



## Hell Bent

*Devon Monk*

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Instead of the deadly force it once was, magic is now a useless novelty. But not for Shame Flynn and Terric Conley, “breakers” who have the gift for reverting magic back to its full-throttle power. In the magic-dense city of Portland, Oregon, keeping a low profile means keeping their gifts quiet. After three years of dealing with disgruntled magic users, Shame and Terric have had enough of politics, petty magic, and, frankly, each other. It’s time to call it quits.

When the government discovers the breakers’ secret—and its potential as a weapon—Shame and Terric suddenly become wanted men, the only ones who can stop the deadly gift from landing in the wrong hands. If only a pair of those wrong hands didn’t belong to a drop-dead-gorgeous assassin Shame is falling for as if it were the end of the world. And if he gets too close to her, it very well could be....

## **Hell Bent Details**

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ISBN :

Author : Devon Monk

Format : Kindle Edition 370 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Magic

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## From Reader Review Hell Bent for online ebook

### Pamela / SpazP says

TERRIC & SHAME 4EVAAAH

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### Snarktastic Sonja says

This book was released right as I finished the Allie Beckstrom series – which left me wanting more, More, MORE! So, I happily snagged this one up from Netgalley with promises to provide an honest review. Not sure how honest or how fan girlish it will be – but they had no way of knowing that. ;)

First of all, this is a new series – same set of characters, new protagonist, new series. That being said, you will do yourself a favor if you read the Allie series first. While you can certainly jump into the story at this point, Shame does not start off particularly loveable. In order to really understand the whys and the wherefores and the what up, you need to follow his journey through the other series. If you don't care, then by all means start here. I am, perhaps, ok definitely, a bit obsessive, and cannot tolerate reading out of order.

Shame . . . on the surface, Shame does not appear to be very likeable. He whines. A lot. He drinks. A lot. He is snarky. Very. Yet, those around him love him deeply. And, he returns this affection – and would defend those around him to the death – and he has. But, Shame's deepest problem is that he wants to suck the life out of everything around him. Literally. That is what it means to be a death magic users in this world. Yet, Shame loves those around him too much to do so – so he is at war with his very nature. Once you understand this about him, it makes his quirks and foibles much easier to understand and accept.

This story is composed of mysteries. Why is the government looking for magic breakers (i.e. 'soul complements')? Who is killing people? Who is following Shame and/or Terric? Where is Davy? Who is Jeremy? And what does he really want with Terric? We are given a few clues to unravel a few of these, but by no means all of them. In fact, not all of them are resolved here – for it is a duology: another book will, hopefully, complete the story. But, it is not the mysteries nor their solutions that are the driving force to read here – it is Shame: his sarcastic nature and his desire to love and protect those people around him. He loves deeply and madly – and will do anything to protect. For one with a bent toward sarcastic humor, this book is a gold mine. And, even as I was choking back tears (and make no mistake, this one is a tear jerker), I was chuckling at some of the inner and spoken dialog.

It is also very entertaining to re-visit beloved characters in such a way that their lives are not greatly impacted but we still get to see what has happened with them since last we met. For instance, at least one couple is married and some others have moved out of the area to follow their loved ones. The Authority is learning to adjust to the magic as it now happens. (It is still a very creepy organization.)

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Not that, after devouring the Allie Beckstrom series, I am at all surprised. That being said, I was confounded by the amount of death in this book. It leaves me in great fear for those beloved characters still in jeopardy. And, I do not feel entertained by tear jerkers nor deaths of characters. I feel sad and depressed. Yet, this book still worked for me. I love Shame. I am still hoping for his rehabilitation and improvement in his lot in life. I don't actually expect it to ever happen, but a girl can hope, right? I would love to see him happy. I realize I am alone in a big crowd, but I do not wish to see him alone

with Terric (who, if you ask me, has other really good options in the story). I really liked Dessa and their relationship, though it was a bit sudden and beyond reason – the actual relationship worked for me. Not sure how I feel about the revealed bad guy . . . It seems a little too easy and predictable.

