



## Black Spring

*Christina Henry*

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**A former Agent of death, Madeline Black now has everything to live for, most importantly, her unborn child. But Chicago has become ground zero in a struggle between ancient creatures, and only Maddy can stop the carnage...**

The mayor of Chicago has announced a plan to round up the city's supernatural beings and put them in camps. With her due date looming, Maddy's best move would be to lay low for a while. But not everyone is willing to respect her privacy. Hounded by tentacled monsters, a rogue shapeshifter, and a tenacious blogger, Maddy turns to her most powerful ally, her uncle Daharan, only to find him missing.

Just when it seems like things can't get any worse, Maddy gets an invitation in the mail—to Lucifer's wedding. Turns out everyone has been invited, friends and enemies alike. And with that kind of guest list, it's highly unlikely there will be a happily ever after.

## Black Spring Details

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Author : Christina Henry

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## From Reader Review Black Spring for online ebook

### Cazy says

Everything seemed tangled but ended with maturity and a little bit of creativity. I don't like that the series is ending after 7 books. I think the author could have done a lot more with the heroine and the story. There were a couple of instances where you could tell that scenes were squeezed in and/or rushed, just to end the series, and I wondered why. Plus, it seemed like her powers were evolving in the previous books and maybe she would evolve too, but the author just pulled the plug. I hate it when authors seem to lose interest in what they start. I had such high hopes for this series as I enjoyed the ride. But I won't trust this author again. I do wish there (view spoiler)

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### Blodeuedd Finland says

Oh no, the end, now I am sad :/ I am happy that it ended well, cos I do know those series that just goes on and on. But it's always hard to say goodbye.

Maddy has grown, I was pretty proud of her in this one. Sure she still wants to save everyone, but she has a good head on her shoulders.

I will miss the gang! JB, Beezel the best gargoyle side-kick in the world!, Lucifer because even though he makes her life hell he is still a such a good baddie, his brothers cos they are evil and good, Nathaniel who I did not like at all at first but now yes I want them happy and together.

The book is about the big wedding, yes Lucifer is getting married to a psycho. And everyone is invited. But Maddy's life is not easy, someone is trying to kill her, what is Aleran up to? Why must she go to the wedding (cos Lucifer sucks)? And of course there is the whole I am preggers and might give birth any second thing.

Again, sad that it ended but it was been a fun ride :)

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### Paulina says

Interesting ending. I didn't think the couple would end up as the couple. I'd like to see a spin-off book or two to continue the story for the other characters. I really liked all of them!

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### Stacy says

BLACK HEART left Madeline without some of her allies and thankfully BLACK SPRING brings them all back together for the birth of Madeline's baby and the final showdown with Lucifer.

I have for the most part always enjoyed Madeline as a character, I don't really have much more to add about her that I haven't already said in previous reviews. She does a great job of keeping her baby safe in BLACK

SPRING though. I was never a Nathaniel fan, but he has come a long way since we first met him and I don't despise him like I used to. Beezle is the perfect little sidekick. Love Daharan, I wish he came into the series sooner. I always liked J.B. and wish there would have been something a little more between him and Madeline, but I can totally respect them being just friends. Poor Samiel suffers a great loss in book 7, I am glad he was back with Maddy and the rest of the gang when it happened. Jude, not much to say about him, but he kicks butt and I'm glad Madeline has him on her side.

Now for the bad guys. I always knew Lucifer had ulterior motives, but never really understood what they were. He really is a piece of work and deserves everything he gets in BLACK SPRING and in his new future. Puck, ugh what more is there to say about him? I have always thought that everything he does is for his own gain even when others think its for them, BLACK SPRING proved I was right.

I'm not going to lie, after the last book I didn't think Henry was going to be able pull off a great ending for this series, but she did! I felt like Madeline was in a good place with great friends surrounding her. I also felt like Henry did a good job of ending the current storyline while leaving some things open for interpretation or maybe more books in the future? Who knows, one can only hope. Except for a few bumps in the road I really enjoyed the Black Wings series and I'm glad I've been able to follow it along as it was written. All urban fantasy fans should pick up BLACK WINGS.

