



Sharp Ends

Joe Abercrombie

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Sharp Ends

Joe Abercrombie

Sharp Ends Joe Abercrombie

Sharp Ends is the ultimate collection of award winning tales and exclusive new short stories from the master of grimdark fantasy, Joe Abercrombie. Violence explodes, treachery abounds, and the words are as deadly as the weapons in this rogue's gallery of side-shows, back-stories, and sharp endings from the world of the First Law.

The Union army may be full of bastards, but there's only one who thinks he can save the day single-handed when the Gurkish come calling: the incomparable Colonel Sand dan Glokta.

Curnden Craw and his dozen are out to recover a mysterious item from beyond the Crinna. Only one small problem: no one seems to know what the item is.

Shevedieh, the self-styled best thief in Styria, lurches from disaster to catastrophe alongside her best friend and greatest enemy, Javre, Lioness of Hoskopp.

And after years of bloodshed, the idealistic chieftain Bethod is desperate to bring peace to the North. There's only one obstacle left - his own lunatic champion, the most feared man in the North: the Bloody-Nine . . .

Sharp Ends Details

Date : Published April 26th 2016 by Orbit

ISBN : 9780316390811

Author : Joe Abercrombie

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Short Stories, Fiction, Anthologies, Dark Fantasy

 [Download Sharp Ends ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sharp Ends ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Sharp Ends Joe Abercrombie

From Reader Review Sharp Ends for online ebook

Athena Shardbearer says

I NEED MORE GLOKTA!!!!

Pablo says

Estoy de bajona.

Como muchos de sus fans tuve un flechazo con Abercrombie y devoré seguidos los 3 tomos de La primera ley (no llegan a 3000 páginas, pero yo a eso lo llamaría pasión igualmente).

Descubrí que existían más novelas ambientadas en el mismo universo y leí La mejor venganza (quizá mi favorita) y Los héroes, haciendo palmas con las orejas al comprobar que, además de ser buenas historias que se disfrutaban por sí mismas, estaban llenas de referencias, cruces de personajes y se complementaban unas a otras.

A continuación me leí la trilogía de Medio mundo, que es una creación independiente pero que merece la pena.

Y llegó Filos mortales.

Estoy de bajona porque a mi entusiasmo inicial de reencontrarme con viejos conocidos le ha ido sustituyendo el aburrimiento y dejar sin terminar de leer algunas de las historias.

Bastantes relatos me parece que están escritos sin motivo que lo justifique, salvo retomar personajes queridos; también siento que se abusa de la introspección fatalista que daba tanto encanto a las novelas anteriores y se ha recurrido a un tono de comedia demasiado insistente para mi gusto.

Voy a leer Tierras rojas, creo que me va a gustar bastante más y me quitará esta dichosa bajona.

Xabi1990 says

Un momento, que me limpio las salpicaduras de sangre y vísceras y vuelvo.

.
. .
.

Un momeeeeeento.....

Ya. (Es que el último relato era de Logen Nuevededos. Costaba limpiárselo todo).

A ver, sigo sin ser amigo de las historias cortas porque los personajes no están suficientemente definidos para mi gusto. Tiene que tener mucha fuerza en la historia para que por sí sola salve el relato.

Pero si ya has leído el resto de libros de Abercrombie este no es sino leer alguna peripecia más de nuestros viejos conocidos. Bueno, y hay varios relatos salteados de Shev y Javre, a quienes no conocía pero me alegro de haberlo hecho.

Que a nadie se le ocurra leer este libro como iniciación con Abercrombie, pero es una agradable lectura tras leer el resto de sus libros del mundo de la Primera Ley.

Dos cosas que me llaman la atención del Sr Joe : lo malhablados y escatológicos que son a veces sus personajes y las cargas de reflexión con que nos atacan, lateralmente, sus historias de personajes fantásticos

pero cercanos, heroicos pero retorcidos, medievales pero con moralidad comprensible.

Lo dicho, no os encantará pero lo disfrutaréis.

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <https://bibliosanctum.com/2016/04/25/...>

The full title of this anthology is actually *Sharp Ends: Stories from the World of the First Law*, so fans of Joe Abercrombie's novels set in this universe should be in for a treat. All thirteen tales in here are set in the Circle of the World, spanning a period that starts about a decade before the beginning of *The Blade Itself* and ends a few years after *Red Country*, and some feature locations and characters that have appeared before in his novels. Most of the stories in here have also been previously published in other places, but here they all are for the first time, collected together in this neat and convenient little package, along with some new content besides.

I must confess here though, that these types of anthologies aren't typically in my scope but of course I had to make an exception for *Sharp Ends* because Abercrombie is one of my favorite authors! When I pick up a collection of short stories, I usually go for those that are made up of standalones and original tales rather than the ones containing shorts/novellas which tie into an existing series' "universe". In general, if I'm going to spend time with characters I already know and in worlds I love, I want my stories with a bit more meat. This, I believe, was my main issue with *Sharp Ends*. Even though I've read all of Abercrombie's novels, which should have put me in a pretty good position to appreciate this anthology (whose stories are all new to me), I didn't enjoy it as much as I had expected. The truth was many of the stories in here left me feeling like there should have been more to them.

To its credit, I really enjoyed how the book was structured, with the stories more or less organized chronologically, so that all together they created something very close to a narrative. If it's possible for this anthology to have "main protagonists", they would most definitely be Shevedieh and Javre, the thief-and-warrior duo who star in many of the stories and when they do they're always the highlights. Their escapades, chronicled in tales such as "Small Kindnesses", "Skipping Town", "Two's Company", "Three's a Crowd" and "Tough Times All Over", create a kind of thread to hold on to as other stories are interspersed throughout the anthology. The two of them are a lot of fun to read about. My favorite is "Two's Company", a free short that was originally published at Tor.com featuring our two heroines trekking through the barren north and encountering the Northman Cracknut Whirrun in the middle of a narrow rope bridge. This one's got everything—action, violence, humor, sex, you name it—and I was not surprised to find out afterwards that Abercrombie had meant for this story to form the spine around which all the other stories are arranged.

