



## My Haunted Blender's Gay Love Affair, and Other Twisted Tales

*Abigail Roux, Andrea Speed, Anne Tenino*

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Die Laughing.

A collection of not-so-chilling tales of love and laughter from three of the genre's masters of pulp.

In The Bone Orchard, by Abigail Roux, Pinkerton investigator Ezra Johns and US Marshal Ambrose Shaw have a lot to learn about life—and the afterlife—in their quest to bring a vicious murderer to justice. Fortunately, they've got all the time in the world to figure it out.

In City of Monsters, by Andrea Speed, an ex-investigator turned some-kind-of-shifter (he doesn't know, but with his luck, it's probably nothing cool) is hired to find a missing reverse tooth fairy in the hellish dimension of Dev. But even simple things aren't easy for a guy with more vices than virtues, and his situation gets even more complex when a hot newcomer to Dev with a taste for danger joins him on the case.

In Horny, by Anne Tenino, a group of supernatural law enforcers enlist the help of a human, Ryan Caulfield, to catch Zeus: the god voted Least Likely to Keep It in His Pants. But there's more to Ryan than even he knows, and the satyr searching for Zeus is tempting him with far more than simple justice.

## **My Haunted Blender's Gay Love Affair, and Other Twisted Tales Details**

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## **From Reader Review My Haunted Blender's Gay Love Affair, and Other Twisted Tales for online ebook**

### **Claudia the Night Owl says**

A fun collection of three stories by three very awesome writers. Together I give the book a 3.5ish rating. Beneath are my separate ratings.

#### **5/5 City of Monsters**

I loved Andrea Speed's Josh of the Damned series so naturally I was really excited for this. Hunter is living in Nightshade, a city of monsters, there are Vampires, Weres, Zombies, Yetis and other assorted scarys running around and Hunter is one of them, though he's not actually sure what exactly he is. Hunter works as a finder a sorta detective whom as the name implies finds things, on such a mission he runs into a new arrival, a cute guy who has just arrived at Nightshade. Scared and confused Sakari tags along with Hunter on his search for a missing fairy. Oh and there's a talking haunted blender. Yea, like you need another reason to love this.

#### **3/5 The Bone Orchard**

Ghosts! Oh how I do love a good ghost story.

Ezra's in town to give witness to the evil that is "Missouri" Boone Jennings. Ignoring the warnings he books a hotel room said to be haunted. When a strange man comes in he thinks nothing of it and lets him room with him. Introducing himself as US Marshal Ambrose Shaw, Ezra is thrilled to meet a legend and the two get along well until Ezra finds out that Ambrose Shaw has been dead for weeks then things get freaky. Did I mention there's a surprise visit from Sidewinder? No? Well there is!!! Owen dragged his buddies on a lil' ghost hunting mission to discover what happened to his great great great don't know how many greats uncle Ezra who's death has been a mystery in his family for generations. All in All a fun little read that had me laughing like crazy though it does make me wonder about the afterlife.

#### **2.5/5 Horny**

Horny is about a group of law enforcing mythological beings who pop in at a bar and ask the nonplussed bartender for assistance in catching a law breaking Zeus. Poor Ryan ends up hosting demigods, fauns and sex gods at his bar and one of them won't stop trying to get into his pants.

Interestingly unique but not as good as I had hoped it would be could have used some actual godly law enforcement action.

A fun and at times a bit creepy collection of stories. A great way to spend a lazy Sunday.

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### **Julesmarie says**

[the tie in with team Sidewinder from her other series. That was a lovely surprise. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Ren Stjerne says**

1st- the last part of this story felt tacked on and didn't feel like it belonged.

2nd- I want a haunted blender of my own. I'd give it better fruit than limes and lemons.

3rd- resolved too quickly and drama free

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### **Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says**

All in all, a very mixed collection for me. See my individual reviews below:

"The Bone Orchard" by Abigail Roux- **2 stars**

"City Of Monsters" by Andrea Speed- **3.5 stars**

"Horny" by Anne Tenino- **3 stars**

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### **UltraMeital says**

Anthologies are a certain bet I guess especially if you don't know the authors of most of the authors but here I felt like this is a bet I'm REALLY ready to make - two great authors - Abigail Roux of Cut & Run which was the first MM Romance series I've ever read and Anne Tenino which I just recently read two books by her (in the Romancelandia series) the other author - Andrea Speed - I didn't know. For me she was the bet I guess and yet her story was the best of the three IMO.

