



Fearful Symmetries: The Return of Nohar Rajasthan

S. Andrew Swann

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This is the story of Nohar Rajasthan, a private eye descended from genetically manipulated tiger stock to become a moreau--a second-class humanoid citizen in a human world. Nohar retired from the private eye business ten years ago, and just wants to spend his remaining time in the peace and quiet of his wilderness homestead. Then a human lawyer asks him to take on a missing moreau case--and suddenly all hell breaks loose!

Fearful Symmetries: The Return of Nohar Rajasthan Details

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Author : S. Andrew Swann

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LadyCroft86 says

[the fact that the kid he was looking for was his son was not surprising and I figured it out almost immediately. But it was a nice overall way to make sure that Nohar was involved with the whole story. (h

D.M. Dutcher says

S. Andrew Swann returns to the world of the Moreau trilogy with a novel set about Nohar, a tiger/human hybrid bred to fight wars but until recently a private investigator. The book opens with him living a quiet life in retirement when a mysterious lawyer offers him a lot of money to take a missing person's case. He is soon swept up in a conspiracy and murder, and has to reconnect with people from his past.

The book is breathlessly paced, and the world Swann creates is unique: a cynical, crumbling, noirish world focused in the slums and barrios of the city. Like the Moreau Trilogy, it feels very "lived-in." Nohar is a great character, although the supporting cast is one dimensional. My only problem with the book is that the big reveal of what the conspiracy is feels weak. However, it's a good action packed read.

Sean Silva says

Featuring the return of Swann's character, Nohar, who has long since retired from his life as a private investigator and is living alone in an isolated cabin. But when a lawyer tracks him down and asks Nohar to find a missing moreau, his whole world suddenly gets turned upside down. Nohar refuses the case, and is barely able to escape with his life after the cabin is assaulted by a squad of paramilitary commandos. Now Nohar finds himself on the run, and he has to figure out why this missing moreau is so important, all while facing demons from his own past and uncovering a secret that threatens to destroy the entire moreau population. A very good book, but I was slightly disappointed because they failed to continue the best part of "Forests of the Night", which was the interaction between Nohar and his human love interest. Still, an excellent read.

Jeff says

This book and its prequels were a lot of fun. Take cyberpunk, keep the punk-noir attitude, but swap the cyber for genetic engineering, and you get these books. Scenario is a grim future following several global wars. To provide enhanced soldiers for these wars, various nations resorted to genetic engineering, mixing human and animal DNA, creating hybrids of humans with various animals: dog, rat, tiger, etc. In the wake of the wars, the soldiers did not integrate well with human society back home (shades of Viet Nam). Now they live in unofficially segregated areas, and are the n*gg*rs of their day. They are called "moreaus" (referencing H.G. Wells' "Island of Dr. Moreau") or "moreys," their part of the city being called "moreytown." Sharing the lower echelons of society with the moreaus is another group called "franks," short for "frankenstein," which

are synthetic humanoids.

Each of the first three books featured a different protagonist, though they all crossed paths with each other briefly. One of those protagonists, Nohar Rajasthan, comes front & center again in this book. He is a tiger-human hybrid, and worked as a private eye, but has retired to a cabin in the woods at the beginning of this book. Predictably, something forces him out of retirement. The plot is pretty standard noir, but the action is well written and Nohar is a wonderful SF noir hero. His world is definitely rigged against him. These books are supremely readable, they flash by.

Friday says

Amazing book, a vast improvement in writing over the first book in the series (which was a good book in its own right). A near-perfect sequel for *Forests of the Night*, and leaves me wanting more-- of both Nohar and Manuel.

Alan says

The next sentence can be open to many interpretations, and might be considered a spoiler by some. It is and it isn't.

The book could have been titled *The Last Ride of Nohar Rajasthan*.

Hard boiled detective, and genetically engineered Siberian Tiger, Nohar was the lead in Swann's first Moreau book, and he made appearances in the next two. Here he returns to the center stage, but because the Moreau's were engineered to be weapons, and not for a long life span, he is, at 40, old. He left civilization behind 10 years ago, but an LA attorney tracks Nohar down at his wilderness cabin. Initially Nohar rejects the case, but when people blow up his cabin and try to kill him he returns to LA.

True, Swann does seem to follow a formula during this part of his future history cycle (there are two other installments after this). There is a large conspiracy that hid behind a curtain, but this time it doesn't involve aliens. Frighteningly enough, the facts behind this conspiracy sounds like something a fanatic, ISIS, Neo-Nazis, Tea Party Republicans, would hatch today. Plus such a thing is a staple for hard boiled investigators in LA whether their names be Marlowe or Gittes.

With Nohar we also get to see how Moreau society has changed during his time away, and not for the better. The separation between human and non-human actually appears to have grown.

The action sequences are kept believable enough, especially when you factor in that your lead is about two meters tall and pushes 250-300 kilograms.

It takes time, but Swann does a good job of world building during these four books, and in this installment does his best job to date of adding some depth to a lead character.

Nohar rocks as far as I'm concerned.

Laura says

Fearful Symmetries is written like an action movie turned into a book. Think *Die Hard* when Bruce Willis is older and isn't as flexible as he used to be. Nohar is like that. He's a retired detective who is also a moreau: a sentient race formed by a genetic experiment that fused animal genes with human genes, of which there are many species. They call humans "pinks" since they lack fur. Naturally, there is great division between these two.

Nohar is called in out of retirement to work on a case. He refuses, but his cabin in the woods is set aflame and he's forced to fight for his life to solve a mystery. Bodies pile up everywhere, and Nohar uses every resource he has—old friends, his wits, and the adrenaline-fed Beast—and it may still not be enough.

Overall, *Fearful Symmetries* gets 3.5 stars from me. I liked it more than I expected to, but I wasn't overly excited by the story. It read well enough as a stand-alone (even though it is the fourth in the series), so it wasn't because of that. I wasn't fond of the writing style. The sentence structure was shorter and a bit repetitive. (There were many places where sentences could easily have been combined, for example.) The plot also lacked some originality, especially regarding (view spoiler), but it tied in quite well with the overall culture established in the story. I got a very good sense of this world: it's dirty, gritty, and full of prejudice. Although sometimes it was hard to take the book seriously when Nohar calls the villains the "Bad Guys" (although I'm not sure what I would have labelled them, had I been in their situation).

Madeleine Tainton says

Fun private eye story, in the body of a tiger. Noha is a humanoid tiger with beautiful fur, weighs around 600 lbs, and is very very strong. So he's one up on Sam Spade, at least one. This is action-packed, with enemies all around, murders, missing persons, brawls and explosions. I'd like to read Swann's other books, having read this one. He knows how to tell a lively, entertaining story.

Joerg Grau says

The return of Noha! Finally! A great conclusion to this fascinating series.