With the exception of "Two's Company" though, none of the other tales really resonated with me on their own. Individually, I don't think the rest of Shev and Javre's stories would have jumped out at me either, and only when the five were taken together did they make an impression because I was able to form a connection with the two characters as soon as I determined them to be the heart of this anthology. From their first meeting to their final story together more than a dozen years later, their relationship has weathered through countless adventures, challenges and hardships. In the end, it was a very beautiful and heartfelt moment to see how the two friends have come to be where they are and how they've been good for each other.

Alas, other tales were not so memorable, and there were more of these than I would have liked. Just days after finishing this book, I could barely remember much of what happened in "The Fool Jobs" and "Hell", for example, and there were stories like "Freedom" or "Wrong Place, Wrong Time" which were interesting

but ended in a way that I felt were neither here nor there. Most disappointing were the stories that featured some of my favorite characters in the First Law world, like Sand dan Glokta (in “A Beautiful Bastard”), and of course Shy, who was the protagonist of my favorite Joe Abercrombie book ever, Red Country. I was probably most let down by her story “Some Desperado” especially since it was the one I was most looking forward to, but unfortunately it lacked substance and I just didn’t find it all that compelling.

Still, I have to stress that the majority of the stories in here were decent to good. Among my other favorites were “Yesterday, Near a Village Called Barden” and the unsettling closer “Made a Monster”. Like I said, I’m not an experienced anthology reader so my mixed feelings on this book ultimately came down to personal taste and my too-high expectations because it was Joe A. In fact, reading this book only managed to further sharpen my desire to read another full-length Abercrombie novel (perhaps, even one about the dynamic duo of Shev and Javre? One can dream, I guess...)

Because it would also help immensely to have a bit of knowledge about this world before diving into Sharp Ends, newcomers to Abercrombie’s work will probably want to start with the novels as well, and a great place for that would be the First Law trilogy which I highly recommend. But for those who are already familiar with all those books, if you’re also the type of reader who enjoys checking out all the novellas and/or short stories that are companion to a favorite series, then you’ll definitely love this collection and want it to complete your bookshelf.

Phrynne says

I hardly ever read short stories, preferring my books to be long and full. However I was willing to make an exception for this author especially when I saw that one of his stories was about Glokta! As it turned out it was worth buying the whole book just for that one short story but then there was so much more.

Writing really strong characters is one of Abercrombie's greatest strong points and his tales of Shy, Glokta and Nine Fingers were brilliant back stories. Then he introduced some new (to me anyway) characters in the form of Shev and Javre who really need a full book all of their own.

Bonus stars are due to the audio version with its brilliant narrator and the fact there was an interview with Abercrombie tagged on to the end.

And the best thing is I still have two of the First Law World series to read. Happy me!!!!

Sam says

I'm having trouble rating/reviewing this book. On the one hand, yay! More Joe Abercrombie. On the other hand, I think I'm just not as satisfied by his short stories as I am his books. I totally think this is a personal issue rather than any fault of the anthology itself. I enjoyed the Shev/Javre stories the most and I think this is because they were the characters who reappeared the most throughout. The other stories felt more toss-a-way. Maybe if I had just come off reading the books, they might clue me to a particular scene with a different POV this time or a scene prior to the books (like I'm pretty sure the Bloody Nine one was). Unfortunately it's been too long since I've read his books for me to be able to put it all together myself.

However! The writing is classic Abercrombie and I do think that anyone who loves his books should give this collection a go. It feels like a trailer to a movie I really really want to see. Everything I love, but I'm just being greedy and wanting more. =)

Petrik says

Buddy read with the lovely one, Sarah

3.5/5 Stars

Sharp Ends, the ultimate collection of Tales from the World of First Law by Abercrombie's, is a great dessert to provide insights and more info for most of the previously established characters.

Picture: My complete collection of Joe Abercrombie's 'The First Law' series

There's no way I'm missing any stories in the First Law world, it's one of my favorite series of all time, especially the First Law trilogy.

Unlike most anthologies, there is a sense of structure here because it was done in a chronological order, with a new character, a female duo, Javre and Shev making appearances several times as if they're the main characters.

I'm going to do a super mini spoiler-free review on each story.

A Beautiful Bastard (*Kadir, Spring 566, nine years before the events in 'The Blade Itself'*)

4.5/5 stars

Told from Salem Lew's POV, this is a wonderful short story to start off the anthology by letting us see a glimpse of Sand dan Glokta's life before he became the torturer and the crippled we know. Some other characters from the series are also here in their much younger days, West, Tunny and Valimir specifically. I'm ranking this the second best short stories out of this anthology, I mean c'mon.. it's our beloved torturer here!

Small Kindnesses (*Westport, Autumn 573, two years before the events in 'The Blade Itself'*)

4/5 Stars

The first story and encounter between Javre, the Lioness of Hoskopp and Shevedieh, the thief who tried to find redemption. This is the beginning of the duo I mentioned earlier, very well written and fun to read.

“Kindness always brings kindness in the long run.”

The Fool Jobs (*East of the Crinna, Autumn 574, one year before the events in 'The Blade Itself'*)

3/5 stars

A decent short story in a day of Curnden Crow, one of the main characters from 'The Heroes', together with his crew has been sent on a mission to recover a 'thing'. It's good to see the faces of Crow and his crew once

again but there's nothing worth remembering here other than that.