I didn't bother read the synopsis of the Anthology , figured, they are short anyway.. so I totally missed the fact that this one is a Paranormal MM Romance. Was trying REAL hard to think of how to explain the weird things that were happening in the first one I picked hehe. It was a nice Anthology but not very engaging, the three stories were quite slow going.

I expected much more from Abigail and Anne and was honestly quite disappointed with their part in this one. Andrea's novella, which was also the shortest, was refreshing, funny and had a total different vibe since it was mainly a Fantasy novella (not really romantic and having a very weak gay feel to it).

#### **The Bone Orchard By Abigail Roux (~ 94 Pages) \*\*\***

Somewhere in the 1800s Ambrose have been hunting down Jennings - a brutal serial killer. When he realizes that the best way to catch him and hold unto him is to just shoot him and screw a fair trial his plan backfires - It seems Jennings is a better shot.. Yet he DID wound Jennings meaning the authorities got him. Ezra, a witness and law enforcer himself, marches into town to make Jennings hang at last for his crimes.

Things doesn't really go according to plan but at least an alliance is formed between Ezra and Ambrose. I really enjoyed the love story between Ezra and Ambrose, really enjoyed most of the story actually. Had my problems with the pace though, was a little slow going and not engaging enough, mainly in the beginning. When I finished the chapter before last I was willing to let this one go with a smile. Not a solid 4 star read but very close to it. Yet there WAS another chapter, a chapter that reminded me of how ANGRY I was after I finished my last read by Abigail. It seems that right now, the most important thing is to mention the "new couple" and making them appear wherever possible (I'm talking Nick & Kelly and I guess the Sidewinder in

general). So if you are familiar with the Sidewinders just know they make a small appearance in the last chapter. I honestly think that this chapter could just be avoided. Nothing of interest happens there and it dragged out like the beginning of this story.

So yeah, it could have been an almost solid 4 star read but I'm giving it 3 for dragging on and for making an unnecessary effort to bring into the pictures characters from her new series.

#### **City of Monsters By Andrea Speed (~64 Pages) \*\*\*\***

This one was funny and strange (in a good way). The world and world building were really good. The MC, Hunter, isn't a very "hero-y" type, he struggles with the place he now lives in after becoming a shifter (though he doesn't know to what exactly..). He is somewhat alcoholic, loves to gamble and can't always pay his debts, he is not a courageous guy yet he survives somehow maybe mostly on instinct and luck. On his way to investigate the disappearance of a reverse tooth fairy he meets Sakari - another guy who, like him, magically came to this place full of monsters after he became a shifter himself. The good looking Sakari interests Hunter on the sexual basis though he doesn't even know if Sakari is gay.. so he takes him along on his mission and finds out Sakari is more than good looking he can be useful!

It's not a real romance story and don't expect any explicit sexual scenes. Yet it was nice as a sort of fantasy story of someone trying not very successfully to manage in a world that he wasn't born in. The gay concept could be totally ignored here.

Don't miss out on the short epilogue after the acknowledgments! As the name of this novel imply there is a haunted blender involved! It's as strange as could be expected but I LOVED how it ended :D

#### **Horney By Anne Tenino (~113 Pages) \*\* DNF**

I started with the third novella by Anne after recently reading "Too Stupid to live" and "Billionaire With Benefits" and loving them both to pieces. Sadly this was a disappointment and I read about half (Chapter 6) before I let this one go.

It's basically about warriors from the Greek legends being real and coming to Ryan a local human owning a bar to help them look for Zeus who has been breaking the law by somehow making the gods that aren't suppose to have sex with humans (because of prior "misbehavior") be able to. Confused? yeah, I was confused most of the time.. Couldn't remember who is who, what's their deal and why (As usual) when it comes to MM novels when there are gay couples it seems EVERYONE around them are gay.

I think I let this one go when Ryan and Leander (one of the warriors) are FINALLY going to get some action (after 3 boring chapters of them basically looking at each other longingly). I was so annoyed and mostly bored I couldn't be bothered reading more about them which is the exact point I decided to go ahead and read the next one, meaning the previous one..

