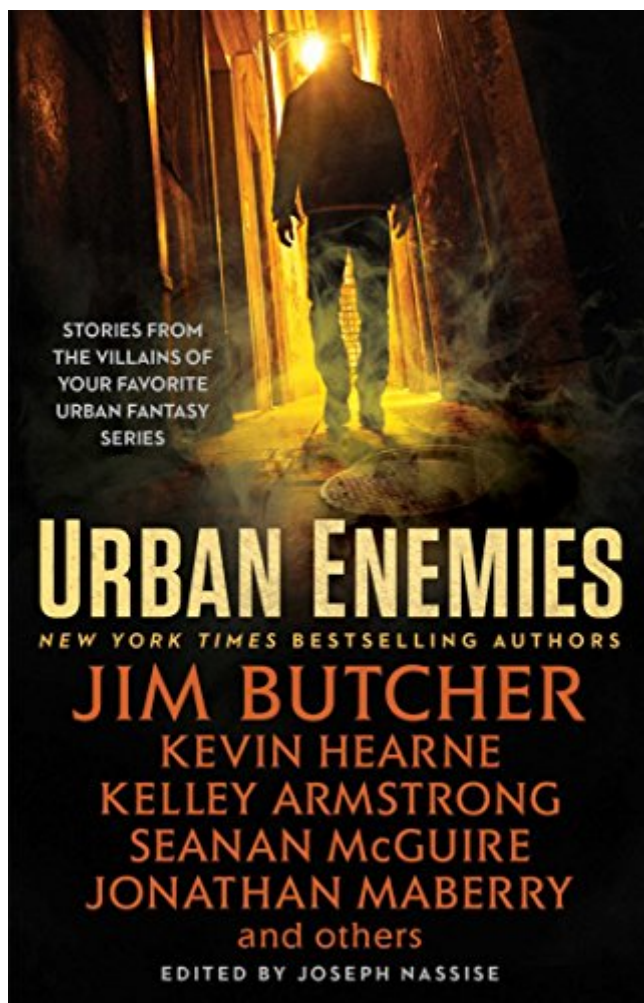


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Urban Enemies



Synopsis

Villains have all the fun—everyone knows that—and this anthology takes you on a wild ride through the dark side! The top villains from seventeen urban fantasy series get their own stories—including the baddies of New York Times bestselling authors Jim Butcher, Kevin Hearne, Kelley Armstrong, Seanan McGuire, and Jonathan Maberry. For every hero trying to save the world, there's a villain trying to tear it all down. In this can't-miss anthology edited by Joseph Nassise (The Templar Chronicles), you get to plot world domination with the best of the evildoers we love to hate! This outstanding collection brings you stories told from the villains' point of view, imparting a fresh and unique take on the evil masterminds, wicked witches, and infernal personalities that skulk in the pages of today's most popular series. The full anthology features stories by Jim Butcher (the Dresden Files), Kelley Armstrong (Cainsville), Seanan McGuire (October Daye), Kevin Hearne (The Iron Druid Chronicles), Jonathan Maberry (Joe Ledger), Lilith Saintcrow (Jill Kismet), Carrie Vaughn (Kitty Norville), Joseph Nassise (Templar Chronicles), Domino Finn (Black Magic Outlaw), Steven Savile (Glasstown), Caitlin Kittredge (Hellhound Chronicles), Jeffrey Somers (The Ustari Cycle), Sam Witt (Pitchfork County), Craig Schaefer (Daniel Faust), Jon F. Merz (Lawson Vampire), Faith Hunter (Jane Yellowrock), and Diana Pharaoh Francis (Horngate Witches).

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Customer Reviews

I don't like it when an anthology contains previously published work and does not make it clear that does so. Even Hand an excellent Short story by Jim Butcher AND the only reason I purchased this book had been released in the collection "dark and stormy nights" (St Martin's press) Side Jobs (2010) and in Beyond the pale (2014).

It's even more exasperating when the first story and Lead author on the work is again rehashed from previous efforts.

If I'd known the Butcher story was a 3-time reprint (I own 2 of the 3 books it's been printed in already) I'd never have bought the anthology. Very disappointing, since his lead in was the entire reason I bought it. Here's hoping one of the other authors has included something to make it worth the \$12 to a repeat buyer.

