



Sideswiped

Kim Harrison

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Don't miss this thrilling first look into the elite world of Peri Reed, government agency operative extraordinaire, and catch more of her character in *The Drafter*, the first book in the all-new suspense trilogy from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Kim Harrison, out September 1.

Every hero, even the accidental ones, have a beginning.

Silas's radical theory that drafters are not replaying time as much as they are temporarily sliding into an alternate universe has never been well-received, but frankly, the darling of Opti's research has enough clout not to care, until a professor with a grudge tries to put a permanent end to it. Love can't alter time, and sometimes, even being able to rub out a single mistake isn't enough...

Sideswiped Details

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Author : Kim Harrison

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Science Fiction, Time Travel

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From Reader Review Sideswiped for online ebook

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

?? BR with my MacHalo Freaks starting Sept. 7, 2015.

[Last update: Sept. 8, 2015]

And the Short Story Curse continues! First there was Eyes Deep, then there was Freeze Warning and now this? I have the feeling someone is trying to tell me **to stick to full-length books from now on...**

✉ **Dear Kim Harrison:** I'd warned you that time-travel was my favourite SF subgenre. You didn't listen, did you? Sigh. **You dare call this time-travel?** You have to be joking. A story about a bunch of immature college students, that's what this is: semesters, grades, tests, professors... Damn, it got to a point where **I started wondering whether this was Freaking YA!**

?? **Okay, I have better things to do** with my life than write a review for this story so I'll try and make this as quick and painless as possible.

✕ What I don't like about this story ✕

① **The college setting:** do you want to know how to do this right Kim Harrison? Read any book in Connie Willis' Oxford Time-Travel series. No immaturity there. **No silly college students trying to hack into the registrar's computer** to wipe everyone's grades because they failed a stupid test. Are we still in high school people? **It sure looks like it.**

② **The decaffeinated time travel:** what a joke. First of all, there is very little time travel to be had here. And don't expect to read about the technical/scientific aspects of *drafting*, either. To make things worse, **the concept of drafting itself seems pointless.** I mean, the most gifted *drafters* are only able to move back in time for a minute while the rest are only able to do it for a few seconds. **That's a pretty useless ability to have if you ask me.**

③ **The "Summer is Beautiful" Fest:** Summer has *womanly charms*, she is so gorgeous that she keeps getting *solicitations for her phone number*, she is **tall, blond, and beautiful**, she is a *tall, sexy bombshell* (am I boring you yet? Too bad, I'm not finished), she has *strong cheekbones and wispy lashes*, she has *pale skin and slim hands* (mentioned twice) and her hair smells soooooo goooooood... . Argggghhhh!!!! **ENOUGH ALREADY!!!**

④ **The "Silas and Summer are in Lurrrrve" bits:** boring and uninteresting, they do nothing but drag the story down and make Silas' character come across as a pathetic love puppy. **I rest my case.**

⑤ **The unlikeable cast of characters:** I didn't connect with any of them. I didn't care about a single one of them. That is all. **Moving on.**

⑥ **The unexciting, uninspired, unoriginal, lackluster and FREAKING PREDICTABLE plot:** need I say more? **Didn't think so.**

⑦ **The corny lines**, aka the last straw: "we're going to be legends" *sighs*, "**time is on our side**" (please tell me I did NOT just read this in a time travel story. PLEASE), "it's good to be bad" *shakes head in desperation*. Half of the lines in this book are either trite or clichéd. **That's just fantastic.**

✓ **What I do like about this story** ✓

① **Absolutely nothing.** Okay that's a bit harsh. I do actually like the book cover. **Yes I do.**

?? **Do I still want to read The Drafter?** Honestly, I don't know. It's waiting for me on my Kindle and I was supposed to read it with some of my MacHalo Freaks later this week but **honestly, I don't know.** This is only a prequel and might not do the rest of the series justice but **honestly, I don't know.** Should I bother? Should I not? **Honestly, I don't know.**

🔪 **Book 1: The Drafter - DNF of Doom and Oblivion (DNFoDaO™)**

? **Pre-review nonsense:**

① **YES,** I am definitely cheating and starting a day early. Got a problem with that?