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#### **Erin Smith says**

Bone Orchard - 4\*

City of Monsters - 2\*

Horny - 3\*

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#### **Wart Hill says**

*I received this book free through a goodreads first reads giveaway*

This book is super fun! Intriguing, well built worlds. Great characters. Nice sexy times.

More detailed review might be forthcoming...

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### **Vincent says**

What a fun read!

I had a blast with this, and the individual store were short enough that I could read each in a single sitting.

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### **Christy says**

If you know me at all then it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that I'm going to buy a book with the title 'My Haunted Blender's Gay Love Affair and Other Twisted Tales'. I'm not 100 percent sure what that says about me but I'm thinking it might scream out that I'm pretty twisted, too, and I'm okay with that.

### **The Bone Orchard by Abigail Roux**

What could be more exciting than the Wild West in 19th century America? The days of outlaws, US Marshals, and a Pinkerton agent is what Abigail Roux brings to the table in 'The Bone Orchard'. Marshal Ambrose Shaw has tracked no-good, lying, murdering, filth, "Missouri" Boone Jennings, through six states and two territories, and finally caught him in San Francisco. Ezra Johns is a special investigator for the Pinkerton Agency who has come from New York to testify against Jennings in his trial. Due to a shortage of rooms in the hotel these two strangers end up sharing a room.

The author's story is one of murder, revenge, and finding love at the wrong time and place, but defying all odds to keep it. I can't go into a whole lot of detail because it's too spoilery, but suffice to say that Ezra and Ambrose defy the very laws of physics to get their man, and the laws of the heavens themselves to keep each other. I was very impressed at how the author wrote this tale because I truly never saw any of it coming and I was very surprised at every turn. Seeing some familiar faces near the end was the biggest shock of all, but oh so welcome!

Thank you, Abigail!

### **City of Monsters by Andrea Speed**

*"The name's Hunter Burrows, and I'm a finder in the city of Nightshade. Never heard of it? Lucky you. It's a city of monsters."*

Hunter has no idea how he became a were, or even what kind he is, nor does he have any memory of how he came to be in Nightshade, a magical dimension by the name of Dev run by... you guessed it... Medusa. When he says it's a city of monsters he truly means it since the only humans there are food and it's populated by vampires, weres of all kinds, zombies, you name it. And, in Hunter's case, a haunted blender that talks to him and he can't get rid of. Hunter was an insurance investigator in his former life so basically being a finder is all he's qualified to do unless he wants to join a gang. He'd like to not have to work but he needs to eat and pay off his gambling debts.

Hunter finds Sakari stumbling out of an alleyway, much the same way Hunter did when he first arrived.

Hunter does not need to be babysitting this newbie to Nightshade, but the guy is gorgeous and gay, so Hunter could get lucky. When Sakari shifts for the first time, it turns out he's a pretty cool and venomous animal, so Hunter figures he might come in handy while he's trying to investigate the disappearance of a reverse tooth fairy possibly tied to smuggling.

Hilarious fun that I totally expected from Andrea Speed. Thank you!

### **Horny by Anne Tenino**

I'm fairly certain I wouldn't have taken it as well as Ryan does when four members of the satyroi, officers of pantheonic law on Mount Olympus, appear in the middle of the day on the dance floor of his bar. Achilles (Axe) is their leader, Idra is a nymph, Gany is a catamite, Karl is a satyr, Patroclus is Axe's husband, and Leander is a love demigod, and they're looking for Zeus who apparently has violated one too many of the morality sanctions he's under.

Ryan may own a bar, a gayesque type bar in his small corner of the world, but Ryan doesn't believe in having casual sex. Unfortunately for him, Leander is pushing all of his buttons and making Ryan very nervous. Leander, on the other hand, hasn't been this attracted to a human in decades. Once Leander realizes that Ryan needs an emotional connection it throws the whole situation out of whack since mortals, normally anyway, aren't capable of meeting immortals' emotional and intimacy needs. If Leander allows himself to care then he could be the one at risk when their assignment is over.

Thank you, Anne, for not taking this in a totally predictable direction. I adored the ending!

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A wonderful anthology filled with something for everyone. I greatly enjoyed each of these three novellas and would love to see more from the authors set in these worlds.

