



## Saint Death

*Mark Dawson*

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## **Saint Death** Mark Dawson

John Milton has been off the grid for six months. He surfaces in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and immediately finds himself drawn into a vicious battle with the narco-gangs that control the borderlands.

He saves the life of an idealistic young journalist who has been targeted for execution. The only way to keep her safe is to smuggle her into Texas. Working with the only untouchable cops in the city, and a bounty hunter whose motives are unclear, Milton must keep her safe until the crossing can be made.

But when the man looking for her is the legendary assassin Santa Muerta - Saint Death - that's a lot easier said than done.

## **Saint Death Details**

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Author : Mark Dawson

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## From Reader Review Saint Death for online ebook

### Will Decker says

I enjoyed this story to the point that I couldn't put it down. I knew from reading '1000 Yards' that Dawson was knowledgeable with respect to the subject and he just keeps proving it. A well written and fast paced story that pits international hit squads against south of the border drug cartel. All the characters are properly fleshed out and believable, further drawing you into the plausibility of the story. If you're looking for a hero that isn't a saint, but you still want to root for him, this is the series to read. You won't be disappointed.

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### Marleen says

\*\*\*3.5\*\*\* Quite a decent thriller and enjoyable read. The character of John Milton is definitely charismatic – You feel there's still so much to discover about him. John, having been a soldier and a specialist, and then some kind of assassin in a clandestine secret UK government division, he has been wanting to retire for the past six months. Only, his former employer – the Group - don't let their employers retire – they get eliminated.

This is my first Mark Dawson / John Milton read, and when this story (Saint Death) begins, Milton arrives in Ciudad Juarez, which has the reputation to be one of the most utterly violent places in the world. (On a personal note, I wouldn't set a foot in Mexico, ever). The author did a good job with the tempo & rhythm, alternating the actions scenes and the more contemplative narrations. The scenes settings were also well balanced. Very enticing first read for me and an almost 4 star rating.

I'm definitely reading the next John Milton.

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### Terence M says

Review to come ...

Audiobook - 8:24 hours - Narrator: David Thorpe

An OK novel set in Mexico with its drugs cartels, massively wealthy drugs bosses and many, many killings. The storyline was also OK but it was all pretty much predictable and had the novel been a book I may have flicked through a few pages at times, but this is a difficult way to listen to an audiobook.

David Thorpe's narration was very good and his Spanish characterisations sounded pretty authentic, but never having been "south of the border", this is a compliment qualified by ignorance.

I gave up on "John Milton" #1, placing it on my 'try-again' shelf, so I intend to re-load #1, add a couple more and see where this reasonably interesting character takes me.

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### Ian Dodds says

This was a good book I am rounding it up to 4. Milton is an interesting character but this book was more

shooting than character development. Which isn't normally bad but then is the second book and we should be learning about what guy of guy he is. I will the next one and then decide if I continue with the series.

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### **Richard says**

The second fuller length novel about John Milton. In this series we have learned that although the best at what he does, Milton has had enough of killing for his government and he wants out.

Unfortunately retirement in this line of work means something completely different as Milton falls off the grid to sort out his demons.

Going on the run after narrowly getting out alive he turns up in this book working his way up South America. Control his equivalent of M to Bond but seemingly more ruthless remains concerned that if Milton has gone rogue he knows too much so he needs to be found before a foreign agency captures him.

Unbeknown to London, Moscow has matters in hand to find Milton first.

Another totally engrossing novel that thrills throughout. Milton is going through a bit of a "mid-life" crisis, still not drinking alcohol and realising perhaps even when he tries to do good, he is often toxic and brings death and destruction to people he gets close to in life.

Getting close to the Mexican / USA border he rocks up into perhaps the most violent of towns in Mexico; totally lawless, corrupt and ruled by the drug cartels.

Mark Dawson writes a complex story from different perspectives but it all focuses on Milton and you know if you are not with him then you are potentially his enemy. If you cross him you better kill him when you have your best chance as he doesn't make threats without the real intention of seeing it through.