Skipping Town (*The Near Country, Summer 575, same year with the events in 'The Blade Itself'*)

3/5 stars

Skipping Town is the second story featuring the female duo, Javre and Shev in another day of bad luck and disaster. Like the first short story, it was fun to read, filled with actions, but the problem this time is that it's way too short.

Hell (*Dagoska, Spring 576, same year with the events in 'Before They Are Hanged'*)

3.5/5 stars

I seriously didn't expect to see Temple, one of the main characters in Red Country, in this story. 'Hell' is a short story that takes place in exactly the same event that happened in 'Before They Are Hanged', specifically on the siege of Dagoska. It's a great addition to Temple's character to see how hellish the siege was through his POV back when he was young.

Two's Company (*Somewhere in the North, Summer 576, same year with the events in 'Before They Are Hanged'*)

4/5 stars

Picture: Two's Company by Tommy Arnold

The third story from the female duo, hilarious AF, thoroughly enjoyed reading the encounter between the duo with Cracknut Whirrun.

Wrong Place, Wrong Time (*Styria, 580, same year with the events in 'Best Served Cold'*)

3.5/5 stars

Looking at the repercussion of Monza's vengeance in Styria through the perspective of three random people was a nice touch; the highlight, of course, is to see a bit of Bremer dan Gorst here.

Some Desperado (*The Near Country, Summer 584, same year with the events in 'The Heroes'*)

1.5/5 stars

Meh.. just meh.. I hate Western stories. Shy South, the most boring main character Abercrombie ever wrote is once again the main character here, I sincerely hope in the future Abercrombie doesn't visit this setting or characters on the Western side anymore.

Yesterday, (*Near Barden, Autumn 584, same year with the events in 'The Heroes'*)

3.5/5 stars

Taking place closely before the war that happened in 'The Heroes', once again Abercrombie did a great job

in showing what the effect of war does to both sides. Also, a little insight into Gorst's personality is always a plus in my book.

Three's a Crowd (*Talins, Autumn 587, three years after the events in 'The Heroes'*)

4/5 stars

The fourth story featuring Javre and Shev and this time, it took a different approach from their previous stories. The previous three stories were all hilarious and fun to read, this time we finally get the emotional factors in which how the duo's feeling are explored after their journey for the past 14 years. Also, this story can be said as a little epilogue to 'Best Served Cold' and we get to see some of the familiar faces from the stand alone trilogies making an appearance here.

Freedom (*Averstock, Summer 590, same years with the events in 'Red Country'*)

3/5 stars

Great prose and experiment in Abercrombie's storytelling direction. However, can't bring me to care about the plot, which is a retelling of Averstock liberation in full propaganda and exaggeration about Nicomo Cosca.

Tough Times All Over (*Sipani, Spring 592, two years after the events in 'Red Country'*)

3.5/5 stars

Chronologically, this is the farthest story ever done in the Tales from the First Law world. The fifth and last story featuring the female duo. It happened two years after the end of Red Country in Sipani. Beautiful flow to the story with Abercrombie's trademark consecutive shifting POV's but it's also a bit anticlimactic to Javre and Shev's story.

Made a Monster (*Carleon, Summer 570, five years before the events in 'The Blade Itself'*)

5/5 stars

Told from Bethod's POV about his relationship with Logen and how he tried to gain peace. Exceptional story to close the anthology, definitely the best one out of this anthology, in my opinion, it's thrilling, bittersweet, gory and imbued with some beloved catchphrases by Logen Ninefingers/The Bloody Nine, exactly how a short story should be written, enough said.

“Within reach of his hand, the Bloody-Nine was master”

Sharp Ends: 46/65 Stars

Like all anthologies, there will be some bad one, good and great one, there's no exception here. However, it doesn't change the fact that this is a must read for all The First Law series and Abercrombie's fans. I still can't believe that I won't have any more books from this world to read until maybe 2019. I've read every book Abercrombie has written for the past ten years in The First Law world in less than a year, and other than this anthology, none of the other six full novels received less than 4 stars from me, not to mention that

four of them are in my favorite shelves. Until the new trilogy surfaced, here's one last philosophical quote to end my journey so far in The First Law series.

“But it is easy to speak of the past, impossible to go there.”

You can find this and the rest of my Adult Epic/High Fantasy & Sci-Fi reviews at BookNest

Steve says

I'm a huge fan of Joe Abercrombie, especially of his “First Law” series. This anthology is set in this grimdark world of violence and treachery, and fleshes out many of the much-loved/much-hated characters from the original trilogy and the three stand-alone novels.

My favorites out of the thirteen short stories were:

“A Beautiful Bastard”, the story of Colonel Sand dan Glokta immediately before his was taken captive and tortured by the Gurkish army. My biggest complaint comes with this story, as well: it stops just before Glokta enters the fray, leaving the story mostly untold.

“Yesterday, Near a Village Called Barden”, a story about Bremer dan Gorst, royal observer for the king. This is probably the most touching story I've ever read from Abercrombie.

“Two's Company”, a short story starring Javre and Shev, facing off against Cracknut Wirren on a bridge. Actually, all of the stories with Javre and Shev were very good, and it makes me want to go back and reread Fritz Leiber's Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser series. I think at least one book, possibly even a trilogy, of Javre and Shev would be fantastic!

“Made a Monster”, a story from the perspective of Bethod and how he sees his uncontrollable champion, Logen Ninefingers, the “Bloody Nine”.

The one story I didn't care for, probably because I don't care for the character, was "Freedom". I simply don't like Nicomo Cosca...

Once again, I listened to this as an audiobook, as I've done with all of Joe Abercrombie's books--I haven't actually "read" any of them, only listened. Steven Pacey is simply perfect for narrating this series. His voicing for all of the characters, **every single one**, is amazing. There is no problem figuring out who is speaking, because the characterizations are so distinct.

