



ReVamped

J.F. Lewis

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J.F. Lewis

ReVamped J.F. Lewis REVIVED. REFRESHED. AND READY FOR REVENGE.

Eric has lost his strip club, his Mustang, and even Marilyn, the elderly love of his (mortal) life. Even his body was obliterated. In short, they almost got him. But when you're a vampire, "almost" is a very important word. With a little magical help from his friends, Eric is restored to corporeal form, but his treasured Mustang gets caught up in the sorcery and winds up with an unlife of its own. Now, along with "Fang the 'Stang," he's out to save Marilyn from one of Void City's most powerful soul-stealing demons. But salvation comes at a high price, forcing Eric to venture into his own worst nightmare, Vampire High Society, to uncover the truth about the origin of his powers.

At the same time, Eric's ex-girlfriend, Tabitha, has begun to wonder exactly what it was that she admired about those High Society Vampires in the first place. Her quest to find her own place in this deceptively vicious circle may lead her right back to Eric's side -- if her little sister, Rachel, doesn't kill her first. And Eric will need all the help he can get, because it looks like someone is after his soul, too. Blood will flow, fangs will be bared, and the claws will come out, because revenge is never pretty...and Eric has plenty to pass around.

ReVamped Details

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From Reader Review ReVamped for online ebook

Shelley says

Synopsis: Eric Courtney, strip club owner and operator in Void City, is coming to terms with existence as a ghost vampire after dying in an explosion that totaled his place of business. His former fiancée, Marilyn, tells Eric that his best friend betrayed him, but the demon J'ilol'lth collects her soul before she can explain further. Worse yet, Eric's beloved Mustang somehow gets turned into a vampire. Eric accepts a commission from J'ilol'lth to find the Stone of Aeternem, which enables its holder to raise the dead, in exchange for immortality and the return of Marilyn's soul.

This book picks up right where Staked left off. Eric had been blown up, his car gone, his business destroyed, best friend dead, ex-girlfriend with someone else, the woman he loved for so long betrayed him, and his current lover was up to something.

I didn't much care for Tabitha in this book. She goes from sleeping with a vampire in order to secure an apartment for herself. She then sleeps with Eric's supposedly best friend. Then there's Rachel, Tabitha's sister who sold her soul in order to come back to life. Now she has to kill Eric in order to keep her soul. And, why exactly did Eric decide to take her back? Because he missed her? Really?

Regardless of his struggles, Eric is by far not a nice guy or a nice character. His only redeeming factor was Marilyn, who is now a ghost and in the hands of Jlo.

Funny part: The vampire car. I mean, come on people..work with me here! A vampire car? Fang The Stang

Villian(s): J'Lo and Roger who was supposed to have been killed off in Staked, but somehow got his body back like Eric does.

Traitorous vixen: Rachel, Tabitha's sister who sold her soul in order to come back to life. She died of cancer, which we find out in this book.

Ithlilian says

A vampire car, two main characters-one is a bit of a jerk, the other is a bit clueless, demons, and magic stones. That doesn't sound like a book I would enjoy. It actually sounds a bit ludicrous. In reality it was fin awesome! This book picks up right where the last one left off-Eric has been blown apart, Marilyn is dead, and Tabitha broke up with Eric since he is sleeping with her dead? sister. The cast of characters in this series is unforgettable. Sure Eric discards his lovers when they become dead, and can't help himself to tempting cinnamon smelling humans, but that doesn't make him less likable. Tabitha may get mad over tiny things and be a bit clueless, but she is a newly made vampire, and she does have strength. Even the treacherous Roger and Rachel are interesting. The plot is a bit confusing at times with relation to the Courtney curse and vampire ascendancy but it's not too bad. This is definitely a fast paced and fun book. Revamped doesn't have the slow pace with the quick ending that made the last one mediocre. Also, the things I didn't like about the characters in the first book seem to make them unique and different in this installment. I'm glad I decided to read this, and if you liked the first at all, then definitely check this out.

marlene says

this book wasnt quite as funny as the last one. the first book had me dying in so may spots. i'd still call this a male queen betsy, if betsy was kind of evil. this book picks up exactly where the last lets off and seems to set up the next book. the secondary characters are all well done and make you want to know more about them. you get pieces of info in small chunks as you go along. i suspect their full stories will come about when they are needed.

if only we could get rid of Tabitha. she drives me just as insane in this book a the last. she is the weakest female i may have ever read about. sentences like " i based my entire undead existence around making him realize he loves me" are so common it makes me want to smack her. she throws tantrums at odd and inappropriate times, she is truly the stereotype of a bimbo.

i did love the addition of Fang the Stang, the undead car. it runs over roadkill and eats it storing the bones in the trunk. how hysterical is that?

heres looking forward to book 3. maybe Tabby will get lost in Paris.

