



Clay White

Kim Fielding

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Someone—or something—is murdering young men in San Francisco. Clay White has been fired from the Bureau of Trans-Species Affairs, but he's determined to track down the killer. When he comes across a vampire named Marek, Clay assumes he's caught the perp. But the encounter with Marek turns out to be more complicated than Clay expected, and it forces him to deal with his own troubled past and murky psyche. As Clay discovers, sometimes the truth doesn't come easy—and the monsters are not who we expect.

Clay White Details

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From Reader Review Clay White for online ebook

Optimist ?King's Wench? says

Tag Team Review with JL!

If you're feeling charitable all of the proceeds from the sale of this book will go to **DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS** so... buy one for yourself and your friends!

SPOILERS FOR CORRUPTION so if you've not read it yet prepare to be spoiled.

Clay White takes place in the same AU established in "Corruption" but is more modern in tone and less dark. Clay is a former agent of The Bureau. What's that saying? You can take the boy out of The Bureau but you can't take The Bureau out of the boy or some such.

Clay has gone rogue (sort of) and is focused on finding who or what is desiccating young men in San Francisco. To that end he goes to a club one night and meets Marek. Marek is an OLD vampire within this world. Turns out Marek is **also** trying to track down the killer. I have some thoughts on what motivates Clay, but they're kinda spoilery so I'll leave it at you have to read it and come to your own conclusions.

Clay and Marek have a wholly different dynamic that's compelling in its own rite but not as magnetic as Ten and Grimes. There is lust between them initially and I got the feeling that they were inevitable, but the timing's wrong, so they leave it as a hookup. For much of the story they aren't together but it's clear they both got under the other's skin so when they reunite... DAMN!

Speaking of Ten and Grimes... guess who make an appearance? **I LOVE them!** Like, seriously, I could talk about them all day and their dynamic is so... *heart eyes* Anyways, Clay is pointed in their direction for help with the case because they've been working as private investigators. **Since forever.** There are no dates but their whole vibe and a few things that happen make it clear they've been together for a loooooonnnnnngggggggg time which made me heart eyes even harder.

Anyhoozit, I told you I could squirrel on them endlessly.

The two things I enjoy most about this series are the banding together of ex-bureau, quasi-disgraced agents, and the fact that Fielding has crafted a universe wherein she can move about with ease in time. If the next one is futuristic I will not be sad about that. At all.

Another thing I like, though I could be reading too much into the subtext, is the general theme that being different shouldn't automatically equate to being feared. That resonates with me living in a Trump America. Most of the monsters out there are just plain ole human and the fact that these supernatural/paranormal beings are forming their own justice league to protect (most of) them anyway makes me a lil verklempt.

Recommend to UF, AU and romance fans.

Can't wait to see who gets drafted into the justice league next!

An ARC was provided by the author.

Eugenia says

******4.5 Stars******

Glorious! These novellas are dark, sexy, and full situations which plague us mere mortals in life. Who is truly good? Who is truly evil? While this may seem apparent in an alternate reality full of supernatural beings, in Kim Fielding's world it is not. Vampires with a conscience. Humans who kill for self-gain and glory. Demons who love, and angels who kill.

This is the second of the Bureau stories. It could be read as a standalone since it takes place nigh on 80 years after the first, Corruption. But why would you want to do that since the one of a kind MCs from the first book appear in this second one? That's right, you wouldn't. And the first one was amazing as well.

Back to this one. Clay White has been booted from the Bureau, an agency that hunts and kills supernatural monsters, for an irrevocable error in judgement. Bitter, angry and alone he meets a vampire at a club in San Francisco. Against his better judgement, he leaves with the vampire, seeking information on a new spate of killings which leave young, virile men as desiccated husks. He gets some information from Marek, the vamp, along with a happy ending. What a skilled vampire! BJs are tricky with fangs!

I won't go into this much more, but to say that Grimes and Tenrael make an appearance. The bad monster gets hacked up, and Marek and Clay get an HEA.

What I liked about this one was that I didn't really like Clay at the beginning; but then he didn't like himself either. As that slowly changed, so did my perception of him. At the very end, I wanted to throw confetti in the air and cheer out loud for my once bitter Clay White.

