



Cold Spectrum

Craig Schaefer

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Criminologist Harmony Black is a witch with a loaded Glock. Her partner, Jessie Temple, is packing fierce lupine heat. Together, they're part of Vigilant Lock, an elite FBI black ops group dedicated to defeating criminals with supernatural connections. But when they uncover a demonic conspiracy in the highest ranks of the government, it appears that everything Harmony and her friends have worked for, fought for, and risked their lives for might be a lie.

Framed for a casino massacre, Harmony and Jessie are on the run—in the real world and in their own. From the seedy casinos of Atlantic City to the steamy bayous of Louisiana and the imposing facades of Washington, DC, there's not a soul on earth they can trust.

The only way they can clear their names is to take down the conspiracy from within and uncover the truth behind a secret that both the government and the powers of hell want to keep buried.

Cold Spectrum Details

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Author : Craig Schaefer

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From Reader Review Cold Spectrum for online ebook

Mihir says

Full review over at Fantasy Book Critic

OVERVIEW/ANALYSIS: Cold Spectrum is the hotly awaited fourth volume of the Harmony Black series. This volume follow right on the heels of Glass Predator literally and figuratively as the main plot is set in under two days of the events of Glass Predator.

As the story opens, we see our Circus team huddling together and trying to figure out how to best survive and how to expose Linder. Things however are not going their way as someone higher up in their shadowy department is orchestrating events and forcing them on the run. Soon they realize their only way out is to connect with the sole remnants of Douglas Bradford's team who have been hidden from Glass Predator's virtual eye. This search will take them to Atlantic City via a detour to Portland (on the west coast) and finally a trip to the Louisiana bayous. Harmony, Jessie & team really are on tenterhooks as their own agency is now hunting them and the one of their own squads (Panic cell) is on to them as well.

This book is potentially dealing with the fallout from Glass Predator in more ways than one. Beginning with Harmony, after facing down Nadine and her vile powers, Harmony is facing a personal blowback to her powers. In the last outing she was barely able to control her inner self and find the requisite strength to do the needful. She however finds out that dealing with a succubus and the after-effects are a whole different ballgame. Unlike Harmony, Jessie is exuberant at her recent fortune of finding out more about her inner wolf and is ready to do what's necessary to survive. April Cassidy and Kevin bring up the rest of the team and they bring their own skills as all of it will be needed for them to survive the nationwide manhunt.

This story is a crackerjack one and Craig had mentioned many times over that this book is a game changer and it is in more ways than one. Primarily the whole reveal about what Cold Spectrum is and what Douglas Bradford unearthed is fully laid bare in this story. Its mind boggling to say the very least and deftly showcases how much of a master planner Craig Schaefer is. There have been clues spread throughout the series so far and in this volume. Plus there's the big reveal about everything so far and the answers we get are beguiling to say the least. I loved how the reveal ties into the grand mythology of the this series and it even clarifies a few things from the Daniel Faust series since both of them are so heavily entwined together. Lastly I believe this mythology will further enriched by further volumes in both series. I can't wait to read the next volumes in both series however both of them are at least a year out.

The action sequences following on from Glass Predator are amped up as well, in this regard Cold Spectrum has more to share with Red Knight Falling. The atmosphere and locales change frequently and the action never seems to let up. In the last book there was a fascinating sub-plot introduced which dealt with the Hounds from two infernal courts. In this volume, we get a full resolution to that sub-plot with a wonderful cameo from one of the main characters from the Daniel Faust series. Plus Cold Spectrum also features a surprise appearance from a Hound of an infernal court who has never been featured before. So far each of the hounds we have met in this world have been very different from each other and this new hound is perhaps the most vicious of them all.

Another positive of the book is its pace which never lets up and we constantly are taken from location to location with wonderful action sequences in between. This book while seemingly darker than its predecessors (possibly scoring a tie with the first book for being the grimmest of the series) has a lot more comedy to it as well. Particularly with the scenes focusing on Jessie & Harmony, and I believe this (Jessie's

& Harmony's relationship) has been one of the series cornerstones. Focusing on the chronological front, I believe this book is set just a couple of days after the events of Glass Predator and potentially runs parallel to some of the earlier events in Double Or Nothing.