Yvensong says

One sign that I am really enjoying a book(?) -- I stay up into the wee hours of the morning to finish reading. The day after, of course, I pay for it by being a bit of a zombie. That was me, today.

There were some things I enjoyed about this one more than the first one. One, there wasn't a cliff-hanger ending. There is obviously more story to tell, which will encourage me to search out #3, but I don't feel cheated at the end of the book, like I did after book #1.

I grew to like Eric more in this book. He grew and tried to learn from everything going on around him, even if he didn't necessarily want to. Tabitha still got on my nerves, though not quite as much as she did in the first book. A new character, "Fang", was lots of fun.

Jared Millet says

Yeah, I know. Vampires. Bear with me.

There are many, many, many of us who once loved vampires - when they were rare, dark, mysterious, and *evil*. Now that we're overrun with romantic, fanged versions of Fabio, J.F. Lewis's take on vampires is a refreshing bucket of blood to the face. The world of *ReVamped* is filled to the brim with the posh, goth-wannabe, uber-trendy bloodsuckers that we've all grown to hate. What's great is that Lewis's protagonist, the emperor vampire Eric, hates them just as much and has the power to do something about it.

Not that that's what he's after. All he really wants is to come back from the dead, rebuild his movie theater, make things right with his lady friend, and maybe open up a bowling alley. Complicate that with a tantric

sex-witch, a haunted revolver, deals with demons, an undead Ford Mustang, and Lewis's increasingly cinematic writing style, and you've finally got a vampire adventure novel that'll remind you what was so great about them in the first place.

And, to be clear, Lewis never lets you forget how evil vampires really are. Even Eric, who has something of a "good soul" as far as vampires are concerned, is a mass murderer. In one excellent passage that should be required reading for the genre, Eric does the math and lays out exactly how many tens of thousands of people he's killed in only half a century. "Charles Manson can kiss my ass," he says.

Ranata Clark says

Not a bad sequel at all. I laughed out loud many times and although Eric is an asshole psycho murderer, at least he's honest about it, which made me like him rather than hate his guts. He turned out to be one of my favorite characters.

In this sequel, it starts right where it ended in *Staked* with Eric looking down on his blown up club as a spirit and wondering what the hell's he gonna do now. His "BFF" Roger (he got eaten by werewolves in the first book) and his long time human love Marilyn is dead until he sees Marilyn in ghost form as well and she drops a hammer on him. Before he can discuss more with Marilyn, a demon appears and steals her soul, saying it is owed to him as payment. Eventually Eric is made corporeal again and so begins the journey to find out who took Marilyn's soul and how they came to get it in the first place.

Eric has to venture into vampire high society to delve into where he got his powers, who his sire is and why he's such an uber vamp and can turn into a real life "bat" man. A lot of questions are answered and strings tied up and I hope this doesn't mean it's the end of the series because I love Eric and I want to see if he can actually make it work with Tabitha even if she's a Living Doll (a vamp that can appear human at will). Although Eric is an asshole, he's one that cares about the humans in his servitude and feels responsible for them and their well being. Another reason why he's one of my favorite characters. He realizes what he is but doesn't try to justify his actions because of it.

Overall, I loved this book, it cracked me up and I hope, hope, HOPE that J.F. Lewis does a part 3. If not, I enjoyed the ride man! You might have lost your church for writing about vampires but you gained a lifelong fan in me! <3

Lady Rogue says

This book picks up right where *Staked* left off. Eric had been blown up, his car gone, his business destroyed, best friend dead, ex-girlfriend with someone else, the woman he loved for so long betrayed him, and his current lover was up to something... Yet, he was resiliant. He got his body back, considered opening a bowling alley in place of the club, and sought out a demon named J'ilol'lth in hopes to retrieve Marilyn's soul. I actually liked Eric more in this book than the previous one. I felt his frustration. In truth, I think, I would be a prick most of the time too, if I put up with half the crap he did. While he would deny it, I think he was a good guy underneath it all...even under the monster. It was apparent that he was loyal to those he cared about. But, the guy just wanted to be left alone. Yet, people seemed to always betray him or were always

after him for one thing or another. Not to mention, Rachel who manipulated him with her tantric magic and cinnamon scent. I really didn't like her.