It is a function of how much I loved the Allie series that I was willing to pick this one up before the second was published. I am usually a complete story kind of gal. I suppose I was rewarding Ms. Monk for completing the previous series before I actually began reading it. At any rate, I give this one a solid 4 stars. It is a very good story, with great characters and enjoyable mystery. I expect to love the next one more, so I leave it for room for improvement.

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### **Catherine says**

I'm in a love book coma right now. I can't say or type anything for fear of exploding or turning to dust. Devon Monk is my hero.

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### **Ferdy says**

#### **Spoilers**

-I didn't like this as much as the *Allie Beckstrom* books, it wasn't as fun or engrossing. My main problem was the main character, Shame, I loved him as a side character and was looking forward to his spin off but he turned out to be a rather rubbish MC.

-The majority of the book consisted of Shame moaning about his Death magic, how he was so dangerous, and how he couldn't control his evil powers. When he wasn't whining he was spending his time either smoking, drinking coffee, or wearing his sunglasses — the repetitiveness of his actions and his constant whining was irritating.

-I rolled my eyes at the amount of times Shame was drugged, shot at, or tasered... He was meant to be a scary badass but that was hard to believe considering how many times people got the better of him.

-Why did Shame keep saying mate and love all the time? It didn't make him sound Irish or British... If anything he sounded pretentious.

-Terric was a decent enough character, his boyfriend Jerome was a wanker though. One thing that bugged me about Terric was him not realising Jerome was using him, his friends kept warning him but the idiot wouldn't listen... His idiocy when it came to Jerome seemed out of character considering how intelligent and emotionally sound he was meant to be.

-I felt sorry for Eleanor being stuck with misery guts, Shame, forever. He killed her and because of that her ghost was attached to him forever — and instead of being pissed at him for ruining both her life and afterlife she was all friendly and lovely towards him. She should have made Shame suffer.

-There were quite a few times where Shame, Terric and co acted like the government and general population didn't know about magic until the big showdown at the end of the *Allie Beckstrom* series. It was odd because

in other books it was established that magic wasn't a secret, the Authority was, but other than that everyone used magic in daily life. I don't why that didn't seem to be the case in this.

-Zay was even more boring than usual and Allie turned into a weepy mess.

-The romance between Dessa/Shame was quite sweet but at the same time it wasn't because 1. Dessa was killed off and 2. Dessa would never have been Shame's first priority. Terric would always mean more to him than anyone else, even if him and Dessa worked out she would have always come second to Terric and that wouldn't have been romantic.

-Shame was a hypocrite going after Eli after everything he'd done. Sure, Eli killed a few dozen people, but Shame was just as bad as him, he killed forty innocent people just because he was upset... He never felt any guilt and he didn't even think about the lives he took. How could he so easily forget killing forty innocent people? Shame needs to be killed off just as much as Eli.

-This was nowhere near as good as the *Allie Beckstrom* series, Shame wasn't endearing and his constant woe is me attitude was grating to read about. I'll still read the next one just for completion's sake.

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## **Mogsy (MMOGC) says**

3.5 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.blogspot.com/201...>

While it's true I've never read anything by Devon Monk before this, her name had been on my reading list ever since her Age of Steam books first caught my eye. I wasn't aware that she was working on something else, which explained my surprise when I saw that she had a first book of a new Urban Fantasy series out this month. You know me, I can never pass up a chance to read new UF! The fact that I'll also finally get to check out a book by Devon Monk was also very exciting.

Hell Bent is the book in question, starring the jaded Shamus "Shame" Flynn as the main protagonist and narrator. Being a special kind of magic user called a Breaker, Shame along with his Soul Complement Terric Conley have the ability to "break" magic, channeling it in its full force. Thing is, Shame's magic is Death and Terric's is Life, and both are constantly engaged in a struggle against their power, which can consume them if they're not careful. In Shame's case, he has to remain control of himself at all times, lest his Death magic harms others around him.

In a world where the power of magic has become so diminished, the Breakers immediately become targets when secrets behind their abilities leak out and become known to the government. A group of Breakers, including Shame and Terric, choose to stay and fight on home ground. But then, people with magic in their pasts start disappearing and dying -- people close to Shame and his friends. Then, beautiful and mysterious Dessa breezes into his life asking for help to find her brother's killer, making Shame realize the extent of the threat if the Breakers' secrets fall into the wrong hands.