② **Time-travel** is my favourite SF subgenre. Can you feel the pressure Kim Harrison? No? Just know this: you're competing with Jack Finney and Connie Willis. **Please go ahead and shudder.**

Jessica ❁ ⇒ Silverbow ⇒ ❁ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

I'm kind of at a loss . . .

I don't like time travel. Unless it's in one direction and more or less permanent. Technically, I don't particularly like it even then, but in that context it doesn't *bother me*, so that's something at least.

I don't like the time travel you more frequently encounter, b/c it's too easy . . . Authors can't seem to help themselves, and they take more liberties than they ever would under any other circumstances b/c who-the-hell-cares?-we-can-just-go-back-in-time-and-FIX-it.

I bloody hate that.

But that's not what's going on here . . .

In Peri Reed's world, a very small fraction of the population has the ability to "draft" or move backwards in time. An equally small fraction of the population has the ability to "anchor" a Drafter's dual memories, preventing . . . insanity? Brought on by numerous versions of reality?

Drafters and Anchors predictably work together in teams of two.

The problem is that I don't really see the point.

You see . . . there are *extreme* limitations on this drafting ability:

Ethan could draft more than a minute into the past, but he could only physically affect a circular block. Heidi had never exceeded ten seconds, but her reach was a breathtaking mile across.

I don't know about you, but "more than a minute" sounds like it's meant to be impressive . . . But even if Ethan could draft a full minute back in time with Heidi's "breathtaking mile" reach, what the hell could that actually accomplish?

Unless they've also got clairvoyants (no sign of that) to direct the drafters in advance to where they need to be, only being able---*at the outside limit*---to go sixty seconds backwards (sideways?), isn't really helpful in the greater scheme of things.

And the likelihood that someone who *happens* to be able to draft, also happening to be Johnny-on-the-spot when the ability would be helpful is . . . not incredibly likely . . .

So again, I ask . . . What's the point?

Maybe there will be further explanation in the full-length novel that I'm *definitely* planning to read b/c:

1. Kim Harrison.
2. Aside from the questionable usefulness of the drafting ability, this prequel was highly engaging.

In only sixty or so pages, Harrison once again demonstrated her ability to create compelling, extremely likable characters. Plus her sometimes eyebrow-raising flair for simile and metaphor has grown on me over the years . . .

I still find it hard to believe that anything could be like "*trying to get lemonade from a cow patty*," but it makes me laugh that she would say so.

But none of that matters b/c Harrison is an autobuy author for me, so I *will* be reading THE DRAFTER regardless of the questions SIDESWIPED has raised. I'll report back, hopefully with more information, as soon as that's accomplished. Stay tuned . . .

IN HINDSIGHT after being thoroughly confused about the seemingly pointless drafting ability (and after discussing it with my book bff who agreed with me), I mentioned the concept to my husband who annoyingly hit the nail on the head:

"Well, obviously, they'd be highly trained for some kind of dangerous government job, increasing the likelihood that the ability would be useful."

GAH. *kicks aluminum can*

Shelley says

Genre Science Fiction, Time Travel

Rating 3.0

My Thoughts

Sideswiped is a 80 page novella that takes place FIVE years before The Drafter begins. Not a whole lot to say about this story. Perhaps it's best described as being an appetizer for what is to come. I dare say that Peri Reed is not the main character. She's a secondary character who appears several times over the course of the story. Dr. Silas Denier is the main character of this novella. Silas has theories about what Drafting, or Time Travel really does. He bangs heads with those who think he's a lunatic.

It is story about a group of Drafters and Anchors who are supposed to pass a major test in order to graduate. Peri's appearance adds a bit of fun and depth to the mix after she hits Silas in the head with a drone. Readers also get to take a peak at the first two chapters of the Drafters, if you so choose. I choose. You should take notice of not only Peri and Silas, but Allen Swift as well. You will be hearing about all three characters, as well as Fran Jacquard real soon.