\* This book was provided free of charge from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Celeste says**

I feel like the author wanted to wrap this whole series up with a neat little bow. Unfortunately, because of the insane number of plots, zero character growth, half finished world building and plethora of potential love interests what we're left with is overwhelming confusion, a bunch of random story arcs(I'm looking at you ghost of Amarantha) that went nowhere and a whole bunch of plot holes with no explanation.

For example, wth is the deal with Daharan and Madeline's connection with him. Lucifer and Puck both have a backstory because, mythology and religion. Alerian and Daharan are totally made up and the author addresses nothing about this. And all the stuff Madeline has to deal with in this book? Not a problem, Daharan will just take care of everything for her. Literally nothing apart from babies happen in this book. That and a couple of weird guest scenes from Michael.

A disappointing end to a disappointing series.

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### **Kt says**

Review originally posted on my blog: A Book Obsession..

Something you don't see too often is a pregnant protagonist in Urban Fantasy novels. Things are just too brutal and action-y so pregnancy and young children always seem to be left out of things in the direct storylines, or at least don't happen until the last epilogue of the series as part of the happy ever after. So, I really enjoyed seeing Maddy being pregnant and dealing with the mess of her paranormal life throughout. It

just seemed more realistic as supernatural stuff and mayhem don't just go away after the HEA. It's just that we don't see that stuff, with the writers perhaps choosing to save that HEA and baby stuff untainted. So with Maddy, it just rang more real to me, and I loved it. She's one heck of a power, and trust me, being pregnant doesn't change that one bit. In fact, it may have made her even fiercer, and I was rooting her every step of the way. No delicate flowers here, but one kick butt mama.

I'm still rather surprised at how much Nathaniel has grown on me. If you had asked me at the start of the series if I could see Maddy with him and be happy about it, I would have laughed. That being said, he's come a really long way, and I think the start of the turning point was when he stood by Maddy when everyone else turned their back on her saying she was going too dark. However, at that point he was so desperate for her to accept him that frankly he was a bit of a push over, just going with whatever she said. Sure, he had a bunch to make up for, so it made sense. However, what I loved about his character in BLACK SPRING was that he solidified his back bone, and stood up for what he believed when it came for taking care of Maddy. He refused to always let herself only put her own self in harms way, and fought to be an even partner in their relationship, earning my stamp of approval for them long term. He's exactly what she needs, and I'm happy to see that for this last book.

Wow has this series has been one heck of a ride, and I'm sorry to see it ending. That being said, while most series enders just don't seem to live up to my expectations, but I'm happy to say that wasn't the case here. Sure, I think some of the resolution could have been expanded a bit, and I would have loved an epilogue, but all in all, I feel BLACK SPRING left things in a place that has me largely content. And in the end that's all I ask for in a series, keep me entertained along the way, and leave me satisfied in the end. The Black Wings series delivered, and earns a stamp of recommendation from me for any Urban Fantasy fan.

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### **mrsj says**

Great conclusion to the series.  
Sad that it is the last but at least it is not drag on endlessly.

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### **melissa says**

A very strong finish to the series. Of course, Maddy still can't catch a break and seems to be the center of attention now for a blogger in addition to being Lucifer, Puck and Alerian's favorite plaything. We get our happily ever after and a glimpse at \*maybe\* a possible continuation series? It'd be awesome to see a series about her son, Adam.

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### **momokaachan says**

It was OK and several of the loose ends were wrapped up - I just got the feeling that Ms. Henry got tired of the series.

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## **Caitlen says**

I had a really hard time with this book. Just didn't find it as enjoyable as the other books in the series.