All in all, the stories weren't bad, but they were mostly just little snippets in a much larger story. And most of them didn't really end, left wide open for the reader to guess at the outcomes. For those that haven't read the original trilogy or the standalone books, reading this anthology would be a waste of time. Knowledge of the characters and events is a **MUST**.

Tracey the Lizard Queen says

Full review at: <http://thequeenofblades.blogspot.co.uk/>

This book contains everything I love about Abercrombie and more. Gritty realism, vulgar language, dark humour, blood, guts, desperation. What more could you ask for? This has had the desired effect and now I feel like I need to go read everything by this author! This is a big problem for me because I've already got books waiting and books I've paused to read other books and now I can't keep up anymore! Dammit.

*I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lee says

Well I am going to keep this review short. Just like the stories in the book.

Overall, pretty average I have to say. It was nice being back in that world, but the stories were pretty bland. There are a couple of stories that follow on from each other, which made the book tolerable. But it certainly showed me that I am not a fan of very short stories. There was really nothing to get your teeth into and felt more like adding some scenes to sell another book.

This is NOT a book to buy to give you an idea of what the First Law world is like, you'd probably never buy the series after reading it. This is definitely a book for fans who want to re-visit the world and would buy toilet paper off Abercrombie if he was jotting notes on it whilst on the can.

It was a flat 3 Star for me.

José says

(Actualización: la colección ya está disponible en español y se titula Filos mortales).

Reseña de todas las historias y de la colección en general en mi blog: [Click aquí](#).

One of my most anticipated reads of 2016 and it didn't disappoint! Joe Abercrombie returns to his dark, brutal and gritty world with thirteen stories that revisit some key moments narrated in his different books, providing detailed background for our old favourites characters: Logen Ninefingers, Glokta, Temple, Shy South, Curnden Craw, Nicomo Cosca, Bremer dan Gorst and more.

But this is much more than a book that provides "fan service" to Abercrombie's acolytes like me because there are five stories that introduced some new (and extremely awesome) characters that will surely play an important role in the second First Law trilogy that Joe's already working on.

If you want to read a brutal story with well rounded characters, then Abercrombie is your pick; there isn't another fantasy author that can write and develop so many different (and despicable) characters and make every single one of them interesting and believable. If you are easily offended with violence, then don't read it because Joe is one sick motherfuck*r that writes shocking stories full of dark humour and violence.

Just a little warning: even though Goodreads lists this book as a standalone novel, I highly recommend to follow the publication order of Abercrombie's works because several of the stories of this collection contain glimpses and references to key events of his previous books, making them a hundred times more enjoyable.

My ratings and brief a comment for each story:

A Beautiful Bastard - ★★★★★: awesome story in which we get to know Sand dan Glokta before his ehm... accident. He is so different from the cynic inquisitor we get to know in The First Law trilogy, and knowing how his encounter with the GURKISH ended up, it is impossible not to pity him.

Small Kindness - ★★★★★: the story that introduced Javre and Shevedieh. It's really funny and an awesome presentation for the new characters of this collection.

The Fools Job - ★★★★★: Curnden Craw and his crew has to recover some magical thingy, the problem is that they don't know how the fuck the thingy looks like. Craw was one of my favourite characters from The Heroes, and seeing him teamed up again with Cracknut Whirrum mutilating people was excellent.

Skipping Town - ★★★★★: the second story of Javre and Shev. I didn't like this one very much because It felt like a filler, but still it's very short and action packed so you won't lose much time reading it.

Hell - ★★★★★: this is the backstory of Temple, the coward lawyer introduced in Red Country. It wasn't one of my favourites, but we get to know certain GURKISH that likes to devour people who is really interesting...

Two's Company - ★★★★★: my favourite story of this collection. Whirrun fighting Javre on a flimsy bridge in the middle of nowhere. This story had me laughing out loud all along, it was brilliant.

Wrong Place, Wrong Time - ★★★★★.5: A story told from the POV of different "innocents" that are caught in the middle of Monza Murcatto's revenge in Best Served Cold. This one was awesome because it provides a different perspective of the events, told from the point of view of common people with their one hopes and dreams. It is one of the finest examples of Joe's characterisation skills.

Some Desperado - ★★★★★: the backstory of Shy South. It wasn't really great and I was about to rate it with three stars, but it had some nice twists full of dark humour at the end that was a lot of fun.

Yesterday, Near a Village Called Barden - ★★★★★.5: another of my favourites. This is like an abridged version of The Heroes (my favourite book by Joe Abercrombie) with Bremer dan Gorst as the main character. Gorst is another awesome character, if you've already read The Heroes you'll know why ;)

Three's a Crowd - ★★★★★: another story of Javre and Shev. It wasn't as exciting as the other ones but it was ok.

Freedom - ★★★★★: hilarious account of the liberation of a city by Nicomo Cosca. In Red Country the despicable (yet adorable) mercenary hires a poor historian to record his "noble" deeds; this story is an extract from the historian book... and as you may expect, it isn't very accurate.

Tough Times all Over - ★★★★★: the last story of Shev and Javre in which every character steal from each other the rare magical thingy that Craw had to recover in the third story (this is only my speculation, but it could be).

Made a Monster - ★★★★★: another of my favourites. This story is very brief and doesn't add much but we get to know how Logen Ninefingers behaved when he was Bethod's champion... they called him the Bloody Nine, so you get the idea. He is really scary in the few pages of this story.

Twelving To Beethoven says

Joe Abercrombie is back into amazing shape with an astonishing, superb, brilliant and uncanny set of short stories. There's not a single one I didn't lurve (well, ok... to be perfectly candid, maybe "Freedom" isn't on the same level as the others, I said "maybe").