Almost right away, I had to do a double-take of the blurb on the cover, to make sure I was indeed reading the first book of a new series. I had that strange feeling of being dropped into the middle of a situation, much like walking into a theater fifteen minutes after the movie had already started. The world of the book had an "established" feel to it already, as well as a community of characters firmly set in place, described in a way

that made me feel I should already know them. I did some research and that was how I ultimately came to discover Devon Monk's other Urban Fantasy series, the Allie Beckstrom books. I don't know how I managed to completely miss the boat on this series, because there are nine books all together and they were pretty popular, but I soon found out that *Hell Bent* is actually the first book of a spinoff. Which explains a lot!

With that mystery out of the way, I have to say that while those familiar with Allie Beckstrom will probably find a lot more to be excited about in this book, it was nevertheless a pretty fun ride for a newcomer like me too. Yes, I felt a little lost at first, but that was mostly due to my own compulsive desire to find out everything about the world and the relationships between all the members of this tightly-knit group of magic users (that is, nothing all that pertinent to understanding the story). The details that were important, on the other hand, were all there, so readers new to this world need not fear. If you're anything like me, you might even feel the urge to pick up the Allie Beckstrom novels. Indeed, my curiosity led me to add *Magic to the Bone* to my reading list, because I was just too intrigued by all the mentions and references to people and events in this previous series.

One thing I wasn't too sure of about this book was how I felt about the main character. I can tell Devon Monk is a talented writer from the way she has crafted this in-depth and fully fleshed-out personality for Shamus Flynn. The problem is, that personality is a very caustic one. I'm used to reading Urban Fantasy starring snarky characters, but Shame's brand of snark was tinged with a little too much hostility for my tastes. Right from the start, I could tell he has a massive chip on his shoulder. Not that he doesn't have a good excuse, being Death Magic incarnate and all, but at times his angst would reach levels I could barely tolerate. It took me a while to warm up to him, when the story got going and the goodness in him eventually made itself known. He also has an unconventional way of showing that he cares, which actually won him points from me. Plus, I enjoyed his brutal and no-nonsense methods of payback. For a character I downright disliked at the beginning, he certainly has a way of turning things around and making me change my mind.

The final point I want to bring up involves the romance. Devon Monk did a fantastic job building it up and carrying it out, making it emotionally impactful for the reader. But for whatever reason, it just didn't work for me. Shame and Dessa were great together, but the way their relationship was written and presented somehow gave me the feeling like it was shoehorned into the story to make a point. It's definitely not a dealbreaker, but I do prefer it when a romance develops more realistically between two characters, especially in this case when things happen so quickly.

Despite being slightly disappointed at how the story was left wide open for the next book (not all the loose ends were tied up nicely), I did enjoy how this one ended. The climax was action-filled and suspenseful, leaving me excited to find out what will happen next. *Hell Bent* did its job as a good teaser and gave me a taste of what to expect, and I have a feeling I'll probably like the second *Broken Magic* book even more. I can definitely see *Stone Cold* in my future, not to mention the Allie Beckstrom series as well!

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### **Brandi says**

*Hell Bent* is a spin-off of Monk's Allie Beckstrom series, and I can't even find the words to explain my joy about this. The main characters in this one feature one of my all time favorites, Shamus (Shame) Flynn. Shame was one of those characters that you just wanted *more* from, and every single scene they were in you

couldn't help but be distracted from the main character in order to follow along with what was happening with him (you know the type), and when I learned that there was to be a series set in Allie's world I was pretty excited (huge fan of that series) but when I found out it was centered around Shame?! I died a little.

This story starts off a few years after the magical apocalypse in the last Allie book, but if you haven't read that series you'll be able to pick this up easily, so don't worry about picking this up fresh. Shame and Terric had been put in charge of the Authority, but Shame is struggling- badly, with what had happened to him. Magic has changed him to such a degree that he doesn't always feel human and all the drinking in the world isn't dulling his pain. The ghost of the woman he killed still haunts him, literally, and he's fairly falling apart because of his guilt.

