



Butterflies

K.J. Charles

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Journalist Robert Caldwell is still smarting from his first encounter with ghost-hunter Simon Feximal. Their night in a haunted house was thrilling, but the aftermath leaves Robert hurt, disappointed, and resolved not to see Simon again.

But just a few days later their paths cross once more, this time investigating a pair of mysterious deaths: two corpses shrouded in butterflies.

Now Robert wants the truth – on the deaths, on where the butterflies came from, and most of all, on the attraction that still burns between him and Simon.

A free standalone short story (8700 words) in the Secret Casebook of Simon Feximal. The first Simon Feximal story is The Caldwell Ghost, available from Torquere Press.

Butterflies Details

Date : Published October 28th 2013 by Smashwords

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Author : K.J. Charles

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Historical, Fantasy, Paranormal, Mystery, Short Stories

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From Reader Review Butterflies for online ebook

Em says

I had the same wicked grin on my face whilst reading this book as I did with The Caldwell Ghost. The humour and chemistry between journalist Robert Caldwell and ghost-hunter Simon Feximal is just perfect and a pleasure to read. I want more, lots more!

"Mr Caldwell, are you intending to pump me much longer?"

Macky says

Wow...just wow! That's it. I'm now hooked on the spooky tales of Robert Caldwell and Simon Feximal.

Hordes of death bringing butterflies, ancient crypts, a mysterious tortured ghost Hunter with a really cool secret and enough eerie, creepy moments to have you quivering in your boots. Just delicious! Add some knee trembling passion between these two wonderfully enigmatic characters and however short this is, it still all adds up to a darn near perfect read.

I loved The Caldwell Ghost but I adored this. Don't even think about it, just go and treat yourself to the first then get this ASAP from Smashwords ...its free!

Reminiscent of the proper, spine tingling ghost stories from classical writers like M R James and H P lovecraft these stories are truly spookalicious! * shivers*

Laura says

This story is why I hang out with horror.

I smile, twitch and tremble whenever horror transforms something innocent and beautiful into fear and nightmares. Goosebumps war with my freckles even! I love it! A good horror tale can use your idea and view of “innocent” and harmless against you to get under your skin. It’s a trait that forces me to look at things in a new light. Pushes my idea of scary to the edge. Some of my biggest spine-tingling chills are connected to the unexpected horror. I know zombies will rip me to shreds, but...

Butterflies! Haha...Small, peaceful flutters of beauty. Flying, floating softly by. What could possibly make a butterfly attack and kill? You’ve got to see and read this to believe it. Beautiful and creepy!

(view spoiler)

Throw in the fun, matter-of-fact humor and sexy chemistry between Robert and Simon and HOT DAMN! -- this little gem has it all! More please. These two are hot, fun and perfect for each other. I’m hooked!

K.J. Charles hit my favorite author list with a BANG this week. Her words stir and play around in my imagination. Words that linger, inspire, and paint such strong images. Yup! I'm in love. :)

Favorite words from this visit: splayed and mumb-jumbo

Highly recommended. And it's free!

Heller says

At the risk of repeating myself I adore Simon and Robert! The mystery of Mr. Feximal and the practicality of Mr. Caldwell balance out delightfully. Throw in some rather raunchy sex and give this to me for free? I couldn't ask for anything more...except I'm greedy and I want more please.

K.J. Charles says

I wrote *The Caldwell Ghost* as a one-off Halloween short. However, the characters had other ideas.

This is the second story of Simon Feximal, Victorian ghost hunter, and his narrator, sidekick and lover Robert Caldwell. In this story Robert and Simon pursue their acquaintance as they investigate the horrific death of two men apparently killed by butterflies.

This is a free 8700-word story available from Smashwords. (You don't have to have read *The Caldwell Ghost* for it to make sense). I hope you enjoy it!

Jo says

Butterflies starts right where we left off... yippie, I love it when we get right back into their lives and I am not left feeling that the characters were having fun without me... yay!

There is a much talked about scene in *The Magpie Lord* that is the single most horrific thing I have ever read ! It had me glued to the pages. I could not stop reading that scene even while my heart was thumping wildly. Well, *Butterflies* has an equally horrific scene, where people are being killed by thousands of swarming butterflies, choking them to death. I know what you're thinking, butterflies can kill, really? But it is so logical it will leave you running away from them faster than rats or spiders from now on. Who effing knew....well J.K. Charles knew... Thank God.

I hate true horror stories. I don't like blood and guts and yet I am riveted by Charles' writing. We follow

along jumping at shadows with Caldwell and Feximal while they try to figure out where the butterflies are coming from, why they would kill and who is desecrating ancient crypts... Come on!!! We all know you don't touch the damn burial grounds...sheesh Ghost Hunting 101 people. Did we learn nothing from Scooby Doo?

The humor and chemistry between Caldwell and Feximal also help to ease the scary tension. Of course it ramps it up in other areas but I am not complaining.

I am really excited to read this series and am hoping for many more vignettes.

J.K. Charles is now an automatic buy, no matter the price or length.

Jenn says

This woman knows how to write, and she even makes me like m/m historicals. That never happens!! Historicals outside of this genre; I've loved, but in it...no.

Simon, Simon, Simon...you aloof, stern, smexy bastard. Let me hug you and watch you fall for Robert again and again.

I love how KJ always writes horror and mysteries differently. Death by butterflies? What the fuckery, but it was AWESOME. I love the details and the history, along with the humor that gets me every time.

I can always picture her words and scenes in my head as if they were on the big screen playing out in front of me. They are vivid and the characters always seem fanciful, yet relatable.

So basically I heart the fuck out of KJ Charles.