Also, the four stories featuring Shev and Javre are sort of a short novel of their own, and they somewhat remind me of Lansdale's Hap and Leonard (and that's a good thing, in case you're wondering).

What I loved the most about "Sharp Ends" is the sandpaper black humour I have so, so, so missed while reading Half a King, Half the World and Half a War.

Here's what I'm talking about...

'That's got it!' And Ninesingers buried the big knife in the table and held the head dangling by one ear, blood still trickling from the hacked-off neck and spattering the floor. The head of Rattleneck's son. He grabbed the slack jaw with his other hand and moved it clumsily up and down while he spoke through his clenched teeth in a piping mockery of a voice.

'I want to go back to my daddy.' And Ninesingers laughed. 'Take me back to Daddy.' And he chuckled. 'I'm scared.' And he sighed, and tossed the head away, and frowned at it as it rolled into the corner.

'Thought that'd be funnier.' And he looked around for something to wipe his hands on, blood-slick to the elbows, but couldn't find anything. 'You reckon Rattleneck'll still want him?'

'What have you done?' whispered Bethod, staring at the thing on the table that hardly looked like it had ever been a man.

And Logen smiled that easy smile he used to have – the smile of a man who'd never entertained a dark purpose – and shrugged.

'Changed my mind.'

You don't find that sort of shite in any of the "Half Wutevah" books, peeps. You just don't.

So anyway, welcome back, Lord Grimdark! You've been missed. Missed heaps, mate.

Bookdragon Sean says

This was a great collection of twisted short stories. It's Abercrombie at his best. I've reviewed each one individually:

A Beautiful Bastard- 5/5- I feel like I've been waiting for this story for a long time. If you've read *The First Law Trilogy* then you'll know what an ugly bastard Glockta is. He was captured by the enemy and tortured to the point of ruination. As a result, he reaps vengeance on the world, but still serves his country. This story is a glimpse of the Glockta we often hear about; it is a few pages about the man before he was destroyed, and it was delightful.

We hear what Glockta has lost, but to see it is another thing entirely. In his youth he was spectacular. He was a war-hero and a natural leader; he was man full of shinning potential:

"But Glockta was an utter bastard. A beautiful, spiteful, masterful, horrible bastard, simultaneously the best and worse man in the union. He was a tower of self-centred self-obsession. An impenetrable fortress of arrogance....."

So he's lost so much, but his ability to trudge through the mud, through the piss and shit of life, speaks a great deal about his character. This was the best story in here, and probably the best sixteen pages Abercrombie has written. Well, at least for me. This book is worth a purchase for this story alone.

Small Kindnesses- 4/5- This was a fairly good one; it focuses on a desperate thief trying to survive in this

cut-throat world. She gets royally fucked over, but a kindness she did saved her life. This is no glorious deed, an act of selfless sacrifice, but a moment of pity for a fellow survivor. It comes back on her at just the right moment, and, Abercrombie again, demonstrates how brutal his characters can be. This is no fun swords and sorcery, but cold bitter grim-dark in all its gruesomeness.

The Fool Jobs- 2/5- This was very much standard fair. A few warriors engage in some banter then they go kill some people. That's pretty much it.

Skipping Town-4/5- I'm really starting to like Javre; she'd be perfect for the bloody-nine:

"The Lioness of Hocksopp never uses the back door! "

She appeared in *Small Kindnesses* and this is the sequel to that story. I really enjoyed this story, a tough female warrior is being haunted by her past; she has left some ancient religious order/ warrior culture and is being hunted for her abandonment. It's a fun read, but I can't help but feel that this character is worthy of her own novel.

Hell- 4/5- A city under siege is a terrible place: it is hell. For Temple, Dagoska has always been his home. Now it's a death trap. And the best thing about this story is seeing it from a fresh perspective. For those of you that don't know, this siege happened during *Before They Were Hanged* and it was brutal. Only the brilliance of Glockta got them through it, and now we get to see the full effects of it on those that live there.

Two's Company-4/5- This was funny, ironic and very, very, witty. Everything I like about Abercrombie's style is in this one. He makes a rivalry between two warriors, one of them Javre again, terribly humorous. He essentially repeated the same situation twice, and in doing so showed the silly nature of this world. Everyone has enemies, sometimes it's a good idea to team up with them and kill bigger enemies.

Wrong Place, Wrong Time-3/5- A whole lot of shit has gone down during the course of Abercrombie's novels, and this story is a glimpse of its effects on the little man. It really isn't a good place to be for the physically weak.

Some Desperado- 4/5- This is an action packed story that is, in essence, an encounter between an outlaw and some bounty hunters. This is told from the point of view of Shy, one of the main characters of *Red Country*. The events of this short story appear to have happened before *Red Country* by her mention of Lamb as a coward, which we know is far from true. He was just holding in a demonic rage.

Yesterday Near a Village Called Barden- 3/5- This, again, showed the effects of war on the little man. And whilst it did depict a few familiar characters, it didn't have a great deal going for it.

Three's a Crowd-3/5- You can only push someone so far, this was a severe case of poetic justice.....

Freedom- 2/5- Abercrombie clearly had fun writing this, but I sure didn't have fun reading it. It's the weakest one in here, but that's just because I hate Nicoma Cosca.

Tough Times All Over- 4/5- This is a very amusing tale that doesn't showcase one rogue but around twelve. We see a mysterious package change hands as each subsequent owner is swindled, robbed, mugged and distorted for it. This takes place in Sippani one of the cities ruled by the Snake of Talins, the protagonist of *Best Served Cold*. The author included a couple of familiar faces from his previous books who personify the meaning of Rogue.