Shame isn't your typical hero at all, in fact, it's a fair statement to say he's the opposite. He's one of the most powerful magic users in the world but has perfected the art of lazy and irresponsible(lol). Terric, who is his soul compliment and a whole other issue for Shame, is the one people go to and seen as in charge. Terric is the opposite of Shame in looks as well as manners and personality. Shame is dark and carries Death magic; Terric is light and carries Life magic. Terric and Shame's relationship has confused me since Allie's series since Ter is gay and Shame is not, but there was always some kind of hinting about their feelings for each other. Happily that was explained in this book and I can finally know where they stand with each other.

I don't really know how to do this story justice at the moment, both because I'm far off my writing game, and because I'm a massive fan of Devon Monk's. I just love the way she writes, it's fast-paced, humorous, original, and unputdownable! It's a word.

I highly recommend this series to all UF lovers, and even those who didn't get past the first Allie book (first book syndrome, and admittedly some questionable romantic situations), but if you don't know the magic that is Shame you are missing out! Here are a few of the quotes from early in the book:

I'd put in a solid year of civic-mindedness before deciding I am not a people person and am more suited for darkness, destruction, and the slow madness of trying not to give a damn.

A lot of people were alive right now because I'd had the brains to stop punching the time clock.

Eyes snapped open: Jesus, the light! Every damn window poured full-watt sunlight into the room. It was daymageddon in here.

Even though I don't like Terric, it's not because *he's* a bad man. Quite the opposite: I am.

I thought about calling the cops to ticket him for it. Imagined how angry he would be. Smiled. Closed my eyes again.

Anther price I paid for casting magic? Terric's nagging.

I bit down on a smile. My bad habit of arguing with police officers had never once worked out in my favor.

"Set me free and we can bribe each other like adults," I said with a smile.

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### **Liz\* Fashionably Late says**

BR with my ladies.

I was expecting the Grim Reaper with a hangover. All I got was whinny teenager with a stupid name and lots of talking about FEELINGS. Terric was one of the few good moments of the book but the whole incident he was involved in seemed pointless to me.

The first half of this books was amazing, Shamus (ugh) was a sexy rebel with the power to kill everything around him. By the time I finished it, Shamus' moaning plus the insta-love drained me of the will to live.

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### **Shelley says**

\*Genre\* Urban Fantasy

\*Rating\* 3.5-4

\*My Thoughts\*

Hell Bent is the first novel in a two-part series called Broken Magic. The stories are set in the same universe that the Allie Beckstrom series was but three years from the ending of Magic on the Line when Allie and Crew stopped the apocalypse in its tracks and changed magic for the better.

According to Devon's notes, you can most likely read this series without having to read the Allie Beckstrom series since she does a fairly decent job of summarizing the previous series events. However, I would like to point out that the main characters, Shame Flynn and Terric Conley, are directly related to the Allie's series and Allie, Zayvion, Maeve, Hayden, Cody Miller, Stone, and Davy Silvers all make appearances in various situations throughout the book.

Hell Bent is told in the first POV by Shame but Terric is not that far away and more than makes his appearance felt. He and Terric were named co-heads of the Authority in Magic on the Line, but Shame is still dealing very badly with his death magic and the fact that he has a ghost tied to him and therefore often finds himself deep into alcohol and forgetting his responsibilities. Shame literally goes through the ringer in Hell Bent. There are some awful moments, some amazing moments, and some moments that you want to pump your fist and yell HELL'S YEAH!, and a tender moment when Maeve returns home to Portland after a most devastating moment that leaves Shame vulnerable and looking for major payback.

I don't remember having read that Shame ever had a steady girlfriend over the course of the 9 books in the Allie series. In Hell Bent, he meets Dessa Leeds who has come to Portland searching for her dead brothers

killer. Dessa is a fun character. She's determined. She's lethal. She knows who Shame and Terric are and isn't all that afraid of either one of them. She's also a former covert government operative who knows that trouble is heading for Shame and the Soul Complements like Allie and Zay. I would say that Shame definitely had his heart in the right place where Dessa is concerned.