Some of my favorite writers (and some new) writing a story about one of their universe's villains, what's not to like? Especially in worlds where Good/Evil are never totally one or the other (hmm, just like reality)... and where the bad guy sometimes has a more interesting inner life than many of the good guys - of course that may be because I am personally a sucker for a reformed bad guy in constant struggle with his/her inner demons but it doesn't hurt that the writing is top notch. I give this two thumbs up and will go reread again just to be sure I didn't miss anything!

Some amazing stories in this collection that stand alone, or help to flesh out characters in various series.

I really enjoyed this anthology. It was a very fun read and it gave me a chance to check out many authors I had not heard of or read previously. I'm excited to be able to check out some of the full length novels! Plus, there's something refreshing about reading the stories of villains instead of heroes. Even Hand - Jim Butcher - From the world of Harry Dresden, we follow John Marcone. This was an interesting read. I know that Marcone was supposed to be a villain, but in this short story he played, to a small extent, a hero. I loved the variety of magical and mystical creatures introduced,

and I thought Gard's character was fantastic (she's a Norse valkyrie). If she ever gets a spinoff, count me in! Marcone had an awesome variety of weapons at his disposal and that made this one of my favorite short stories in the book. 5 stars

Hounded - Kelley Armstrong - The Cainsville Series - The main character of this story, is Cwn Annwn. He is perhaps, one of the most evil characters in the whole book. Cwn is a member of the Wild Hunt who has been cast out because he's lost his mind. Now he needs another hound. The way he goes about acquiring one... well. It made for an excellent and harrowing story. 4 stars

Nigsu Ga Tesgu - Jeff Somers - An Ustari Cycle Story - This one told the back story of Mika Renar. The world building seemed rather complicated and was difficult to follow at times, but I enjoyed it overall. I give the story itself 3 stars, because it was a little slow, but I give Mika 5 stars because she was pretty awesome.

Sixty Six Seconds - Craig Schaefer - Harmony Black - Sixty Six Seconds follows Fontaine on a demonic bounty hunt. This was another story where the villain might have been mistaken for a hero. I think fans of the Harmony Black series would get more enjoyment from this story than I did. The world building again, seemed complicated and some things were hard to follow. I wasn't sure why the people who were being hunted were being hunted, other than Princes of Hell wanted them. 3 stars

Kiss - Lilith Saintcrow - Jill Kismet series - This is another backstory to what I understand to be the series main villain, Perry. He's undoubtedly evil, but the story fell a little flat for me. I would however, be interested in reading more about Jill Kismet. 3 stars

The Naughtiest Cherub - Kevin Hearne - The Iron Druid Chronicles - The Naughtiest Cherub was my favorite story of the book. I'm all for anything Viking or Norse mythology. This story sees Loki going into hell trying to make a deal with the devil (The Naughtiest Cherub) to help him assist or stop him from interfering with Ragnorak (the end of the world). Loki was represented well and I loved the idea that Lucifer only does things that amuse him, and all of his evil stems from his want of amusement. I will definitely be checking out The Iron Druid Chronicles! 5 stars

The Resurrectionist - Caitlin Kittredge - The Hellhound Chronicles - This was another bounty hunter type story. I loved the slow burn of Lee Grey from morally neutral guy with a bad past back into full on villain. 4 stars

Down Where the Darkness Dwells - Joseph Nassise - The Templar Chronicles - This was my second favorite story in the book and it tells the beginning of villain Simon Logan. It had a very Indiana Jones feel to it, with a bunch of wizards (warlocks?) and their apprentices descending into the forgotten temple of a Mayan death god in pursuit of a relic with awesome power. This is another series that I definitely want to check out in the future! 5 stars

Bellum Romanum - Carrie Vaughn - Kitty Norville series - This story followed Gaius Albinus, a vampire who was once a Roman Centurion whose crimes are far worse than sucking the blood of unwilling victims. A solid vampire story- 4 stars.