### **Adara says**

#### **The Bone Orchard by Abigail Roux**

So I was sorta "whatever" going into the story. US Marshal Ambrose Shaw hunts down a serial killer and gets killed by him. A witness, Ezra Johns, travels across the country to testify against the killer and meets the Marshal's ghost, not realizing it's a ghost at first. Killer is hanged. And then people keep dying because his ghost is still around also. Killer manages to kill the judge, a few jurors, and also the witness (which is sort of a good thing, because now Ambrose and Ezra can actually connect with each other, which they find amazing). But they will forever have to track down the killer's shade to try to prevent him from collecting more for his "bone orchard."

I'm thinking the story is close to over (trying to squeeze the rest of it in at lunch), and then we jump to present day and the two come across a group of guys, one of whom looks much like Ezra. And they figure out he's got Ezra's old journal and must be Ezra's nephew a few times removed, named for Ezra's father, Owen. And then the guys he's with are named Nick and Doc (and Digger, from Sidewinder), and as it dawns on me who these guys are (because I wasn't paying enough attention right at first) we hear maniacal laughter as the killer determines his next victims. And, oh crap, this story isn't over yet!

So, yeah, I had fun reading this one. (And I do believe it really was all Rachel's fault, wanting her M/M

version of *Deadwood*.) =) 5 stars.

### **City of Monsters by Andrea Speed**

So, for those familiar with the Josh of the Damned: The Complete Collection stories, there's a portal which monsters can travel through to the human world. This story is set on the *other side* of that portal, in a dimension called Dev. However, if you think this story is about the Haunted Blender for which the book/collection is named, you would be wrong. It's a side character.

The main characters are a were-something--he doesn't actually know what he turns into--named Hunter Burrows, and a newcomer to Dev whom he stumbles into, Sakari Karim. Hunter's trying to track down a reverse tooth fairy (takes coins and leaves teeth) and pay off some gambling debts, so the last thing he needs is a handsome thrill seeker who knows nothing of the dimension tagging along and distracting him. It doesn't stop him from letting it happen though.

I quick tumble through the looking glass of the Josh of the Damned universe, and entertaining if you like that universe. =) 4 stars.

### **Horny by Anne Tenino**

An interesting modern take on Greek myth and soul/bondmates. Zeus is getting into mischief and an oracle has told Achilles and his team they need to seek out Ryan Caulfield for assistance. Leander thinks he's there to help the team, but it turns out his main interest is Ryan himself. Leander is an immortal, but he's drawn to Ryan and has to figure out how to woo the human, because it's a whole different ballgame. But human/immortal pairing rarely work, and Ryan's not interested in a one-off, so what are they going to do to stay together? The answer is rather surprising. Also a fun, quick read. 4 stars.

Overall, 4.5 stars.

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### **Cassie Richards says**

Great set of stories by some of my favourite authors.

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### **Vanessa theJeepDiva says**

#### **The Bone Orchard by Abigail Roux**

Abigail Roux takes her readers to San Francisco in the 1800's with this wild wild west tale of bringing a criminal to justice ghost story. Ambrose Shaw is the US Marshall determined to see an end to Jennings Boone once and for all. He doesn't care if he breaks every law there is to bring this man down. Ambrose has seen first-hand the horror and destruction this monster can bring.

Ezra arrives in San Francisco just two weeks after Ambrose. Ezra has brought the case information that will see Jennings's on the gallows with a hangman's noose. Jennings's brand of evil is far reaching and Ezra and Ambrose soon turn into his favorite men to torment. The hauntings will become something of legend as these

men continue doing their life's work long into the afterlife.

Towards the end of Bone Orchard I had a pleasant surprise. Some of the Sidewinders had a small cameo appearance. While unexpected it also felt strange. None of them have ever given me the 'paranormal investigator' vibe before. I'm still on the fence about it. The ending that Ezra, Ambrose, and their (after)lifelong battle with Jennings was given felt incomplete. Perhaps in the grand scheme things and what would happen to Ezra and Ambrose in that eventuality of that... I guess that is just how it works.

### City of Monsters by Andrea Speed

The City of Monsters installment in My Haunted Blender's Gay Love Affair, and Other Twisted Tales was a little more humorous than the first one in the book. This is also the first time I have ever read author Andrea Speed. I can honestly say I mostly liked the way the world worked.