This volume being the fourth of the series, we also get a look into Dr. April Cassidy's life and this I believe is the weakest portion of the book. April Cassidy has been built up as this enigma and a brilliant strategist but we never quite get a focused look into her past. There are comments and insinuations but no dice with the actual history. I was thoroughly disappointed with this aspect. I get why the author might have done so for sake of brevity and keeping the plot on point but I felt that being the last Circus team member and having such a crucial hand in the formation of the Circus team and Jessie's rehabilitation. It would have been glorious if we had gotten a deeper look into her history and backstory.

This was the biggest drawback of this book in my opinion as otherwise this book is pretty much a runaway thriller. It also sets up things nicely with Harmony and this is where my inclinations about her role in the cosmic story are becoming stronger and stronger. I believe we might get more insight about this in the Wisdom's Grave trilogy and I for one can't wait to get my hands on it.

CONCLUSION: Cold Spectrum is a spectacular conclusion to the first arc of the Harmony Black series and I for one am absolutely gung-ho about where this series is headed. Cold Spectrum is an absolute cracker of a story and I can't recommend it enough. This series is a must read for those who love X-Files, Hellraiser, & a solid dose of dark humor to even out the grim edge of urban fantasy presented within.

Alaina Meserole says

IS IT OVER? IT BETTER NOT BE. I NEED MORE FROM THESE CHARACTERS!

Cold Spectrum is the fourth addition to the Harmony Black Series. I have been in love and completely hooked with Harmony and her crazy and wild life since book one. Okay, since the first page really. Harmony definitely had to come to terms with somethings... because she always wants to be right but in this book she had to start accepting that she also needs to make sacrifices. She can't always be right. Her morals always can't be right. She needs to sacrifice things just like every other person.

Now I loved everything about this book and Harmony's storyline because I wanted to know about her reaction to Nadine's kiss. I also wanted to know why it happened! I was hooked. I wanted information! I NEEDED THE DETAILS PEOPLE!

Besides Harmony's fascinating story and character, I am still in love with Jessie as well. I feel like no matter what scene she is.. she will somehow always steal the show. I love her comments, sass, and her attitude whenever she is talking to someone, about them, or just being herself. These two girls are the best partners ever and if this series ever became a TV show or a movie.. I would totally watch it hands down! I'm a terrible actor (I hate cameras.. and people) BUT I WOULD SO PLAY JESSIE!

Overall, I loved this book. It was amazing and fast paced. I was never dull. I was hooked from the first book all the way to the very last page of this one. I wish it wasn't over. I need another book STAT. PLEASE TELL ME THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ONE?!?!

Gavin says

It is no secret that Craig Scafer's Faust/Harmony books are my favourite UF series(s) of the lot by a considerable distance. In fact they are the only UF books that I've read that come close to matching any of my epic fantasy faves in terms of quality and addictiveness. The books have a great mix of action, humor, mystery and great characters. The inclusion of humor should not lead you to believe these are light reads. The story can get pretty dark at times and the characters, while likeable, are definitely morally grey and the occasional bursts of humor and the moments of real caring and friendship shown by the characters keep things from becoming too bleak and grim. The balance is really perfect. Another big plus is that Schaefer has a really engaging writing style and has created a super cool world!

This 4th Harmony instalment was lived up to expectations. The story was as fun as ever. Harmony and her team continued to hunt the truth behind Cold Spectrum and what they found was definitely a bit disturbing! Nadine and Bobby Diehl also managed to cause a whole lot of problems for the team as did another familiar face that no one expected to see again!

Outside of that Harmony had to deal with a few personal issues stemming from what Nadine did to her in Glass Predator. I thought she was as likeable and easy to root for as ever and she was ably assisted by her awesome Vigilant Lock team mates. Harmony has always been a bit less morally grey than Faust but I never did feel like she was the one dimensional good girl most others paint her as and this instalment showed that she is willing to bend her morals when she needs to (or maybe just that spending so much time with Jessie and the others is corrupting her!).

"Penny for your thoughts," Jessie murmured, her eyes on the elevator door as we glided downward.

"Just remembering who I am," I said.

"Yeah?" She glanced sidelong. "Who's that?"

I racked the shotgun.

"I'm the woman who makes the monsters go away."

Jessie provides most of the humor and the crazy moments of this series (and she was great again in this one) but I feel like Harmony is the heart of the series and pretty awesome and kick-ass in her own right!

Another great strength of this and the Faust series is the villains. It really helps that the villains cross-over in both series. I think Nadine has cemented herself as my favourite Schaefer villain of the lot and my favourite spoiled crazy demon princess had a few scene stealing appearances in this one. My favourite being:

"Piss off, Nadine. We know who you're looking for— same as us— and he isn't here. Cut your losses and leave before more of your men get hurt. We've already dropped two bodies, and I don't mind making a few more before we go."

