



Small Wars

Matt Wallace

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The Sin du Jour procurement team has been tasked with acquiring a substantial cache of rare Welsh gold for a rather important event, but when they stumble upon rivals factions of the smallest warriors they've ever encountered, they'll need to bring out the big guns if they're to survive.

Small Wars Details

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From Reader Review Small Wars for online ebook

carol. says

<http://www.tor.com/2016/01/19/small-w...>

The procurement team from Sin de Jour, an exclusive catering and hosting company, are back, traveling to Wales in search of some rare gold, perfect for celebrating goblin nuptials.

While I love the idea of the *specialized* restaurant, this installment from Tor doesn't work as well as the novella *Envy of Angels*. Events during the current mission are interrupted with backstory on team members, changing both location and time. Essentially a short-short story within a story, it causes a serious problem with flow. It also means that with a five member team, we aren't learning about the members soon enough to care. For those that read *Envy*, it is also disconcerting because Moon is lacking a *critical* piece of equipment seen in the earlier story.

(view spoiler)

Still, characters are created fast, and the magic used by the gnomes was fabulously creative. I'll continue to look for more from Wallace, but will tone down expectations.

Michael Hicks says

SMALL WARS is a short story set in author Matt Wallace's fresh, new Sin du Jour series. In ENVY OF ANGELS we were introduced to the culinary crew manning the lines and concocting crazy creations for the Sin du Jour catering company, and got a good glimpse at the adventures of the procurement team responsible for tracking down the rare ingredients necessary to feed demonic hordes.

SMALL WARS gives us a larger look at the procurement team, headed up by Ritter, as his band of recipe-minded mercenaries take a hop across the pond and venture into the abandoned mines of Scotland in search for gold. When they run afoul of some tiny adversaries, things go south quick.

At less than 40 pages, this story is a rapid-fire read, and it continues on in the lighthearted, good-natured tone of Wallace's prior Sin du Jour novel. It's comical and action-packed, never taking itself too seriously while still maintaining a peculiar and respectful sensibility. The best part is that it gives readers a deeper insight into the men and women that make Sin du Jour run, treating us to snippets of each crew's history and how they were recruited by Ritter. Fun stuff! This story serves to give a bit more depth to Wallace's world, filling in some of the gaps in character narratives while we wait for book 2, LUSTLOCKED, to drop in a few days.

If you enjoyed ENVY OF ANGELS, or are looking for a small taste of what this series is about, SMALL WARS is a fine place to begin.

Angie says

My Review: This is a short novella about how the team obtained the special ingredient needed for the event in book 2. I found this totally entertaining. I love reading about Ritter's team and the crazy hoops they have

to jump through to get these ingredients and this one was so creative and entertaining.

Kaitlin says

Again this is a short which was included at the end of book #2 for the Sin du Jour series and it's a small tale about the procurement of Welsh Gold and the tiny guardians who watch over it. It's a bit of a laugh with some good moments although fairly forgettable I'd imagine in the end. 2.5*s

Mitch says

This is meant to be read either simultaneously with Lustlocked or right after. It explains how Ritter's crew obtains the welsh gold for the wedding. There is more fleshing out of Ritters crew, but it is still too vague. The ending was also much too rushed. This would have benefited from a longer story.

Kaleb says

Sin du Jour is quickly becoming one of my favorite urban fantasy series. I especially admire the opportunity to become better acquainted with Sin du Jour's procurement team. Ritter and the gang make for a fine group of characters with good chemistry and I can't help but chuckle at every interaction they share. Cindy is a fucking boss and I see Moon in a completely different light after this story! If this is any indication of what's to come in the next book, I cannot wait for Lustlocked!

Jasmine says

The restaurant industry will chew you up and spit you out. Yes, including the magical restaurant industry. Especially the magical restaurant agency.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

2.5 stars. Review first posted on www.FantasyLiterature.com:

This short story from Tor.com follows the first book in Matt Wallace's **Sin du Jour** urban fantasy series, Envy of Angels, which tells the story of two out of work New York City chefs, Lena and Darren, who are thrilled to get jobs with Sin du Jour, an exclusive catering company. But they soon find out that the clients of Sin du Jour are also an exclusive group: demons and goblins, who have very demanding taste buds and a predilection for highly unusual dishes.

