

Poetic Justice: The Dawning by Fran Raya

3 stars

Unpleasant tale of the supernatural

The first in a trilogy featuring Randal Forbes as he refines his 'gift'. From a very early age, Randal knows he is different to everyone else; apart from high intelligence, he has been given 'the gift', a supernatural power which enables him to get inside people's minds and thereby control their actions.

Unfortunately, Randal is thoroughly evil, and so his powers are used to destroy people who have offended him or people he cares about. As he grows up, he leaves a trail of destruction in his wake, but his dark side is not visible to his adoring family.

There are those who have their suspicions about him, but the magnetism of his strange eyes discourages them from tackling him.

Although well written and with a series of straightforward sub-plots, this is not a nice book. Randal is totally amoral and thinks nothing of exacting his revenge on the innocent, entirely for his own twisted enjoyment.

Such is Randal's charisma his 'best friend', although seeing the pain and destruction wrought, is powerless to stop his hero. He is totally besotted.

I will be honest in that I didn't enjoy this book at all; I am not a great fan of the supernatural but have enjoyed several such books in the past. What sets this apart is the cruelty of Randal which is in no way mitigated by his apparent love for his family. That love is flawed and only holds sway while he is not thwarted; I feel it is highly likely that as his power matures, and his family cease to be of use to him, he will turn on them without a second thought.

I am sure some people will enjoy this book and will eagerly await the next two. I am not one of them.

*Pashtpaws*

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.