



Nine by Night

S.M. Reine , C.J. Ellisson , Lindsay Buroker , Anthea Sharp , Boone Brux , J.C. Andrijeski , Annie Bellet , Jesi Lea Ryan , more... Kara Legend ...less

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Nine books. Nine bestselling authors. Nine heroines that take names—and chances—while confronting dark foes, whether by force of arms or magic, that threaten their entire world.

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From NYT and USA Today Bestselling Author, SM REINE – WITCH HUNT — Shaman on the run. Isobel Stonecrow speaks with the dead...for the right price. She brings closure to the bereaved and heals broken hearts. But when she resurrects someone for the wrong client, she ends up on the OPA's most wanted list.

From NYT and USA Today Bestselling author, CJ ELLISSON – DEATH'S SERVANT — Jonathan Winchester has clashed with his werewolf alpha one too many times. He returns to Virginia to find work and meets a young waitress, Raine. As their relationship progresses, Jon's embroiled in more intrigue than he bargained for and a danger bigger than he can handle.

From bestselling author, LINDSAY BUROKER – TORRENT — When Delia chose to major in archaeology, she imagined herself as the female Indiana Jones of the Southwest. She didn't imagine herself stumbling across decapitated bodies in old mine shafts or learning that monsters are real...

From USA TODAY bestselling author, ANTHEA SHARP – SPARK — What if a high-tech game was a gateway to the treacherous Realm of Faerie? Superstar gamer Spark Jaxley's life might look easy, but she's part of an elite few who guard a shocking secret; the Realm of Faerie exists, and its dark magic is desperate for a foothold in the mortal world.

From bestselling authors BOONE BRUX and CJ ELLISSON – DEATH TIMES TWO — The V V Inn has a ghost problem. New grim reaper, Lisa Carron, accepts the job. She quickly learns the hotel is full of the dearly departed—and she's working for vampires. Throw in Asa, a young vamp hot enough to melt the Arctic ice, and Lisa realizes she's way out of her element.

From bestselling author, JC ANDRIJESKI – ROOK: ALLIE'S WAR EPISODES 1-4 — Like most humans, Allie distanced herself from Seers, a race of human-like beings discovered on Earth. Yanked out of her life by the mysterious Revik, Allie finds out her blood may not be as “human” as she thought, the world is nothing like it appears to be...and she has more in common with Seers than she ever wanted to believe.

From bestselling author, ANNIE BELLET – JUSTICE CALLING — Gamer. Nerd. Sorceress. Jade Crow lives a quiet life running her comic book and game store in Wylde, Idaho. After twenty-five years fleeing from a powerful sorcerer who wants to eat her heart and take her powers, quiet suits her just fine. Surrounded by friends who are even less human than she is, Jade figures she's finally safe. As long as she doesn't use her magic...

From bestselling author, JESI LEA RYAN – ARCADIA'S GIFT — Teenager Arcadia (Cady) Day's family tragedy unleashes a hidden power. After experiencing what can only be called a psychic episode, her home

life crumbles. As her emotional control slips away, Cady begins to suspect that her first psychic episode was just the beginning...

From Urban Fantasy author, KARA LEGEND – WILD NIGHT ROAD — One innocent hex sets off a chain reaction of trouble among the shifters of the Kinraven that threatens war between werewolves, seraphim and witches. Lilith Darke will do anything to be free of her seraphim master. All hell breaks loose when rival packs face off only to discover a new, deadly threat that will take all their magick to survive.

Nine by Night Details

Date : Published July 31st 2014 by White Sun Press

ISBN :

Author : S.M. Reine , C.J. Ellisson , Lindsay Buroker , Anthea Sharp , Boone Brux , J.C. Andrijeski ,
Annie Bellet , Jesi Lea Ryan , more... Kara Legend ...less

Format : Kindle Edition 1500 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy

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From Reader Review Nine by Night for online ebook

Nadine Slavinski says

If you're the least bit interested in any of these titles or authors, I'd highly recommend that you grab this bargain bundle and try them out. You'll find at least one gem among them and possibly discover a new author, too.

I'm writing this review on the basis of reading one of the nine stories and briefly sampling the others, several of which I'm intrigued to continue, others not (see summary at end of this review). As the subtitle says, these are urban fantasies heavy on magic and paranormal beings – although some are a little light on tough heroines, in my opinion. Still, it's a great deal and a great way to sample new writers. All are full-length novels, professionally written and edited, which is not always the case with these kind of bargain bundles. The formatting is much better than you get from some B-list publishing houses, too; all in all a very polished ebook collection.

