



The Kill Society

Richard Kadrey

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Sandman Slim has been to Heaven and Hell and many places in between, but now he finds himself in an unknown land: the far, far edge of the Tenebrae, the desolate home of the lost dead. Making his way inland with nothing but his unerring instinct for trouble to guide him, he collides with a caravan of the damned on a mysterious crusade, led by the ruthless Magistrate. Alone and with no clue how to get back home, he throws in with this brutal bunch made up of human souls, Hellion deserters, rogue angels—and Father Traven.

Slim didn't land in Tenebrae by chance. His little stunt of trying to open Heaven has set off a tsunami across the universe. Now, the afterlife is falling apart because of the ensuing warfare. And when Heaven finds out Slim is close by, the angels put a fat bounty on his head.

It's one thing to ride with a ferocious criminal pack across the treacherous plains—it's another to do it when everyone in the land of the dead is itching to keep you there permanently. But Slim's not too worried. He's been fighting cosmic forces bent on destroying Heaven, Hell, Earth, and him for years. A pack of vicious bounty hunters, vengeful angels, and dangerous enemies with friendly smiles isn't going to stop him fixing the chaos he's caused . . . one way or another.

The Kill Society Details

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From Reader Review The Kill Society for online ebook

Skip says

OK, I was a little disappointed with this one. Sandman Slim/James Stark took some licks from the Wormwood folks, and finds himself adrift in Tenebrae again when he crosses path with a Messiah, and his goons. Happily, he is reunited with a few long lost friends, but the whole book has a kind of Mad Max feel to it. He falls in with the Messiah and his rabble on their quest for a magic sword that will power their weapon, and help bring down Heaven. Of course, more than one group of angels show up, with differing agenda, and Sandman Slim has to follow his own moral compass. Strange, but not completely surprise ending, setting up for Book #10.

Joe Jones says

I can't believe we are already up to book 9 in this series! We pick up immediately after that surprise ending in The Perdition Score. We all do know how that ended right? Stark has a whole new set of challenges now, but he also gets some help from old friends. Add in the usual amounts of sarcastic humor and random acts of violence gives us one wild ride to another twist at the end I didn't see coming. This is a series that never fails to deliver for me. Now I just have to try and be patient as I wait on the next entry.

Nancy says

I always love the snarky dialogue in these books, and the devil-may-care attitude about good old fashioned ass-whuppings. However, this book was not set in L.A. like most of the others in this series. That odd road trip through the desolate desert of limbo wasn't quite as fun to read about, but of course the book ends on quite a cliff hanger and I can't wait to read the next in the series. Call me a Sandman Slim Fool!

Jonathan Wilson says

4.25 Stars

Read it straight through.

Amy Braun says

When I read the first line of this book, I remembered why I love this series so much. The dialogue is whip sharp, darkly funny, and impossibly clever. I loved it, and missed the grittiness of this urban fantasy story. There were some welcome similarities to MAD MAX, but the rest of the story was all SANDMAN SLIM awesomeness. Stark was back in all his snarky, back-talking glory, new and old characters returning for a fantastic story with lots of action and mystery. The ending was great and opened up the chance for even more books in the series. I always have such a great time reading these books. No matter how dark the humour, it always makes me smile, and I can't recommend this series enough to fans of gritty urban fantasy.

You'll love it!

Montzalee Wittmann says

The Kill Society (Sandman Slim #9) by Richard Kadrey is a book I won with the Goodreads Giveaway, hippie!!! I have been reading Sandman Slim novels since they came out. This is before I started reviewing, sorry. I have been too broke to buy #8 and this one. Now I just need to see if I can get #8. These books need to be read in order.

This time, Sandman is in Hell, really dead this time. He has been there so many times but for a variety of reasons. Yep, he is that kinda guy! Fighting in the arenas, substitute Satan, yes, he is that bad ass!!!

Visiting... why you ask? Don't ask, it isn't good for your health. He has stolen things from there, maybe people too, hard to remember all the times he has been there. He always finds a way out. But this time, he might really, really be dead. In this book, he stayed in parts of Hell the whole book! That is like a record or something! Of course he was the baddest ass down there except Death, who of course he talked with. Who else could do that?

This book is full of full throttle action, battles, magic, angel vs angel kick butt fights, all kinds of explosions, you know, Sandman Slim kind of books! Never a dull moment book. If there is a page, something bad is happening. LOVE IT!!! Thanks for the book!!

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

Actual rating: 8 stars.

Yeah yeah yeah, I know you're sick and tired of reading my ~~crappy~~ fascinating ~~non-thingies~~ reviews for this series, and that you've just about had it with my ~~teenager-on-speed-like hysterical fangirling~~ **subdued enthusiasm for all lickable things Jimmy Stark**. ~~But that's only because you're jealous, because Jimmy is MY boyfriend and not yours.~~ **In my defense: 1/It's not my fault if Richard Kadrey is moderately talented** and never fails to awaken the groupie in me, **2/Maybe if more of you Clueless Decapods were reading this series instead of whatever crap it is you are reading**, I wouldn't feel as if it was my holy mission to rescue you from **Despicable Book Land (DBL™)** by convincing you to read my boyfriend's slightly scrumptious adventures and **3/I'm innocent**.

Anyway, you should worry your little selves not here, for this series has become **one big fat spoiler** in itself, which means I can tell you very little about the present instalment. Ergo, **the crap shall significantly be cut** here (view spoiler). This is your cue to **be glad and rejoice and stuff**, by the way. Come on, don't be shy, I know you feel like a celebration is in order. Go on, do your thing, I'll wait until your finish to continue with my **complex analysis** of this book.

Nice outfits you have there. And your little dance is, um, interesting, to say the least. Might want to work on those smooth moves, though.

So, why is this instalment **extra special crunchy and yummilicious**, and one of the bloody shrimping **very best** in the series so far? Because:

✓ **Sandman Slim meets Mad Max meets Hell**. Need I say more? Didn't think so.

✓ Luscious **plot** + gritty **action** + delicious **violence** + crazy-ass **situations** = yummy in my tummy.

✓ Both the **dialogues** and my boyfriend's **internal monologue** are a deadly combination of **witty**, cynical, **sharp**, snarky, **raw**, hahahaha, **LOL**, **LOLZ**, **LMAO**, and **ROFL**. Well **my kind of ROFL**, anyway.

“He looks like the most puzzled holy man since Jesus saw Judas order fajitas at the Last Supper.”

“I’ve taken a couple of heads myself. I know what you mean about spines.” “Thank you. Most people just don’t understand the amount of work involved.”

“She looks like she just saw a ghost, a unicorn, and Hello Kitty having a three-way in a clown car and they didn’t invite her.”

✓ **Bloodthirsty**, homicidal, grumpy, occasionally **batshit crazy bunch of lost souls**, lead by a somewhat murderous, zealot of a **megalomaniac messiah wannabe**.

✓ **Psychotic halo polishers**, beetle popcorn (don’t ask), **Rotweiler flowers** that bark like Pomeranians with an attitude (I told you not to ask, didn’t I?) and **chummy PTA moms** who know how to get beautifully creative with gardening tools.

✓ **Super fun**, plenty exotic and gloriously relaxing **underground river cruises**.

Okay, so the, um, cruise manager, happens to be a **cantankerous ass with grouchy, vindictive tendencies**, but this is a free trip after all, and beggars can’t be barnacles and stuff. Besides, the guy’s **unintentionally hilarious**, which is kind of a rarity Downtown these days.

✓ **Twists and surprises and revelations, oh my!** Holy shocking shockers, Shrimpman! It looks like we’re all set for a few more **scrumpalicious books** in this series!

And that ? right there are just **some of the many** bloody shrimping reasons why this instalment **extra special crunchy and yumilicious**, and one of the bloody shrimping **very best** in the series so far.

Granted, it would have been better if the book hadn’t ended with a **Cliffhanger of Doom Oblivion and Complete Annihilation of all Life on this Planet (CoDOaCAoaLotP™)**. Because it means I now have to wait **three bloody fishing months of the stinking shrimp** for the next instalment to be released. **Woe is me and stuff**.

