



## Volatile Bonds

*Jaye Wells*

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When the Magic Enforcement Agency is called out to the scene of a dirty magic explosion, a body with a bullet wound is found in the smoldering ruins. As Detective Kate Prospero and her partner, Special Agent Drew Morales, hunt down the killer, they uncover evidence that a dangerous new coven may be operating in the Cauldron.

It's not long before the bodies start piling up, and the heat is on for the team to make an arrest. Solving the murders will require unraveling dangerous alliances between the city's dirty magic covens. And if they're not careful, the new complexities of Morales and Prospero's own partnership threaten to make a volatile situation downright deadly.

## Volatile Bonds Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Jaye Wells

Format :

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Magic

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# From Reader Review Volatile Bonds for online ebook

## Jennifer says

I enjoyed this as an entertaining, light read, but I agree with other reviewers that it seems very similar to the other installments. For a fourth book, I'm underwhelmed that the series doesn't seem much more fleshed out. I wanted more development of the characters and the overarching plot. It feels like the the author is promising us a big picture later, but "later" doesn't seem to be coming, even in incremental bits in each book.

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## Cardyn Brooks says

Volatile Bonds ended up being another reading gem discovered during a browse of the library shelves. even without having read books 1 - 3 in this Prospero's War series, the characters, conflicts, and rules of engagement were inviting and easy to understand. Kate's complicated professional and personal relationships with everyone, especially with Drew and the mayor reminded me of the interpersonal dynamics in the Blood Singer series by Cat Adams. Lots of action and intrigue, too.

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## Flavourqueen says

[please Kate, don't do it to yourself, don't go to Volos, don't let stuff fester between you and Morales, please please please, fucking *talk* to him (hide spoiler)]

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## Jackie says

Another amazing tale from the Cauldron. Kate Prospero is the kick arse hero most women dream to be.

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## Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

Since the release of the third volume, the author had left this series on the side. Finally, she took it in hand to propose us a new fourth volume and I confess that I was eager to read it!

So we find our heroine, as well as Morales on a new investigation. Aphrodite's nephew died, shot and then burned by an explosion in one of the magic laboratories. Although Kate is against the idea of ??taking the case, she does not really have a choice. This affair will once again put them in danger when they face a new

group in town: dangerous people that would not be against bringing down Morales. But on top of that, Abe seems to continue to manage the Votaries by far, Volos of course is not really clear, and Danny has decided to put all the chances on his side so that Kate agrees to let him go to a special school... But when on top of that, Kate is no longer sure to be able to trust her partner, everything becomes even more explosive.

This new investigation was interesting and I confess that I was really wondering what was going on. I did not see the turnaround coming and I was quite surprised about it. Of course, I always have several questions and am curious to find out what is going to happen now. I will never say it enough, but yes I am "team Volos" so it is true that I liked to see him in this novel and to attend his exchanges with Kate. It is true that it is very difficult to rule on him but he is always there when she needs him. As for Morales, I confess that I was quite surprised and I did not expect that from him.

In short a fourth volume very nice and I now wait for volume 5 with curiosity.

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

**Actual, actual rating: 3 stars.** *My original 3.45-star rating? I must have been slightly high when I came up with it. Or drunk. Or both.*

**Soooooooooooo.** Time for some **Prospero's War Maths (PWM™)**:

#### ① **I bloody shrimping lurves this world.**

It's darkish. It's dirty. It's messy. It's populated by **delightfully assholeish characters**. And total bastards. And cagey criminal types. And a most exquisite array of **untrustworthy low lives**. And a whole bunch of **colourful nutcases**: LM is an **obnoxious, crass dream in diapers come true** (don't ask), I want to adopt Sweet Ray the **pigeon psychic** (don't ask) and Yü Nü gives new meaning to the expression "**crazy eat horned lady**" (don't ask). This world. It really is a thing of **fished up beauty** and stuff.

+/-

#### ② **Cupcake and Macho. I lurves them, too.**

Then again maybe not. I mean, Macho (aka Morales) is still one of my **Favorite Lickable Boyfriends (FLB™)** ever (view spoiler) but Cupcake (aka Kate)? The chick is **seriously starting to get on my nerves pincers**. I mean, GROW UP! How long will we have to deal with your bloody shrimping issues and insecurities?! This is getting **really old** and you're obviously in serious need of some **Critical Emergency Character Development (CECD™)**. I'm getting viciously pissed off by your **slightly irritating behavior**, so you better try and do something about it. Like tell some of your **supposed friends** to fish the hell off, for example. I mean, that's what normal people do when their **supposed friends** betray their trust, and **constantly scheme** behind their bloody shrimping back, because they think they know much better than them. **Well fish them, and fish that!**

*You got that right, fishy.*

**Also:** Macho is the only one who's always got your back and **supports you**, especially when your **supposed friends** behave likes assholes. So stop lashing out at him, treating him like shit and getting all offended by

what he did/failed to do. You're not the exactly **perfection personified** either, so cut him some slack. Unless you want me to unleash my **homicidal babies** on you, that is. But if that happens to be the case, then by all means, do go on. My murderous children have been quite **restless** lately, and will be more than happy to **go all slaughterish on you** and stuff.