"Bad dog," Nadine snapped. "Dogs don't talk. Give the radio to Harmony."

Jessie stared at the radio, one incredulous eyebrow slowly lifting. I sighed and held out my hand.

Only someone as crazy as Nadine could say something like that with a straight face:)

Caitlin made a few fun cameos in this one and it was fun to see her through Harmony's eyes rather than Daniel's as it showed her as the formidable demon she really is!

Random Thought: I usually enjoy a good romantic sub-plot in my stories but feel like Schaefer has made the right choice to shelf the potential romance in this book. Dull Cop was just not working out and the Harmony/Jessie friendship works just as well for this series as the Faust/Caitlin romance does for the Faust series. Though if a (view spoiler)was to spring up I'd be all for it. I caught the guy trying his luck in that

regard in this one:)

All in all I loved this one and cannot wait for the next instalment of the series.

Rating: 4.5 stars. Rounding up to 5 stars as I feel like I do not give enough top ratings to Schaefer books!

Audio Note: I think Christina Traister does a great job with this series.

Bryan says

Phew. What a ride that was.

Harmony and gang are back for another adventure. This time they've got the forces of Hell coming after them, their own agency has some surprises in store and Harmony's still reeling from Nyx's little "gift." Just another day at the office.

Once again, Mr. Schaefer keeps things tight and moving quickly. I enjoy his style and the way he keeps ramping up the stakes, even while solving the various issues at hand within their respective tales. It was great spending time with the team again. They possibly even picked up a new member. Looking forward to seeing what the fallout from this tale will be when the next book rolls around.

Eric says

4.5 Stars

And the fun just keeps coming. Cold Spectrum is my favorite book in a series that keeps entertaining.

The plot picks up right where things ended in Glass Predator. Forced to question their own superiors, Harmony and the rest of Vigilant Lock go off the grid to get answers to questions that have been plaguing them for a while, answers that could change everything about their team. Their hunt for the truth takes them all over the country, stacking them up against the forces of hell, their own government, and an old enemy.

In this book we get the answers to questions that have been out there since the first book. Seeing those puzzle pieces fall into place was satisfying, as the answers weren't given cheaply but fought for every step of the way. The pacing is frenetic, as Harmony and her team barely stay ahead of their enemies. There are several incredible action scenes in the book as well. Harmony and Jessie continue to shine, but I thought that April finally got her moment as well. I've felt that aside from Harmony and Jessie the rest of team can feel a bit flat at times but this book really gave April some cool moments.

The only real criticism I have of this book is that it seems like the tone of the series has shifted a bit. The first book started out as a urban fantasy thriller/mystery with some strong horror elements. As the series has gone on it's become more and more straight up UF action. Which is fine with me, it's well written and consistently entertaining, but it doesn't quite have that really unique feel it did in the beginning. Regardless, Schaefer has managed to produce consistently fun and engaging books and I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?Misericordia? ?????? ✨*♥️ says

Q: We got back on the highway. Danger on our heels, and somewhere up ahead, somewhere too far for our headlights to reach, one shot at finding the truth.

Too far for our headlights, but dawn was on the way. (c)

Yet another installment of my fav agents dealing with the fallout from a senator 'backed and bought by the courts of hell'. How trendy!

Q:

Now, how about one of you little bitches uncuffs me? I just can't wait to go and burn a few people alive. You know, for Uncle Sam and the American way. I'm feeling so very patriotic all of a sudden. (c)

Q:

"Halloween is the same deal," I said. "The one night of the year that communing with the powers of darkness and trying to conjure demons sounds like a fun party game."

"I've clearly been going to the wrong parties." (c)

Q:

If she's still alive, she's deep underground—metaphorically, literally, or both. (c)

Q:

You know the old saw about the definition of insanity, right?"

"Doing the same thing over and over, expecting something different to happen?" (c)

Q:

"Every inch. From the Court of Jade Tears on the West Coast to the Court of Windswept Razors on Wall Street. Overseas, too. Every spot of dirt on the globe and most of the water." (c)

Q:

Demons are almost as good as politicians when it comes to twisting words around. (c)

Q:

"This is crazy—you're all crazy—but . . . this is the kind of crazy I can get behind. Fuck it, I'm on board. Let's do it." (c)

Q:

You're good at being stoic. It's your superpower. (c)

Q:

Jessie held up her hand. "I vote for explosives."