Made a Monster-4/5- This was very revealing. We hear a lot about King Behtod from Logen's perspective, we hear of a man who betrayed his most loyal dog, but we never hear the full truth of it. Logen is a mad man, there's no other way to describe his actions. He is a blood-letter, a man made to create death. He destroys Bethod's peace for no reason, and plunges the North back into war. If I was King, I'd want him dead too. He is too dangerous, too explosive, to have at your side. Logen is far from the victim in all of this. Bethod woke him into the bloody haze of battle-fury, but Logen's the one who refuses to wake up from it.

^This guy (Manu Bennet) would make the perfect Bloody-nine!

This was a great reminder of Abercrombie style, this, along with the rest of the first law world books, are so much better than his recent *Shattered Sea* trilogy.

Jokoloyo says

This is a book about Shev and Javre, plus nostalgic episodes from other stories in First Law Universe.

I think this book is mainly for telling the hilarious stories of Shev and Javre, but because the length is not long enough for novel length book, then book added some chapters of previous First Law stories. The additions have various quality but mainly are for comic relief or showing some characterization of a few characters. My personal favorites of course the appearance of Corporal Tunny.

Maybe Shev and Javre are prepared by the author on this novel for their appearance on next First Law novel(s). I can only hope, but usually my hope is destroyed by an unexpected surprise. We'll see.

PS: After reading Shev & Javre stories, I am encouraged to try other partners stories with different sexual orientation, like *Savage Season*.

Terence says

Sharp Ends revisits stories from the world of the First Law series. It's packed with a variety of tales from ones that have only been mentioned to some that no one knew happened. A slew of characters from The First Law series appear such as Sand dan Glokta, Curnden Craw, Whirrun of Bligh, Temple, Shy, Bremer dan Gorst, Nicomo Cosca, and many others. The book also includes varying stories about new characters Shevedieh the best thief in Styria and Javre the Lioness of Hoskopp.

The stories vary for me in quality. Some I had no interest in like Nicomo Cosca's story. That man drives me nuts. Unfortunately Joe Abercrombie clearly loves him as he's appeared in more of his First Law books than anyone. My personal favorite stories were Glokta's, Bethod's, and Shev and Javre's short story series.

Glokta's tale shows him at his peak from the eyes of Salem Rews. Glokta was very similar to Jezal dan Luthar in *The Blade Itself* except he had strong personal motivation. Glokta was an unbearable personality, but he was quite capable. This tale depicts the events directly prior to the battle in which Glokta was captured by the Gurkish.

Bethod's tale depicted Bethod and his thought process. I think this was the first point of view from Bethod

and he's clearly an intriguing man. It was interesting to witness his absolute fear of Logen Ninesingers and truth be told it makes perfect sense. A man with a murderous split personality that takes over from time to time is a difficult man to deal with.

Shev and Javre's short story adventures were the highlight for me. The two women form an unlikely yet effective team that travels around the circle of the world. Their stories don't merely show different perspectives on events the books described, they are their own separate tales although they come across familiar characters like Shylo Vitari, Whirrun of Bligh, and Monza Murcatto. These two ladies had four of the 13 short stories in the book be completely about them. Javre was easily the more interesting of the two. She's a brute of a woman with big appetites. She seems like she'd be the perfect woman for Logen even when he's the crazy blood thirsty Bloody Nine.

Sharp Ends is a book that's truly meant for people who love the First Law world. I've enjoyed much of the First Law world, but not so much as to reread all of the books written. I imagine if I was more familiar with each book in the series that this book would have greater meaning for me.

?Luna? says

4/5

Buddy read with my lovely friend; Petrik

So my phone kinda deleted all the notes I had written down to write this review. Clearly the world hates me right now.

Also I see a lot of people starting their First Law journey with this Anthology or one of the standalones.. Why do they do this? Please read the series in order so you actually know what's going on.

I'm going to do my review a little differently than I was going to: All novellas in this book apart from **Made a Monster**, gets a solid rating of **four stars**. I really enjoyed all stories in this book, except for **Hell & Some Desperado**, both of them novellas were shit as fuck. Seriously they both get a 0, especially **Some Desperado**, I think Shy South is my most loathed female character ever... Except Monza of course, she's on her own level of hate.

My rating for **Made a Monster** is 100/5.

I was only here for this story and it did not disappoint. The Bloody Nine is a rude prick but his my rude prick and I love him with every inch of my black heart, like I'm prepared to carve his name into my face. (Well maybe not.. but I love him a lot) one of my ultimate fictional characters, some nights I lay awake wishing I was him. When I get into confrontations in real life I think to myself "what would Logen do?" The answer is simple.. He would bite someone's nose off then headbutt them until there was nothing left except a whole bunch of brain splatter and gore... I love my psychotic angel baby ?. One day I hope to achieve my own list of bloody murders just like The Bloody Nine.

Say one thing for Logen, say he is the ultimate character that goes into berserker mode... Because you gotta be realistic about these things.

Ps. Hopefully I can find my real notes and write the actual review I wanted.

Pss. If I don't, that's cool too. I don't really care because I feel this review is sufficient enough.

Conor says

I remember reading one of my friends' reviews for a short story collection where they updated the review as they read each story. Seems like a cool format and a good way to keep track of each story, so here we are.

A Beautiful Bastard: 5 Stars.

Really strong short story. The malicious "practice sessions" led by Glokta and cheered on by his sycophants while a military campaign was conducted (poorly) in the background created a real sense of unease and tension. The characters really stole the show however as Abercrombie once again displayed his genius at characterization. It was really interesting to see the cynical cripple Glokta I had become familiar with from *The First Law* as he had been before his torture: a charismatic lothario, master swordsman and massive knobhead. His conducting of the bloodthirsty circus around the duels made for compelling reading. Tunny from *The Heroes* also had a very interesting cameo that gave an interesting look at the formation of his character. I was also extremely happy to see West make an appearance. He was one of my favourite characters in *The First Law* (view spoiler) and he had a really strong turn here, especially in how his honour and integrity contrasted dramatically to the vicious spectators at the duel and his sparring with Glokta made for some really tense scenes.