*It's a serial killing shrimp, my dear.*

**Also, also:** John Bloody Shrimping Volos. You do NOT want to go there. **NO. YOU. DON'T.** Because non-TSTL heroines are NOT supposed to spoiler spoiler spoiler, behave like annoying schoolgirls and have spoiler spoiler spoiler when it comes to **bloody shrimping unlikable** (choose all that apply) assholes/bastards/jackasses/pricks/asses/sobs. Damn, girl, it really feels like you want me **release the kraken crustaceans** or something. So you might want to call the UN and ask if they can deploy the **Blue Helmets** in the Babylon area, just in case. It never hurts to **plan ahead** and stuff.

+/-

### ③ **The not too bad but not too good either plot I didn't lurve.**

Okay, so the plot **doesn't suck**. It's fairly entertaining, too. But you get to the end of the book and think to your ~~amazing~~ little self, "**errr, that's it?** That's what this was all about? Okay then. Now let's try and read something a **little more scintillating**, shall we?" I mean, much ado about naught and stuff. But I guess what really bothered me here is the way some **secondary characters' personalities** seem to have changed from the previous instalments in order **to fit the plot**. What the fish happened to Aphrodite, my **mostest favouritest hermaphrodite ever**? Where did that spoiler spoiler spoiler thing come from? I didn't get it when I was reading the book, and **I still don't get it now**. ~~Despite my dazzling intellect.~~ My dear (and slightly fabulous) wife Maria, whom I had the delicious pleasure (view spoiler) to buddy read this not so delectable book with, says in her wondrously spot-on review that "*it's like Ms. Wells has been away from these characters for too long and now **they feel slightly off**.*" Dear Slightly Fabulous Wife, you nailed it indeed. That's exactly what it feels like, and Aphrodite is the **perfect example** of how out of character some of the cast act in this instalment. **Ugh ugh and ugh and stuff.**

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### ④ **The Incoming Bloody Shrimping Love Triangle of Doom and Destruction (BSLToDaD™).**

So it hasn't happened yet. But it's coming at us like a **bunch of supersonic, rabid barnacles on acid**. And I fully expect the next book in the series to be a **disaster of epic proportions**. At least. If not worse. So. Dear Kate Prospero. You know how much I lurves you. Well I guess you know I much I lurved you until you started **irritating the hell out of me**. But anyway. I still almost lurves you and stuff. BUT. Ditch my boyfriend Morales to frolic with the **Bloody Shrimping King of Bloody Shrimping Deceitful Assholes** (BSKoBSDA™) and you're dead. But hey, **no pressure and stuff**.

*Sense a recurring theme here? Clever, clever Little Barnacles.*

**Time to recap.**

① +/- ② +/- ③ - - - ④ =

*Okay, so maybe it wasn't that bad. But I've been waiting for this instalment to be published for two fishing years, so I think I'm entitled to some slightly dramatic manufactured drama and stuff. You're welcome.*

» And the moral of this **Saying that this Instalment was Somewhat Underwhelming and a Little Unnerving would Be Putting it Somewhat Mildly and a Little Gently and Stuff Crappy Non Review** (SttIwSUaaLUwBPiSMaaLGaSCNR™) is: I'm going down on my knees pincers and praying my shrumpy gods that book 5 won't be the **total and complete train wreck** I'm expecting it to be. Come to think of it, I might sacrifice a few puny humans, too. Pretty sure it would help. And that Jaye Wells would appreciate the **kind gesture** and stuff.

**P.S.** I want a Macho spin-off.

**P.P.S.** I want a Shadi spin-off.

**P.P.P.S.S.S.** Pen, I can't stand you.

**P.P.P.P.S.S.S.S.** Volos needs to die. NOW. Thank you.

↘ **Book 0.5:** Fire Water ★★★★★

↘ **Book 1:** Dirty Magic ★★★★★

↘ **Book 2:** Cursed Moon ★★★★★

↘ **Book 3:** Deadly Spells ★★★★★

[Pre-review nonsense]

**Actual rating: 3.45 stars.** *Maybe. If I'm a good mood when I write the full crappy non-review.*

**Ugh, ugh and UGH.**

My **utter lurve for Kate Prospero and her dirty world** makes me want to rate this book 4+ stars. Its **anticlimactic ending** and the looming shadow of a **Bloody Shrimping Love Triangle of Doom and Destruction** (BSLToDaD™), combined with the unavoidable **relationship drama BS** it entails makes me want to rate this book 3- pathetic stars. **Decisions, decisions and stuff.** I shall have to brainstorm with myself. It shall hurt. But I shall survive. And come back with what will **undoubtedly** be a gloriously fascinating ~~review~~ thing for you to ~~read~~ blatantly ignore. Now excuse me while I go shake my ~~inner monkey~~ two remaining grey cells into **cogitative motion** and stuff.

► **Full This Suspiciously Smells Like a Train Wreck of a Next Instalment is on the Way So I Shall Go Down on my Pincers and Pray my Shrimpy Gods that Jaye Wells Won't Go There or Else... Crappy Non Review** (TSSLaTWoaNIotWSISGDomPaPmSGtJWWGtøRCNR™) to come.

**It's not like I want to read this book or anything.** I mean, it is naught but the fourth instalment in one of my **mostest favouritest series ever**. And it's not like I have been waiting for **TWO BLOODY SHRIMPING YEARS** for Jaye Wells to write it or anything. Nah. **Absolutely not.**

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### **Bambikai says**

2.5 stars rounded down

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### **Chris says**

Another good addition to this series about a police detective attached to a Federal unit focusing on crime in the city's supernatural community.

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### **Jen says**

Another great installment, after 2 years. It was as if I never left this world.

And finally, I feel some progress with Kate and John. I do love that flawed man.

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### **Carla says**

Thank you Jaye Wells for this 4th book in Prospero's War, it was worth the wait! Exciting on the edge of my seat writing all the way through. The dynamics between Prospero, Morales, and Volos are evolved and detailed. Prospero continues to have personal growth, understanding, and development. I can't wait for a 5th installment!

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### **Amy A says**

4.5

Originally posted at Vampire Book Club

It's been slow going for the Magic Enforcement Agency in Babylon. There's pressure coming down from the top to get more cases closed, more arrests made. So, when Detective Kate Prospero and Special Agent Drew Morales are called out to a house explosion, they know things are only going to get worse from there when they encounter a dead body and loads and loads of dirty potions. When the potions are linked to a possible

new coven in town, Kate and Morales will have to confront some very deep buried secrets in order to get the job done.

To say I was super excited when I heard about this fourth book in the series, is putting it mildly. Prospero's War has been one of my favorites and now after two excruciatingly long years we've finally got another installment.

I picked up Volatile Bonds and was able to get right back into the goings on in Babylon. I was really happy with the way Jaye Wells seamlessly weaves background information from the first three books into this one.

In the previous books, I've really felt like everything was coming down on Kate's shoulders, like she just couldn't catch a break and, honestly, she didn't handle some situations in the best way (i.e. the way she deals with her younger brother Danny). In Volatile Bonds, however, I felt like the tables were turned. Kate seems to have found her footing and she's better about thinking things through before just jumping in with decisions. In fact, it was almost everyone else around her that was having the troubling times this go around. So much so that it was almost too much.

Her relationship with Morales is a good example. The new threat in town has apparent ties to a case Morales worked in LA years ago. A case that had some terrible personal repercussions for Morales that he's not ready to share with anyone. It puts a strain not only on their personal relationship (what other secrets could he be keeping from her?), but also in their professional relationship in that it forces Kate to step up when it becomes apparent that Morales is out to protect his own ass in some instances than solve the case. I really like them together, and I wish there was more personal development for them in the book, but I think that was a deliberate choice on Jaye Wells part, and I'm interested to see where their relationship moves from here.

Of course on the other side of that relationship we have the undeniable connection between Kate and Mayor John Volos. Theirs has been a supremely interesting relationship due not only to the fact that they've got history between them, but because he's such a shady character, at least we're made to believe he is. I haven't gotten a steady beat on him yet, and I don't think Kate has either which makes their interactions ones I look forward to.

I figured out the mystery aspect of the story pretty easily. I was a little disappointed that Kate and Morales didn't put the pieces of the puzzle together as quickly as I did because I thought it was pretty apparent who was behind the mess this time around.

Regardless, I was so excited to be back on the streets of Babylon on a case with Kate. I hope we won't have to wait another two years for another book, either way, if this is what we're waiting for, it doesn't disappoint.

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### **Jennifer Jamieson says**

Detective Kate Prospero is still working with the Magical Enforcement Agency, because life never stops being crazy in the Cauldron. When a house explodes, the MEA learns there's a new player in town slinging a dangerous potion that kills the people who use it. Between the potion and a potential clash between covens, bodies could start piling up.

I've always liked this series, and I'd been disappointed that there hadn't been a new one in some time. It's an



interesting world--one where magic is a normal part of life, with both legal and illegal uses. Prospero is the black sheep of her family, being a cop from a family of drug cartel/mobster style potion slingers. She can easily spot and read potions when she sees them, as she used to cook potions herself.