In order to create these dishes, Sin du Jour has a "stocking and receiving team" that will go to almost any lengths to obtain the rare ingredients necessary for the recipes that will keep the demons satisfied ... and non-murderous. The team members have various talents, including sword-fighting, taste-testing deadly

foods, and magical alchemy powers:

After having his beverage service cut off less than two hours after takeoff, Ryland began requesting cups of water and changing them into white wine.

The only reason they weren't all detained upon arrival was because, when confronted, the air marshal couldn't find any hidden supply [of] alcohol or a corresponding empty vessel.

“Small Wars” follows this ingredient-hunting team on one of its expeditions to Wales, searching for Welsh gold to use in a recipe, “[b]ecause it’s the rarest in the world and it’s a royal goblin wedding. They want the best.” When the team blasts a hole in an abandoned gold mine and enters, they unexpectedly run afoul of some extremely small but dangerous gnomes and leprechauns, who split up the team and force them to participate in their deadly turf war.

There's both humor and poignancy in this story of how various misfits came together to form a team, reflected also in their experiences in the violent, waning underground world of the gnomes and leprechauns. Ultimately, “Small Wars” feels a bit too episodic: it's not really a complete story by itself, but a piece of a larger tale. I think it would be preferable to start with *Envy of Angels* rather than here if you want to check out the **Sin du Jour** series and Wallace's humorous, gritty writing (short excerpts from both *Envy of Angels* and the second book in the series, *Lustlocked*, which follows “Small Wars,” are also on Tor.com). However, “Small Wars” works reasonably well as a stand-alone story and has the benefit of providing a freebie introduction to this urban fantasy world.

By the way, the excerpt from *Lustlocked* on Tor.com has a cameo appearance from a recently lost, beloved icon as the goblin king who is insisting on Welsh gold for his son's wedding--it's both hilarious and touching.

Read online at [Tor.com](#).

Content advisory: fairly frequent F-bombs.

Ashley says

Utterly fantastic. I almost think I'd recommend reading this before jumping into the novellas. Even more of a Ritter crew superfan!

Eon ?Windrunner? says

4 *it sucks being small* stars.

Read and find out ;)

“Small Wars” is up on [Tor.com](#) and you can read it right now for free

Tim Martin says

I began this short story not knowing that it was connected to other tales in this modern urban fantasy setting and while it didn't really impact my enjoyment of the story not having read them, I think it might have helped. Certainly, I could see the author writing more stories with this setting and group.

The story is easy to nutshell, centering around the procurement team for Sin du Jour, a restaurant that caters to the highly specific tastes of its supernatural clientele. In this case, the team is in Wales looking for Welsh gold, a traditional food apparently in goblin weddings.

The team has a mixture of mundane skills (non-supernatural, such as explosives) and decidedly supernatural abilities (which I won't reveal here), abilities put to the test when not one but two different types of creatures come to oppose the procurement team in Wales (which I will spoil, as I saw some reviews did; leprechauns and gnomes).

The short story had a bit of an odd format, with stories within the short story showing how some team members were recruited with glimpses into their past lives. One worked pretty well, that of Cindy, former soldier, while another didn't work quite as well for me, though I believe from what I have read since then this character is better fleshed out in other tales of the Sin du Jour series.

I liked the idea of the story, the team was small and interesting enough to keep track of and care about, the pacing was very fast and easy to read, and there was some innovative and well described fantasy combat. I thought the ending might have been tweaked some. I may track some more down of this series.

Jokoloyo says

Surprisingly for me, this story is not funny in general. Only at the beginning story I had smiles at the jokes. But after that, it is a pretty dark fantasy. As if it is a fan-fiction that using Sin du Jour characters.

Mikhail says

Call it a 2.5. A quick little short story I found on Tor, interesting enough that I'll look into the main series.

Badseedgirl says

A great little story to introduce readers to what appears to be an interesting urban fantasy.

R.T. Ewell says

Ritter & The Gang!

I loved Envy Of Angels which I just finished a few weeks ago. To my surprise another story in the series was just around the corner!

This story doesn't actually take place at Sin Du Jour, it follows Ritter, Head Of Stocking & Receiving at Sin Du Jour and his team on one of their missions.

The best part of this was that we got to learn more about everyone which is scattered throughout a unique story with humor sprinkled within.

Small Wars is a fun, fast, story that will hold us until the sequel to Sin Du Jour which is much anticipated. Matt Wallace really has some special with the world he has created.