Like its predecessor, this book also had Tabitha's perspective. I was disappointed in her character, although I should have expected it. I didn't like that she pretty much whored herself to the vamps of high society. She seemed tickled, whiny, and didn't seem to have a clue half the time. But, I confess, I loved the showdown she had with Rachel. It was the first time, she showed some actual spirit and potential.

I thought the plot to be a bit confusing. Between the vampiric ascensions, the historical background on Eric's family, the curse, and the multitude of people who were manipulating events, I found it hard to keep track of what was going on. That being said, once I figured it all out, I was intrigued. I think, it will be interesting to learn more about the origins of Eric's powers in the next installment.

Overall, this series is an acquired taste. Like its predecessor, J.F. Lewis stepped out of normal and traditional vampire stereotypes and created a world that was not only raw and gritty, but filled with dark and sleazy humor. Revamped had bite.

ALPHAreader says

Here we go again

‘ReVamped’ is the second book in J.F. Lewis’s sinfully fantastic ‘Void City’ series.

The book picks up exactly where ‘Staked’ left off with uber-vampire, Eric, having just exploded along with his strip club, Demon Heart. In the explosion Eric lost his corporeal body, his aging ex girlfriend and realized the depths of his best friend’s hatred (since Roger was the one doing the blowing-up).

Meanwhile across town, Tabitha, Eric’s other ex-girlfriend (recently turned Vlad vampire) has high-tailed it across town to the plush Highland Towers penthouse suite where she intends to throw herself on the mercy of Void City’s politicizing vampire, Phillip.

The action starts right from the word ‘BANG!’ and doesn’t let up for 432 pages.

There’s quite a lot of mechanics for J.F. Lewis (and Eric) to work out in this second novel. A lot of the bigger plot points were established in ‘Staked’ and carried over for greater significance in ‘ReVamped’. Like Tabitha’s little sister, Rachel. In a move that won him ‘grand-daddy poombah jerk of the year’ (awarded by me), Eric shacked up with Tabitha’s 18-year-old kid sister in ‘Staked’ . . . not knowing that Rachel died last year of cancer and her coming back has repercussions of demonic proportions. ‘ReVamped’ is all about Eric and his band of supernatural friends figuring out exactly what those repercussions entail. . .

No One is Innocent

I felt a little bit assaulted by first book, ‘Staked’. I was initially thrown by the seemingly traditional Urban Fantasy cover of a gun-wielding hot chick and my expectations for a paranormal romance complete with Alpha-hottie vampire heroes. Not the case with ‘Void City’. Eric is an awful guy (see: having sex with his

ex-girlfriend's little sister) who revels in his monster-side and has no moral qualms whatsoever. In 'ReVamped' Eric quite casually states that since becoming a vampire in 1965 he has killed approximately 10,000 people (give or take) and he's not the least bit sorry.

Going into 'ReVamped' I felt a lot more prepared for the onslaught of character atrociousness that peppers the 'Void City' series. I know Eric is an anti-hero protagonist who, love him or hate him, is unflinchingly honest and darkly humorous. I understand that Tabitha is a vain and vacuous love interest who will let Eric treat her like a doormat. . . I know not to expect too much, morally, from these characters, and with that in mind I can sit back and enjoy the raucous ride.

(I'm Not Your) Stepping Stone

As much as I know Eric and Tabitha will never be upstanding protagonists with high moral fibre, I couldn't help but root for their decency a teensy-weensy little bit. For me, the most likely scenario in which Eric and Tabitha might reveal their softer-sides is with regards to their on/off relationship.

In 'ReVamped' Tabitha has sworn off of Eric and left him for good (with hopes that he'll come chasing after her). Meanwhile Eric is realizing that Tabitha is the first turned girlfriend he's actually maybe, kinda missed since breaking up.

