



# The Perditiion Score

*Richard Kadrey*

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Sandman Slim returns in a stunning, high-octane thriller filled with the intense kick-ass action and inventive fantasy that are the hallmarks of *New York Times* bestselling author Richard Kadrey.

The request from Thomas Abbot, the Augur of the Sub Rosa council, couldn't come at a better time for James Stark, aka Sandman Slim. For a man who's most recently met Death—and death's killer—a few months of normal life is more than he can handle. He needs a little action, and now Abbott wants Stark and Candy to investigate the disappearance of a young boy—and help uncover council members who might be tied to Wormwood's power brokers.

Stark's plans change when he meets a dying angel who gives him a vial of a mysterious black liquid that could be a secret weapon in the ongoing war between angels who want to allow human souls into Heaven and rebel angels willing to die to keep them out. When one of Stark's closest friends is poisoned with the black liquid, Stark and Candy have to go to the only place where they might find a cure: Hell.

But standing in their way are the damned souls who, even after death, still work for Wormwood. The secret deal they've struck with the rebel angels is darker than anything Stark has encountered. Not only does the fate of the world hang in the balance, but also the souls of everyone in it. Stark has to find a way to break the stalemate in the angel war, score the Perdition cure for the black poison, and make it back to LA in one piece—where an old enemy waits to finish him once and for all.

## The Perdition Score Details

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Author : Richard Kadrey

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## From Reader Review The Perdition Score for online ebook

### Skip says

Upfront admission: I'm a Sandman Slim fan. Did not really care for Stark's whining, but his position on the Sub Rosa council, and the special role given him by Augur Abbot to see what the Wormwood sect is doing sets the stage for this 8th book in the series. A dying angel shows up to give Stark a mysterious black liquid, and he immediately contacts Vidocq to help analyze it. We are treated to some backstory on his centuries-old friend Vidocq, as well as further developments in several love lives. Stark has to go Downtown (to Hell) and is joined by a surprise ally and an old friend. I just wish Stark could get back to his Room of Thirteen Doors so we can skip the boring travel of mortals in L.A. :-)

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### Joe Jones says

This is book 8 in the Sandman Slim series. If you have got this far you know what to expect. The author does throw in enough background that catches you up on what you might have forgotten or for new people you could jump in here, but I would strongly recommend starting at the beginning of the series.

James is one of those great flawed characters that is trying his best to do the right thing and get a somewhat normal life. The problem is nothing is normal where he is concerned. As usual he just can't stay out of trouble and bad things happen around him despite his best intentions. Then the Sandman Slim side comes out and all bets are off.

Pull up a seat at the Bamboo House of Dolls with a shot of Aqua Regia and enjoy another visit as James, don't ever call him Jimmy, and the rest of the usual cast of motley characters do what they do best. Which is give us another kick ass ride. Book 9 won't get here soon enough.

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### Liraz says

Sandman Slim doing what he does best. Nice addition to the series, just not enough. It seemed like the ending was somewhat abrupt.

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### Rage says

hmmmmmmmm pretty much all of the other reviews are super positive. (is that because the people who are reading #8 are the hardcore fans?) the more the story is about Stark's domestic life, his relationship with Candy (one of those manic pixie types who continues to just bug me), him dealing with his problems... the story just keeps slowing down. there's less quippy banter, less action. a lot of things happen Just Because. I feel like the world and the characters have already been established enough that Kadrey can just be like, yep, Hell is Los Angeles, and here's this other place, where this guy still is etc. and that was also part of the story slowing down. we're rereading stuff. I still like the characters, and the cliffhanger ending gives me some hope that things are gonna get shaken up in #9.

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## Lea says

I love Kadrey's books and I love this series. I've listened to most of this series (narrated by the awesome Mcloud Andrews). Sandman Slim kicks so much ass. Sure, I can't listen to it when the kid is in the car but that just makes it better.

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## Jason says

5 Stars

The Perditiion Score is a good summer read. Sure it is lesser Sandman Slim but I still love James and enjoy every moment spent with him. The Getaway God could have concluded the series but thankfully for us Richard Kadrey is not finished with James and neither are we. This is the 8th book of the series and I could easily read 88 more.

"Life is a bucket of shit with a barbed-wire handle."

All of my favorite characters are back again; James Stark, Candy(Chihiro), Kasabian, Vidocq, Mustang Sally, and many more. This book and series read to me as near perfection as I am a true fan boy. I would give all the books full marks just for my enjoyment and have decided that as long as Kadrey keeps writing them, I will do just that. He has me as a fan for life and I really hope that we have many more adventures to come for Sandman Slim. Long live Sandman Slim.

"“Mortals, angels, and Abominations, all we get are moments between shit storms. So, have a fucking drink or have a fucking laugh or go sit in the fucking dark and pout because the universe forgot your birthday.”"

If you have never read a Sandman Slim novel than if you enjoy the following you should quickly grab book one and get your ass caught up.

Do you like...