Altar Boy - Jonathan Maberry - Joe Ledger series - This story

was interesting because the main character (Toys) was a villain with no illusions about his past. He seems to be attempting to find redemption and the story delivers a decent twist. It also takes a small glance at the science vs. religion debate and gives you something to think about. 4 stars

Make it Snappy - Faith Hunter - Jane Yellowrock - Loved the characters in this one (vampire master Leo and his heir Katherine), and I love the description given of the main character from the series (a Cherokee skin walker). It seemed very reminiscent of Jean Claude and the Anita Blake series. Another story that got me interested in the original series. 4 stars

Chase the Fire - Jon F. Merz - Lawson Vampires - I think this was the most forgettable story of the book. I didn't feel like it brought anything new to the vampire table. Please take this with a grain of salt because I've never read any of the novels before and maybe just didn't understand the world building at play. Ava was a delight though. 2 stars

Unexpected Choices - Diana Pharaoh Francis - The Horngate Witches - So this story isn't my typical flavor of paranormal. For some reason I don't find witches and angels as exciting as vampires and werewolves. However, this story follows a witch named Giselle and an angel named Shoftiel after a magical apocalypse, which sounded pretty awesome and definitely left me wanting more. For a short story I also thought Max and Giselle had a lot of chemistry together. 4 stars

Reel Life - Steven Savile - Glass Town - This story follows Seth Lockwood, whom I think, is just a human. He's locked in an alternate world (his own request) by a magician who has now disappeared. Time moves differently in his alternate reality and he and his captive do not age. This story was seriously disturbing and had a huge dose of horror alongside the paranormal. I'm giving it 4 stars for its effectiveness (it's horrifying). The story itself wasn't my style.

The Difference Between Deceit and Delusion - Domino Finn - Black Magic Outlaw - This story undoubtedly had the coolest villain. A vampire of sorts with metal fangs and hooked blades (for arms? I think?). There is also a djinn (which I rarely see), and the story is interwoven with African and Caribbean folklore, which I enjoyed. The plot itself wasn't incredibly interesting but I'd check out the book for the characters and world building anyway. 4 stars

Balance - Seanan McGuire - InCryptid Universe - Follows an alien creature called a cuckoo, who can alter the minds of humans. I thought it was a unique premise and story. I loved the ending. 4 stars

Everywhere - Sam Witt - Pitchfork County Series - This follows a villain called the Longman. Again, I didn't understand much of the world building which made it tough to follow, but it had an excellent conclusion. 3 stars

Overall the writing was great. Each author brought something new to the table. I'd recommend this book to existing fans of these series, as well as anyone looking for some new Urban Fantasy series to read. They are excellent previews to the world building, writing, and types of magic or characters at play. None of the stories felt too long or dragged on unnecessarily. I will probably check it out again from time to time as I'm looking for

new reading material.

Bought for Jim's story and wasn't paying attention as I have it in previously published anthologies. It's ridiculous that the publisher headlines Jim Butcher and then uses a previously published short story. Returned for a refund immediately.

This anthology contains stories from the perspective of the villains from the worlds each author has created. Many authors I hadn't read before. However, I am left wanting to read more of some of these new worlds introduced from the villain's view point. Jim Butcher - Harry Dresden. - Full of action, highly entertaining. A hero of a villain. Kelley Armstrong. - Gainsville. - It's dark, dark, dark, with a twist at the end. Jeff Sommers - Ustari Cycle - a bit disjointed to start as it lays out the foundation of the story in a short space of time, but races to a very dark ending. Craig Schaefer - Harmony Black / Daniel Faust - gripping tale. Makes me want to know more about this author's work, especially the Harmony Black series. Is Fontaine really a bad guy? Lilith Saintcrow - Jill Kismet - an early beginning tidbit to Jill's history. Would provide better enjoyment if had read some of the Jill Kismet series. Divide Hearne- the Iron Druid Chronicles - a taste of hell..... Caitlin Kittredge - Hellhound Chronicles - a story about a "hero" who's considered a "bad guy" by monsters and their ilk. Joseph Nassise - Templar Chronicles- an evil villain..... Carrie Vaughn - Kitty Norville series - evil created by vampires and magic..... Johnathan Mayberry - Joe Ledger - a villain with a conscience Faith Hunter - Jane Yellowrock - a fight between villains Jon F Merz - Lawson Vampire series - villain vs villain Diana Pharoah Francis - Horngate Witches - an interesting story. Can't wait to find out more.... Steven Savile - Glass Town - did not enjoy this story - begins with rape and domestic violence and continues on being evil/dark. A complete turn off. I didn't finish reading this story. Domino Finn - Black Outlaw Magic - a nasty villain with sharp teeth meets his match... Seanan McGuire - Incryptid - nasty villains with a parasitic twist... Sam Witt - Pitchfork County - this villain just keeps on keeping on.... I received a free, advance copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest, unbiased review.

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