I was primarily interested in Lindsay Buroker's Torrent because the archaeologist heroine intrigued me. The book description led me to anticipate more of an Indiana Jones/action-adventure story, and though it was that, it had a lot more fantasy in it than I expected from reading the description. Without giving too much away, I'll just say that there's a supernatural element, with the main characters wondering whether aliens, elves, robots, or time travelers might be at work in modern-day Arizona. It's a fun fantasy and a good read, with a creepy beginning and an exciting end. The in-between stretched a little too long for my liking, but the characters and the mystery were enough to keep me turning the pages.

The main characters in TORRENT remain completely in the dark about what type of creature is on a murderous rampage and what kind of benevolent being is attempting to conquer it for the entire book, and I'd have liked for more clues to be sprinkled throughout the middle rather than being teased for so long before hanging on until the very end to gain any enlightenment at all. All in all, however, Lindsay Buroker succeeds in writing a novel that is both a satisfying read in itself as well as an invitation to read more in the series (once they are available; a minor complaint of this impatient reader). Too many bargain books these days end completely unresolved, trying to force the reader into buying book 2 or 3. Torrent isn't that at all; it's a good read in and of itself. Having said that, there's a lot of room for the adventure to continue and I for one will be looking for the next Rust & Relics title.

After finishing Torrent, I went on to quickly sample each of the other stories. None of the writing is outstanding, nor is any of it poor, but most of the stories are intriguing. All have much heavier fantasy elements than Torrent. A quick round-up:

SM Reine's WITCH HUNT: The first two chapters of dragged me right in, and I'm looking forward to reading the rest.

CJ Ellission's DEATH SERVANT: I was disappointed with the weak, groveling women and testosterone-driven men, not to mention the plot, which, summed up in the protagonist's own words is: "There's a vampire who's captured a whole werewolf pack. He's addicted to their blood and rents them to visiting vampires in a brothel type of setting. It's horrible." So horrible a plot, in fact, that I stopped reading right there. The description leads one to believe there's going to be a romance / rescue story but it takes a sharp turn somewhere along the way. So this one also needs a better description. If you're a fan of vampires, well, why not. Otherwise, give it a miss.

Anthea Sharp's SPARK: The opening line ("The Dark Queen of the Realm of Faerie paced over the moon-dappled mosses before her tangled throne") will tell you if this is the type of book for you or not. For me, not, though the writing seems good.

Brux and Ellisson's DEATH TIMES TWO: After "Death Servant," I didn't even try this one. But if vampires are your thing, feast away...

JC Andrijeski's ROOK EPISODES: A promising start. I'll be reading more.

Annie Bellet's JUSTICE CALLING: Ditto.

Jesi Ryan's ACADIA'S GIFT: Looks like a good book for YA audience.

Kara Legend's WILD NIGHT ROAD: Seemed interesting enough, until the very first dialogue turned me off. It's very jumpy and hard to follow, with too many fantasy elements thrown in at once (for me, anyway). If you're a big fantasy fan, it might work for you.

Eve (Functioning Insanity Reviews) says

<http://functioninginsanity.blogspot.com>

This is a collection by various authors that have a bit of something for everyone; and currently on sale for .99 cents. That's an amazing price for so many books. There are 9 books in the Nine By Night set and I only just got it as an ARC a week ago and have only had the pleasure of reading 2 books in the set thus far, Witch Hunt by SM Reine and Rook: Allie's War Episodes 1-4 by JC Andrijeski. Additionally in the set and working my way through are Torrent by Lindsay Buroker, Death's Servant by CJ Ellisson, Spark by Anthea Sharp, Death Times Two by Boone Brux & CJ Ellison, Arcadia's Gift by Jesi Lea Ryan, Justice Calling by Annie Bellet, and Wild Night Road by Kara Legend.

Now as I went through and looked before starting my reading, because I'm OCD like that, Torrent, Spark, Acadia's Gift, and Death's Servant are all first books in their respective series and Death Time Two is showing as book 3 in the series with Death's Servant. I know I like to read things in order and I figure I can't be the only one so I figured I would help you along there. This set is easily described: Nine books. Nine bestselling authors. Nine heroines that take names and chances while confronting dark foes, whether by force of arms or magic, that threaten their entire world. Over two thousand pages of epic reading awaits! Let the adventures begin.

I previously reviewed Rook: Allie's War Episodes 1-4 here, and have enjoyed the whole series up to the latest (and only episode I've had to wait for), Episode 32; episode 1 of 5 I believe in the Prophet book. I'm currently working on it, as I mentioned I had to wait after I caught up with all of them. And something else that dragged me away but I'll be doing a post about that here in the next week I hope. Right now I want to talk about this set and how it has added more books to my TBR list. Not just these books, but the other books in the series. I already have the next 2 books in the Preternatural Affairs series because I enjoyed Witch Hunt so much.

Anyways I wanted to share the news about the kick butt set as I keep reading through. I hope you can take a few minutes to check it out and discover some new authors as I have.