I can't wait for more of these novellas! I love them. Dark and sexy, monstrous and glorious.....you know you want to read it. So go on now...they're definitely worth your time!

Lisazj1 says

Even better than the first. Still a novella but a bit longer and giving me that bit more of the characters and world that I wanted. I loved Marek and Clay and am absolutely loving the direction it looks like this may take as a series! Looking forward to whatever is next!

Teal ??specializing in the DNF?? says

****2.5 stars**** I sure didn't do this story any favors by reading it so soon after Cal Matthews's *The Dead*. Both feature a lonely, isolated man with a vampire lover. Matthew's book evoked an atmosphere of longing and melancholy, and was peopled with complex, multi-layered characters. Fielding's story strives for the same atmosphere, but in comparison it's superficial, rushing into a feel-good sentimental ending at the expense of character development.

I should also mention that I didn't read the first book in the series, since this one is touted as a stand-alone. Yet the characters from the first book are major players here, so I strongly recommend you don't skip Book 1.

Since this was a miss for me, I'll skip the rest of the series. But Kim Fielding is still a keeper.

„•*°*~Gwendolyn~°**★°**★ says

[human (hide spoiler)]

~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Only Kim Fielding can write a story with a creepy film noir feel, murder, and torture, and make you believe in romance; only Fielding can write a sensual, sexy story with almost no sex.

And only Fielding can end a story with death and have it feel like a HEA.

This series, filled with ethical monsters and sinister humans, is dark and mesmerizing. I suggest reading in order.

We meet Charles and Ten again in *Clay White*. They help Clay track down a serial killer who bleeds young men dry until they're mere husks and bones. And a vampire named Marek whom Clay can't forget.

Monsters. How could I properly identify them, even define them, anymore? ... Humans were fully capable of monstrous acts, of attacking their own kind with unmatched ferocity ... How to judge a living being? By his species? His actions, past and present? His intentions?

All proceeds benefit Doctors Without Borders.

?? ? Michaëlle ~? says

4.1 Stars

Not as dark and gritty as the first one but still really engaging; I love this 'verse KF has created and hope to see lots of stories spanning the decades that the Bureau has been in operation.

Pavellit says

Lovely matching- guess who's back? As always, Kim Fielding's sense of the pairing of two beings is wonderful. This time on the occasion that someone is killing young men in San Francisco she teamed up an ex-agency man and a vampire, and as additional help an already established couple of half-man and a demon.

She challenges a character's beliefs of what most would consider as a monster, in a world where supernaturals are being hunted because they are considered to be such. In fact how many times our human history has proven that the devil is not the one that seems at first glance. I wanted to explore more of this lurking message through the characters more fleshed out. I wanted more pages. A full book, build up of the characters more.

The writing as usual is flowing and easily readable. The little descriptions provoke enough a sense of atmosphere and an emotive burden to the story. It's an intriguing world.

Once again, the author donated her talent for a great charity cause. The proceeds from the sale of this book will help support Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières.

~3.5~

Susan says

I actually started this series because I LOVE LOVE LOVE the cover of this book. It is just so pretty.

I liked this one just as much as the first one. It felt quiet and dark, but somehow not too dark. And it is set in present time, unlike the first book.

Clay White no longer works for The Bureau after a case gone wrong. But he still feels somewhat responsible when someone is killing off young men in San Francisco. When a vampire tells him it is not one of his kind, Clay doesn't know what to believe. He wants to trust the sexy vampire, but he doesn't know if he can trust his own judgment anymore..

This is slightly longer than the first book, and just as intriguing. As with Charles and Tenrael, Clay and Marek only get together at the end of this book, but that didn't bother me at all. I could just feel how Clay was struggling with figuring out what made someone a monster. And how much he wanted Marek, but was afraid of losing himself. There is so much emotion in this series, I really like that.

I think I need to read more Kim Fielding.

Elena says

Another great addition to the *Bureau* !

Although less dark and gritty than *Corruption*, I loved it just as much.

Human **Clay** and vampire **Marek** make another strange, unusual couple fighting the unknown evil killing young men...