The one big road-block to semi-happiness for these two is Rachel. . . the demonic little sister who stole big sis's boyfriend and is trying to harness his powers for nefarious purposes.

As a woman I really wanted Tabitha to make a lot more of the Eric/Rachel hook-up because it is just so darn wrong and icky. But two things are working against my hope for Tabitha's Aretha Franklin moment. . . The first is that she is a vampire now, and her thinking and emotions have become hardened and somewhat dulled. So her indignation just isn't there like it would be if she was still human. Second is that fact that Tabitha is a human doormat. . . she loves Eric so much and is so fixated on getting him any way she can that she's willing to forgive a lot. As an empowered female it's hard to read, but J.F. Lewis somewhat makes up for the emotional shortcomings with a head-ripping scene of epically fantastic proportions. Now that's girl-power!

Eric is a little better and self-aware in 'ReVamped' than he was in 'Staked'. At least in this second book he acknowledges his possible feelings for Tabitha and admits the foolishness of falling for Rachel. But he'll never be a romance hero. Not ever! The closest Eric gets to 'romance' is 'territorial':

"What's your problem, man?" he said, popping his neck into place. "She's just a human. What do you care?"

I grabbed him by the throat and cut him off before he got himself dead for real. Why I cared, I can't tell you. I just did. "The reason you will understand is this: She is mine and I don't share well. I never have. It's a childhood malady. Maybe I had too many brothers and sisters and I have a deep need to indisputably demonstrate my ownership of things."

You Need Hands

One of the best things about 'ReVamped' is the introduction of many glorious secondary characters. Sweetheart Row blood prostitutes, an eternal vampire virgin, a vampiric Mustang called Fang and best of all is creepy head-honcho vampire, Phillip.

Phillip lives in the Highland Towers and runs Void City – everything from the politicians to the firemen and

police - he has a hand in every pocket. He's short, balding, fat and a sadomasochist of disturbing proportions. Case and point, Phillip keeps a staked vampire in his lobby – a vampire who is aware, seeing and living, but imprisoned in a glass case with a stake in his heart that keeps him immobile. Engraved on this entombed vampire's glass case is a psychotic warning from Phillip:

My dear Percy, who serves as a remembrance to all that I do not bluff, I do not make empty threats, and there are indeed worse fates than death.

As creepy as he was, I liked Phillip and look forward to how he plays out in future books.

Lonely Boy

As in 'Staked' my favourite thing about 'ReVamped' was Eric himself. Yes, he's an awful person with no goodness about him. But he's funny. Dark and twisted, his humour knows no bounds and goes where others fear to tread. And then occasionally he's just plain 'laugh out loud' hilariously random;

“. . . I will make you a eunuch, chain you to the wall, and pay the oni to eat you like a tortured animal cracker. Do you understand me?”

He took a deep sniff, smelling me, then nodded. I let him go.

“Okay, now don’t get mad, but can I ask you something?” Talbot panted.

“Sure.”

“A tortured animal cracker?”

I flipped him off. “Feet first, asshole. If you want to torture an animal cracker you eat it feet first. Everybody knows that.”

This series couldn't work if Eric wasn't so darn enigmatic and likable in spite of his awfulness. J.F. Lewis has really finessed his character to make him ridiculously likable and hateable all at the same time.

Did You No Wrong

'Void City' is one of my favourite new-find series of 2010. Hands-down incredible. J.F. Lewis has mastered this dark Urban Fantasy and left me wanting more, more, more! Now I have to wait until January 2011 for third book 'Crossed', but I know it'll be worth it.

Jackie says

I thought I had a good time when I read *Staked*, however when I finished the last page of *ReVamped* I realized that it was an even better story than the first book in the Void City series! Eric Courtney may be a wacky vampire but he is one also one heck of an entertaining character to read about!

Will be opening up my copy of book three in a few days after I read a book for review from an author, hope that *Crossed* is as good as the first two were!

Angela says

ReVamped, J.F. Lewis' second book in the Void City series, picks up pretty much right where Book 1 left off: with Eric, his vampire protagonist, getting blown up. Which, you have to admit, is a pretty tough state to come back from--but Eric isn't just any vampire. He's an Emperor-class vampire, with enough power and enough followers to pull off even coming back from the dead. Thus, we've got the stage set for Book 2.