Published August 10th 2015 by Pocket Star

Niki Hawkes - The Obsessive Bookseller says

[4.5 stars]

This is a MUST READ for the series. :) I loved it!

? Kimberly says

Sideswiped takes the reader back five years before The Drafter begins and introduces us to key players. They are all brilliant college students in their senior year and preparing for final exams. One of those tests involves a mission to retrieve an item in a real world environment. Told from the perspective of Silas we learn about the characters, witness their test and see them band together to change the outcome. We are also introduced to Peri Reed a freshman and she makes a grand entrance which left me with many questions I hope will be answered in the series.

Harrison was clever allowing Silas to tell us their story; He shared his relationships with his fellow students and introduced us to Peri Reed the main character of The Drafter. The idea of drafting, anchors and the

technology are briefly described teasing the reader with tantalizing tidbits. We learn that upon graduation they will have careers as drafters or anchors working for the government. Silas is already a doctor and is working on his thesis. His theory is that drafters are actual shifting sideways in time to alternate versions of reality and not going back in time as the scientist believe.

Events that occur in Sideswiped clearly have a strong impact on Silas, Perri and their friends. A stranger named Fran, introduced near the end hints that there is an alternate path for their careers. It gave me a sense of sides being drawn and I am excited to see what develops.

Copy provided by publisher. This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Jeanny says

Really good stuff. I don't think I'll be disappointed with this series.
-1star cliffhanger

=====
This book counts towards my Girls, Guns and Grimoires Challenges > Book Bingo
Category: ANTHOLOGY OR THREE SHORT STORIES

Meigan says

Quite a departure from the previous world from The Hollows, Kim Harrison's beloved series, which is always a good thing. I love that rather than go the same route with witchy stuff, vampires and shifters, she's created a new and fascinating sci-fi world with a focus on a sort of time-travel. I really appreciate when authors differentiate their series by making them completely different, showcasing their creativity, and this new series is a perfect example.

There were futuristic elements, many interesting gadgets, and a concept involving time-bending, also known as drafting in this new world. Drafters work alongside an anchor and that particular relationship is one that I am really looking forward to learning more about. That, and the drafting itself. Silas, one of the highlighted characters, is working on a thesis trying to prove/disprove various theories involving drafting and one such theory of import is long drafting, the ability to bend bigger increments of time and change things further back than what everyone thinks is possible. Peri Reed, the 'star' of the series, was also introduced and I can already tell that I'm going to like that girl :)

For being so short, Sideswiped had a great amount of character development and really gave a nice glimpse of world and the various elements surrounding the new story. Silas and Peri are really interesting and I can't wait to read more about them in the first book of this series, The Drafter.

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

This was a short story introducing the world of Kim Harrison's new series. The main character was not Peri Reed, but Silas. Silas and his colleagues (and girlfriend) are still in school, but close to graduating. They can

manipulate time and go back very short distances to change events. They meet Peri after an event causes them to fail a major test. It's mainly about Silas and his worries about his future and angst over his girlfriend, Summer.

I don't tend to read many shorts, but this was okay. It introduced the world and the basic sci-fi concepts of their version of time travel. I imagine the first full-length book will have more world-building. I wasn't especially drawn to any of the characters, but it's hard to tell with short stories. Usually they don't do anything for me.

Buddy read with the MacHalo group September 7, 2015. Then, we're diving right into *The Drafter* on the 10th. EXCITED!

La Mala 🍷 says

[SILAS (hide spoiler)]

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Final review, first posted on Fantasy Literature:

At a university for time travelers and those with related talents, called “drafters,” and the people who anchor drafters back to reality after they shift backwards in time, Silas and his drafter girlfriend Summer meet Peri Reed, who is the main character in Kim Harrison’s related 2015 novel, *The Drafter*. Silas is a technical whiz, and is already unhappy about the way the system is treating him, and about his pending forced separation from Summer when she graduates and will go to work for the government with another anchor. When things go wrong during a practical final exam for Summer and some other drafters, Silas is talked into using his computer talents to fix the problem.