I will not tell you who the antagonists are in Hell Bent but will say that it is not hard to figure out. I am pretty sure that once he is introduced, readers from the Allie series will immediately pick up on it and get anxious and nervous about your favorite characters health and wonder whether or not they will survive until the end of this series. This story is quite bloody at times. There are a whole lot of dead bodies thanks to Shame. It has to in order to understand how much the Death magic and Shame are linked and if anyone hurts someone Shame loves, they become expendable. Monk definitely does not hold back in the body count.

I will say that I was a bit eager and a bit hesitant to read this series since I loved Shame and Terric in the Allie series. I appreciate the fact that they can become friends, and brothers, and not be forced into a situation where they become lovers or soul mates, as it were. Personally, I think there are enough series that feature M/M characters and I just want a break from all the PC nonsense. I don't see a problem with men just wanting to be best friends who look out for each other, and would stop the world if anyone hurt the other.

I am definitely eager to read Stone Cold now that the ending left me eager for more Shame, Terric, and some major payback on the antagonists.

Part II, Stone Cold, releases April 1, 2014 by Roc

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\*Recvd via Netgalley 10/29/2013\* Expected publication: November 5th 2013 by Roc

### **XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

? **BR** with my MacHalo Freaks, starting November 1, 2015.

**Up until** the 80% mark I thought I was going to give this book a 4.5-star rating. Or at least a 4-star one. Up until the 80% mark, I felt like this:

**After** the 80% mark? I felt like this:

**What happened?** Let's start with the most heartbreak part of it all, shall we? Here we go.

**Ladies and gentlemen**, please meet Shamus Flynn, aka ex book boyfriend #12458 ← *can someone please pass the booze? I'm on the verge of tears here. Thank you.* Damn I was so in love with Shamus at first. I was so so so in love I wasn't even annoyed that everyone called him Shame. Which, you have to admit, is **one of the stupidest nicknames ever**. But hey, I was young, naïve, carefree (this was a week ago, I've changed a lot since then) and so so so in love at the time that I couldn't have cared less. So, here I was, happily scheming away, planning **Shame's** Shamus' abduction and subsequent transfer to my **high-security harem**, when this happened:

*Note to self: DO NOT CONVULSE. DO NOT CONVULSE.*

I was still young, naïve, carefree and so so so in love at this point so I thought to myself: "it's okay Sarah, it can't be as bad as it seems. This must be an evil trick of some kind. Surely something will happen. Devon Monk will not let this stand. She will pull a wicked twist out of her sleeve and make all the silly lovey-dovey stuff (view spoiler) disappear!" **And so I waited. And I waited. And I waited.** Called off the goons I had sent to kidnap **Shame** Shamus and told them to stand by. But things only got worse. WHAT. THE. BLOODY. HELL. DEVON. MONK????????? What the fish were you thinking????!!!!!! How could you have a dark, brooding, woe-is-me, loner of a hot guy fall in  **fucking instalove** with some stupid chick 5 minutes after meeting her for the first time????!!!! OUT OF CHARACTER, does that ring a bell, Devon Monk?! At all?! Obviously not. We wouldn't be here if it did. Bloody hell, woman, to think **Shame** Shamus had made it to my **harem top 10!** You ruined him ruined him ruined him ruined him. SHAME ON YOU! ←yes, I am aware this is a pathetic (yet totally intended) pun. That's the combined effect of grief, sorrow and despair on my two remaining grey cells. Hey Devon Monk, you know what this means, right? Yep, it means I'm pulling **my favourite nun** on you.

**But you know what?** My **Shame** Shamus isn't all that was ruined here. Oh no. Devon Monk also managed to ruin one of the best bromances that ever was. So here we have **Shame** and **Terric**: **Shame** has Death magic and **Terric** has Life magic and they have a **magic bond thing going**. So they're pretty close, if against their will. And they don't really get on that well. They are supposed to work together but when the story begins, **Shame** has been doing the loner thing for a while and hardly ever shows up at work ← and he still gets paid?! **Damn, I want that job!** Anyway, shit happens and they are more or less forced to work together again. What I really love here is how **complex** their relationship is. That complexity is partly due to their respective magic (no I'm not about to explain this here, things to do, places to go and all that). If you want to know more about this, just read the bloody book (view spoiler)). But it also comes from their past and their reluctance to admit how important they are in each other's lives and that they care for each other. You know what's **really cool** about their relationship? **Terric** is gay. And what's so cool about that? The way Devon Monk handled it. No stupid "oooh my friend is gay" crap here. None of the usual gay clichés, either. It's just a story about two guys, it doesn't matter if one of them is gay and the other is straight. Pretty refreshing stuff. **Too bad Monk made a mess of it towards the end of the story.**