He is loyal and dependable but he remains a clinical assassin you know as matters build to a dangerous finale, Milton will come out on top. The author brilliantly brings all the strands fittingly to an action filled climax and we are set up for this great series to roll on in some form or other.

The writing is well considered, the violence is realistic and Milton has a way of being both current and cutting edge. In this way you have a modern working of the lone agent in the field and a name in Mark Dawson that guarantees good and exciting fiction.

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### **Neil says**

Saint Death is the 2nd full length book in the John Milton series, and to my mind the best one so far. At the end of 'The Cleaner' we saw Milton escaping from the crime ridden East End of London. Now six months later he reappears in South America, for those 6 months Control and Group 15 have been searching for any hint of his location.

Still trying to make amends for his previous 'work', Milton can't stand idly by when a Mexican drug cartel tries to forcibly prevent a journalist from writing about their activities. Aided by an American bounty hunter, and a Mexican policeman (who is reluctant to go up against the drug cartel) Milton sees the only way to save the journalist's life is to smuggle her safely across the border into America. The bounty hunter has his own reasons for getting involved, but do they run parallel or are they at odds with Milton's.

The storyline seems plausible enough, and the seedier side of life is well portrayed. The reader finds out a bit more about Milton's background, from some unlikely sources. There are plenty of twists to the plot to keep the reader guessing, and turning the pages.

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## **The Cats Mother says**

I enjoyed this a lot more than the first of the series: I like my heroes strong, smart and noble, and Milton has evolved because of the events of that book, which are referred to briefly, but you don't have to have read that to enjoy this.

After six months travelling up South America, Milton arrives in Juarez, a city controlled by drug cartels on the US-Mexico border. Taking a job as a cook, he is caught up in the attempted assassination of a young reporter determined to expose the frequent rapes & murders of women by the narcos. In order to try and redeem his past actions, he vows to protect her, which means taking on the head of the cartel and his psychopathic son.

This had short chapters, lots of action, bad guys getting their just deserts, and Milton won points with me for not sleeping with the heroine. I look forward to the rest of the series.

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## **Robert Enright says**

Just to warn - THIS REVIEW INCLUDES SPOILERS!! (have had to include them because a star is lost for each one)

I really enjoyed The Cleaner and whizzed through 1000 Yards, however this time I didn't find John Milton as enjoyable as before.

Saint Death is set in a lawless town in Mexico, where John Milton finds himself embroiled in an assassination attempt and then goes to war with the Cartel. As always, Dawson's writing is crisp and very well put together. The story itself was enjoyable however I found Milton a little more aloof in this book. In The Cleaner, he had a genuine reason to care. This time, he just comes across almost to cold and it was less enjoyable. But still a good book.

Now....the spoilers....

One star is removed for the 'I'm just a cook'. Unless it is a homage to Under Seige, it took me out of the book. The 'I'm just a cook' and throwing a kitchen knives was done 20 or so years ago and it felt a little too familiar. I understand if something is inspired by something else, but it felt too similar.

The other star is removed because.....AND THIS IS A BIG SPOILER....I don't understand how Milton managed to find the huge secret drug factory at the end of the story. It just seemed to tie up the storyline too quickly with little explanation other than Milton is a bad ass.

Gripes big enough to upset me, but I will plough on as I am enjoying the series and am a big fan of the writing.

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## **Rod says**

Saint Death is falling into a category with me of reliable reads these novels are not long reads but they make up for that in being fast paced and non stop gripping thrillers.

I am confident that I will enjoy the whole series the story has planted the seed for

and interesting trilogy

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### **Sharon Michael says**

My first read in this series and I found it well written, good action sequences and a good sense of place and atmosphere. Very entertaining, quick read with good character development for the type of book.

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### **Susan Haught says**

The first book in the series (The Cleaner) got me hooked...mainly because I wanted to see how this character continued to play out. He's intriguing to me, finding a conscience after a decade of being a hired killer, and seeking to quiet his all-of-a-sudden guilty conscience. Hmm...I don't know if that type of personality would ever do an about-face like that, but even tip-toeing around that nearly unbelievable idea, I enjoyed the story.