Being an onion sucks even more than being a barnacle, if you ask me.

► And the moral of this **Nine Books in this series and I’m Still as in Lurve With My Jimmy Stark as I Was the Day We First Met Either This is a Vicious Trap or Mr Kadrey is Pretty Good at this Writing Thing Crappy Non Review (NBitSaISaiLWMJSaIWtDWFMETiaVToMKiPGatWTCNR™)**

is: to the **utter befuddlement** of crustaceans everywhere, this instalment was one of the 2017 Goodreads Choice Award Nominees for **Horror** . Right. Makes perfect sense. Then again, if Bird Box counts as Horror, then I guess pretty much everything else does, **Noddy stories included**.

- **Book 1:** Sandman Slim ★★★★★
- **Book 2:** Kill the Dead ★★★★★
- **Book 3:** Aloha from Hell ★★★★★
- **Book 3.5:** Devil in the Dollhouse ★★★★★
- **Book 4:** Devil Said Bang ★★★★★
- **Book 5:** Kill City Blues ★★★★★
- **Book 6:** The Getaway God ★★★★★
- **Book 7:** Killing Pretty ★★★★★
- **Book 8:** The Perdition Score ★★★★★
- **Book 10:** Hollywood Dead ★★★★★

[Pre-review nonsense]

“ *So far, this is about as much fun as a barbed-wire G-string .”*

That’s my boyfriend’s life for you! All glamorous **holidays in Hell** and super sexy yet **comfortable underwear!** And then people wonder why I’m so in ?lurve? with him! People really are **clueless as fish**, if you ask me.

► **Full Hey Mr Kadrey I’m Officially All Caught Up with the Series and Have to Wait for New Instalments Like the Puny Barnacled Bunch So You Can Stop with the Cliffhanger-Style Endings Now Thank Thee Kindly And Stuff Crappy Non Review (HMKIOACUwtSaHtWfNILtPBBSYCSwtCESENTTKaSCNR™) to come.**

Jason says

5 Stars

The Kill Society by Richard Kadrey is yet another annual guilty pleasure of mine. It is as always a really great summer read. The Getaway God could have concluded the series but thankfully for us Richard Kadrey is not finished with James and neither are we. This is the now the 9th book of the series and even being dead and downtown we are not done with the adventures of Sandman Slim. I really could read 88 more stories about James Starks and his Scooby gang.go

The Kill Society is a smaller scoped story that takes place in Hell. James finds himself in the middle of yet another war with much bigger things at stake. Kadrey gives us his usual combination of dirty and grimy action twisted with witty and smart ass dialogue. I absolutely love this stuff.

This book and series read to me as near perfection as I am a true fan boy. I would give all the books full marks just for my enjoyment and have decided that as long as Kadrey keeps writing them, I will do just that. He has me as a fan for life and I really hope that we have many more adventures to come for Sandman Slim.

Long live Sandman Slim.

"“We’re in Hell. I just got knifed by a charcoal briquette and molested by a witch. Talk to me some more about fair.” “At least let me be your lookout,” says Traven.”

This is one of my very favorite series!

Kev says

Sandman slim is the best urban fantasy series out there, and I'll fight anyone who disagrees in the arena! This is another excellent installment.

Bring on book 10and soon!

The audio book is superbly narrated by MacLeod Andrews as always.

Roger says

The Sandman Slim books are arguably some of the most entertaining books I read, which is a real paradox considering the premise: James Stark is condemned to Hell while still alive. He survives and eventually claws his way back to the mortal world for revenge. Holy crap. And that is just the first book in the series. After the...dilemma Stark found himself in at the end of The Perdition Score I was not sure how the series could continue but author Richard Kadrey has great fun pulling it off. You must read this series in order, Constant Reader, or the cosmology of Kadrey's versions of Heaven and Hell will make your head explode. Good stuff.

