



Bring the Fire

Craig Schaefer

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“We brought you here to answer a single question. God is dead. Vanessa Roth and Marie Reinhart are responsible. We want to know how they did it.”

That was where the story began. This is where it all ends.

Believing her lover has been killed, Nessa — the living archetype of the wicked witch and a fairy tale brought to murderous life — flies across the Mojave Desert on a mission of vengeance. Meanwhile, Marie is stranded on a dystopian parallel Earth, forced to confront her own dark side as she comes face to face with the architect of an insidious plot. Their quest will take them from candlelit caverns to a bloody, rain-soaked gunfight in the heart of the Vegas Strip; from the ruins of an ancient occult battlefield, where unspeakable creatures prowl derelict warships, to the very gates of heaven.

Nessa and Marie are characters from the first story ever told, trapped in an endless cycle of tragedy, death, and rebirth. But not this time. They’re hunting for their creator, for the answers and for the justice they’ve been denied. They’re hunting for their happily-ever-after, determined to rewrite their story’s ending once and for all. And God help anyone who stands in their way.

Bring the Fire Details

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From Reader Review Bring the Fire for online ebook

Vigasia says

Couldn't be less than 5 stars. Amazing finish to my favourite trilogy. There was some interesting plot twists, sad and happy moments, lot of blood and of course a non stop action. Finish wasn't what I thought it would be, but Craig didn't disappoint and wrapped everything up with style. This trilogy is over, but there's so much to the story I can't believe we won't see some aspect of it in next Daniel Faust and Harmony Black books, mostly because they took huge part in what happened in Wisdom's Grave.

Val Moss says

Amazingly Good

THAT. WAS. AMAZING!!! I loved every word. If you've been reading this trilogy, this book is everything you want and more. If you haven't picked it up yet, what are you waiting for? It's a fun, fast, incredible ride. You can't.....won't put it down and this book is the absolute best ever!!

Michael Davis says

Great stuff! Often times, trilogies and other long tales feel the need to make each ending, each milestone, each build wilder and bigger and crazier and more grandiose than the last. This one certainly had elements of all those, but also made sense in a way that I've never experienced before.

Combining and crossing the multiple worlds Schaefer has written in and about over the past several years was masterfully done, and makes me want to read the next part in the cycle - whatever form it takes - as soon as possible.

Laura says

Wow.

Wow. Awesome shoring up of storytelling threads. Really enjoyed the concepts of gods and angels and witches...the stories of POWER. Well done.

cultureulterior - says

Finally, an author with a successful multiverse!

Dayanara Ryelle says

Dear, sweet Mother Goddess, that evil genius has done it again.

I don't know if this was everything I was hoping for, because I don't know what I was hoping for. Probably yes, because I imagine I was hoping for another Craig barnburner and got it in spades.

Three more of his books to go...have to stop and take a breather before I burn out, though.

Lukasz says

I'm going to cut to the chase - if you follow The Wisdom's Grave series, **drop everything and read it**. If you follow Faust or Harmony Black series, drop everything and read it.

Craig Schaefer has outdone himself. There are twists that twist the twists. When you lose hope, he gives it back to you just to take it away moments later.

The book's resolution will have a huge impact on the whole Schaefer's shared universe.

Bring the Fire is amazing. I loved the ending and I can't wait to see what happens next in Faust and Harmony's series.

Mr. Schaefer - you're a brilliant and evil man.

Don Goodrum says

This book, in fact this whole trilogy is just SOOOO good. I began reading Craig Schaefer with the Daniel Faust books and continued on through the Revanche Cycle and the Harmony Black books and the Wisdom's Grave books are such a testament to what a truly great writer Schaefer has become. Nessa and Marie are The Witch and the Knight, two of the characters in the First Story, written by the Creator to be reborn, over and over in an effort to redeem the world and what it was meant to be. Schaefer began laying the groundwork for this series back in the Faust books when Faust was arbitrarily named The Thief in an effort to enable the real Thief to escape the consequences of The Story and Schaefer has sent the narrative rolling slowly downhill, picking up speed and detail, becoming bigger and more complicated, until the fate of the whole Multiverse is at stake. Nessa herself is not a particularly likeable hero, but Marie grounds her and together they set out to kill God Himself, if that's what it takes to end the cycle of death and reincarnation and rebirth that has so far defined their lives. It's a wild, crazy story that delights and surprises on every page. I can't wait to see what comes next.

Amber says

Magnificent!!!

I'm a huge fan of Schaefer's, and I love his books and this amazing interconnected world peopled by incredible characters that he's created.

This, though, is his best work yet. The Wisdom's Grave trilogy is a vital turning point in this epic story he's telling, and he has done an absolutely magnificent job here. This is the kind of story that keeps you reading late into the night and makes other aspects of life infuriating interruptions.

Don't start here, though. You won't know everybody or get all the jokes or know why it all matters so damn much. I recommend starting with the Revanche Cycle, but you can start with Daniel Faust if you prefer modern urban fantasy. Sure, it'll look like a lot of books and a big commitment, but I tell you now that it is a fantastic ride and you'll love every second of it.

