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Clean Sweep



Synopsis

On the outside, Dina Demille is the epitome of normal. She runs a quaint Victorian Bed and Breakfast in a small Texas town, owns a Shih Tzu named Beast, and is a perfect neighbor, whose biggest problem should be what to serve her guests for breakfast. But Dina is...different: Her broom is a deadly weapon; her Inn is magic and thinks for itself. Meant to be a lodging for otherworldly visitors, the only permanent guest is a retired Galactic aristocrat who can't leave the grounds because she's responsible for the deaths of millions and someone might shoot her on sight. Under the circumstances, "normal" is a bit of a stretch for Dina. And now, something with wicked claws and deepwater teeth has begun to hunt at night....Feeling responsible for her neighbors, Dina decides to get involved. Before long, she has to juggle dealing with the annoyingly attractive, ex-military, new neighbor, Sean Evans - an alpha-strain werewolf - and the equally arresting cosmic vampire soldier, Arland, while trying to keep her inn and its guests safe. But the enemy she's facing is unlike anything she's ever encountered before. It's smart, vicious, and lethal, and putting herself between this creature and her neighbors might just cost her everything.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Note reviewing Book 1 and 2 together: Wow this series has the potential of being a great sci-fi series. The concept of the Inn and Innkeepers being the contact point for alien connection is wonderful. The concept of Vampires merely being an alien Warrior race who are entombed as they travel in space is genius. The physic-defying and the world dimension crossing abilities of the Inn and the Inn-keeper is a great world-building concept and can be the starting point of a great series.

In fact, halfway through the second book during the peace treaty between the 3 alien species, I was reminded of one of my favorite sci-fi book of all time, A Civil Campaign (Vorkosigan Saga Book 12) by Hugo and Nebula winner Lois McMaster Bujold. This book is about a dinner planned by the Miles Vorkosigan to impress the woman he loves. A dinner so fraught with disaster that it keeps the reader laughing with tears. Remember the butter bugs. I try to read this book at least once a year. Andrews' story had the same juggling disasters of three completely different races. The second book ends in a sacrifice that brings this story to a deeply emotional conclusion. I love the illustrations. Usually found in only YA books, this particular artist brought the story alive with his/her detailed images. I just wish he had illustrated the crazy chef. I wish, however, that the authors would spend more time in their great world building and alien descriptions, and less time in detailing every male that appears in the book as a protagonist in a bodice-ripping novel. OK, we get it, every male in this book, except the crazy cook, has the body of the Rock. It cheapens the story. Cutting back on these details could propel this book into a more sophisticated storyline.

It was tortuously fun reading Clean Sweep in its originally serial form on the authors' blog - it was hard to wait for the next episode but a great little treat every time a new chapter would post - but this story was every bit as enjoyable in its new 'instant gratification' format. One of the things that made Clean Sweep so good (and it's why pretty much all of the Andrews' stories are among my top favorites) is that the characters and the world building are so well done. I loved the 'Inkeeper' Dina (and her magic broom), there is such a normality to this character who steps in to do the 'right' thing when trouble from another dimension puts her neighbors in peril - even though she has to bend the rules a bit to do it. Also great are the Inn's sole scary guest, Dina's werewolf SEAL veteran neighbor, and a honor bound vampire Knight who all have origins that are out of this world. This version of Clean Sweep also has some lovely illustrations (I am going to have to pull out my tablet to look at them in color) and a new epilog which adds a nice final note to the story - while still leaving things open for the sequel which is supposedly coming in early 2014 (hopefully as a serial again.) (I received a review copy of this from the authors but also purchased additional copy for my keeper shelf)

I have become a pretty big fan of this duo's Kate Daniels novels, so I thought I would try this one out. It was pleasantly surprising. I don't think it is as...compelling in the vein of Kate Daniels, but it has its own charm. This is not as straight forward in the urban fantasy genre as the Daniels novels, and is in a way closer to science fiction. I am not going to delve deeply into the plot, but in a

nutshell this is book one of a series centered around a young "human" woman (I say human because though she is referred to as human she has some magical powers whose origin is just accepted at face value but not really explained) who lives in Texas and runs what is essentially a semi-sentient B&B that is part of a larger network of similar entities spread across the universe referred to as "inns" that host guests and for which the protagonist is the "Innkeeper." Throw in some missing parents, space werewolves, space vampires, and...well, there you are. It sounds weird, and it is, but if you are a fan of their other work and looking for a light, fun read that is probably unlike most other novels in the same literary family there is a good chance you will enjoy this.

I just couldn't stay interested. The plot is excellent. The innkeeper is a great role. I liked the strong female who could out power all the big bad alpha dudes. There was just too much information, imho. Too much descriptive of the world, the weapons, races, history, etc...it's a lot to absorb when reading a book but to be expected of an epic fantasy series. I might continue but the right mood would have to hit. I read the sneak peek of book 2 and it involves her brother which caught my interest.

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