"You always vote for explosives," I said.

"You should praise me for consistency. That's what my therapist does."(c)

Q:

"I adore Howard Jones." Caitlin clasped her hands, all earnestness. "Duran Duran, the Pet Shop Boys, Spandau Ballet. I could never destroy a world that had Howard Jones in it. Something you may not be aware of: I'm loath to admit it, but my people are . . . not good at art. We can appreciate it, cherish it, but we lack some primal spark required to make it for ourselves. Humanity has that spark. We can inspire you, though. All throughout history, wearing countless names and masks, we have been your muses."

"Sounds like you're trying to sell us on a kinder, gentler hell," I said. (c)

Q:

Your species is quite alone in the universe."

...

"Well, not entirely alone," she added. "You have us, to keep you company in the dark." (c)

Q:

"It's that time of the month," Jessie deadpanned. "We've been working together long enough that our cycles are synchronized, and we get really mean for a few days."

"It's true. We get these hormonal urges to tear down corrupt corporations and send entitled billionaire

assholes to prison.” I shrugged. “Women, right?” (c)

Q:

“You—” He flailed, fumbling for words. “You started this fight. You came after me first, remember?”

“You were trying to unleash an alien god from outer space,” Jessie said. “So, yeah. We felt a strong inclination to intervene. We get touchy about things like that.” (c)

Choko says

*** 4.35 ***

A buddy read with the always awesome Sarah and Robin @ BB&B!

This was fun! As always, Craig Schaefer delivers an entertaining and addictive read. It was made even better for those of us who are fans of the Dante series as well, because we got to see Caitlin in all of her glory!!! I love Harmony and Jessie to bits, but there is something about Caitlin's character that takes my breath away! It was a real treat having her even for just moments on page.

The forth book in the series, Cold Spectrum takes off right after the happenings of Glass Predator, with some villainous players none too happy and holding a grudge, ready to ally with some of the other bad players, who are not their friends either. Our group of special agents have gone rogue and are being hunted across country from all sides. And then right around Ch. 13 and the following several chapters, all we knew about what was going on in the series gets flipped around and rocks the foundation of the Schaefer World! Another of the bigger revaluations concerns Harmony and her addiction to some sex-demon vibes... I feel very bad for Harmony...

We did get to know much more about our mysterious profiler, Dr. April Cassidy and some of her past, which comes out to haunt them in this book. It is a good thing that she is so beloved by all of her teammates, because otherwise she might have been left on the curve if everyone went by what was for the "overall good"... Kevin was his usual adorable puppy self, while we got to meet couple of ex operatives who were very interesting themselves. The plot was simple - start with the Boom and keep going until the next Boom!!! Adrenaline and action was the name of the game, with some unveiling of an overreaching arc details. It did seem like the whole world was against our heroes and it was pretty amazing they lived to see another day and for us to read another book:):):)

I truly enjoy reading Mr. CS's books and look foreword to them with anticipation. He is one of my read-the-first-day-of-publication authors and I would recommend him to all who like a good UF or a Police-Adventure with a side of Demons. You would spend some good time reading it, I promise!

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and my you always find what you need in the pages of a Good book!!!

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Sale Alert: Daily deal for 03April2018 \$1.99

We're being hunted by the government, the law, at least one infernal court, a team of satanic special forces operatives, a psycho pyromaniac, and the director of the FBI.[...]On the bright

side? Things can't possibly get any worse."

My largest complaint in the last books of this series is that Harmony, the character the series is named for, didn't really seem like the star of her own series. Jessie Temple stole the spotlight at every turn and Harmony was too Joe Friday to ever outshine her. Well, how the tides have shifted on that score.

Harmony isn't as squeaky clean as she used to be. She has a few new issues in her life that are rounding out her character quite well. **First**, is a brand new semi addiction to a succubus. Hell doesn't play fair and they use all their tools when necessary Harmony is living with the after affects of Nadine's kiss and it is making her hormones pubescent and her magic skittish. **Second** is the luke warm romance is gone for at least this book. Cody is almost completely MIA from this book and that actually made it better. Their semi-relationship didn't seem like it was going anywhere anyway and Harmony never seemed really into him but maybe just the thought of him. Plus Cody is all wrong for her. **I'm holding out for a Harmony/Fontaine coupling**. Last, she is learning how to bend the rules a little. I don't think she will ever break them completely but she appears to be getting a little limbo flexible with her interpretations of the rules.