Big guns, big horns, demons, angels, vampire, gratuitous actions, killing, voodoo, hoodoo, magic, mayhem, Lucifer, God, ghost, ghouls, werewolves, angry women, sex, more killings, a monster for a hero, shadow stepping, Heaven, Hell, talking Corpses, zombies, and other undead, cool ass weapons for even more killings, potty mouth, killing, hexing, cursing, and more?

If you do.... You will love Sandman Slim.

My guilty pleasure.

### **Kdawg91 says**

I love this series, I ainttttttt going to lie, I put things down to read a new Sandman Slim book. It's like old school noir books crossed with Dresden files tossed into a bag with Iron Maiden albums and old Thrasher magazines and shook up till everybody smells like old beer, apple fritters and sweat.

That glowing review aside, this isn't my favorite of the series...even not being the fav child..it still beats the brakes off most urban fantasy out today. It's fun from front to back and I want posters made out of the covers (whomever decided on making the recent installment covers like old movie posters deserves a raise)

GO buy this, and Mr Kadrey, you are gonna make me mad in book nine aren't You? (hate cliffhangers and sense a disturbance in the force)

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### **Lo9man88 says**

Oh Man back to hell already ... good i was starting to freak out : stark's good boy act was buming me out....

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### **Jennifer says**

What can I say? I feel that James and I are on friendly terms. I accept him for the monster that he is. This one had a little less of Sandman Slim and a little more of James Stark. It was an enjoyable, fast paced, journey from LA to Hell and back. But then, James is always going to Hell. Not for the reasons one would think either. This is book 8 folks. Read Sandman Slim, you have to start from the beginning. If you have read this far, well you are just as sucked in as me. See you on the other side. (If there is an other side)

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### **John Mclain says**

Thanks to a Goodreads Giveaway I had an opportunity to read this book before it was released.

My guess is if you're reading The Perdiction Score you're already well-acquainted with Jim Stark (AKA Sandman Slim) and his world. If not, set Perdiction Score aside and begin this wonderful, unique series with Kadrey's 2009 Sandman Slim. At this point in the series there's a lot of back story, and you'll be lost without all of that under your belt.

But if you are familiar, then you know what to expect, more or less, this time around. All the series' books are a like Mike Hammer meets Dante's Inferno meets Sam Peckinpah's Straw Dogs, and while Perdiction Score is true to breed, it's nice to see that, after the conclusion of the Angra Om Ya cycle, Kadrey isn't interested in having Stark go through the motions. Life after saving the world (again) is--if anything--harder for Stark in ways both big and small, and ever-more complex. At this point, it's reassuring and deeply satisfying that Kadrey keeps Stark evolving while holding onto the thread of what makes him so great a protagonist.

Starting with a McGuffin from a dying angel, Perditiion Score keeps Stark moving into the story's central mystery with the characteristic discretion of a Tiger Tank. The plot is a messy affair, most of Kadrey's are-- but getting there is more than half the fun. Without giving anything away, the end confirmed my hope that things are going to stay messy, and that Kadrey still has plenty left in store for Sandman Slim. Bottom line: a solid next chapter in a series that keeps turning around blind corners and refuses to coast on its previous work.

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

*“The more totally fucked you are, the funnier everything gets. Right now the world is hilarious.”*

**Right now only?** Please give yourself some credit, **My Yummy One** (MYO™), your world is all **hilarity, merriment and gleeful chuckles** ALL the time. I mean, you were pretty much born totally fucked fished, which kinda sorta implies your life is just one long succession of most amusing moments. Like inventing **immortal bacon** and “*disposing of zombie thrash pork*” for example. Or melting away like the Wicked Witch of the West, being beaten the crap out of, **getting your lovely ass kicked six ways to Barnacle day**, being burnt, stabbed, and generally manhandled. Among other delightful activities. Plus you get **free stays in Hell** pretty much whenever you feel like it, and were lucky enough to watch the **uncut version of Bambi** (the one with all the nudity). Seems to me your life really is a barrel of pure, undiluted **raucous laughter and pleasurable fun**, Jimmy Boy. It’s just that you don’t realize it. You should really try and follow your old buddy Death’s example. I mean, if there’s one guy who **embodies all that carpe diem crap**, it’s him.

*See what I mean?*

**Okay**, so it’s kind of hard to focus on **seizing the bloody shrimping day** when there’s always a bunch of scheming, greedy, villainous assholes more than willing to, um, you know, do what **scheming, greedy, villainous assholes do**. And sort of ruining your daily ~~let’s break furniture, with Candy~~ **meditation plans** in the process. And I must admit that having to go from **crazy hit man** to pencil pusher \*shudders\*, hunting for stinking black milk, dealing with **halo polishers**, Panzerchokolade, “*diarrhea-ravaged fallen angels*,” mischievous corn mazes, spoiled spoiled spoiled little bastards, **Pandemonium sewage plants** and French immortals “*stuck to each other like barnacles*” (view spoiler) doesn’t do much **for one’s mindfulness**. But you have to be strong, Jimmy Dear. The key to mindfulness is to stay focused on the present moment at all times, and I for one know **how super focused you can get** when you get either your, um, gladius, or your, um, na’at, out. Besides, all this disruption in your otherwise **Superlatively Zen Life** (SZL™) is nothing that a good old vacation in Hell can’t fix. Your secondary girlfriend Chihiro (view spoiler) actually mentioned going to Gluttony **to get a ham sandwich** the other day, so you could take her along for the ride. Provided you come back to the High Security Harem **POST BLOODY FISHING HASTE**, of course. I mean, I might get a teensy little bit **twitchy** if you don’t (view spoiler).