Hannah says

This is a massive collection of nine novels (yes, that's right, full-length *novels*) with stories that feature heroines who kick butt in urban fantasy/paranormal settings. Lindsay Buroker is one of my favourite authors and her books are usually guaranteed wins for me, so I jumped at the chance to read the ARC version of this collection - great motivation to read her book *Torrent* and try some new authors at the same time.

*At this point, I have only finished *Torrent*, but will keep this review updated as I complete the other books.

Lindsay Buroker - *Torrent*

Torrent is somewhat of a departure from Lindsay Buroker's other novels; it's set in present day Arizona with a young archaeologist, a computer geek and an injured ex-pro tennis player as the protagonists. I thoroughly enjoyed the adventure by the end, but there were a few issues that combined to make it a mixed bag for me. As an archaeologist myself, a story by a favourite author featuring an archaeologist heroine is just too good to pass up, but the major ethical issues here (Indiana Jones?! Treasure-hunting?!) really took away some of my enjoyment. The present day setting also made the behaviour of the protagonists harder to overlook; what would have worked in a fantasy setting did not translate so well to 21st Century Earth. If you're prepared for the suspension of belief and moral ambiguity, though, then *Torrent* will be fun.

Starting with the things that did work: the otherworldly mystery, aliens/elves on Harleys and deadly monsters who can't be killed by normal means. It takes a while for these elements to kick in, but once it does, it transcends the slight B-movie feel of the opening first third and you're taken on a really thrilling ride. The mysterious otherworldly aliens/elves, Eleriss and Jakatra, are also particularly intriguing - by the end of the book, I desperately wanted to find out more about them and perhaps see Eleriss and Delia work together.

What didn't: First and foremost, the author does acknowledge that there are issues involved with "treasure hunting," but perhaps doesn't quite realize the full extent of what is and isn't considered ethical in this field. Delia appears to believe that it is fine to sell "junk" from sites that wouldn't be considered old enough for heritage preservation and neglects to notify the authorities, grumbling that they'll swoop in and take her find... everything about this is plain wrong. Just because it isn't "dated enough" or doesn't belong to Native Americans/ancient cultures does not mean it can be disposed of as one pleases. There is no situation where it's okay to loot historical sites for profit, buy or sell from/to collectors for resale, remove objects or otherwise damage a site without even recording the finds/provenience/etc. (Delia seems to just pick things off the ground or dig around a bit, which is just ridiculous - no trained archaeologist would even think this passes for proper excavation) and withhold site finds from the government just so one could keep their loot. It's enough to make me want to pull my hair out in frustration, particularly since the Indiana Jones/Lara Croft connection is one that archaeologists have been trying *very* hard to shake for a long time. While this is fiction, it would be nice if a profession that is already very poorly understood by the general public wasn't further misrepresented.

Aside from that, the behaviour of Simon really threw me off as well. As mentioned, Delia and Simon's habit of breaking into establishments, using what is very likely illegal software and even stealing items might have been understandable in a fantasy universe like that of *The Emperor's Edge*, where the characters are forced to use any means to survive, but in modern day America? Uhhh. It makes their actions hard to understand and hard to accept. In fact, I spent the entire novel wanting to strangle Simon - he's probably the first Lindsay Buroker character whom I've actively disliked. He simply behaves in a way that invites trouble.

I do like Delia and Temi, however; I would definitely like more depth from them, but this is book 1 and

there's time to grow - not to mention there could be interesting match-ups between them and Eleriss and Jakatra, should things head down in the romantic direction. If nothing else, they'd make fascinating partners. Despite the book's problems, I enjoyed it more than enough to be very curious about the upcoming Book 2 (which I hope will contain significantly fewer mentions of archaeology).

I received this ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you, White Sun Press!

Katrina says

It's always a great idea to pick up your favorite authors in a book bundle. By the time you're finished, you have more favorite authors to add to your list!

Death Times Two- Lisa Carron is on her second adventure in her new job as an Angel of Death, a Grim Reaper. Being cute and quirky, she's pretty much atypical for the job. Normally, she's assigned the reaps of stupid souls. You know the type, the souls that drive a snowmobile on thin ice and expect nothing to happen and then get stuck under the ice. This time her boss sends her to an exclusive resort in the wilds of Alaska. Asa, the hunky head of security at the V V Inn isn't sure that there is any reason for a Reaper to visit during the off season. After all, there's no such thing as ghosts, right?

Asa's in for a rude awakening. Spending time with Lisa reveals a lot more than just the ghosts. Asa and Lisa are in for an adventure that neither will forget. It's been a long time since either of them have had the sparks fly. Watching their interactions, nervousness, lusty desires make the ghost vanquishing even more important. After all, Lisa has a job to do and Asa is there to protect her.