Eric is understandably less than thrilled at having been made to explode, but that's only the beginning of the curveballs his resurrected existence throws him. His newly vamped girlfriend, Tabitha, has dumped him in favor of a far more powerful and physically repellent vampire. His almost-a-thrall--who just happens to be Tabitha's apparently resurrected sister Rachel--is exerting magic upon him for unknown reasons. A local demon wants him to acquire the Stone of Aeternum, conveniently enough from the very same powerful vampire to which Tabitha has given her attentions. And on top of it all, Eric's discovered he's suddenly got an undead car.

There are certainly plot twists galore in this installment, and things advance intriguingly not only on the Eric/Tabitha front, but also in explaining what's going on with Rachel and quite a bit about Eric's own background. But *ReVamped* didn't have quite the same punch for me as *Staked* did; there were parts that matched that book, but overall it didn't flow quite as smoothly, perhaps because Eric seemed to spend a lot more time in reaction mode rather than being proactive. Nonetheless, I'm up for Book 3! For this one, three stars.

Aurian Booklover says

After being blown apart by blessed explosives, it takes a while for Eric to come back to unlife. He has lost his one love, Marilyn, and he wants revenge. Revenge on Roger, who was supposed to be his best friend but who betrayed him. But Roger has been eaten by a wolf pack, so that should have finished him off for good. He was just a Master vampire, not a Vlad, and certainly not an Emperor like Erik.

Eric's latest girlfriend, Tabitha, has left him for the high life now that she is a vampire herself, and Eric does not appreciate her. Lord Philip, the vampire who rules Void City, does, and so does the mouser, Talbot. Until Eric finally comes back with the help of his daughter Greta and some powerful magic and, most importantly, his beloved old Mustang. A demon told his ghostly Revenant form that he had possession of Marilyn's soul, and Eric could get it back, for a price. But Eric has had memory problems ever since he has been embalmed upon being murdered by Roger, and it takes a few months for him to remember. But the moment he does, he has only one goal, get his Marilyn back.

Unfortunately, Rachel, Tabitha's sexy little sister, a tantric witch, still has her claws firmly into Eric, manipulating him with sex and magic. While she can make him feel alive, she is also sipping his power from him to use for herself. And as "people" can barter with demons, it is easy to come back from the death. Eric also finally learns to make thralls when he saves some women from a vampire children prostitution ring. They don't have to be slaves, he can treat them as he treated the strippers who used to work for him in the Demon's Heart. Roger blew it up, but Eric still has the Pollux, the ancient theatre next door.

Tabitha has had enough of the High Society vampires, and their strange customs and how they play games all the time. She still loves Eric, and she will have him back.

I have fallen in love with this series. Eric is rude, he kills people casually, doesn't care about it at all. He feeds a lot, and has sex a lot and only loves his daughter Greta and his fiancée when still alive Marilyn. He

loves to ignore the things happening around him, if people want to play him, fine, but he prefers it if they don't make him notice it. Cause once he cannot ignore it anymore, he will have to act, and that often means killing them.

He now has his ancestor's soul killing gun, and his ancestor's spirit to haunt him and give him unwanted advice. He is finally learning about his own unique vampiric powers, and what being a revenant and an Emperor means.

I really like Greta, his daughter. Eric saved her from an abusive foster parent when she was nine, and has taken care of her ever since. When she turned 21, he turns her into a vampire at her request. Greta is not a common vampire either, she is a real killer, but she dearly loves her Daddy. She is fun, and honest and crude. And I enjoyed reading about Fang, Eric's vampiric car. It is really a secondary character as it is.

If you are looking for suave vampires, and romance, and sweet love scenes, don't read those books. You won't find it. This is a series written by a man, and you can clearly recognize it in the sex scenes. I do like how Tabitha forces Eric to acknowledge her as being important in his life though.

9 stars.

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Ladiibbug says

#2 Void City - UF

First Read: Nov. 2009

Second Read: 2/22/15

The trials, tribulations, fights, and love triangles (rectangles?) continue for Eric, the Vlad-level vampire. Roller-coaster action, gruesomeness, with lots of humor.