Just because Harmony has come out of her shell a little doesn't mean that Jessie isn't still a star because she totally is. I love that lady and all of her snarky attitude. I'm just dying to find out who would be the perfect match for her since I think she deserves a little lovin.

"It's a sex thing," I whispered. "Isn't it?"

"C'mon." She nodded ahead. "Y'know, normally I might check this out . . ."

"There are things I don't need to know about you, Jessie."

"My safe word is Oklahoma." She winked and kept walking.

The plot and pacing for this was so much better than the last book. I had some suspicions of who Harmony and Co were really working for. I was right and wrong on this point but I loved this development in the grand scheme of things. What do you do when you think you are team good but it might be team evil pulling all the strings.

There are some awesome world building add-ins. My favorite was a bar called Dashwood Abbey. This was a place I'd love to visit.

*"Drinks at Dashwood Abbey don't work that way. You order by flavor or feel, whatever your palate is craving, and I mix something to suit. Perhaps you'd like something fruity and cold, something tangy and hot? **Maybe something recklessly erotic, but with an aftertaste of next-morning regret.** Something mournful, perhaps."*

Also I was extremely happy to see Caitlyn from the Daniel Faust series make her way into some page time for this book. That Hound is the best and really added to the story. She works for hell but does that really make her a bad person? Nope I don't think so in the slightest.

While I really enjoy these books and the action is pretty non-stop throughout sometimes the follow through or resolution. Still overall it was greatly entertaining, full of some great twists and I loved how Harmony and the team are really working well together to fight the good fight.

We will just have to see where the next book takes us, but with the epilogue that happed in this one I think it

is going to be a great ride.

Orient says

“Penny for your thoughts,” Jessie murmured, her eyes on the elevator door as we glided downward.

“Just remembering who I am,” I said.

“Yeah?” She glanced sidelong. “Who’s that?”

I racked the shotgun.

“I’m the woman who makes the monsters go away.”

It all started quite innocently when my favorite Shrimpy Tyrannical Empress of GR (and of all the world, duh) mentioned that this book is out and to my great horror I understood that I haven’t read it yet! Le gasp, I know! Heresy, outrageous rudeness and so on.... Well, I could have guessed it myself (and asked for it myself) that the murderous crustaceans were to be released to help me and guide me into right path.... So here I am!

I am charmed and in love with this series for the fourth time. Yes!!!! Oh and I am gonna dig my grave deeper. I like Harmony Black series way more than Daniel Faust series! Here’s why:

Interesting plot with great action, conspiracy and stuff.

The plot in “Cold Spectrum” excited me as much as in the earlier three instalments. I’m a big fan of doomsday/apocalyptic storylines, entwined with some science (no space stuff please!!!!), action, mysteries and of course, great kick-ass characters in the lead. This is def the direction in which this story took me. The pacing is good and the story held my interest, it reads quickly as I just had small moments to inhale and dived straight into action. I know I ranted before that” Red Knight Falling” had a bit too much of “help us, the earth is doomed” and I wanted more attention to the magical side. That is not the case with “Cold Spectrum”. I really enjoyed the excellent blending of real world and fantasy, to the point where you actually accept the abnormal as very real, true life and live it with the help of Mr. Schaefer.

Memorable characters I can root for.

I just love Harmony and this team of kick-assers! Their personal inner fights, success, loses, close and entertaining relationship kept me hooked till the very last page. I love Harmony and Jessie. They are total badass likable heroines. Complex and interesting in their own way, they are down to earth. With or without their magic, they are capable of taking care of themselves. And what I really really liked is that Harmony and her team use their abilities only when it’s really inevitable, relying more on their investigative skills when saving the world. The characters feel real for sure with human weaknesses and addictions, real life struggles to fit into the world while chased by past secrets. Even the minor characters have distinct personalities. The villains are well fleshed-out, long term ones.

Characters, action and humor are the three things I love the most in this series:

“You set your own house on fire?” I asked her.

“Basic occult-forensic countermeasure.”

Jessie flashed a broad smile and clapped Aselia on the shoulder. “Oh, I think you and me are gonna be friends.”

“I don’t have a choice,” he said. “You didn’t give me a choice.”

“Sure we did,” Jessie said. “You can do exactly what we tell you, or you can spend the rest of your life behind bars. Or dead. See, that’s three choices. We’re so nice.”

“It’s that time of the month,” Jessie deadpanned. “We’ve been working together long enough that our cycles are synchronized, and we get really mean for a few days.”