On occasion a human ends up tossed into Dev (a monster dimension) with little to no recollection of how it has happened. Hunter knows he has been turned into a shifter, he just has no clue as to what type. The new place he calls home is everything but ordinary and he knows it'll drive him insane if he tries to figure it all out. His lackluster attitude towards his new life has left him indebted to the wrong people, with a job that he doesn't like, all while sharing an apartment with a haunted blender that never has enough fruit.

Hunter finds exactly what he needs to break up the monotony in Sakari. Sakari is new to Dev, very new. His adventuresome personality has led him to a new place he never could have imagined much less experienced. Always the optimist he sees Hunter as a way to make an easy transition into his new life. The attraction and ability to assist each other in this crazy new world make them totally work as a couple.

### Horny by Anne Tenino

The satyroi from the Immortal Moral Authority is chasing its latest ne'er-do-well God Zeus. They have been sent to Caulfield's Roadhouse to make sure the God keeps his man bits behind closed zipper. Ryan just happens to be tied into the case a little more than anyone lets on. The satyroi know that Zeus has been at the bar to do his pantheon law breaking. The oracles that have sent them there have also given hints that there is more to be found at the bar than just Zeus and his lascivious scheming.

Ryan has had his share of heartaches. He knows the simplest way to avoid them is to not get involved. Leander of the *eroté* oozes sex appeal and a quick trip to lonesomeness. Ryan feels that he has nothing to offer the sexy demigod. His self-doubt leaves him believing he is nothing more than a one night good time.

Leander's interest in Ryan has his curiosity piqued as to what is so special about this human. Leander has been with plenty of men, mortals and immortals. He knows there is something different about Ryan. He just doesn't know enough about chasing humans to actually get more than ire from Ryan. One night of forgetting all inhibitions for both parties sheds some light on what neither of them ever saw coming.

Anne Tenino created a very fun tale with *Horny*. Ryan and Leander were fun to read while they danced around the attraction that would lead to the inevitable. The fellow satyroi were excellent additions to the tale. They kept the flirtiness entertaining and light. The pantheon governing techniques were interesting and allowed for the happily ever after to work out believably. This was just an all-around great read!

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## **Djaz says**

Fun stories!

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## **Paige (TheBookVulture) says**

So much fun. I read this during a 12 hour bus trip and got a few strange looks after cracking up laughing multiple times. This is one of my go to books if I need a good laugh.

I must say I loved Sidewinder's appearance. I love their antics!

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Reviewed by Marissa

Book provided by the publisher for review

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

When I saw the title of this book, I couldn't resist. Add to that authors Anne Tenino, Abigail Roux and Andrea Speed, it had to be a win. I was so very right.

Roux takes us back to the Wild West days of San Francisco where a Pinkerton agent falls in love with the ghost of a US Marshall. I loved how the friendship and trust built between the two before they were able to actually have sex and build on the physical aspect of their relationship. There was a camaraderie that arose long before the love made it so much sweeter when they finally were able to have sex. I also loved how the story transcended generations, beginning in the 1800's and coming to present day, involving Ezra's great-great-great nephew.

Let's face it. City of Monsters has the best gimmick with the blender that shimmies across the counter saying, "Can I make you a frappe?" and "Bring home fruit." On the human aspect, Hunter is perfectly wonderful as the slightly nerdy, slightly paranoid, slightly pessimistic shifter in the foreign land of Dev. He befriends hunky new shifter Sakari and the lust (and doubt) begins. Sakari was a perfect offset to Hunter – handsome and self-assured. Together they make an unbeatable team and it would be great to see more stories about them in the future.

Anne Tenino is one of my favorite writers and is the main reason I jumped at the chance to review this book. *Horny* featured a loveable bar owner who's bar is taken over by mythical Gods on the hunt for one of their own. Ryan immediately falls for one of the satyrs, Leander. While their relationship starts a little rough, when it finally takes off, it's a white-hot flame of passion.

Each story stands on its own merit and all three stories were well-written with a good, solid storyline – something that is not always easy to achieve in a short story. For a variety of paranormal, m/m romance, this is a perfect book to fill your afternoon.

**Favorite Quote:** From *Horny*: Lowering his head, he pinned his man against the floor with hands on his shoulders, until one of his horns was right in front of Ryan's mouth. The left horn – the more sensitive, achy

one. “Suck it.”

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