**No, Yoda does not approve.** So. **Terric** has been in this abusive relationship with a total dick of a guy for some time. Things escalate but does he do anything about it? Oh now, don't be silly! Why would he do anything when **Shame** is there to play **knight in shining armour** and rescue him from Mr Prick! Sigh. You know what bothers me here? It's the whole "**poor little gay guy can't fend for himself** and needs big bad **REAL MAN** to come and save him" thing. Pathetic much? Yeah, you could say that. I don't know, maybe I read it all wrong once again. Or maybe I'm reading too much into it. Anyway, one thing is sure, this really makes no sense as far as characterization goes. Why? Because **Terric** is a pretty tough guy who takes no shit from anyone. Ever. So it's **completely out of character** for him to behave the way he does here. Sigh.

**You'd think** Devon Monk would have left it at that. I mean, she'd ruined a potentially AWESOME story already, you wouldn't expect her to make an even bigger mess of it. But, lo and behold, she did! Yay! **That final twist?** It's probably one of the most pathetic things I've ever read. Manufactured drama, here I come! So ridiculous. (view spoiler)(view spoiler) You know, Monk had done a pretty good job of ruining **Shame**'s character so far, but this? **It really killed it for me.** Plain stupid. Completely out of character. Ridiculous.

What? I already said that? Well watch me say it again: RIDICULOUS. But I have to say there is **something really positive about this twist**. Yes there is. Because reading book 2 is now completely superfluous. Yes it is. Why bother to read it when what is going to happen next is so painfully obvious and predictable? *Warning, I'm going to sigh again. SIGH.*

**Damn.** Before writing this review I had given this book a 3-star rating ← *I must have been in a really good mood that day.* **I love the world this story is set in.** It has huge potential. But I just can't forgive Devon Monk for ruining it all the way she did. **So 2 stars it is.**

**Shamus Flynn.** I wanted your ass. Now you could die and I wouldn't give a damn.

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## Julie says

### Posted at Yummy Men & Kick Ass Chicks

Hell Bent is the first book in Devon Monk's new Broken Magic series. Yes people, this is Shame and Terric's series. Now for those of you who have no idea who these two are, Shame and Terric were introduced in Devon's Allie Beckstrom series. They were not the main characters but they were in every book of the nine book series and they were favorites among readers.

Holy crap on a cracker, this one put me through the ringer! In fact, I don't remember the last time I was this affected by a book. To be honest, I believe it knocked me out so much is because I read all of the Allie Beckstrom books and in that series, Shame goes through hell and back (sometimes literally). So to see him in this book, going through both happy and devastating moments, made my heart truly go out to him. I don't believe you need to read the Allie books to get anything out of this book. I honestly think if you are a fan of urban fantasy with a snarky element to it and a very unique concept and world, you will love this book. I'm just saying you will get just a little bit more out of it if you met Shame and Terric previously, as I did.

In no way was this 'Allie Beckstrom series 2.0'. Hell Bent takes place three years after the end of the Allie books and the world and the way magic works within it has changed dramatically. Devon does a good job rehashing the important details from her previous series – the parts that are important to know for this series – but she did not dwell on any of it. We also see many familiar characters but again, not too much that it feels like a sequel book rather than a new book.

I was very surprised by who the villain was in this book. I won't say any more. Wait, just one more thing: \*shudder\*

I'd heard that Shame will meet his special someone in this book and sure enough, he did. Her name is Dessa and OMG I LOVE HER!!! She is absolutely perfect for Shame. Just perfect! Spunky, strong, smart and an assassin to boot. She is his match in every way. Their chemistry is wonderful and how they meet is perfect for them. Exactly how I think Shame would have to meet a girl.

