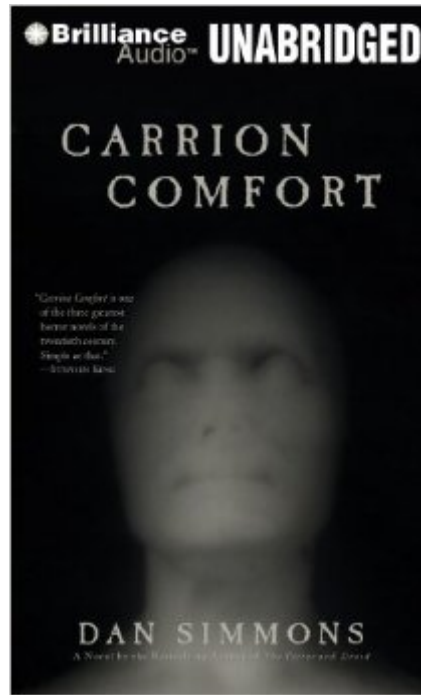


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# Carrion Comfort



## Synopsis

The Past...Caught behind the lines of Hitler's Final Solution, Saul Laski is one of the multitudes destined to die in the notorious Chelmno extermination camp. Until he rises to meet his fate and finds himself face-to-face with an evil far older, and far greater, than the Nazis themselves....The Present...Compelled by the encounter to survive at all costs, so begins a journey that for Saul will span decades and cross continents, plunging into the darkest corners of twentieth-century history to reveal a secret society of beings who throughout the ages may exist behind the world's most horrible and violent events. Killing from a distance, they are people with the psychic ability to use humans: read their minds, subjugate them to their wills, experience through their senses, and force them to acts of unspeakable aggression. Each year, three of the most powerful of this hidden order meet to discuss their triumphs of bloodshed and destruction. But at this reunion, something will go terribly wrong. Saul's quest is about to reach its elusive object, drawing hunter and hunted alike into a struggle that will plumb the depths of mankind's attraction to violence, and determine the future of the world itself. [Carrion Comfort is] one of the few major reinventions of the vampire concept, on a par with Jack Finney's Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Richard Matheson's I Am Legend, and Stephen King's Salem's Lot.

DAVID MORRELL

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Normally when people see a book this size, they think to themselves, "Wow what a great paperweight" but that shouldn't be the case here. Dan Simmons continues to prove that horror

fiction is just as much his plaything as science fiction, crafting a big, ambitious novel that succeeds in just about every aspect. It's scary, it's intimidating, it's complex, it's funny, it's full of characters that you're going to either love or hate but will be unable to ignore. Simmons takes the basic concept of vampires and goes in a slightly different direction here, instead of the typical bloodsucking stuff, here we've got psychic vampires who can infiltrate the mind and do many unpleasant things. For the most part the vampires are utterly amoral, using and abusing people with no other impulse other than instant gratification. Until some people try to get revenge. Here we've got Saul, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust who makes it a near obsession to find the monster that invaded his mind in a concentration camp during World War II. Or Natalie, who is motivated by a tragedy touches her personal life by way of vampires who see people as only pawns in a game. And then there's Sheriff Rob Gentry, trying to solve a mystery involving a bunch of dead people who apparently went crazy for no apparent reason, murders that seem to be part of a subtle, but disturbing pattern. These are the building blocks that make up the foundation of the rest of the epic . . . needless to say there are more than enough other characters, and subplots and surprises and intrigue and even horror to keep the reader occupied for many an hour.

What if you could control the minds of others. And not just simply control their minds, but make them physically do anything you wanted them to. What type of person would you be? Well Mr. Simmons tells us in breathtaking detail. The story revolves around Sal Laski, a Jew who survived the Nazi death camps of WWII. He came into contact with one of these Mind Vampires (as we come to know them) that he nick-names 'The Oberst.' Having his mind touched and his body controlled is worse than being 'raped.' And Mr. Simmons shows us exactly how that would feel. Chillingly! Mr. Laski becomes fanatical about finding his Oberst and giving him back what Sal had felt all those many years ago during the War. Mrs. Melanie Fuller is a Mind Vampire also, and she and a few of the others with the Ability meet every year to discuss their scores (i.e. how many people they controlled and killed and how much publicity it got). They are so nonchalant about their controls and killings that it is almost maddening to the reader. They have absolutely no empathy for anyone or anything which makes them all the more horrific. Amazingly, the reader eventually becomes comfortable with these characters and wants to know if they will survive their own failings in humanity. Terrific stuff! Mr. Harold is a slime-bag producer of B-movies Hollywood who also has the Ability. He uses it to control women specifically and solely (because he feels that touching a man's mind would be too homophobic for him). Mr. C. Barent is a billionaire with the Ability who owns a mythical Island off the coast of Florida. Once a year 'The Island Club' meets and plays a game: they bring lost souls to the

island and Use them to kill one another. The last Mind Vampire with a player still alive at the end of the week wins.

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