



Blood and Bullets

James R. Tuck

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He lives to kill monsters. He keeps his city safe. And his silver hollow-points and back-from-the-dead abilities help him take out any kind of supernatural threat. But now an immortal evil has this bad-ass bounty hunter dead in its sights. . .

Ever since a monster murdered his family, Deacon Chalk hunts any creature that preys on the innocent. So when a pretty vampire girl "hires" him to eliminate a fellow slayer, Deacon goes to warn him--and barely escapes a vampire ambush. Now he's got a way-inexperienced newbie hunter to protect and everything from bloodsuckers to cursed immortals on his trail. There's also a malevolent force controlling the living and the undead, hellbent on turning Deacon's greatest loss into the one weapon that could destroy him. . .

Blood and Bullets Details

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From Reader Review Blood and Bullets for online ebook

Fangs for the Fantasy says

Deacon Frost lost his family to the monsters, something he lives with every day. No longer have a reason or desire to live, he goes out and hunts them, without regard for his own safety backed up by victims and survivors

But now he is the target – an elaborate trap has been set up to catch him and another would be hunter is being used as the bait. The problem is he doesn't know who is targetting him or why – but if he can't find out why he is the one being targeted – or even if he is the target – he and everyone around him is at risk

This is a power fantasy, a pure male power fantasy and an action film. Deacon Chalk (yeah, his name as well) fights like a demon – or an angel rather since he has the super special angelic blood, with a whole host of shiny guns, drives a super fast shiny car, is harder than nails, kicks more arse than an entire military unit and looks awesome doing so with his huge muscles, leather and bad boy sexy tattoos. All the women around him are gorgeous and love him. He's kind and heroic to the downtrodden while always gruff and tough, of course. And he has deeply tragic past and cries manly tears while beautiful women sooth him – but it drives forward even more ruthless because he no longer cares if he lives or dies.

It's no good, this needs a super action movie voice over.

In a world of vampires, demons and monsters, one man stands between all that is good and the darkness. Marred by tragedy he will give anything, fight anything, sacrifice everything in an epic battle for the fate of humanity! Women want him, men want to be him and evil runs in fear from him. He is Deacon Chalk!

This is this book. It's corny, it's cheesy, the main character is ridiculously, perfectly awesome who is regarded with universal awe and reverence. He cannot buy take away food without being hailed as a saviour. He's enlightened, tough, he has literal ANGEL BLOOD, an awesome fighter with the coolest toys. He could have a thousand women (all beautiful and all want him) but he is still so tragically hurting so they just admire him from afar and kiss his cheek (seriously, 99% of women in this book kiss his cheek, it's like a compulsion) he runs his own strip club manned (well, womaned) but ladies he's saved who all adore him, he has his own priest as back up (a priest who was a former sniper so kicks some arse, but he is not **Deacon Chalk**, of course). He wades in among literal hordes of vampires slaying them in their dozens – lesser hunters may kill a vampire, but not **Deacon Chalk**, he kills 50 vampires, 100, he kills them with a small knife and his hands tied behind his back and likely makes them flee with his terrible manly glare (we need a chorus insert here of breathy awestruck women gasping "**Deacon Chalk**").

Ok, a nice power fantasy action movie style book isn't entirely a bad thing. Sometimes some fluff and blowing up the big bad monsters with a protagonist who just shits awesome can be a fun, fluffy, mind deadening read. It can, I admit it, I even like a good action novel with nothing but cheesy over the top fights and god-like heroes who are ridiculously, gloriously perfect. It's a guilty pleasure and I shamefully admit it.

Buuut... even action fluff books dripping testosterone and stinking of cordite need to be well written.

read more

Stephanie G says

Deacon Chalk lost his family five years ago to the things that go bump in the night. Ever since he lost them he has hunted those things down, and been involved with the seedy underworld of the paranormal. Vampires, using a want-to-be-hunter named Larson, set a trap for Deacon. He manages to make it out of the trap, and goes on a quest to see who wants him dead.

This book delivers exactly what the title says. It is a pulp urban fantasy, that's hero reminds me of almost any buff, bald action hero. This is a fact that Deacon himself seems to know. Most all of the women in the story, including the antagonist find him attractive, and he even includes why. He is clearly a badass, but goes too far out of his way to explain the reasons why. Arrogance Deacon has in spades, and there were plenty of parts in the novel I hoped it might get him into trouble. The big arrogant brut does have his soft spot, his dead family which trips him up, and makes him much more likeable as the story goes on.

The colorful cast of characters behind our hero is where it is at. This is a novel with a ton of magical critters, Vampires, Were-things, angels and even fairies are mentioned. Vampires in this book are evil, no exceptions, and the story even explains how vampires came into the world. They are not the sexy things in our romance novels, but sadistically evil. Deacon is helped fight the forces of evil with a priest, hunter-want-to-be, his sexy female assistant, a really awesome were-spider, and a character straight out of the bible. The side characters are well detailed, some more than others. I was mildly surprised by how much they let Deacon push them around.

The setting is not richly detailed. It is set mainly in Atlanta, but that seemed like a distant fact to the objects, like Deacon's car. The settings are told well during a fight scene. It is generous with the buckets of blood, and good fighting, but that is where the settings goodness stops. There is grit, but it is in the fights, and felt lost any other time.

The book covers maybe four days in total, and the plot is very cut and dry. A big evil comes to take out Deacon, and he saves the day. There is a very thin romantic plot that seems like it might blossom into something more as the series goes on. I really enjoyed the mix of myth and storytelling that made up the back story of how certain things came to be.

I have said it before but this is an urban fantasy pulp novel to the fullest. Our hero is the classic 'shoot'em first' kind of guy. The problem is that there is not a lot to make it stand out of the crowd, other than the fact that the lead is not a detective or P.I. That doesn't change the fact that the basic story has been seen before. The book has two things I enjoy, urban fantasy and grit, but it lacks in depth and detail.

- Beth (Guest Reviewer)

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review Courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: A badass man intent on taking as many of the monsters down before they get him first. Full of fighting and helpful monster killing hints; like Burn Notice for the supernatural community.

Opening Sentence: Some nights are destined to go to hell.

The Review:

I will admit that the title of this book, Blood and Bullets, turned me off from reading it at first. But first impressions can be deceiving. Like the book itself, the true nature of the hero lies past all the coverings and labels. Deacon Chalk is a badass monster hunter and has a tougher-than-nails look about him. But this same man loved his family so deeply that the loss of them became the driving force of all he is today. Even though he kills the monsters without remorse, he does whatever he can to help those that have been harmed by them. This is why you should never judge a book by its cover, both figuratively and literally.

Deacon Chalk, Occult Bounty Hunter, is a simple man with simple pleasures; like killing monsters. When he is given an assignment by a vampire to hunt a fierce man known as Nyteblade, he takes it even though he is a little confused. And when Nyteblade foolishly attacks and tries to stake Deacon in the heart as if he were a vampire, the confusion goes up a notch. Turns out that Nyteblade is just a kid named Larson who has no idea how to identify and hunt monsters, let alone kill them. Who in their right mind could possibly believe this guy to be a threat to a man like Deacon? And what's with the whole setup in the first place? Who has he pissed off recently that warrants using Larson to lure Deacon in to a place where lots of vampires can attack them both at once? Multiple vampires are generally hard to control by a singular master, so who has the kind of power to make it happen? And more importantly, how can Deacon kill it?

Deacon tells this story while giving the readers helpful hints on monster hunting and extermination. It's like the monsters of Supernatural meets the cool explanations of Burn Notice. He also has a way with words. He doesn't bother to sugarcoat anything for anyone. And if his large frame, tattoos, and sour expression don't scare you off, his big ass gun will. But Deacon is a man of his word and has a loyal following that helps him get the job done.

Deacon's team is also something. Kat is a computer wizard and manager of his strip club, Polecats. He has a chain-smoking priest that bartends for him. They all work together to take out all the evil bastards that they can find. Larson offers to help, but realizes that this is not the life for him. But Larson is not free to leave because his family is being held captive and Deacon and his team are the only ones that can save them.

While trying to take out the vampire that put the hit out on him, Deacon helps out a few interesting people. Longinus, the welder of the Spear of Destiny that killed Jesus Christ on the cross and cursed with immortality, is being held captive by Appollonia, the evil vampire intent on making Deacon her own. Longinus also happens to be the "father" of the vampires. He has long tried to atone for his mistakes by trying to kill all the vampires off. While doing so, he is captured by Appollonia, and the Spear enhances her powers to the point of making her virtually invincible. Charlotte is a were-spider that is forced to do Appollonia's bidding. But when she breaks free, she puts everything on the line to help Deacon and his team take down her old master. These folks don't stick around at the end of the book, but I do hope to see them involved again in the future.

Appollonia is a very old vampire. She has in her possession the Spear of Destiny and it gives her powers she would never have on her own. She can control hundreds of vampires at once. Bullets do not harm her. So, how can someone possibly beat her? Well, like all good villains, she is vain and prideful. But can Deacon use this against her to his advantage? