



### **Dark Karma: Sword of Vengeance (Karma Series Book 2) by Laura Simmons**

A remarkable tale of vengeance, time travel, and dark magic.

What would you do if you woke up one morning and your world was inexplicably changed in the worst way imaginable?

Banished by his enemy into a hellish alternate dimension, Luke Decker fights to understand why his world has suddenly changed, and why is he on trial for the murder of his beloved Nina?

What he doesn't know is she's not dead. Nina watches him vanish into thin air and is completely bereft, struggling to find out how and why he disappeared.

Using all of her psychic talents and traversing the astral realm, she frantically searches for him to no avail. She owns a secret item which holds the key to his salvation, but will she figure it out before he's condemned to live the rest of his life in a realm of darkness?

**5 Star Review:** I find myself closing the last page of 'Tough Karma: A Race Against Time', which is book one in the supernatural thriller 'Karma' series written by Author Laura Simmons; to quickly open page one of Dark Karma: Sword of Vengeance, book two with anticipation of another captivating story.

True to what I have come to expect, Author Laura Simmons begins this tale with Luke and Nina totally absorbed with each other in the bedroom.

Bliss turns to horror and that is where I bring you into Luke and Nina's story.

"Luke awakened before Rogue greeted the day, and noticed that Nina's side of the bed was empty ... She's probably in the bathroom.

He thought how lonely it was to wake without her lovely, warm body pressed close to his. He glanced toward the bathroom and the door was open and the light turned off. Maybe she's in the kitchen. He listened for

sounds, expecting to hear soft footsteps in the hall or faint noises from the kitchen ... nothing. Something felt wrong. Getting out of bed, he walked toward the kitchen. It was empty and dark except for a nightlight near the stove. His apprehension grew stronger, the entire house was eerily silent ... I better find her asleep on the lounge.

Entering the sunroom, he turned on the light and saw her lying on the chaise lounge, dead. Her throat was slit, and blood pooled on the area rug and hardwood floor.

“No! This can’t be happening, I’m dreaming!” he declared, rushing over to the lounge. Seeing her pale, lifeless body and vacant eyes staring up into nowhere was terrifying, and he convinced himself it had to be a lucid dream. “I know I’m dreaming, wake up!” he said to himself. Not being able to wake from what he thought was just a dream, he knelt down and touched her blood with the tip of his finger. He’d seen and touched enough blood in his life to know that this wasn’t fake.

“This isn’t real, this can’t be real! Who did this to you?” he sobbed, and for the first time in his life felt completely, utterly helpless and traumatized. Tears rolled down his face, he could barely breathe, and his stomach indicated he was going to vomit. He forced himself not to spill his guts, and even though her cold, dead body was lying in front of him, it still didn’t feel real. His emotional anguish and pain were acute, yet his mind kept telling him that this whole situation was wrong.”

Mystery and suspense will keep you turning the page as Nina uses “all of her psychic talents and traversing the astral realm, to search for Luke. “She owns a secret item which holds the key to his salvation, but will she figure it out before he's condemned to live the rest of his life in a realm of darkness?”

Each book in the ‘Karma’ series stands alone and yet is tied together with the authors gift of storytelling. I invite you to read ‘Dark Karma: Sword of Vengeance’ as Author Laura Simmons promises us “the next thrilling adventure into alternate dimensions” is coming in 2020. Reviewed by Theodocia McLean (Book Marketing Global Network).

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**Provided by Author Laura Simmons**  
**Excerpt from Dark Karma: Sword of Vengeance**  
**Chapter 3 - Hell’s Hideaway**

“You’re on trial for the murder of Nina Perotti. You slashed her throat when you caught her engaged in sexual intercourse with Elliott Greenwood. We have everything captured on video, and we will display to the jury and those assembled, your undeniable guilt,” he commanded.

*What the hell? She would never cheat, and certainly not with Elliott. She hates him. Is the government filming private things you do in your own home now...?* Luke thought, when the lights dimmed and he watched the unthinkable. The screen showed Nina and Elliott making love in her bed. Luke walked in on them and pulled Elliott off of Nina, beating him unconscious and throwing him out the front door. Next, the video showed Nina crying and pleading for Luke’s forgiveness, and him pretending to forgive her long enough to get her into a position where he could slash her throat.

He was nauseous after watching the video. Seeing her body entwined with Elliott’s, the rapturous look on her face and enthusiastic participation, and the damning footage of him slitting her throat was painful to watch. His heart was breaking even though he knew it was a lie. He had to wake up, he was convinced that he was in the throes of a vicious nightmare, probably a dream within a dream ... *I’m going to wake up and Nina will be alive and loving me. Maybe I should try clicking my feet together. I’m not wearing ruby slippers, but here goes ...* he clicked his

bare heels together in desperation, hoping to wake up or find himself home ... nothing ... *Am I in a coma? Do I have a brain tumor?*

Judge Matthews looked at the jury and said, "What's the verdict?"

"GUILTY!" the jury said in unison.

"Luke Decker, you are sentenced to death by guillotine. Your execution is scheduled for tomorrow morning at six a.m. Do you have any special requests for your last meal?" Judge Matthews asked.

"No," Luke replied, cold as a stone.

"Your last meal will be served at eight tonight. You can eat it, or not. NEXT," he roared.

The three cops escorted Luke back to his cell ... *Perhaps if I die in this nightmare, I'll wake up in bed with Nina wrapped around me. If this isn't a dream then I'd rather be dead.* When he arrived back at his cell, bugs were crawling around in the dirt again. It appeared to him that they were placed there on purpose. Unable to stop thinking about Nina having sex with Elliott, he was stomping them to death and cussing like a sailor before Potbelly finished locking him in.