This part of the *Bureau* was longer and our MCs spent most of the time separately but it didn't matter. Kim Fielding again provided us with some intriguing plot and great world-building. How does she do it?!?! Hell, if I know, but she *rocks !!!*

I NEED MORE of our strong, smart and sexy (former) Bureau agents and their "charges"!!!! ;)

Jenni Lea says

"Monsters come in many guises. Some of them are human."

Clay White knows this to be true. A big beast of a man, Clay's seen more than his fair share of monsters, the biggest of which being his own father. After being "let go" from the Bureau for a case gone horribly wrong, Clay's drifting in life, not setting down roots. But just because he no longer carries a badge doesn't mean he can't still hunt down those who would harm the innocent.

He's on the trail of who he thinks may be the cause of the latest string of desiccated young men that have been turning up around the city. He catches up to Marek, his suspected perp, in a local club and hopes, by some subterfuge, to take him down.

Things aren't always what they seem, however, when he discovers that not only is Marek not the villain he's looking for, but that Marek is also on the hunt for this monster.

This book had a different feel than its predecessor, Corruption. It takes place in a more modern time, at least from what I could garner by the subtle hints dropped throughout the story. While I liked the tone and tempo of this, I missed the somewhat ethereal feel of the first book. I kept wanting for Clay and Marek to have the connection that Grimes and Ten had. I didn't quite get that here but what I did get was good.

Things didn't turn out like I expected them to when I first started reading this. For some reason, I thought Clay was something other than human. I have no idea why I thought that, but there you go. Sometimes it's best not to look too far into my brain. So, when the events that happened later on in the story, well, happened, I was pleasantly surprised. I love when a story doesn't follow the standard tropes.

And we get to see Grimes and Ten again! They're still together and their connection to each other is stronger than ever. Clay sees their connection and is filled with a want he didn't think he was capable, or deserving, to feel. His thoughts turn to Marek in hope that maybe, just maybe, he can have that same connection with him.

This book left me wanting more. Whether that's because it was so good or because it was too short, I have no idea. All I know is that I'm waiting with bated breath for the next book. I need to see how everything turns out for these guys (Yes, I know. Vague JL is vague).

Recommended for those who enjoy a different take on paranormal. The world building, while subtle, was complete and didn't leave me wanting. And the writing, of course, was excellent. I say give this book a try. If nothing else, your money will go to a good cause.

Kim says

This is the second novella in the Bureau series (Corruption is the first) but they can be read in any order. Picture a noir atmosphere, a bitter ex federal agent, and some things that go bump in the night.

Gigi says

4.5 stars

Vampires people, vampires!

Clay White is in a world of hurt. He was fired from his job with the Bureau of Trans-Species Affairs and is harboring some serious guilt because of the tragic event that led to his firing.

In an effort to redeem himself, he decides to go all vigilante and solve the serial killer case that is rocking the community.

Along the way he meets sexy, irresistible vampire Marek. (There *may* have been a little semi-public hot sex happening during their first meeting.) Marek is instantly drawn to Clay and decides to join his fight.

Along the way they meet up with Charles and Ten from Corruption. Since Charles and Ten's story ended so abruptly, it was great to see their story line continue. You don't *HAVE* to read Corruption to fully enjoy Clay White, but I do recommend it. These are both short stories, basically introducing new characters in The Bureau family.

Again, excellent world building and interesting characters make this book a win for me. We do get a HFN, but Ms. Fielding has teased more books coming out in 2018.

A big added bonus in the fact that Ms. Fielding is donating all proceeds from this book to Doctors Without Borders and Médecins Sans Frontières. Clay White is a *great* story at a *great* 99¢ price for a *great* cause. Win, win, win!

Recommended.

Advanced review copy of Clay White provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews

John The Cosmic Wanderer says

Cant wait for the next book.

Deeze says

More a 2.5

I had trouble getting into this one.

I wasn't really grabbed by either Clay or Marek. I did find myself interested once Clay was captured. But then it was over and I'm afraid Clay and Marek alone couldn't give me what I wanted.

Mostly I think this was just too short to really give me the world building I need.