Small Kindnesses: 3.5 Stars.

Enjoyable story and Shev a funny and likeable main character. The thievery mission was pretty cool and the confrontation at the end was great. Javre, the deadly and mysterious warrior, Carcolf the charming rogue and Mason the reluctant gang enforcer stood out as really strong secondary characters.

The Fool Jobs: 3.5 Stars.

Read this one before actually. A fun read. It did a nice job of establishing Curnden Crow and his crew from *The Heroes*. Not really necessary as they're set up very well in that book (the prologue was awesome) but cool if you're a fan. The development of Cracknut Whirrun (who was a standout character in *The Heroes*) and his relationship with the rest of the band throughout the story was probably the highlight.

Skipping Town: 3 Stars

The return of Shev and Javre. Plenty of action and sharp dialogue plus some background on Javre. Didn't really add much to the collection though.

Hell: 2 Stars.

Some backstory on Temple from Red Country set amidst the events of *Before They Are Hanged*. Didn't much care about Temple in Red Country and didn't really care here either. Also thought the sacrifice of the priest was really wrung out for all the drama it was worth.

Two's company: 4 Stars.

Shev and Javre seem to be the thread holding this collection together with their frequent appearances. This was another fun short story that was made all the better by the appearance of none other than Cracknut

Whirrun. His sparring with Javre made for some really amusing scenes, Shev provide top bantz as the narrator and there was yet more exciting action.

Wrong Place, Wrong time: 3 Stars.

This short story in this collection of short stories was itself a collection of 3 short stories. Are you still following me? Feel free to read over that sentence a few times to wrap your head around it. Anyway these stories depicted the lives of 3 average people caught in the crossfire of Monza's revenge in Best Served Cold. Had the latter portions of that book not already driven the horror's inflicted on the world by Monza's quest for revenge then this would have been a far more impactful and shocking read. As it is it is (the fuck did I just type) just an awkward, belated addition to a beautifully handled story arc (in Best Served Cold the reader gradually goes from excited that the "hero" is taking her revenge, to uneasy at how it is being accomplished, to horrified as the brutal realities of the situation became apparent).

Some Desperado: 3 Stars.

Backstory on Shy from Red Country. As with Temple in his story I didn't care much for the character in that book and I still don't care much here. Shy is really just another iteration of Abercrombie's beloved "tough, stubborn warrior woman" trope that is so jarringly inconsistent with his otherwise gritty, realistic world. Shy's best parts in Red Country revolved around her developing (or unraveling) relationship with "Lamb" who wasn't present here.

Yesterday, near a village called Barden: 5 Stars.

A slice of what made The Heroes one of my all-time favourite reads. Abercrombie has a genius for depicting both sides of a war in a sympathetic and engaging manner. One of my favourite characters from The Heroes, Bremer, also had a great turn here. Overall this was a brilliantly written tale that showed both sides of the build-up to a raid and told a tense, compelling story filled with stupidity, genius, cowardice, heroism and dumb luck.

Three's a Crowd: 5 Stars.

'Got himself demoted again,' said Forest. 'Over a goose and a whore, would you believe.'

'She was worth it,' said Tunny. 'And the whore wasn't bad, either.'

The strongest Shev/Javre story in the collection. This one takes place much later on than the others and a lot has apparently happened in that time. The other stories following this duo were fun and exciting but lacked any real depth. This story however really delves into the relationships between Javre and Shev and Shev and Carcolf (the enigmantic con-woman who makes her return after appearing previously in the first story). We see how Shev and Javre had drifted apart over the years but how deep their ties of friendship still run. Shev's relationship with Carcolf was also brilliantly written. The last scene, where Shev comes to realize Carcolf has been lying to her and manipulating her all along, was really powerful with a great ending. Also as you saw in the quote above Tunny and friends have a brief, and hilarious cameo.

Freedom!: 3 Stars.

What can my unworthy pen set down upon the subject of that great heart, that good friend, that magnificent presence, that dauntless explorer, proud statesman, peerless swordsman, accomplished lover, occasional sea captain, amateur sculptor of renown, noted connoisseur, champion short-distance swimmer and warrior poet, the famous soldier of fortune, Nicomo Cosca?

This was a short story presented as the (dramatic and flamboyant) account written by a historian of one of Nicomo Cosca's campaign. It was amusing in places, and Cosca's post script at the end provided a beautiful punch-line but the style definitely dragged, even with the short length of the piece. I'm pretty sure the events covered were actually part of Temple's story in Red Country but I've forgotten that whole section. Had I remembered it better this account might have been more interesting.

Tough Times All Over: 3 Stars.

This was a short story with an interesting concept as we followed a package through the perspective of the people who received it/stole it/killed for it in turn. However the lack of time to develop any of the characters ultimately limited the story. Shev, Jevediah and Carcolf returned but both were very disappointing. After the drama and revelation in their previous story it was jarring to see them all return almost exactly to their previous roles. I honestly had to double check that this story was chronological as it would have made far more sense before their last story. (view spoiler) The highlight of this story was easily a quick POV from Friendly, everyone's favourite the anti-social mathematical savant and enforcer. I also liked the brief POV of the pickpocket girl. Would like to see more from her.

Made A Monster: 4 Stars.

This short story provided an insight into the relationship between Logen and Bethod. Like "Wrong place, wrong time" this story would have been an incredible revelation except it's central thrust (that Logen, or at least his alter-ego the Bloody Nine is actually a massive dickhead) was already covered pretty thoroughly in the last book of the trilogy. Bethod's conversation with his young sons and wife were really nicely done, they really developed Bethod as a sympathetic character while outlining his plans for the North.

