



Tainted

Jordan Castillo Price

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First edition was published as Channeling Morpheus: Tainted in 2008. Appears in the print collection Channeling Morpheus for Scary Mary.

Vampires agree that vampirism must be spread through sex, because if a bite on the neck could turn someone, the world would be overrun with legions of bloodsuckers by now. So Wild Bill's been careful. The last thing he'd want is to turn anyone. Especially his boytoy.

Despite Wild Bill's caution, Michael's looking pale and thin...more so than usual. He wears it well, just like the leather jacket, the black-dyed hair and the eyeliner. But for someone as starved as he is, food should hold more of an appeal. And is that a preternatural grace Bill detects in Michael's movements?

(Second electronic edition - novelette - 12,000 words - gay content)

Tainted Details

Date : Published October 9th 2011 by JCP Books LLC (first published October 10th 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Jordan Castillo Price

Format : Nook 50 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy

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From Reader Review Tainted for online ebook

Ingie says

Written June 13, 2015

3 1/2 Stars - Quietly and quite distressing, but it worked out in the end

Novella serial #4

I'm listening to the 7:44 hrs audiobook box *Channeling Morpheus for Scary Mary* including novella #1-#5:

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Payback was a first short teaser to **Michael and Wild Bill's** future adventures. The second *Vertigo* was about their second meeting and still mostly an hilarious amusing PWP shortie. Two parts and I learned that this 21 years old Michael is a quite smart and clever youngster. The vampire Wild Bill is awesome cute too. The third part, *Manikin* led us up to a new (better) level. Finally!! — I got some explanations, more non f@**ing time and we have a couple of lovebirds.

This fourth part *Tainted* was the most angsty and emotional so far. I was really nervous there for a while but thanksgod it kind of solve.

....Time for the last fifth novella *Rebirth* in my audiobook box.

I keep repeating myself:

This narrator Gomez Pugh is simply AWESOME good. His voice is mesmerizing, he makes me feel for these "boys. He has done this to am superb listening for me.

There are all in all all 10 full serial novellas in this 'Channeling Morpheus/Sweet Oblivion' series. — See also my 'full' *Channeling Morpheus for Scary Mary* review for the first five novellas in this serial.

I LIKE - heart wrenching stuff too..

BR start 12th June for book 1-5 starting with #1 - Payback. (<https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>)

Shurrn says

We delve into the science of vampirism in this episode of Channeling Morpheus...

...but we also got a hefty dose of the warm fuzzies...

Michael. Deadly Michael.

I'd been combing through my vocabulary for a word that meant lust-smacked. And skinless. And fucked up, and scared, and invincible. But I'd come up empty-handed.

All I could say was, "I love you, you know." Because that was about as close as I could come with words.

This episode was told from Wild Bill's POV, and I'm loving his character more with each book.

It's been several weeks since we left off with Michael and Wild Bill in Manikin. They've been traveling about the country in their van and fucking like bunnies...

Michael's body is a canvas of bruises and scabbed-over cuts where Wild Bill slices into his skin to feed. He's gotten thinner, his ribs are on show like a rock star heroin junkie... And that's with Wild Bill being *careful* with him.

It's a constant struggle for Wild Bill to keep his control in check around Michael, and he's increasingly worried about his health, safety, and his humanity. It's no secret that Wild Bill resents being a vampire, and he doesn't want the same for Michael.

How can you prevent what you don't understand?

What exactly causes vampirism?

What transmits it, what exactly triggers the change?

Michael finds a researcher who has been studying vampires for more than half a century, and our boys go to pay him a little visit.

The man has answers, but not the ones Michael and Wild Bill were hoping for...

Lot's of sex and angst in this installment, all of it given a rough edge by Bill's gritty POV. I'm not sure where our boys are headed now, but I'm happy to be along for the ride!

Read all my Reviews in this Series:

- 01.0 - Payback - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 02.0 - Vertigo - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 03.0 - Manikin - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 03.1 - Heaven Sent - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 04.0 - Tainted - [You're reading it!](#)
- 05.0 - Rebirth - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 06.0 - Brazen - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 07.0 - Snare - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 08.0 - Fluid - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 09.0 - Swarm - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 10.0 - Elixir - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 10.1 - Jackpot - [Read my Review Here.](#)
- 10.2 - Canine - [Read my Review Here.](#)

Omnibus Reviews:

1-5 - Channeling Morpheus for Scary Mary - [Read my Review Here](#).

6-10 - A Bitter Taste of Sweet Oblivion - [Read my Review Here](#).

*****I was provided with an audiobook copy of Channeling Morpheus for Scary Mary (Channeling Morpheus, #1-5) from the author in exchange for an honest review.*****

Be sure to check out my review of the box set for a more thorough examination of the series!

Trio says

So glad I'm doing this series in audio - Gomez Pugh is perfect for this one.

Shelley says

Oh Boy! This was the best one yet.

The beginning of this was so much fun, like seriously ...the best! *I really* want to go shopping with Wild Bill, but I'll pick out the heart shaped sunglasses and Best of 80's love songs CD and yes, I'll get him a punk one too. And then I'll drag him into the changing rooms and I won't even care about whoever may be lurking behind the security mirrors cos I'll have "R U jealous?(+ smiley face)" tattooed on my arse ...

Okay, so all my daydreaming aside; this is also awesome because it's the most informative of the novelettes so far. We learn more about Bill and his growing fears and attraction for Michael. We also learn what causes Vampirism and that, Dear Readers is what will set this Vampire hunter trope apart from all others; that, and the characterisation of course. JCP has established a credible and original scenario for Vampirism and I love that. And now things are changing for Michael too and that is as fascinating as it is frightening. Tainted is mostly about their growing feelings for each other and the strength of those emotions, the possessiveness and caring through gestures, consideration and sex ...