This book whets my appetite for more. I can't wait to see what happens to Lisa in her series. I can't wait to see what happens next in the V V Inn Series. These two authors have seamlessly joined forces in creating a book that is entertaining and keeps the integrity of their own story lines. It truly was a delightful evening's read that I did not put down until it was finished. I hope Asa will continue to make appearances in Lisa's books, as well as, Lisa being called up to the V V Inn to help out, or just to enjoy a romp in the Alaskan resort.

Death's Servant- A long time ago, in a land far away from the frozen north, a young werewolf found himself on a journey fleeing the pack that took him in and sheltered him as he learned about his transformation from ordinary mortal to alpha werewolf. This is the story about one of the favorite characters of the Vampire Vacation series. Vivian's servant, Jon and how he came to be a part of Dria and Rafe's life.

After leaving Romeo's pack Jon met a beauty and fell head over heels in love. But treachery lurked, and Raine's own trials and tribulations with her own pack pulled Jon into a situation where his youth and his budding alpha didn't know what to do. He couldn't go back to his old pack. He'd burned those bridges. He had to find someone that could help Raine and her pack.

C. J. Ellisson has woven a story that answers the questions that I've wondered about. How did a young southern werewolf end up being a servant to a vivacious, death dealing vampire that owns a resort in Alaska? What could a very happily married vampire do to earn an alpha werewolf's supreme loyalty?

I honestly couldn't put the book down. Death's Servant was a quick read that works well as a stand-alone book. If you haven't read Vampire Vacation, The Hunt, or The Big Game I'll bet you'll want to pick them up to see what happens next to Dria, Rafe and her loyal were, Jon.

Laura says

I loved getting exposed to several new authors and found several of the books intriguing enough to seek out the series and sample some other works by these authors. not every novel caught my attention but it was a great sampling!

April says

A little bit of everything for your reading pleasure. With several different authors you will find at least one story that will capture your attention and keep you reading until you have read them all. These stories all have a heroine to fall in love with. These books will keep your imagination reeling with what if's and why's. Each story told in its own form and with major differences from witches to seer's and so much more. You will not find a collection of stories quite like this anywhere else. I would recommend this for readers of all kinds. Even if you're not into urban fantasy, witches or magic I think you will find that one story that grabs your attention.

Cindy says

I enjoyed these authors in Nine by Night. SM Reine, CJ Ellisson, Lindsay Burdker, Anthea Sharp, Boone Brux & CJ Ellisson, CJ Andrijeski, Annie Bellet, Lea Ryan and Kara Legend. I would recommend reading any of their books. The ones in this box set were great reads.

Jeannie Zelos says

Nine by Night: A Multi-Author Urban Fantasy Bundle of Kickass Heroines, Adventure, & Magic

Authors: SM Reine, CJ Ellisson, Lindsay Buroker , Anthea Sharp, Boone Brux , JC Andrijeski, Annie Bellet, Jesi Lea Ryan, Kara Legend.

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Well at just £1.02 (about 1.50 cents?) this opening offer is a real bargain. A chance to snap up some terrific novels by very talented authors, and well worth grabbing now even if you've not yet time to read it. My favourite of course is the amazing Rook, JC Andrijeski – I've now read all the series to date and LOVE that world. Looking back at my review I found I'd struggled with the very complex world to begin, but there are shorter, individual books that make it easier to understand. Never the less even struggling a bit with that first book its come to be one of my all time favourite series, and going back to Rook as I recently did I found it now a five star read for me, understanding it so much better now I've read more. there was so much I'd missed, not understanding the subtlety of it. My full review can be found under the individual book listing. Going on to other authors I love Boone Brux' works, though I've not reads this one, have read several of SM Reine's novels and look forward to trying this one, and hopefully finding a new series to love. I read the Kara Legend novel on here, that was a fun read, sex, witchcraft and werewolves . I've not yet read the Lindsay Buroker book in this collection, but she was one of the first authors who's book I tried when I got

my first kindle (now on number four...) where I started what I thought was a paranormal read, and discovered it was steampunk, a genre I'd avoided as I didn't think I'd like it. Shows how wrong we can be. I felt the same about Allie's War at first, the JC Andrijeski series – usually I'd avoid that sci fi/dystopian type world and yet I'd have missed out in a fantastic adventure, where I feel I'm "with" the team and they struggle to do what's right for the world. And of course Revik, he could persuade me to go anywhere.....

this is a real bargain read, with some first class novels by popular authors and it's a great chance to try something that may be out of your normal comfort zone genre.

Stars: Five of course!

ARC supplied via authors

Lexi says

** I received a copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased and honest review**

Review:4.5 stars

General: This boxed set nailed it! I loved every single story and felt the connection between them in terms of overall theme. I found myself fully submersed in all nine. Cj Ellison's Death's Servant was the one that got me interested in the set and remained my favorite. Overall the box set is 4.5 stars but I'll break it down by book as best as I can without giving too much away!

Witch Hunt by SM Reine: 5 stars

This was a fantastic, gripping start to the set. I found the story engaging from the beginning and loved that it was a male's. The title lent itself to a female and the unexpectedness of it was amazing. It had a edge of your seat type plot and plot flow. Definitely my #2 favorite in the set.

Torrent by Lindsay Buroker: 5 stars

The title of this one threw me off because I was expecting something techy...illegal download files perhaps. What I got was a creepy fantasy thriller that I couldn't put down. It was spooky without letting the horror elements overrun the fantasy. It was very Indiana Jones with a dark side.

Death's Servant by CJ Ellisson: 5 stars

This was the story that attracted me to checking this book out and it didn't disappoint. I liked that it came first given the next book by Ellisson is related. This short felt very emotionally involved and I loved getting a back story, and think it may have been what made it such a success for me.

Spark by Anthea Sharp: 4 stars

Another wonderful YA, Spark was fast paced and entertaining. It fit together rather nicely with the set as it was also very comicy and slightly nerdy. I found it amusing and wouldn't mind reading more from this author (who was new to me)

Death Times Two by Boone Brux and CJ Ellisson: 5 stars

Loved the compilation from these ladies. I've read the first books in this series and this one fit in wonderfully. It was the perfect length for the amount of story within it. I loved the mixture of vampire and ghost in it, but did feel it was a little outside the realm of the other stories. It was quirky and humorous as the ladies pairings are known to be.

Justice Calling, by Annie Bellet: 4 stars

This was the oddball of the group to me. It was an entertaining concept but focused on a something a little bit different than the others did. I found the story a little too complex for the short length but still very enjoyable.

Rook: Allie's War Episodes 1-4 by JC Andrijeski: stars 3.5

This one confused me a little, but it was more from the title than anything else. It was a descriptive, fast paced story that I was invested in from the get go. I felt it was overreaching a little bit and bordered on not enough believability in emotion from Allie in a lot of the instances it felt forced.

Arcadia's Gift by Jesi Lea Ryan: 4 stars

I'm not certain as I write this but it may have been my favorite YA in the set. I found Cady to be quirky and realistic of a teen. The plot was both original and heartbreakingly real at the same time. I was pulled in from the beginning it just read a little bit too young for me.

Wild Night Road by Kara Legend: 3.5 stars

This one suffered most from the length constraints I think. As far as I could tell it wasn't a book that would be continuing and it had too many open ends and almost cliff hangerish type events occurring.

Deborah says

Nine books by nine urban fantasy authors. All but one were fun and well written. If you purchase this package, skip "Arcadia's Gift" unless you are 15 and enjoy teenage adventure.

Alexandria Darcy says

A little while ago I offered my blog for a cover reveal of Nine by Night, a collection of 9 urban fantasy novels. I also got an advance review copy of the book in order to write some reviews! So here are my thoughts on the stories from Nine by Night that I've read so far. More to follow! You can purchase the collection on Smashwords or Amazon for \$0.99 for a limited time!

Witch Hunt, by S.M. Reine

This book is worth reading just for the miles-a-minute twists at the end. But there's much more to it than that, I promise.

As the first book in a collection of 9 urban fantasy novels written by women, I was expecting a story narrated by a female protagonist. Pretty stereotypical thought for me to have, and I feel a bit guilty about it, so I'm sorry. Moving on. Once I got over my initial disorientation, this story gripped me from start to finish. At its heart, this story is a mystery novel in magical clothing, which in my opinion makes it much more fun than a regular mystery novel. Our leading man is Cesar Hawke (great name, btw), and he wakes up to find himself accused of a murder that he has absolutely no recollection of committing, not to mention he doesn't consider himself a killer by any means. He must go on the run to uncover the truth about what happened that night, and the adventure is never dull. Like I said before, towards the end there are a variety of twists and turns. But while this can often clutter the story, author Reine executes them beautifully. I was never once confused without a good reason (usually right along with the main character), and I liked the fast pace of solving the mystery at the very end.

The characters were all believable and had distinctive personalities. I hope in future novels in the series we can learn a bit more about their backgrounds, and maybe even see Cesar interact with his sister.

I really enjoyed the sense of humor in this novel. Through all the drama I had a lot of laughs, and I think the humor would appeal to both men and women (as long as you're not too uptight!).

I look forward to reading more by this author!

Justice Calling, by Annie Bellet

I absolutely loved this one. It's shorter than the others I've read so far in this collection, but it's one of my favorites. The main character is a female gamer and comic-book-store-owner, and on top of that – she's got some real magic up her sleeves. Our heroine, Jade also extremely brave and capable when it comes to protecting those she loves.

