female character sauntering in--Mann hints at an interesting past for her and then gives us nothing. The major villain in this chapter is likewise a bit flat and gets disposed of awfully quick considering the build-up that came before. I'm guessing that there will be a further book in the series, taking the story to England possibly, and I'm willing to read it when it comes out, but I won't be expecting anything more than a few hour's entertainment out of it. That's not a bad thing, but here's hoping Mr. Mann takes some time to round out such intriguing characters for the next adventure.

Great seller and prompt service. Ordering through here was the only way that I could get this book. It wasn't even in local bookstores.

In 1927 Gabriel "The Ghost" Cross patrols New York City to keep the residents safe from evil. Though he wants to take time out to grieve the death of his beloved Celeste who saved the world (see *Ghosts of Manhattan*), the vigilante avenger knows he cannot. The city has seen a series of kidnappings reportedly by flying machines dubbed raptors. The police are stymied as there is no apparent link between the victims except for the city. The Ghost assisted by his friend Police Inspector Felix Donovan try to capture one of these terrorizing mechanical kidnappers. At the same time Felix hunts a British agent whose information will cause the third war between the former colonies and the mother country. Soon the two seemingly divergent cases merge as the Ghost decides on a dangerous ploy to end the mounting terror. George Mann provides a fun throwback pulp science fiction thriller. With plenty of rooftop activity and lucid flashbacks by the Ghost to WWI, the story line is action-packed and incredibly fast-paced as the author takes no prisoners with this entertaining save Manhattan tale (Ruth and Gehrig save the Bronx). Harriet Klausner

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