Cheers, Craig! What's next?

Krystle Bertram says

Such an amazing book

This book was so good. I feel in love with Nessa and Marie from the first moment I met them. I'm sad to have reached the end but the journey was worth it.

Matthew says

Thanks to my friend Julia for recommending this series. I gobbled them up eagerly, and now I'm on to the other books in this multiverse. Perhaps that's not the best order in which to read them, but it's a bit too late, and also I don't give a shit. Craig Schaefer is the newest member of my pantheon of favorite authors, alongside folks like Mercedes Lackey and Robert Jordan. Really fucking good stuff.

Jessica Lino says

O. M. G. Definitely needs more than 5 stars

I'm just speechless. But in a wonderful, seriously in awe kind of way.

This particular series of Schaefer's was almost more enjoyable than Harmony's. I mean just wow. Not only did we find Wisdom's Grave we found answers to sooooo many lingering questions I had about the World that the author created that encompassed Harmony Black and Daniel Faust. We also got answers to questions that I stopped wondering about! After reading Neon Boneyard, I questioned what the author's intentions were because the series was getting old and stale and I felt like the whole Network thing was on top of the Courts of Hell thing was doing too much. Boy am I glad that I stuck it out!!

The way it all ends paved the way for all the characters to come together in a new and fresh way. It's too bad Jennifer didn't come to party, but everything else was sooooo worth it. I mean we learned about "God" and "Lucifer" in the terms we know them to be and got to understand their purpose in this world as well.

I. Ca. Not. Wait. To Read. What. Happens. Next!

Melissa says

I finished this last night and I'm still reeling. There were so many twists in the story that I never knew what was going to happen next (and I'm generally pretty good at guessing these things). I am sure that I missed things, having not read the entirety of the Harmony and Daniel books, but every second of this ride was amazing. I don't know how Craig Schaefer can keep so many side plots and mysteries straight, but he did and the outcome was worth the wait.

Glitchlight says

Summary: Good pulpy novels with flashes of something truly great that ultimately doesn't come to pass.

Note: this review is inclusive of both Detonation Boulevard and Bring the Fire, as these two books are clearly of a set.

Reviews of books like this are the most difficult to write, the 3 to 4 star range of quality, a solid showing mechanically that can only be docked points for subjective reception. I can't claim to know Schaefer's thoughts, but these books feel like pulp, and unabashedly so. Yet even as a lover of pulpy novels I'm left a little disappointed at the end.

The good? It's got an interesting cosmology, good character dynamics, snappy dialogue, good action, ensemble characters that're compelling. But most compelling of all is a deeply feminist, deeply queer reading of what stories mean to women in a society steeped in misogyny; what does it mean to be a witch, a knight, a lover. All these labels women carry like so many scars and masks.

That is the framework of something truly deeply engaging, and yet, it's sadly used mostly as dressing for a fairly conventional plot. There's dimension hopping and demons and fallen angels (not the same), but none of that really seems to matter beyond motivation to move between action set pieces and character moments. There's a profound disinterest in exploring other worlds that show up in the story, lengthy exposition dumps near the end where they don't matter (at one point I literally rolled my eyes and said to myself "This is so boring and I don't care"), and unnecessary focus on ensemble characters in Schaefer's universe that don't need to be in the story and add little to it beyond serving as a plot conveyor.

Schaefer knows gay women, and consulted them when writing this. But Schaefer is not a gay woman (to my knowledge) and that changes the potential of that narrative. A romance between women written by gay women will always resonate more to gay women than the best story written by a man, no matter how much he consults. There's ways to how women love each other and live together than go deeper than an ability to explain; it's something that permeates a story on a deep fundamental level in a way this story lacks. It's the difference between a photograph of a place and going there for yourself.

The books are good, everything considered. It's good and it's fun, and it has a good ending, well, good-ish. The plot's a little formula at places. I don't know when "lesbians killing god" became routine but as fun as that narrative is you can only read it so many times. The action trilogy creep was a little meh, and I swear only a man could literally make a story about lesbians fighting against cosmically systemic misogyny with

deep personal character arcs across thousands of lifetimes and decide “yeah but this needs a cool wizard gangster dude who fucks a demon”

Perhaps I'm more critical of this simply because it has great potential, and sparks of something truly brilliant. But I'm also like, a radical transgender lesbian so my opinion's kind of outside the norm and just as some pulpy fun novels, they're good.

Amy says

This trilogy is so fuckin fantastic, it combines a bunch of my favorite things in a unique, entertaining, imaginative way. Anti-heros, morally gray characters, magic, scifi, parallel universes, reincarnation, gods/goddesses/angels/demons/creatures of immense power, interesing world(s)building, fascinating characters, and the story! I love how it took some turns I didn't expect and resolved wonderfully -- answered a lot of questions, left some open, and was overall very satisfying. AND there are a bunch more books in the overall series! Can't wait to get my (perfectly normal, not at all wiggly) fingers on them ?