The story centers around some dark magic that's been used to freeze a bunch of shifters in their animal state to gain power from them. It's pretty dark, but the author has a great sense of humor that gets pulled out at all the appropriate moments. Werewolves are all right, but I love seeing a bunch of characters that happen to be people who turn into animals and AREN'T consumed by wolf-pack mentality. This type of shifter story was extremely refreshing in that regard.

I also enjoyed the little bit of romance weaved into the plot, because it's not the focus, and it has plenty of room to grow in later books. I'm pretty sure this is the first urban fantasy novel I've read whose heroine is also a total nerd (all the sci-fi/gamer/fantasy/etc. references were excellent), and I can't wait to read more of Jade's story. This story was really fun.

Rust & Relics #1: Torrent, by Lindsay Buroker

I can't remember the last time the opening chapters of a book terrified me as much as these did. I made the mistake of starting this book right for bed and couldn't stop until the main characters were safely back in civilization. You see, the beginning of this novel brought back scary memories of watching *The Descent*.

But if you can make it through those first couple chapters, the plot thickens considerably. Our heroes are archaeologists, which is a fun twist for this genre that I haven't seen before. Their chosen profession is hunting for archeological treasure and selling it for profit. Not super lucrative, but they get to travel around in a camping van that has so much personality, it's practically a character all on its own. As far as I can tell, this story doesn't follow any of the well-known mythical creature myths that I know about, which makes it

all the more interesting. It is very much a mystery that gets weirder with every chapter.

The author also has a fun sense of humor. I absolutely love the character of Simon, who is a total nerd, and also hilarious in his own right. Delia is our curious, intelligent heroine and I find her to be a very relatable character. She is more or less following her dream to become a female Indiana Jones, and while it's not as lucrative as she might have hoped, she stands by it because it's fun. I wish I could be so brave. Temi is a bit of a mystery, but I'm looking forward to seeing her character grow.

There are so many strange happening in this book it's a wonder I can keep it all straight – but the author is clearly talented, and I'm able to hold it all together until the final reveal... Which is only a half reveal. There is clearly a lot more left in this story, and I can't wait for book 2!

Arcadia's Gift, by Jesi Lea Ryan

This book is fantastic! One of those books I got so wrapped up in I couldn't put it down. Cady's story is unique. She's a twin who suffers a psychic break after her twin sister is killed, and gains herself a bit of a superpower – empathy. Add that to the craziness of high school life, and you have a supernatural novel full of conflict, excitement, adorable moments, and an idea of what it's like for a family to lose a child and a sister. All these things are weaved together brilliantly by author Jesi Lea Ryan. Cady is a really fun character, too. She's just your average teenage girl until her whole life changes in one terrible moment. She handles herself well, and is completely believable as a teenage girl. Cady is definitely someone I'd love to have been friends with in high school.

Once again, a romantic subplot is woven into the story without becoming the focus and taking away from the overarching plot (which if you can't tell by now is my favorite style of romance-writing). There's a hint at a love triangle forming, but rather than rooting for one of the boys, I am Team Cady, all the way. She is a very strong young woman, and I can't wait to read the final chapter to her story.

Book 2, Arcadia's Curse is out now, soon to be followed by Arcadia's Choice later this year. I enjoyed Curse even more than Gift so I can guarantee that the sequel won't let you down.

Once again, you can find the book for sale at Smashwords and Amazon releasing at \$0.99 for a limited time! That's only \$0.11 per book! It's almost like stealing, but instead you're supporting 9 independent authors! Go you.

That's all for now – I'll post the rest of my reviews as soon as I finish reading the rest!

Robyn Koshel says

Nine by night is a wonderful box set by some of the newest up and coming authors. I was drawn to this set because I am a huge SM Reine fan, but now I discovered the other authors in this amazing box set. Now I have some more new favourite authors. Some of my new favourite authors are Anthea Sharp, J C Anrijeski and Lindsay Buroker, with her steam-punk flare. If you enjoy Urban Fantasy, supernatural/paranormal- then this is the one to get and at its bargain price – you really can't go wrong. I was so impressed by the quality of this box set, it made a beautiful new addition to my library. Most of the books featured in the set are the first book in larger series- so it offers you a taster of larger undiscovered series to sink your teeth into. Five stars isn't enough for this stellar box set.

Yzabel Ginsberg says

I got a copy through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

This collection of nine novels is, obviously, huge to read, so I tackled each book one by one. Which took me quite some time.

Overall, I was rather disappointed. Apart from one novel that made me feel like reading some of the author's other works, mostly the stories ranged from "it's OK" to "no" for me. I can think of two major explanations to this:

- 1) Mostly the stories were of the sex/romance-oriented kind, and this isn't really what I'm looking for in urban fantasy—not because of the themes themselves, but because they too often take precedence over the plot. I want to read urban fantasy, possibly with a dash of romance, not romance with a dash of supernaturals thrown in.
- 2) I'm still feeling cheated by the "kickass heroines" line. I didn't find many of them kickass. At all. Being a witch or a demon hunter doesn't make a kickass heroine if she still turns to mush at the first sight of The Male.