Dash is another new character and I love him too! I hope he ends up being Terric's HEA but for now, he is just his assistant. Terric has a boyfriend in this book. It's Jeremy. Jeremy is a douche. I do not like him. One bit. Can't wait to see where everything leads in the next book, Stone Cold, due out April 1st 2014.

Devon did a perfect job telling the story through Shame's point of view. The book is told in the first person and not once did I feel this was a woman trying to write from a man's pov. One of the things I adore so much about Shame is his humor and snark. He has a sarcastic sense of humor and I love that kind of laugh. Devon definitely manages to incorporate Shame's 'smart-mouth' while giving us a great inside view of what is going on inside Shame's head and heart. He is such a beautiful mess but one you will love if this is the first time you meet or one you will love even more (if that is even possible) if you have followed his adventures before.

The story is a mix of a few things. People are dying via magic and that is not supposed to be possible anymore. How is that possible? Who is responsible? On top of that, the government is interested in strong magic users. Why? What do they want with these people? Why is there a sniper on that roof? All things you find out in this book. So good!

All in all, I adored Hell Bent. Devon's voice blends perfectly to Shame's. I laughed, I giggled, I cried (boy did I ever cry) and I sat at the edge of my seat. The moment I finished it, I wanted to start it all over again. This book will definitely end up on my top reads of 2013 list. Hell Bent blew me away.

5plus stars

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### **April Dowling says**

I received this book as an ARC give away on the authors blog. That's cool, I got to read the book before others. The problem is I've finished it and now my wait is longer than others for the second book. Ugh.

Hell Bent is full of the feels. Shame and Terric are as we remember them from the Alllie series, full of sarcasm, wit, and pain. Set three years after the end of the Alloe series, this book feels like it picks up where we left off, just with Shame driving. There were several times I thought 'geez Shame, are you really that thick?' He's a wee bit slow on some obvious points but it just further illustrates his inner turmoil. And boy is he ripe with it. Shame goes through so much in this book. I'll forewarn you if you want a spoiler, Devon gets all Joss Whedon on us toward the end. I cursed her for making my heart break.

This book truly deserves more than five stars. It's well written, the story pulls and tugs on your feely spots, and when you finish that page you're left disappointed that is over, emotional from the ride, and anxious to get your hands on the next one. So, it's a typical Devon Monk novel. Enjoy the ride.

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### **JAIME says**

DNF 54%

I just don't care enough to continue.

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### **? Sh3lly - Grumpy Book Grrrl ? says**

I'm putting this aside. I got to about 6-8% and it wasn't doing anything for me. Plus, no one who read it in the

MacHalo group buddy read liked it very much, and I've got so many other things to read. Maybe I'll pick this up later on. Plus, I wasn't happy with the author's conclusion to the House Immortal trilogy recently so maybe that's part of it.

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### **Darcy says**

I knew this one was a spin off of the Allie Beckstrom series, but have been told that you don't need to read those to enjoy this one. However I feel like I am missing things, like how/why Shamus and Terric are Soul Complements.

I wasn't impressed with this book, part of it could be because of feeling lost by missing what happened in the other series. Also I can't stand Shamus, cannot stress enough how much I don't like him. I hate is self pitying/woe is me ways. I find his spending time at the bottom of a bottle repugnant. Sure, what he can do sucks, but you are stuck with it, so deal with it and get on with life.

I feel horrible for Terric, hate that his job, which he loves and seems to define him, has been taken away. Now for that I can see spending the night in a bottle. I find myself feeling very sorry for Terric and how he explained things to Shamus. I get the feeling that there is more that he wanted to say, but didn't feel like he could.

I liked Dash, worry about what he has told Shamus, hope it isn't true because if so I fear that Terric would give his live to help.

I love the ghost that is following Shamus, mostly because she seems to put him in his place.

I loved that the red-head, Dessa, managed to get one over on Shamus. Loved that she drugged him and then the trunk, that had me laughing. I hope she can stay ahead of him.

After 80 pages I am giving up. I can't get pass my dislike of Shamus, which makes me not care what happens to him. In the end this one just isn't for me.

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### **Jen says**

Terric and Shame

Please, please, please, pretty please let Terric and Shame hook up. Please, please.

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