“It’s true. We get these hormonal urges to tear down corrupt corporations and send entitled billionaire assholes to prison.” I shrugged. “Women, right?”

Magical creatures and magical world in total.

I love the concept for this series, with magic and the supernatural aspects woven into reality in a way that I can believe. The fight between Good and Evil, with witches, shapeshifters, demons and so on added to the mix. All this is combined into a well written series with great characters and an evolving plot.

This book is a great addition to the series and I can’t wait to see what the author has in store next.

Jessie patted him on the shoulder.

“Trust me,” she said. “Until we show up, the party hasn’t begun to get freaky.”

Emma says

Review to follow (as it's Sunday night and productivity is at an all time low).

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

October 31, 2017 - Release day! - The BEST one in the series yet! A game-changer!

Check out our author Q&A with Craig Schaefer!

<https://dustoffyourmachalo.wordpress...>

4.5 stars - This was the strongest installment in the Harmony Black series! I won't go into the details because

spoilers, and it's so exciting. A LOT happens. The book is pretty much nonstop action-packed. Harmony and her team (well, really Jessie is in charge) are on the run and conspiracies abound!

I found myself growing much more attached to the team in this book. I think the chemistry and relationships have been fleshed out more. Harmony was more solid as a character and lead. Jessie still shines and has some great lines.

This is a game-changer and I'm very excited to see what happens next. Teaser alert: a character from Daniel Faust shows up!

The book is released on Halloween. if you've been reading the series, you can't miss out on this one! There is also a giveaway here for the book!

Thank you Netgalley and publisher for providing a digital copy to read and review.

Harmony Black (#1) : 4 stars!

Red Knight Falling (#2): 3.5 stars

Previous post:

I got approved for this in Netgalley! Looks like I better read books 2 & 3 pretty quick!

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

● **Harmony Black You Finally Got This Buddy Read** (HBYFGTBR™) with my BB&B Schaeferettes Choko & Robin ●

Actual rating: 4.4999 stars.

[Because this non-review wasn't long enough, I just added another gripping paragraph to it. You are quite welcome.]

And thus the series named Harmony Black was most deliciously **overhauled, revamped, rebuilt, reconditioned, redirectioned and generally revolutionized**. Much titillating this proved to be. And **slightly exciting**, too.

See? This is so exhilarating even Darthie decided to do a little jig to celebrate this momentous event.

Okay, since I can't talk about all the **game-changing stuff** that, you know, changes the game and stuff—because **Majorly Spoilerish Spoilery Spoilers Duh** (MSSSD™)—I'll tell you why there is a slight chance Cold Spectrum might very well be the **best instalment** in this series so far and yet another **Most Gloriously Schaeferistic Schaefer Tome** (MGSST™).

① **Harmony Black finally becomes the MC she was always meant to be :**

Until this instalment happened, **Jessie Temple**—Harmony's exquisitely yummy lupine partner—**stole every single scene** she was in: amazing, complex, gun-loving, **hilarious, badass, homicidal**, with *"the moral compass of a wolf on two legs in survival mode"*... **the chick is everything**. So much so that my **Most**

Wondrous Harem Worthiness Detector (MWHWD™) literally exploded the first time Jessie and I crossed paths. She is now ~~safely locked up in my infamous High Security Wing~~, obviously a permanent guest of mine and is **quite delighted** about it, thank you very much. But I ever so slightly digress. So Jessie was pretty much the star of the show and Harmony felt like she was just a **distant observer** most of the time. Which, given the fact that this series is named **Harmony Black and not Jessie Temple**—as the most astute among you might have noticed—was kinda sorta **not really coherent** and stuff. I mean, I lurves my girlfriend Jessie to ~~death~~ dismemberment and would LURVE for her to have **her own series**—wink wink nudge nudge Schaeferistic Mr Schaefer—but by the end of Glass Predator it had become obvious that Harmony needed to **change her act and reclaim her spot** as the official MC for this series. And guess what? Mr Schaefer "*pulled a rabbit out of his fucking hat*" *waves at her boyfriend Daniel Faust* and **tada!**

More or less.