Azumi says

Ha sido una alegría volver a reencontrarme con viejos conocidos como Whirrum, Shy, Gorst, Glotka, Cosca, Logen y los norteños y muchos más en estos relatos llenos de asesinos, timadores, traiciones, peleas, escaramuzas y filos de hachas y espadas.

Mis relatos preferidos:

Trabajos ridículos: Me ha encantado el humor negro que destila el relato. Craw y sus secuaces haciendo un trabajito.

Lugar equivocado, momento equivocado: Revivimos desde otros puntos de vista de gente desconocida, los hechos narrados en La Mejor Venganza.

Ayer, cerca de una aldea llamada Barden: Con Bremer Dan Gorst como protagonista y ambientado en las batallas narradas en Los Héroes.

Libertad: Este tiene de protagonista a Nicomo Cosca, y leemos un extracto de la crónica que encarga que le escriban en Tierras Rojas, sobre sus heroicas hazañas y su encantadora personalidad.

En todas partes cuecen habas: Con ese misterioso paquete pasando de mano en mano

Creando un monstruo: Con Logen Nuevededos en su máximo esplendor.

Shev y Javre han sido todo un descubrimiento como personajes, y me encantaría un libro entero con ellas de protagonistas en el Mundo de la Primera Ley.

Si te gusta Abercrombie y su saga de la Primera Ley, te gustará ;D

Scott Hitchcock says

I wonder after reading the four singles if I would have liked the trilogy as much. I tend to think I wouldn't. JA's writing style was fresh for me then. It's quirky and interesting but not smooth by any means. I've bored over time of his story telling. It can be good in parts but then boring as hell in others.

This 7th book reflected all of that. Some of the shorts I really enjoyed. Others I hated. Some like Glotka's story I wanted to see beyond where it ended. I found Shev and Javre's stories the best in this volume.

It will probably be awhile before I take on Shattered Sea. I need a break before I think I can enjoy his writing again.

Milda Page Runner says

Loved it. As expected with short story collection it is a bit of a mixed bag: most stories are good and some are awesome but inevitably there are a few that I didn't care for. Hence the 4*.

Highly recommend to Abercrombie fans and readers familiar with the First Law world. I wouldn't recommend for the new readers – whilst some stories would work, majority would lose too much without the context.

Here are few sentences about each story as I've read them:

Beautiful Bastard - 3* Nice insight to how Glokta became the person he is in The First Law trilogy. But not particularly exciting story.

Small Kindnesses - 5* Story introducing Shev and Jarve, telling us how they first met. And this Abercrombie we know and love: one moment you are snickering, another wincing in compassion, third - laughing out loud at the puns and then quietly admiring how cleverly it turns around and points back to the start.

The Fool Jobs - 5 laugh out loud bloody stars.

"And this thing we've got to bring her. What sort of a thing is it, exactly?"

'Well, it's a thing,' said Raubin.

'That much we know.'

'Sort of... this long, I guess. She didn't say, precisely.'

'Unspecific, was she?' asked Wonderful, grinning with every tooth.

'She said it'd have a kind of a light about it.'

'A light?' asked Crow. 'What? Like a magic bloody candle?'"

Skipping Town - 5* Another short story with Shevedieh and Javre. Love these two – the story is more of a comedy than grim-dark.

Hell - 4* Got to admire diversity of Abercrombie's writing: whilst previous two stories were full of irony and

humour, this one is truly dark, filled with guilt and horror. P.S. as the magical creatures go Eaters are totally OP.

Two's Company - 5* I loved it before and I loved it again. Dialogues are simply hilarious.

Wrong Place, Wrong Time - 4* This story won't make much sense for people who haven't read Best Served Cold. It consist of 3 stories in itself - of 3 random bystanders unfortunate enough to get caught in a path of Monza Murcato hurricane of revenge. First two didn't do much for me, but I loved the last one and especially the irony of the ending.

Some Desperado - 5* A western, a mad chase, a turmoil of events where a comedy is closely followed by brutality of pointless death, and disaster by a bout of luck, and mindless lashing out by a moment to reflect and philosophise. And when the story makes a circle and the end points back at the beginning - Oh the irony of it all.

Abercrombie at his best."

Yesterday, Near a Village Called Barden - 5* Whenever I read about Bremer dan Gorst I always picture Vin Diesel with the squeaky girly voice *snickers*.

A good story – it reminded me of The Heroes some – a skirmish between the Union and Bethod's northmen, with some really comic events in the midst, that had me laughing for 2 min straight.

Three's a Crowd - 4* Another story about Shev and Javre – not as comic as the previous ones, but with more depth, feelings and background.

It was nice to get a glimpse of Monza Murcato, and to find out about Shev's encounters with Shivers and Bloody Nine. Made me fell nostalgic.

Freedom - 2* This story won't make much sense if you haven't read Red Country. A spectacularly fake report about Nicomo Cosca and his sell swords "liberating" town of Averstock. It's fascinating how radically different Abercrombie's writing can be, when representing different characters, but other than that, this story didn't do much for me.

Tough Times all Over - 3* Bloody Hell! And we don't even know what's in that package. Argh!

We follow the stolen package as it changes hands from one thief to the other. Some familiar faces here and those - I cared about, but not so much for the others. I love the idea but the story didn't do much for me.

Made a Monster - 5* Damn! I'm speechless. It's one of those moments where Abercrombie lulls you with philosophy and hopes and pretty writing and then bangs you over the head with brutal reality.

Disturbing.

Gah! Need to go sit down in a quiet corner... It's strong. I can see why this is the last story in the book.