This is a fast-paced thriller that keeps the action moving and doesn't pay as much attention to

I give the narrator kudos—his impersonations/accents are very good...you know the nationality of the character simply by voice. And his John Milton voice is quite nice...I'm a sucker for a British or Aussie accent!

I'm seeing a bit of Milton's empathy surfacing....this could get interesting AND might be a fatal flaw...

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### **David Credo says**

#### **Great Read**

#### **Great Read**

After reading the John Milton #1, I was interested. After John Milton #2 I bought all the others. This book, "Saint Death" was terrific, and I can't wait to start the next in the John Milton series.

Great writing Mark, keep the series coming!

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### **Eric\_W says**

Several characters are introduced in the beginning: the intrepid journalist; the honest Mexican cop due to retire in five days; the bad guys who are really, really bad members of the drug cartel, and, gradually your continuing character, John Milton, now in Mexico. He's been traveling light after leaving Britain to hide from his former employers. Throw in an MI5 operative who happens to be a Russian agent and things get complicated when Milton interferes in a cartel hit and gets fingerprinted by the local cops. And then Milton

agrees to help an American mercenary deliver the cartel's leader's son to his enemies. Things get messy.

I'm glad I stuck with Dawson. This 2nd book in the series is so much better than the first. (There were a couple of proofing errors of content, however.) Make no mistake, this stuff is not literature, so the way the plot develops becomes key and this one is above average.

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### **Alan Taylor says**

I really enjoyed this fast-moving thriller, the second in Mark Dawson's John Milton series. It is the literary equivalent of a Jason Statham movie, and that's not a bad thing - the Stathe is very good at what he does, John Milton is very good at what he does, and Mark Dawson is proving very, very good at what he does.

This time round, Milton, recovering from his 'quitting' the British Secret Service, and his less than successful attempt to help those in need in 'The Cleaner', turns up in Mexico just in time to face off against the Cartel and, all the while, his employers are trying to track him down and possibly 'retire' him for good. This is not the war on drugs epic of Don Winslow but it is not trying to be. It is a breathless thriller, easily the equal of Lee Child (although I admit I find Reacher hard to relate to).

Milton is Bond gone rogue and trying to do the right thing. I loved it and I'm going straight into the third novel, 'The Driver'.

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### **Book Addict Shaun says**

I couldn't wait to read Saint Death after loving The Cleaner. I was wary of whether it would be as good or whether I would enjoy it as much though, after finishing it I think I enjoyed it more than The Cleaner. Mark Dawson has created a fantastic character in Milton and written such a gripping story here and whereas I said The Cleaner was Top Boy in book form, Saint Death is almost like Breaking Bad and Narcos in book form.

Milton is again trying to keep a low profile, this time in Mexico however fate has other plans for him. Milton is a great character and I enjoy reading how he tries to stay one step ahead and keep those in his past from finding where he is. I always wonder how successfully someone could actually fall off the grid and become invisible and Milton does a pretty good job up until one mistake leads those back in the UK to discover where he is. It just shows how one slip up can see you discovered in the middle of nowhere.

Whilst this is a long running series and that obviously indicates that Milton will survive by the end of the story, that's not to say everybody involved with him will and this is a true adrenaline fuelled read absolutely full of death and destruction but that only serves to add to the story itself, the realism and understand the evilness of some of the characters involved. Mexico is such an intriguing country and the way this part of Mexico operates so close to the US border is fascinating. I can only say that Mark Dawson wrote to me what seemed like a believable story, the cartels being someone you don't want to get on the wrong side of. That is, unless you're John Milton then the cartels don't want to get on the wrong side of him.

As with The Cleaner there were times when certain words resulted in me using the dictionary function and it seemed like Mark had used a thesaurus and chosen the most obscure word on the list but other than that it's brilliantly written and paced and I couldn't read the book quick enough, I was picking my Kindle up at every

single opportunity because I was loving the story so much. This series is shaping up to be fantastic so far and I can't wait to continue with it.

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