Harmony Black is center stage, where she always belonged! Harmony Black **owns it!** And is a real team leader! And accepts "*the wolf hunting wolves*" that she is! And **kicks ass!** ~~Jessie is still my girlfriend of choice but Harmony is finally growing on me so hallelujah to our Lord Shrimp and stuff.~~

② The Most Stupendous Schaefer Chicks Clique (MSSCC™) :

I might or might not be repeating myself here, but: Craig Schaefer writes the **most amazing female characters** in Urban Fantasy, Fantasy and Quantum Physics today. And yesterday, too. And tomorrow as well (view spoiler). His women are **strong**, but they are not **masculinized** to death, as happens much too often with female badasses in books and films. Their being **tough and fierce and aggressive and tenacious and ruthless and stuff**—which are usually seen as masculine traits—doesn't mean they have to **ditch their femininity**. And that, my Little Barnacles, is a little more than **moderately fabulous**. I don't need to tell you that this calls for a celebratory dance, do I? **Oh, good.**

First Darthie, now Morticia. Such awesome dancing support for this instalment.

And you know what? The MSSCC™ is even more stupendous than usual here. Why? Because this is a **22+ on the Richter Scale of Female Badassness**. At least. Because we've got the usual badasses—Harmony, my girlfriend Jessie + April— plus my **mostest favoritest bloodthirsty maniaes demonic lovelies** Nadine and ~~This One~~ Nyx, plus somewhat **unhinged** Mikki, plus a slightly awesome new recruit called Spoiler Spoiler Spoiler (not her real name) plus plus plus **my girlfriend Caitlin of the beautifully serrated teeth!!!!** (view spoiler)

Oh, one more thing about the MSSCC™ and why Craig Schaefer's female characters are always so prodigiously phenomenal: **Bloody Shrimping Diversity** (BSD™), my Tiny Decapods! Whether black, white, gay, straight (to my Jessie's **utter and perpetual desperation**), disabled, ~~nearly~~ fully functional, batshit crazy, anal retentive, fashion designer addict, tie fetishist, human, demon, whatever...Schaefer's books **have them all**. And that is somewhat **triumphantly magnificent**, if you ask me. And even if you don't. Ask me, I mean. **You are quite welcome.**

③ **A gruesomely gritty, adrenaline-filled, supersonic-paced ride this one is :**

Non-stop action + amazing crazy insane **fighters** with magic/guns/claws/knives/whatever ablazing + **most villainous** villains + **blood & gore galore** (view spoiler) + **liars and assholes** everywhere (view spoiler) + **shockers and twists and revelations**, oh my + spoilers spoilers spoilers (lots of those) + more spoilers spoilers spoilers + oh bloody shrimping hell **DAT ending** and **DAT epilogue** =

» **And the moral of this...** Wait wait wait waaiiiitttt!!!! I forgot to mention something ~~utterly fascinating!!~~ **Okay**, so it might have come to your attention that despite my **very subdued fangirling**, I didn't give this book a 5 star rating. Yeah yeah yeah, I know, I'm a **thoroughly undeserving, ungrateful Schaeferette**, shame on me and all that crap. Anyway, the thing with little Harmony's adventures is that I can never bring myself to give them **aaalllllll the stars**. ~~Which can easily be explained by the fact that Harmony isn't my super hot if slightly amoral boyfriend Daniel Faust.~~ Why? I can't really put my **finger pincer** on it, to be disgustingly honest. **It seems that there's always a mysterious little something** that prevents my deliciously serrated claws from clicking on that **Filthy Elusive Fifth Little Star** (FEFLT™). I think the near-perfect, impeccably convenient ending had a lot to do with it here. I mean, it was dazzlingly awesome indeed, but everything felt a bit too, you know, near-perfect and convenient and stuff. Which is **highly suspicious**, when you think about it *squints at Mr Schaefer distrustfully, dubiously and a little skeptically, too* Okay, the ending isn't exactly all **pastel colored rainbows and fluffy bunnies** (thank our Lord Shrimp for that), but things seem to be evolving **strangely in favour** of the Harmony Squad here. Which is **kinda sorta very uncharacteristic**. Which kinda sorta makes me wonder: **what the bloody shrimping fish are you up to, Mr Schaefer?**

Yes, I know, I should have a dermatologist look at that ~~zit~~ mole on my nose post haste. I promise I'll go as soon as I'm done taking over the world. Thank you so much for your concern.

» And the moral of this **Watch Out Courts of Hell for Vigilant Lock 2.0 is Coming for You Crappy Non Review** (WOCofHfHaJaCfYCNRTM) is: and Fontaine shall be the cure to **Harmony's legendary tight-assness**. He better be, anyway. It's high time the girl ~~got laid~~ **loosened her tie** and stuff.