While Eric has extraordinary powers that he can't explain, his memory comes and goes. Poor Eric ;-. In book 1 his best friend tries to have him murdered and double crosses him in business dealings -- that's just for starters -- Eric's body is destroyed. Even worse, his 1964 Ford Mustang is demolished.

Eric has to figure out how to get his own body back, restore his car, fight off other vampires, and now demons demand his attention.

Looking forward to #3.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

Parts of J. F. Lewis's follow-up to his urban fantasy debut, STAKED, are crazy good (the humor, the pacing, the world building), other parts are crazy frustrating, for example the bit of bait and switch when it comes to cover art. A woman is featured on the cover, and even though there are a number of chapters told from the perspective of Tabitha, the main protagonist in REVAMPED is Eric. I knew this going in, but I can imagine a lot of readers feeling duped.

I only had one real problem with REVAMPED, but it's a biggie. It was the struggle to find redeemable qualities about the main characters in order to care about them. First off, everyone is a giant whore. Eric is a scumbag (with occasional moments of opportunistic compassion). He is truly in love with a woman who he's had to watch grow old because she didn't want to become a vampire with him, but he has a girlfriend (Tabitha) who he neglects, and he's sleeping with her sister (Rachel) on the side. I found myself giving him a pass on his total lack of morality because he was funny and he told everyone upfront that he was an unrepentant bastard.

I found it much harder to give a pass to his on/off girlfriend Tabitha. She goes from sleeping with a fat, old vampire in exchange for a luxury apartment, to shacking up with Eric's best friend in said luxury apartment, to essentially begging Eric (on her knees) to take her back even though she can literally smell her sister on him.

To make things worse, Tabitha and Rachel know that Eric is sleeping with both of them and instead of kicking him to the curb, they compete over him. Rachel even tells Eric when he and Tabitha are heading to bed that he has to screw her twice for every one time he screws Tabitha. Classy.

Parts of REVAMPED were really funny, the political posturing between all the vampires in Void City was endlessly entertaining, and I'm crazy curious to find out about Eric's unique vampire origins, but I couldn't stand how pathetic the female characters were, so much so that I'm not sure I'll be buying the third book in the Void City series, CROSSED, when it releases on January 25, 2011

Sexual Content: Several non graphic sex scenes

Heather says

Loved it with Eric, tabitha, rachel, tabolt, and nobody can forget Greta. Trust me when I say Greta and Eric are characters not soon forgotten.

wish I time to review more but without a keyboard doing this 1 letter at a time annoys me.

Daelith says

Stayed up late last night finishing this. Lewis once again had me going back and forth with my like/dislike for his main characters. More Tabitha this time than Eric. Eric is still very flawed, but we see a softer, more caring side to him this time along with his no nonsense, get down to the nitty-gritty of the situation attitude. Toward the end, I was understanding Tabitha more, but I still want to smack her up side the head at times. And Rachel is a Brat (and I'm being nice here) regardless.

I have to admit I was a little concerned when we were introduced to Fang. My first thought was – On no, Lewis is going to go the macho-comic book or Stephen King routine with this. Thankfully, I was pleasantly surprised that this addition to the story really did work. (I'm just glad I don't have to clean out his trunk.) I think Greta really helped with this when she named him. Leave it to her to crack me up at the start of a plot concern. Greta still rocks, as far as I'm concerned, and I would love to see more of her in upcoming books. Or even her own book.

Speaking of their own book, Talbot really came more into his own for me in this second book. I'm hoping to see a spin off series for him or his kind.

Lewis again came through with an action packed book with a good balance of insight into the characters, a variety of paranormal and comic relief to make this a really enjoyable read for me. I had several laugh out loud moments. The power strip comment on page 46 for one and animal crackers on page 196. The reference to the Little Rascal and other TV shows were also fun. I can tell the author and I grew up in or around the same time from a number of his references.

Another thing I like is his vampires' food infatuations. Those scenes started making me hungry. When Phil and Eric sat down for steaks, I was just about ready to go fire up the grill...even if it was after 10 pm.

I always like/want some sort of closure at the conclusion of a book so I appreciate the no “cliff-hanging, Porky the Pig pop out moment” at the end this time. Yes, it keeps us fans coming back for more, but it also makes us want to hang authors up by their toenails and feed you to the Oni.

Thank you, Jeremy! Looking forward to the next book.