*So much sexy should be outlawed, I know. In my defense, I can’t help being hot. I was born that way and stuff.*

**Okay**, I know I’m not fooling anyone here. No matter all the **weird, kinky, ruthlessly slaughterish, fished up stuff** My Yummy One gets involved in (outrageously unacceptable field trips to Hell with his book girlfriend included), I can never stay twitchy at him for long. Yes, he is an **eternally half-pissed** nephelim

indeed, and his life “*one big bowl of what-the-fuck,*” but **I lurves him** anyway. Because he was confused as fish “*when they changed Darrin on Bewitched.*” And because he is the **Mostest Delicousest Monster this Side of Pandemonium** (MDMtSoP™). So QED and stuff.

► And the moral of this **You Better Have the Next Instalment Handy Before You Start Reading this One Because Cliffhanger is as Cliffhanger Does and Also Because Evil Mr Kadrey is Evil Superiorly Craptastic Crappy Non Review** (YBHtNIHBYSRtOBCiaCDaABEMKiESCCNR™) is:

*“If you go home from a bar looking like a jalapeño in Dockers, it’s time to reexamine your life choices.”*

Truer words were never spoken, if you ask me.

- **Book 1:** Sandman Slim ★★★★★
- **Book 2:** Kill the Dead ★★★★★
- **Book 3:** Aloha from Hell ★★★★★
- **Book 3.5:** Devil in the Dollhouse ★★★★★
- **Book 4:** Devil Said Bang ★★★★★
- **Book 5:** Kill City Blues ★★★★★
- **Book 6:** The Getaway God ★★★★★
- **Book 7:** Killing Pretty ★★★★★
- **Book 9:** The Kill Society ★★★★★
- **Book 10:** Hollywood Dead - *to be released August 2018.*

[Pre-review nonsense]

**My boyfriend Jimmy Stark makes everything sexier.** Even reanimated bacon. I kid you not.

► Full **Mr Kadrey Did You Seriously Just Pull a Bloody Shrimping Cliffhanger of Death Doom Destruction Oblivion and Total Annihilation of All Life on this Planet on Me I am not Amused and Stuff Fleet Admiral DaShrimp Unleash the Crustaceans at Once Crappy Non Review** (MKDYSJPaBSCoDDOaTAoALotPoMIanAaSFADUtCaOCNR™) to come.

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## Nancy says

More kick-ass fight scenes that have kept me coming back to this series again and again. A fun, summer-time, kill-em-all-and-let-God-sort-em-out kind of read. Good times! Love the great imagery and catchy quotes from Richard Kadrey, always makes me wish I was listening with a pencil and paper handy. Then it would be super-easy to decide on the name of my next blog, or what to name my kiss-ass ukulele.

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## Sonia Almeida Dias says

I am a Sandman Slim fan all along, and was happy to discover I had not one but two more books to dive into, after thinking the series was done with *Killing Pretty*.

I obviously really liked this come back, the dialogues, the sarcastic and violent take on life and everything around it that James Stark has but his existential angst was a bit too much for me.

Also, I really, really missed the Room of 13 Doors. I mean, it is bad enough that I have to go around a big (although not as big as LA) city every day in public transportation, or car, one can only dream of having a Room that can takes us anywhere we want just by stepping on a shadow.

It is no fun at all to see Stark reduced to drive in traffic like the rest of us not half angels over here.

Apart from that, the book was good, and Kadrey makes a good summary to keep us up to speed with the parts of the story we need to bear in mind to understand what is going around.

Recommended to all urban fantasy lovers out there and people that like fun fast paced books. You can't go wrong with the Sandman Slim series. Word of advise, if you are new to the books, please start with number one, or you will definitely miss out a lot.

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### **Karissa says**

This was an excellent continuation of the Sandman Slim series. I felt like this book was more in keeping with earlier books in the series. It does start a bit slow, but once it finds its stride the book was very hard to put down.

This book did a great job of starting a newish storyline for Stark. I feel like the last few books have kind of been a bit wandering and transitional. Stark does spend some time whining and bitching in the beginning of this book, but he does hit his stride again as the story continues.

I loved the mystery behind black milk. I also enjoyed Stark's working relationship with Abbott. Stark and Candy continue to have an awesome relationship.

The plot around Wormwood was really fleshed out in this book and dealt with nicely. The ending was very well done and I can't wait to see what happens in the next Sandman Slim book.

Overall this was a wonderful addition to the Sandman Slim series. I was happy to see our gritty butt-kicking Stark make a return to the story. I liked the new plot around Wormwood and continue to enjoy all the sassiness, grittiness, and action in this series. Kadrey has a very distinctive writing style and it's one I enjoy a lot. I would recommend this whole series to those who enjoy gritty and action-packed urban fantasy.

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### **Kaustubh Dudhane says**

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