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# Three Slices



## Synopsis

Three Slices presents three novellas by modern fantasy writers:

**A Prelude to War** by Kevin Hearne  
After an old friend is murdered in retaliation for his mercenary strikes against the oldest vampires in the world, Atticus O'Sullivan must solicit the aid of another old friend in Ethiopia if he's going to have a chance of finishing a war he never wanted. Meanwhile, Granuaile MacTiernan starts a private war of her own against Loki, the lord of lies, and if it brings Ragnarok early—so be it.

**Not My Circus, Not My Monkeys** by Delilah S. Dawson  
The number one rule of the circus? Don't kill your volunteers, even accidentally. That's how young magician Criminy Stain ends up on the run in a forest, where he meets a beautiful woman holding a bucket of blood. But is Merissa the answer to his prayers-- or the orchestrator of his ruin?

**Interlude: Swallow** by Chuck Wendig  
Miriam Black is back. Miriam is tired of her curse and finally believes she knows how to be rid of her ability to see when and how other people die. She follows a lead to the mountains of Colorado, where she believes she sees signs of a serial killer she thought she already killed. (Set between THE CORMORANT and THUNDERBIRD.)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I first heard about this collection, I immediately added it to the top of my list of TO BE READ. I've been reading works by Chuck Wendig, Delilah S. Dawson and Kevin Hearne for years and have enjoyed their works greatly. The prospect of a collection of 3 short stories / novellas featuring some of my favorite characters in spec fiction was too much to resist. Miriam Black, the Iron Druid and Criminy Stain in a single collection? Yes, please. I devoured the collection in a single sitting and would do so again. Each story is consistently excellent and highly enjoyable. And the common symbolism between the stories was hilariously awesome - tyromancy: the use of cheese to foretell the future. I mean, come on! Who could resist that common thread. Absolutely a great read and HIGHLY recommended to any fan of the above three authors. I would have loved to be a fly on the wall, listening in on the early discussions of how these three great authors came up with the idea and expanded upon it.

It's very rare to find an anthology where you've read all (and are up to date on the relevant series by) the contributing authors. It's never happened to me before, at any rate! So of course when I saw Three Slices, which has stories by three awesome urban fantasy writers, I had to buy it. I maybe should have guessed from the title, but all three stories have one thing in common: oracular cheese. (Yes, cheese.) That element was really cute, and was one of the things that tied the stories together. There were a few other things, some of them more subtle than others -- Kevin Hearne gives a nod to Chuck Wendig's heirloom apple obsession, for example, while Chuck uses the Polish expression that is the title of Delilah Dawson's story. I loved seeing those little easter eggs sprinkled throughout. On the stories themselves, I enjoyed all three, although Delilah's story was probably my favourite, mainly because -- of the three of them -- it was the one that stands alone the most cleanly. For fans of her Blud series, seeing how Criminy Stain winds up in the circus he's the ringmaster of in later books is very entertaining, and Criminy is still my favourite smoking hot magician vampire. Wendig's Swallow was a little peek at how Miriam is going; the mystery within the story is resolved internally, but does heavily reference previous books. (Also, note that although I enjoy Wendig's raw style, it may not be for everyone -- I shelve this series in "horror" for a reason.) As for A Prelude to War, I did enjoy catching up with Atticus, Oberon and Granuaile, but this story is the least able to stand alone. If you haven't read the series up till this point, you will be lost. Still, it was very satisfying to see Granuaile's interaction with Loki, though. Very, very satisfying.

I bought this on the strength of the Hearne short. I really enjoy the Iron Druid books, and Kevin

doesn't disappoint in this story set between *Shattered* and *Staked*. It maybe isn't the best introduction to the series, but if you're already a fan of Atticus and Oberon, you'll enjoy what you find here. The stand out entry for me, though, was Delilah Dawson's *Not My Circus, Not My Monkeys*. Her worldbuilding is fast and thorough, Stain is both relatable and a little horrifying, and the plot neatly tied up and left me wanting more. I'll be checking out the first book in her related series soon. Wendig's entry was good. I've only read one other work from him (*Star Wars: Aftermath*) and have found them both to be good stories hampered a bit for me, personally, by the way the stories are structured. I see what I think Wendig was going for in both instances, but I think I would prefer a more linear chronology. Still, I enjoyed the story and will be checking out some of the other Miriam Black stories.

I purchased this book for the Kevin Hearne story, and as usual Kevin Hearne has written another superlative chapter in the Iron Druid line. After racing thru the story for which I purchased the book, I figured I was done. However, after reading the first paragraph of Chuck Wendig's contribution to the book, I found myself hooked by a totally new (to me) author. I haven't begun the last story, but if the rain the weather man says is coming does, I will be curling up with that one too. Well worth the price of the book if you're an Iron Druid fan--the rest is icing.

I am a Kevin Hearne fan, so buying the book was a no-brainer. The theme was cheesy, but each author served it well. I cannot whine. Dawson is a gifted, steampunk fantasy story teller and I am intrigued by her world despite my overdosing on vampire variations. The third author has a driven, unique protagonist, but the cheese was a bit salty to my taste. A great intro into three authors' styles while the stories are whole (wheels?) unto themselves. A great way to find the next binge read author or catch another slice of your favorite character!

I got this book for the Iron Druid story in it. That is the only story I read out of the book. I love Luke Daniels as narrator for the Iron Druid series. His voice is just what I imagine for Atticus O'Sullivan. His versatility makes the stories come alive. This story provides a bridge between Herne's novel, "*Shattered*", and his newest novel, "*Staked*". Herne's writing is very readable, and he has a great sense of humor. Iron Druid is one of my favorite series.

I bought this book because Kevin Hearne recommended doing so at the beginning of *Staked*. And I'm so glad I did! I loved the second story - that series will be my next rabbit-hole, I fear - and the

third story was quite good as well but not as magnetic as the others. If you have any fondness for or curiosity about any of these authors or storylines, do yourself a favor and get this book.

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