Oh, and by the way, this instalment in a nutshell:

Ha. Don't get it? That's okay, you shouldn't. Not if you haven't read the book, that is. You're welcome.

P.S. Fear the ~~Kraken~~ weird-eyed, twitchy accountants.

P.P.S. Bye now.

↘ **Book 1:** Harmony Black ★★★★★

↘ **Book 2:** Red Knight Falling ★★★★★

↘ **Book 3:** Glass Predator ★★★★★

(view spoiler)

[Pre-review nonsense]

Craig Schaefer, writing the **most wondrous female characters** in Urban Fantasy, Fantasy and Astrophysics since the dawn of murderous crustacean times (more or less). You, **Slightly Awesome Sir** (SAS™), are Slightly Awesome. And, to reward you for all the hard work you put into this **moderately delicious instalment**, my homicidal babies broke their piggy shrimpy bank to gift you with a super exclusive **2-hour pincer massage voucher**. Here's hoping you enjoy it! You're welcome and stuff!

► **Full Little Harmony Black You're Not in 5 Star Territory Yet But You Nearly Nailed it with this Instalment So Keep Up the Ruthless Good Work Crappy Non Review** (LHBYNiSTYBYNNiwtISKUtRGWaSCNR™) to come.

[October 9, 2017]

So I was in no hurry to read this one, despite my undying love for **Craig-Schaefer-is Slightly-Awesome** (CSiSA™). Why? Because even though **Glass Predator** was kinda cool, it was also sorta...

So. No hurry and stuff. **BUT**. **The Most Awesome One** (aka the author. Duh) just posted this on his blog:

"The Harmony Black series is about to undergo a swing in direction and momentum; I'd tell you why, but spoilers. Let's just say that by the last chapter of Cold Spectrum, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about."

And now I'm all...

kartik narayanan says

Read the full review at my site Digital Amrit

Let's see what they have got. Quite a mixed bag of talents! There's the witch, the wolf, the hacker and the profiler.

Introduction

"Cold Spectrum", written by Craig Schaefer, is the fourth book in the Harmony Black series. It stars the eponymous Harmony Black on her quest to defeat the demons who are subverting the human world.

Harmony Black and Jessie Temple delve further into the mystery of Cold Spectrum. They discover a demonic conspiracy and are framed by the demons. Now, on the run, they have to somehow survive and unmask the conspirators, while saving the world somehow.

Recommendation

Cold Spectrum was mildly enjoyable. Fans of Harmony Black will like it while others will not be overwhelmed.

As I have mentioned earlier in the review of the series, I think this is Craig Schaefer's weakest character and series. While I loved the Revanche cycle and found Daniel Faust to be above average, Harmony Black feels more like a side character in the Schaefer universe. With that in mind, this book has all the strengths and weaknesses of the previous books in the series. It feels generic and the world building is the only thing that drew me in.

Read the full review at my site [Digital Amrit](#)

Kara says

"Cold Spectrum (Harmony Black #4)" is a fantastic audiobook! The author ties together the related plots of books 1-3, unveils secrets that were teased about existing characters (Linder!), brings back the baddies featured in books 1-3, introduces a terrific new team member (Azelea), introduces a terrific new demon (Caitlin), surprises us with an amazing revelation about Vigilant Lock, and teases with further adventures to come!

Speaking of future further adventures, when introducing the Harmony Black series, author Schaefer made it clear that at some point there would be a Daniel Faust team vs. Harmony Black team storyline. I haven't read any of the Faust stories, but crossover stories can be interesting when an author is excited about two of his/her series.

Back to "Cold Spectrum" - Harmony's personality continues to develop, and she becomes less and less of a "by the book" action-focused super agent as she continues to battle the magical effects of Demon Nadine's kiss. Harmony continues to prefer dressing as a lesbian, and openly lesbian Jesse continues to wonder about her, but "Cold Spectrum" is not a lesfic kind of action book.

Jesse continues to provide lots of great humor (her safe word is Oklahoma!).

Harmony: "either you [Kevin] find a solution in the next half hour, or we start shopping for explosives."

Jesse: "I vote for explosives!"

Harmony: "You ALWAYS vote for explosives".

Jesse: "You should praise me for consistency. That's what my therapist does."

Throughout "Cold Spectrum" Harmony's team battles their own government, nefarious humans, and demons and their minions. What fun! Narrator Christina Traister continues doing a fantastic job, and I would enjoy relistening to the book despite now knowing the plot twists! 5*

Bart says

Actual rating: 4.00