Kim Harrison has created an intriguing world, with a very interesting twist on time traveling: those with the talent to draft are limited to rewinding time within a limited geographic area, and can travel back no more than about a minute. While they’re repeating time, they can remember what happened the first time and pursue a different outcome, but once they catch up to the original time, the drafter forgets everything during their drafting period in both timelines, and relies on their anchor to bring them back up to speed.

Conceptually not everything made sense to me; for example, sometimes other people remember the prior reality and sometimes they don’t; the issue is handwaved with the explanation that time is “weird stuff”. Also, most of the characters are pretty one-dimensional, but that’s offset by a fast-paced plot with lots of action. My biggest issue is that this isn’t really a complete story by itself; the key plot threads are left to be resolved in *The Drafter*. This novella cost only 99c, but really it’s just a teaser for the novel and, in my opinion, these kind of stories should be given away for free.

Sideswiped wasn’t compelling enough to motivate me to buy a copy of *The Drafter*, but I’ll probably pick up a copy of it at the library sometime. One of my GR friends, Brad, says that this novella contains some backstory that's important if you're reading *The Drafter*, so readers of the novel may want to keep that in mind.

Steven says

This shorty provided some fun entertainment with a small time travel twist. I wouldn't say it's Kim Harrison's best work, but it sets the stage for an interesting series first novel in *The Drafter*.

I did really like Summer, Silas, and Peri. We'll see how it goes with Peri as the main character in the following book.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

I liked this short story. Can't wait to start the first book!

Bradley says

This isn't fair! This novella needs to be included with the first novel, either as the prologue or the epilogue. It doesn't even have to be one or the other, considering that the novel and the novella are both ripe with time travel, alternate timelines and alternate memories and completely nonlinear even if it takes place at the dawn of the story.

Correction, it takes place after the prologue of the novel, but before the real opening.

Here's the problem, though: Silas and Allen are main characters, and we don't really get to know those two until later in the proper novel, and the fact that they actually knew Peri can be inferred later on, but it is explicit in the novella. Would having such spoilers improve the tale or take away from it? I don't know! But I do know that this novella is almost required reading for all the pieces that fit so perfectly but without much explanation in the real novel.

Like how the time travel works, what theoretical foundation is used, why long draftings isn't normally used and why its so damn dangerous, and we even get the source of Peri's odd little turns of phrases.

It's almost like it was edited out of the novel to improve the impact, but in so doing, it left out some vital pieces of real comprehension for us.

I'm sorry, but I vote for putting it back in. There was a bit of an info-dump, but the tale was still completely self-contained and full of adventure and tragedy. It's very worth reading if you're going to read Kim Harrison's new series. But again, it has spoilers. If you're a purist, read this after the novel even if it takes place before the novel.

If you want to have a solid foundation and foreknowledge of certain important themes coloring your perception of the otherwise greater and claustrophobic tale, then by all means read the novella first.

I am personally very tolerant of spoilers, because then I can reach through and see the greater or more subtle undercurrents without distraction. If you're like me, READ THIS FIRST. :)

Either way, the novella has improved my appreciation of *The Drafter*.

Marianne says

Lots of potential and original world building. However, it did not grab me right away like *The Hollows* did.

Still unsure why this world would choose to educate drafters and anchors (people who can reset and change timelines) and what their true purpose is.

whatever the reason, it's certainly demonstrated how dangerous this line of work can be, when a group of seniors fail their final exam and attempt to correct their mistakes by going back in time - with dire results...

Not entirely convinced, but intrigued enough to want to buy the first novel.

3.5 ?

Jennifer says

Sideswiped was a nice introduction to Kim Harrison's new *The Peri Reed Chronicles* series. It helps set the stage to the world building and terminology. All though **Sideswiped** is told through Silas' POV we do meet Peri, the main character of the series.

I really enjoyed LaVoy's narration. Her voice and performance reminded me of Elisabeth Rodgers, the narrator for Richelle Mead's *Georgina Kincaid* series. I only wish I had **The Drafter** on audio for review but at last, I'll be reading it.