If these are your things, good for you... They just aren't mine.

Breaking down *Nine by Night* to individual short reviews, the way I had posted them over the months while reading it novel by novel:

WITCH HUNT

2*

A quick, easy read, with a lot of action and not many breaks, which fits the theme of "man on the run, trying to find the answers before his enemies catch up to him". No problem with that, although it was rather short, and so the characters weren't that well-developed. The world seems interesting, with a Men In Black feeling combined with department-to-department tensions and underhanded maneuvers.

In general, it's César's decisions I had a problem with: he didn't strike me as particularly savvy, considering the job he's had for the past two years. Sure, going back to the crime scene to start looking for answers is as good a beginning as any, but he didn't do it in a clever way—and the same pattern repeated throughout the story. The ending was unsatisfying: César wasn't the one who actually solved the problem, he was more of a spectator at times, and I didn't like how a couple of key clues turned out to be just there by chance.

(Also, the NbN cover blurb spoke of "strong women protagonists", but I'm still looking. The only two prominent women here either don't appear that much, or are more like the must-protect-her type under a varnish of strength.)

DEATH'S SERVANT:

2*

I haven't read the V V Inn series, so I feel like I'm missing something here—kind of as if some things weren't developed, character-wise, because readers are supposed to already know Jon, Dria and Rafe from the actual series? This prequel will likely be of more interest to those who want to know more about Jon before *V V Inn*, since it seems to answer some questions, but maybe not so much otherwise.

TORRENT:

1*

I struggled to finish this one. Overall I found it rather boring, the plot was muddled with too much running in circles, and too much was left unsaid at the end for the reader (there was a monster, but I still have no idea what it was, what the main threat was, who/what the strangers were, etc.) As for the characters, they felt really childish and too stupid to live. Also, cracking a whip doesn't an archaeologist make. Indiana Jones would weep.

SPARK:

3*

A light and enjoyable read, but one that felt a little confusing at times, in the beginning: I hadn't realised it followed a previous trilogy. However, it made me feel like reading said trilogy (perhaps I'm even more interested in it than in the second one, actually). I have a soft spot for stories where gamers have to face real dangers in a virtual world, and video games combined to traditional faerie lore seemed like a good blend. *Spark* also deals with the gamers' real life, showing sides of their lives that aren't always terribly glamorous. I'll probably pick the first volume in the Feyland trilogy at some point, to see what exactly led to the Feyguard being established (even though it's easy to guess, it doesn't mean there's no point anymore, after all).

DEATH TIMES TWO:

1*

I couldn't get into this one at all, never knowing if it was supposed to be humorous or serious. Lisa seemed a silly stereotype, and apart from Asa, the other characters were just brushed over, in a way that made me feel that the ghost-reaping plot had to be solved as fast as possible for the protagonists to finally have sex. Which might have worked, why not, only the almost slapstick-like side of the story didn't mesh well with it in my opinion (I contemplated facepalming for real when it came to a point where Lisa (view spoiler)). It read more like an amateur fic (with typical vaguely porny vocabulary) than an actual novel.

ROOK: ALLIE'S WAR:

0.5*

DNFed at 56%. I tried, really, I did, but I just cannot push myself to go on. This book is so terribly confusing, adding present/preterit shifts to a 1st person/3rd person mix I already have problems with in general. I get the reasons behind this choice, but they don't work for me, and it makes for a painful reading.

I don't understand the characters, who suffer of chronic cases of ain't-telling-you-nothingitis. A.k.a "All those things we know because we're telepaths/empaths, and you don't because you're human? I can't tell you because you're supposed to ask that guy, there, who're not telling you on his own becasue Reasons." So what does the heroine do? Not ask. For weeks. Then everybody assumes she knows, but she doesn't, which leads to stuff like "why did you agree to marry him", and... wait, when did that happen, and what did she do to make everyone and their dog think the two characters are married? Also are they in love, attracted to each other, wanting to have sex with each other, not wanting to have sex...? This isn't even angst or conflicted feelings anymore; it's just one huge muddle. (Interspersed with regular diving into some structure of light, Pyramid and other psychic-powerish mumbo-jumbo that doesn't make much sense, all the more when it's thrown into action scenes.)

The premise looked interesting. The first couple of chapters drew me in. And then... nope, sorry.

JUSTICE CALLING:

1*

Too short to allow for much character development. The story goes fast, but remains very formulaic—down to the hardened guy showing up to provide a love interest that Jade immediately starts fantasising about for... no reason? I'd have much preferred getting to know the characters better, and see a couple of actual twists and turns. As it is, the "villain" was dispatched too quickly, the promising plot wasn't exciting, and Jade was just... annoying.