Yeah, this was a good one and I'm really struggling to pace myself with this series.

Catherine says

***** 4.25 Stars *****

Every installment in this series draws me in deeper - it's sexy and dark and I feel a little twisted and guilty for being so fascinated with it.

Otila says

Read as part of Channeling Morpheus for Scary Mary Ebook Box Set

This started with some hot smexing in a Wal-Mart and ended with so many FEELZ.

As if it even mattered where we were, as long as he was there.

Sofia says

[He is so so smitten but so so afraid, poor guy, all underneath a layer of snark so when I saw his shaking knees at the pier and his letting go to hug Michael, that was a great big moment. I think that the pier in a way is a reflection of how shaky Bill feels in this situation.

And then the great big doofus went and said I love you first - I had a sappy grin there. (hide spoiler)]

Rachel says

A human with a disposition to kill and a vampire with a disposition to live.

A vampiric “condition” that taints the blood and is transmitted as if it were a deadly STD - but vampirism turns it’s host into a killer, while the STD kills it’s host.

A vampire so old he can no longer fake a pretense to assimilate to contemporary humans, but who searches for a cure.

The dichotomies and parallels abound in the fourth addition to the Channeling Morpheus series continuing to set this series apart from it’s generic counterparts.

“The homicidal eye-candy I’d hooked up with had more needs than I did.”

"You let something stick, and the next thing you know, you start accessorizing it."

“What I wanted to know was, if I was a mutant, why didn’t I have X-ray vision and a cool spandex costume?”

Back in Wild Bill’s head, we are treated to a plethora of quotable one liners - dryly delivered, humorous and insightful. Normally a nice, quiet, place to retreat to, now Wild Bill’s mind is an uncomfortable sanctuary for him as he struggles to face the reality of how contagious his vampirism is and the truth in his emotions regarding Michael.

Price continues to provide the reader with an underlying commentary while maintaining a campy mood and blood rushing sex scenes. Again cementing that this series is sexy vampire smut to feed your fantasies laced with subtle context to feed your brain.

Sheri says

Confession.....

I don't know exactly what it is about Wild Bill and his boytoy Michael...but it's *something*.
Their connection is unworldly....their heat is an inferno....their story is a mirage. But I've found the perfect shades and I can *see* through the haze.
Their love....**that** is what I love.

4.5 lusty-lively-lickworthy stars

Marte - Thunderella says

From the blurb:

"Michael's looking pale and thin...more so than usual. And is that a preternatural grace Bill detects in Michael's movements?"

This is where the plot thickens or *develop* more precisely. Hot times, but there is love developing too!

I'm really liking the changing of POV every other book. You can see from the cover that this is Wild Bill's. His voice is great! :D

"What I wanted to know was, if I was mutant, why didn't I have X-ray vision and a cool spandex costume?"

Amy says

Oh Wild Bill, as if I didn't love you enough already, you go and buy Michael a little **pink** laptop. <3

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

A bit more poignant especially as these two learn more about vampirism and whether or not to turn or be turned.

What this isn't short on is expressing their feelings through sex. Lot's of it. However it also doesn't skimp on

the intensity of those feels as things come to light.

Definitely basking in the vulnerability of lust and love here..

Jordan Price says

I love the dark places this story goes, because they're very subtle dark places. While the other stories have decapitations and human manikins and even grosser stuff later on in the series, this one is about a creeping sort of contagion. Is it ridiculous that Wild Bill thinks using a condom is all he needs to do to stop the spread of vampirism? Well, that's what other vampires have told him, vampires who seem to know a heck of a lot more about the condition than he does. So he goes with the flow. If he really gave it enough thought, he would have seen through the holes in that argument himself. But clearly he just didn't want to think it through.

The "water willies" (as I've begun calling them) also got their start in this story, though we get to enjoy them in much greater detail in novelette #8, Fluid. Not that I think my vampire science is particularly scientific—and not that I'd want it to be, because usually books that are busy trying to convince you that their plot point is scientifically viable get really boring, really fast—but it was fun to seize on the traditional vampire lore of moving water being anathema to vampires. With Wild Bill being as alienated he is, when he gets too close to water and starts going into panic mode, it's almost as if the universe has judged him and deemed him unworthy, and world itself has rejected him. What can I say? Thirteen years of Catholic school gave me some good fodder for writing from a twisted and guilt-ridden worldview.

And let's not forget about the debut of Dr. Jim—I just love that guy! Such a snot! Written three years ago and the PDA is already out of date, ha ha! I'm sure he has a nice smartphone now, maybe an Android, because he'd think an iPhone was too frivolous. And Michael would have an iPad with a G3 connection so he didn't have to wander around looking for an unencrypted wireless network to join.

And Bill would just smoke his Marlboros and read the newspaper, as usual. You could also smoke inside a restaurant in Iowa back when this was written, but not anymore. I went to Iowa to do some research and was like, OMG, there are people smoking in here. Total culture shock.

Jennifer?Pher? says

"...lust-smacked. And skinless. And fucked up, and scared, and invincible."

Yeah. This one rocked.

It gets all the stars just because.

Rosa, really says

Surprisingly emotional, this one.

Sweet, sweet Michael. Deadly Michael.

I'd been combing through my vocabulary for a word that meant lust-smacked. And skinless. And fucked up, and scared, and invincible. But I'd come up empty-handed. All I could say was, "I love you, you know." Because that was about as close as I could come with words.

Btw, the condom count is down from 9 to 3. Yay!