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## **Jessica says**

I have to say that by the end of this series I just wasn't all that thrilled with it and can't say I have any desire to re-read. Now let me say that I was pretty hooked up through Book 4 when Maddie experiences tragedy and the book had me in tears. Her struggles to continue with her life had me completely engaged and I truly felt connected. My problem is the overall character development of Maddie. Throughout the next three books, it feels like the same annoying complaints over and over and Maddie's whole "dark side" turmoil got pretty repetitive. Even the sarcastic banter between Maddie and Beezle started to bug me somewhat toward the end. I found myself feeling like I was Nathaniel when he reprimanded them. The complexities of the challenges set up by Lucifer and Puck were an interesting aspect of all the books and the author did a good job of explaining Maddie's thought process of trying to calculate all the possibilities/reasonings in these challenges. Unfortunately, it was just frankly frustrating that by the end of the series, Maddie had literally killed off or diminished a handful of the strongest, most powerful beings because they made her mad. Also! Her powerful connection with Nathaniel where their magic joins and she essentially unlocks his powers because of the intimacy felt way too much like an Anita Blake novel.

The author does wrap up most of the odds and ends in the book so it concludes pretty well, but I agree with some of the other commenters in that an epilogue might have been nice as well.

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## **Suze Lavender says**

In Black Spring Maddy has to fight for the people she loves more than ever. She's heavily pregnant and there seems to be a lot of interest in her child. She does everything to keep herself and her friends safe, but it isn't easy to go against so many powerful beings... Will Maddy succeed in her mission and who's on her side and who isn't?

Black Springs is an action-packed adrenaline rush. I love Maddy, she's fierce, she says whatever she wants to say and she loves with all her heart. I'm a big fan of this series and enjoyed reading every book. I think the ending is both fantastic and fitting. The finale is great and unexpected. I loved it.

What I like most about this series is the banter, the fun conversations between the main characters. They always managed to make me laugh. Beezle is my absolute favorite, he's hilarious. I highly recommend this series. It's entertaining, there's a lot of great action and there's plenty of fabulous magic.

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## **Marianne says**

All good things must come to an end. The Black Wings series has long been one of my favorite UF series - and I for one, am sad to see it end.

Madeline is, as we know by now, a former Agent of Death and many-greats granddaughter of Lucifer. She is

heavily pregnant with her son from her recently murdered husband, and knows that trouble is brewing in her hometown, Chicago. As if Lucifer wasn't bad enough, all his god-like siblings, Lucifer, Puck, Alerian, and Daharan, are now in town. Two of them are wreaking havoc and it's only a matter of time before all hell breaks loose on Earth.

Together with her make-shift family and great-uncle (Lucifer's only decent brother) Daharan, Maddy must find a way to thwart Lucifer & co. and keep the world safe. Unfortunately, there is a mysterious and deadly shifter on the loose, making Maddy's life extremely difficult. And then there is the matter of Lucifer's wedding to Maddy's crazed many greats grandmother...

I'm not going to spoil the ending, but I will say that Maddy's been a kick-ass heroine who has shown she is fully capable of saving herself, so it bothered me \*a little\* that she didn't really save herself this time, but instead relied heavily on someone else, in particular one character I would have loved to know more about. But I'm not complaining too much, because both her male "rescuers", are interesting characters indeed.

Nathaniel: I'm still rather surprised at how much he has grown on me. Initially, I hated him with the intensity of a thousand suns, much like Maddy herself. But he's come a really long way, and I think the start of the turning point was when he stood by Maddy when she struggled with the darker aspect of her powers and everyone else shunned her. Now, as the son of Puck, he actually comes across as a vulnerable romantic, even a bit of a push-over - in a cute sense. His character has continued to evolve, to a point where I no longer begrudge him taking Gabriel's place in Maddy's heart, her bed and as her protector. I actually felt sorry for him for a while because he had to fight so hard to become an even partner in their relationship. He may not be Gabriel, but he is exactly what she needs, and I'm happy to see that for this last book.

Daharan: Wow, why wasn't he introduced earlier. It's sad to see such an amazing character and not get to know him, his past, his origins and his siblings better. These beings possess nearly infinite power and watching them struggle for the right to rule humanity was intriguing. There are a lot of unanswered questions about these brothers and I really hope that we see more of them. If I had my way, Christina would write a book, or even a series, entirely dedicated to Lucifer's siblings and their murky past.

For these reasons, I cannot give Black Spring more than 4 stars. But overall, I WAS happy with the conclusion.

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### **Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says**

Warning: Black Spring is the final (for now, according to the author) book in the Black Wings series. I do take this fact into account when assigning my rating of the book. In addition, this review does contain spoilers from the first six books of the series as well as potential spoilers from this book.

Madeline "Maddy" Black: former Agent of Death and many-greats granddaughter of Lucifer, pregnant with her son from her recently murdered husband, knows that something dangerous is afoot in her hometown of Chicago. Now that all four of the powerful, god-like brothers, Lucifer, Puck, Alerian, and Daharan, are awakened, it's only a matter of time before all hell breaks loose on Earth. Together with her make-shift family and great-uncle Daharan, Maddy must find a way to thwart Lucifer et. al. and keep Chicago safe. Unfortunately, there is a mysterious and deadly shifter on the loose, making Maddy's life extremely difficult. And then there is the matter of Lucifer's wedding...

Writing this review was difficult for me. \*insert heavy sigh\* I absolutely enjoyed reading this series from the first book, and I didn't want to see it end. Although the book contains several of the characteristics that make the series so pleasurable and engaging over the years, I was really unhappy with the way some story lines were tied up. This left me sad and a little disappointed.

One thing that I loved about Black Spring is that the gang is back together after being apart for the last book. The stories are always at their best when the group functions as a team. The dynamics of their support network, friendship, and banter give the stories heart. I adore Beezle, Maddy's long-time gargoyle companion who is part Jiminy Cricket to Pinocchio and part Xander to Buffy. His snarky wit keeps me laughing, yet it is his thoughtful insight, which is typically on the money, that provides such tender and moving moments. I like how he kept Maddy in check when it came to the growing darkness within her.

I also appreciated Maddy's own self-awareness. She's finally figuring out how much power courses through her body, and she owns both the darkness and the light. She's learning to take time and pick the best course of action rather than always reacting. I appreciate her internal struggles, and I actually LOVED what happens to Maddy with respect to her powers at the end of the book.

As I mentioned, there are some parts of the book that I did not like. First of which is a side character that was introduced prior to Black Spring: Jack, a conspiracy-theory type blogger who reports on the preternatural community. Now that the world knows humans aren't alone, Jack is determined to expose it all, using Maddy as his springboard to fame. As far as I can tell, the character has no purpose in the story, other than to be a total pain in the butt. He shows up at inopportune and unlikely times, and I felt that his storyline was forced and unnecessary.

Potential Spoilers ahead:

While there are a few other incidents that bothered me on a lesser scale, there is one storyline that has bothered me since it took root three or so books ago: Maddy and Nathaniel. It is upsetting that this strong woman was barely given anytime to grieve the sudden and horrific loss of her beloved husband, and the author already had a new suitor in the wings. While I grew to appreciate the pair's friendship, I never agreed with the hints of romance and budding love between Maddy and Nathaniel. I mean - she is carrying her dead husband's child in her womb - it's ONLY been a few months... WHY does she need another romantic partner in her life? Unfortunately, Ms. Henry chose to continue following this path throughout Black Spring, concluding in a way that left me terribly disappointed, therefore lowering the rating I gave this book.

END of Spoilers.

In the end, I am thankful that the author had the opportunity to wrap up the Black Wings series on her own terms, regardless of my likes and dislikes. It truly has been a pleasure to read, and I still recommend the series to fans of the urban fantasy genre. A lot happens in Black Spring, the final (for now) story of Madeline Black, and it was wonderful to see the team all back together. The story was fast-paced, and I found myself completely engrossed, per usual. I'm happy it ended on a positive note and everything is all wrapped up, even though I am not happy with where the story went in every case.

My Rating: C+ Liked It, but I had issues

Review copy provided by publisher

Originally posted at [That's What I'm Talking About](#)

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**Jen says**

I started out loving this series, but this was awful. I like a heroine who isn't perfect, but the entire book consisted of the most powerful men in the universe telling her how special she was. Over and over and over and over. A completely unbelievable plot coupled with an unrelated and remarkably stupid subplot makes me sorry I paid for this book. So disappointed, because this series started out so strong.

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