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When Nina returned to her physical body, she was so distraught that she swallowed a sleeping pill. She rarely took any type of medication, but these capsules were a godsend tonight. Fifteen minutes later she was out like a light and dreaming about Luke ...

*She is standing inside Luke's cell. He is sitting on a dirt floor with his head in his hands and a tray of half-eaten, cold food next to him.*

*"Luke! I finally found you!" she says, rushing over to him, taking his hands in hers.*

*He stares at her in bewilderment and touches her cheek. "Nina ...what are you doing here, are you a ghost?"*

*"No. I've been trying to find you on the astral. What is this place?"*

*"I wish I knew, love. I'm in jail for allegedly killing you. I saw you dead, your throat was slit and I touched your blood. The police arrested me for your murder. I'm supposed to die tomorrow, by guillotine. This is some warped dream I can't escape from. I don't know what to believe... Did you have sex with Elliott?"*

*"What? No, never! I swear to you that is the truth. Why would you think such a thing?" she asked.*

*"They made me watch a video of you and Elliott having sex, and me killing you. I didn't believe it, but I wanted to be sure."*

*"I've never cheated on you, I never will. I love you, Luke. I don't want anyone else, ever," she swore.*

*"Sweetheart, you're fading, please don't go. Take me with you!" he panicked, gripping her hand as she gradually became transparent.*

*"I can't, something won't let me. I'll find my way back to you, I promise!" she cried and woke up in her bed, the warmth and feel of his hand lingering on hers ...*

"NO!" she screamed, and succumbed to a fit of tears, punching her pillow over and over without mercy. "So close, I was so close. I've got to get back; they're going to kill him!" Objects went flying around the room while her anguish poured out. She continued her hysterical meltdown until exhaustion overtook her and she fell into a deep and dreamless slumber.

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"Why didn't she take me with her? Was she real or my imagination?" Luke whispered in the darkness now that she was gone. Inhaling deeply, he could smell her scent; a refreshing honeysuckle fragrance she often sprayed in her hair. He didn't like feeling helpless and there was nothing he could do but hope that by dying tomorrow, he would be pushed back to reality as he once knew it.

He didn't recall falling asleep and awakened with a start when he heard Potbelly unlocking the cell, proclaiming, "It's a good day for justice. Time's up, Decker."

Potbelly was followed by the same three identical looking officers who escorted him yesterday. Luke got up from the floor taking his time and stretching. He wasn't afraid of dying, and hoped beyond measure that it would reunite him with Nina, wherever she might be. He stood still while they shackled him.

They walked in silence to an outside courtyard; the guillotine was straight ahead on a raised platform. A lively crowd was assembled and chanting repeatedly, "JUSTICE! JUSTICE!" Five other people were standing in line waiting for their beheading; three men and two women... *I wonder if they're falsely accused too.* He was standing at the end of the line, a security gate banged closed behind him.

"What are you convicted of?" the young, skinny man standing in front of him asked, he couldn't have been more than twenty-five years old. He had curly brown hair, freckles, and soft blue eyes.

"Murder, but I didn't do it. She was ... is my woman," Luke replied.

"Same here. Only it wasn't my woman I was charged with killing, it was my sister, and I swear on the Holy Bible that I didn't do it," the man declared. "We were close; she was the only family I had left."

"I believe you. What is this crazy place?" Luke asked.

"I don't know. She was staying at my apartment because her boyfriend beat her up and threw her out. I woke up one morning, went into her room and found her dead. The police stormed my house and said I poisoned her; I was forced to watch their fabricated video showing how I did it. I hope this is a bad dream and once they chop off my head I'll wake up back home," he said with a heavy sigh.

"Me too. We're in the same boat, and right now it's sinking. Good luck to you, I hope you wake up in a better place," Luke said.

"Thanks, you too," he replied.

Their attention was diverted when Judge Matthews began to speak, sounding like an Evangelical preacher, "Good morning. Today we will see justice served for the poor souls we lost because of these six wretched murderers. Let them burn in Hell for eternity. Commence with the beheadings!"

One by one, each person stepped up to the guillotine to meet their fate, and the crowd cheered as each head rolled downhill and into a large container. The bodies were dragged away and thrown in a pile. Despite the many times Luke had looked death in the eye remaining calm and in control, this time he was petrified. He was sweating profusely, his heart beating rapidly because his gut was telling him that the worst was yet to come. His heart sank when he watched his new acquaintance lose his head ... *How did we get here? Maybe I really do have a brain tumor.* Now it was his turn. He walked to the guillotine and placed his head on the chopping block.

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**About The Author:** I enjoy reading books on psychic phenomena and all things metaphysical. Most of my life I've been fascinated with astral travel, dreams, the ability to see the future, and reincarnation.

I've wanted to write a book since I was a child, it was the first thing I can ever remember saying I wanted to do when I grow up. I love creating worlds in my mind and writing about them. My best days are when my characters decide to have lively conversations. They have developed a habit of giving me their best ideas and plot twists while I'm driving and can't write them down!

Little Bits of Karma and Tough Karma can be read as standalone books. For best enjoyment, Dark Karma should be read after Tough Karma. The characters carry over into the following story with the major ones becoming a supporting cast and the previous supporting cast taking front and center to tell their particular story.

Thank you for stopping by and taking the time to look at my books.

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