It's best to enter into reading the series at the first book, Dirty Magic. Volatile Bonds is the fourth book in the series, and they were a quick read for me because I find them quite diverting. Wells has written over 25+ books, and it shows. Her characters are interesting, three-dimensional people, and her worlds have depth and development that leave you with entertaining reads that you'll finish all too quickly.

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### **Agnieszka says**

I am SO DONE with heroines masochistic tendencies and seeing, reading and NOT believing that 'this one' oh-so-god-damn-it-NOT-acceptable voice of her heart!!! I mean... SURE... someone is treating you like shit, lying, deceiving, fu\*king BLACKMAILING and TERRORISING you and bringing 4 books worth of causing murders and almost a war so SURE love him but the hot, supportive guy who puts up with most of your shit? yea you feel oh such a partnerly, brotherly, friendly love for him! I am going to try book nr 5 if it ever shows up but if she doesn't leave this sadist John and declare some major eye-opening statement and preferably say 'I FEEL NOTHING FOR HIM' and MEAN it than I'm changing from 5 stars for the series (which WAS becoming one of my favourites) to HATE IT !! 5\* for 98% of the book and -2 for being such a damaged, uncaring bitch that for the first time I pity the poor guy who is unlucky enough to somehow end up being partners with her and actually feel anything for her.

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### **Maria Dimitrova says**

**Buddy read with the MacHalos. Or rather with Sarah since no one else joined us at the time.**

Prospero's War used to be one of the best UF series out there. So when I learned that we're finally getting a new instalment I was ecstatic. The reality however was underwhelming. It's like Ms. Wells has been away from these characters for too long and now they feel slightly off.

### **Warning - spoilers ahead!**

I wavered between 3 and 4 stars for most of the book. 4 because I really enjoyed being back with Kate and co. 3 because of the lack of character growth. For a while in the previous book I thought that maybe Kate will finally start to work on her issues but in VB she is still stuck in a rut with Danny, with Morales and worst of all with Pen. I know that it's hard to be a parent and that all teens are pain in the ass but Danny is the epitome of spoiled brat. He would go behind Kate's back and then act like he is the injured party when the inevitable consequences come around. But in a way his behaviour can be forgiven. It's the way the adults around him acted that's inexcusable. Baba and Mez actively helped him go behind the back of his legal guardian. While I've rarely had trouble with my folks regarding permission to go somewhere there've been times when I would cajole and try to get other adults to talk to my folks on my behalf. Talk not help me to do something without my parents permission. And what responsible adult would do that? And while Baba's behavior can be chalked off to senility Mez has no excuse. To make matters worse Pen gets involved and on the totally wrong side. Time and again Kate says that Pen is her best friend and maybe I have strange ideas about what that means but I expect my BF to back me up whatever the case. If she disagrees with me she can

pull me away and say her piece but in front of someone else we stick together. Pen helps ambush Kate because she thinks she knows better what's good for Danny. Not only that but she doesn't even tries to find out what Kate thinks or plans about it. It's like as if no one believes that Kate will do what's best for the spoiled brat regardless of her personal feelings. Kate has done an exceptional job as a parent especially considering that she was basically still a teen when she assumed guardianship, had no job or steady income, no home and the worst possible role models. So all of this really pissed me off. Than we had the moment when Kate went to apologize to Pen for biting her head off regarding said ambush and I saw red. i understand why Kate acts this way but I still think she should have just cut Pen off of her life like the tumour she is.

The drama surrounding Danny also shed some light on the troubles in Kate and Morales relationship. Macho was the only one who backed Kate during all of this and what was her reaction - bite his head off. Morales is trying so hard to make things work, to move this relationship past the fuck buddies status but Kate keeps him at an arm's length. And then has the audacity to be upset that Morales has secrets from her. It's only natural not to reveal all your dirty laundry to someone who makes it clear that your relationship is nothing serious.

The plot was interesting and while my review so far might make you think that this book is all about domestic drama I can assure you it is not the case. It's just that these were the things that ticked me off. Up until the very end I had 3 major suspects and while (view spoiler) was in the lead I wasn't sure until the truth was revealed. And while the showdown was in full progress I was sure VB will get the 4 star rating. It was what happened after and the future implication of a possible love triangle in the purest sense of the phrase with Mr. Asshole Mayor that I decided to go with a 3. I hate love triangles on the best of days and to have one with Volos, a man who's made Kate's life miserable from the start of the series, is repugnant. Morales is the better man and always will be but if Kate is dumb enough to break up with him and go to Volos than this series will be forever ruined. I know this will probably sound like an overreaction but if that do happen I believe it would have been better if this book and any that follow it hadn't been published at all. It's not only about my partiality to Morales but also the integrity of Kate Prospero's character and what she stood for at the beginning of this series.

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## **Linda says**

[Pen deserved a major smackdown for that stunt with Danny, not an apology. (hide spoiler)]

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