Steve says

I received this from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

I've really enjoyed this series, but I think this one has been the best by far. In this volume, Stark is outside of his "comfort zone", stuck in the Tenebrae, a sort of purgatory with all sorts of interesting, and dangerous, lost souls. He has no one to rely here, his friends all think he's dead, and he's forced to rely on his wits to get him through this trial.

Lots of surprises and twists that impact on the on-going plot lines that have stretched over the entire series. Can't wait for the next one!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Urban Fantasy is a favorite genre of mine and the Sandman Slim series felt like just the series for me. Now,

this is book nine and perhaps it's not wise to start a series with a book so far along, but I have never been wise when it comes to books and I often read books out of order. And, for the most part, does it work. THE KILL SOCIETY is one of those series that did work. However, I will admit that it perhaps would have been easier to understand what was going on and especially know who is who, and their history if one reads the books from the beginning. But, I discovered, as I often do that all the mentioning from past events only makes me more curious to read the previous books.

READ THE REST OF THE REVIEW OVER AT FRESH FICTION!

Patrick says

Over the last 3 weeks or so, I've listened to all 9 of the Sandman Slim Audiobooks (and the single novella that fits between books 3 and 4.)

I really don't know what I could say about these books that would be a stronger recommendation than that.

I think I'll talk more about the books later, but I might do it on my blog instead of here. I never know the best way is to discuss a whole series on Goodreads...

But yeah. If you're looking for some good, pulpy, action filled urban fantasy with non-standard plotting and good mythic underpinning, I don't think you can do better than this.

Maxine says

The Kill Society by author Richard Kadrey is the ninth in the Sandman Slim series and takes up where the last book, The Perdition Score, left off. James Stark aka Sandman Slim is now dead and in Hell but Hell just ain't what it used to be. He has not only landed in the Tenebrae, a part of Hell he remembers not so fondly from when he was Lucifer for a while, he finds himself confronted by a caravan of the dead with a charismatic leader called the Magistrate on a mission to get a mysterious object to a mysterious destination for a mysterious purpose and all while wreaking as much death (yes, the dead can die) and destruction as possible on the way. As Stark describes the Magistrate, "I know a killer when I see one and he's a cold Charlie Starkweather mother.....* To protect his identity, since the names Sandman Slim and James Stark are both very well-known in Hell, he adopts the alias ZaSu Pitts.**"

Like all the past books, The Kill Society is full of non-stop action, otherworldly crazies, and Stark's signature brand of sarcastic wit –sort of Mad Max meets Don Rickles. Along with a lot of new characters, both good and evil (although, like in past books, it's sometimes hard to tell them apart), there are a lot appearances by some old favourites like Father Traven, once eater of sins and now member of the caravan, Cherry Moon still crazy after all these books, Stark's old girlfriend, Alice, who has taken on a more powerful identity, and, of course, his old pal and verbal sparring partner, Death.

I am a huge fan of the Sandman Slim series – it may not be the most literate fantasy series, the most intelligent, or the most consistent in quality but, hands down, it is the most fun. The Kill Society could be read as a stand-alone but, given the numerous references to past events and characters, you should really read the entire series. Besides, if you like your fantasy with humour and very unusual characters, this is a series you definitely want to read right from the beginning.

*Trigger warning here: there's a lot of profanity, violence and all-round mayhem in this book.

**Footnote: many of the references and jokes are pretty old which only makes them more descriptive or funny for those of, shall we say, a Certain Age but may require some googling on the part of a younger audience

Thanks to Edelweiss and Harper Voyager for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review

Kdawg91 says

I make no bones about being an unabashed fan of this series, it in my opinion is urban fantasy done as it should be, in its best possible form.

The Kill Society starts in a bit of jam after the WTF ending of the last book. But Stark as usual meets all problems as he usually does, with a smart remark and a knife or two to the neck. The action does not fail to impress as usual and it seems that the action pieces in the stories are getting bigger and bigger, maybe to go all out in the next installment.

My only problem with this book is that the storytelling in my opinion seems to be losing a bit of steam, whether or not that is on purpose or not, I don't know...however..its still a ton of fun and kicks major ass.