I read it because I needed to do something while waiting at the airport. I don't think I'll be back.

ARCADIA'S GIFT:

2.5*

Mostly an OK story, but one that I wouldn't really qualify of "urban fantasy" (see my above comment, though—if not considered as part of this bundle, then disregard it). More like YA paranormal romance. I liked that the romance part developed more naturally than in most novels pertaining this genre, although I admit I'm not a good target audience for that in general. I also liked how it took into account the whole family after the tragedy, not only Cady and her feelings for a boy. However, I didn't like the way she reacted in the end (I would've expected such an outburst sooner, but not after everything that happened). Overall, it was an alright story, yet one that won't leave me with much of an impression, I'm afraid.

WILD NIGHT ROAD

1*

Terribly confusing, and looking more like chapters plucked from a larger story. There seemed to be complex dynamics behind the shifters, witches and seraphim, that weren't really explained, so the characters' predicament was never really tangible. I didn't feel close to any of them, the whole weres/alpha male/bonding thing was strange (way to give the "kickass women" room to decide and fend for themselves, huh?), and everything moved too fast, without enough development in between.

1.5 stars overall. (Not rounding to 2 because of the misleading "strong female protagonists" angle that was everything but.)

Anne Kane says

Enjoyable read. I liked the characters, and the plot lines were well developed.

Sandy S says

About the Book: Released August 3, 2014

Nine books. Nine bestselling authors. Nine heroines that take names-and chances-while confronting dark foes, whether by force of arms or magic, that threaten their entire world. Over two thousand pages of epic reading await! Let the adventure begin.

Novels included are:

Witch Hunt by SM Reine

Torrent: Rust & Relics Book 1 by Lindsay Buroker

Death's Servant by C.J. Ellisson
Spark: Feyguard Book 1 by Anthea Sharp
Death Times Two by Boone Brux
Rook: Allie's War Episodes 1 - 4 by JC Andrijeski
Justice calling by Annie Bellet
Arcadia's Gift by Jesi Lea Ryan
Wild Night Road by Kara Legend

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REVIEW: I have opted to review 3 of the 9 storylines

WITCH HUNT is the first instalment in S.M.Reine's contemporary, paranormal/UF Preternatural Affairs paranormal suspense series focusing on Cesar Hawke-an agent in the Office of Preternatural Affairs.

The storyline follows Cesar as he is charged in the murder of a local woman whom witnesses saw them argue the night before. Enter the local police, the Office of Preternatural Affairs, a feisty necromancer, two agents on the take and Cesar knows his days are numbered. What he didn't suspect was that someone from his past had targeted him for destruction.

S.M. Reine writes an interesting and fast paced story of paranormal intrigue, mystery and suspense. We are introduced to several secondary characters-some good, some bad and some down right demonic. This is only the beginning for Cesar Hawke whose life is about to get a whole lot busier.

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DEATH TIMES TWO is the latest novella co-written by CJ Ellisson and Boone Brux. The storyline combines CJ's V.V.Inn series and Boone Brux's new Grim Reality. Grim ReaperLisa Carron's latest assignment is to vanquish the spirits haunting the V.V. Inn but what she doesn't expect is a handsome vampire who knows a thing or two about pleasing a woman.

The premises follows Lisa as she must send not one, not two but six spirits to the other side. With each encounter, Asa will reveal the story behind each of their deaths and how they are connected to the V.V.Inn. Reaping souls is never an easy job, but reaping the souls of the supernatural is more difficult and requires a few 'tricks' to prevent possession by the dead.

CJ Ellisson and Boone Brux have combined their writing talents for a roller coaster ride through the outback and underbelly of the V.V.Inn. The Alaskan cold is countered by the burning heat between Asa And Lisa in a story that will melt the ice around anyone's heart. Death Times Two is a fun filled, action packed story that will leave you wanting more.

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REVIEW: DEATH'S SERVANT is the prequel novella in C.J.Ellisson's V.V. Inn series featuring Vivian Alexandria (Dria) a 580plus year old vampire with the ability to manipulate emotions. In this particular storyline, C.J. opens up about Jon's past and how the alpha without a pack came to be Dria's most trusted servant.

DEATH'S SERVANT is a fascinating look at Jon's emotional introduction into Dria's Seethe. CJ Ellisson

has given us a glimpse into Jon's personality and the warring conflict within when he witnesses Dria's power first hand. I am a big fan of prequel novellas where the reader is taken back in time to learn about the roots of established characters. Death's Servant is a welcome and I believe necessary addition to CJ's V.V.Inn series. Fans have always wanted to know how Jon established himself as Dria's right hand man and Death's Servant reveals the truth about Jon's beginnings with the Seethe. A definite must read for all V.V. Inn fans.....growl and purrrrrrrr.

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