Ann says

This story is EXACTLY how and why I like historical and paranormal books. So dark and creepy, but with a smidge of snark to keep it fun. This is the best kind of creepy too. The kind where an author can take an everyday object, a symbol of the beauty of nature and springtime, the butterfly, and make it scary as all hell. I LOVE that.

The fancified language that gives the whole story a decadent flavor but remains completely accessible is how historical stories should read.

Simon and Robert are fast becoming favorite characters of mine and I am anxiously awaiting the next installment.

Sofia says

Throughout my journey through lots of crime stories, I've never met such a murder weapon as created by Charles in this short story. Brilliant. I liked the story and it's execution, also the additional character and relationship development.

Recently I was discussing the possibility of Sherlock Holmes and Watson being gay. These shorts further explore that idea which I think is worth further thought.

I totally enjoyed this slightly meatier instalment in the Feximal casebook and sincerely hope that there will be more. Can I borrow from Oliver Twist and 'beg for more'

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

Equally impressive as the first story, this again brings a fully detailed paranormal mystery to the fore, allowing Robert a chance to reacquaint himself with the enigmatic Simon.

These two pair up to join their resources, and boy do they take bringing work home to an all new level.

Never feeling shorted by the mere 15 pages that this was, I look forward to reading the full length sequel!

Ingie says

Written January 21, 2014

4 Stars - some nice goth horror and hot attraction in a great mixture

Butterflies is a free short sequel **about the journalist Robert Caldwell and the ghost hunter Simon Feximal** we first met in *The Caldwell Ghost* - a spooky wonderful very short tale (4.2 spooky stars from me).

~ Winchester 1893 ~

A few weeks have passed since the two men meet for the first time (story #1) and by chance they meet again in Winchester where two deaths occurred with a variety of butterflies involved. ... Under some cold

autumn days and of an unknown butterfly species. Mysterious and inexplicable.

Robert Caldwell has thought a lot about the sexy Mr Simon Feximal with '*a strange air of a pagan priest*'. The feelings seem to be mutual. Strong and tough but Simon really needs (.. and not just with ghost searching) Robert when magic flutters. And the "fun" seems to be a bit like the first time the heat struck...

'I did not know, I still do not understand, why it should be such pleasure to have Simon manhandle me so. I do not lack of self respect.'

Another smart, clever and a bit spooky, historical romances from a very good writer. It's a joy to read these few pages, so very nicely done. ~ Don't miss to read K.J. Charles well-written and always so wonderful stories (view spoiler).

I LIKE - interesting, smexy and a bit scary - a second; Booooo!!

Ami says

In *The Caldwell Ghost*, we meet Robert Caldwell and the mysteriously sexy Mr. Simon Feximal, who later become Caldwell's companion for almost twenty years. I enjoyed that short story, but it was too short for me -- and I just couldn't give my 4-stars.

This one, however, I just loved it. It showed once again why K.J. Charles was quickly becoming one of my favorite authors – even if I only read her one novel and two short stories so far. *Butterflies* opened almost directly after *The Caldwell Ghost*. We found that Simon didn't immediately return Robert's attraction and Robert was quite upset about that. Until they met again when there were strange double deaths involving butterflies.

Yes, death by butterflies.

Seriously, it was VIVIDLY CREEPY!! Who knew, animals so pretty could become means of well, definitely unpretty death!! You could close your eyes and imagine the scene, smartly described by Ms. Charles, and I dare you that you will probably think twice about butterflies from now on.

This was the second case that Simon and Robert worked together – it combined paranormal elements with a dash of horror, and it was delicious. Knowing that Simon and Robert were together for nearly two decades, I'd say that should be more cases coming, right, K.J.? Because really, reading them is so, so much fun... I just want more of Robert and Simon!

Julio Genao says

Simon Says.

****NOW WITH BONUS SMUTTY POETRY SLAM IN THE COMMENT THREAD!****

So: that happened.

Ate it up and swallowed it down almost without pausing to taste it, is what I did.

infinitesimal shrug

This one's clever enough not to repeat the same trick twice, while still almost-satisfying the appetites whetted in *The Caldwell Ghost*. It's got more Simon in it, of course—Lord ha'mercy do funny things happen to my junk when he starts bossing people around—and another Scooby Doo case as creepy as the last one. Delicious!

And yet—more. I want more.

I have literary blue balls, and not far off from the other kind, as well.

This will not do at all.

SheReadsALot says

Back for round two with Simon Feximal and Robert Caldwell! And this time the men solve a case involving killer butterflies. K.J. Charles succeeded in creeping me out but still delivered a satisfying time. I hate bugs including butterflies. You might think they are beautiful, I see a flying creature with creepy crawling legs.

I'm shuddering now just talking about them.

Simon and Robert investigate curious murders involving those butterflies (I hope this never ever becomes a thing) A cool back story is involved including a desecrated tomb, smexy times, a ghost and those flying demons aka butterflies.

Totally enjoyed the freebie, love these characters and adore this author's writing.

Gulp, I hope for more of this series but I'll admit to being a little nervous what else might be involved.

;P

Susan says

I'm obsessed with Simon Feximal. I want to know more about him.

It's amazing to me the stories that authors can tell in so few words.

This was 8700 words filled with sexual tension, attraction, creepiness, crypts, a mad man, a hot blow job, and death...death by choking...death by choking on THOUSANDS of butterflies. I don't know that I can ever think of butterflies as anything less than freaky moving forward. Blech.

I read this FREE story as a standalone and am looking forward to going back and reading the first installment The Caldwell Ghost. And, Ms. Charles...I DEMAND MORE of Simon and Robert!!!! ?

Ami reviews both The Caldwell Ghost and Butterflies at the blog for our Halloween recs on October 31st:
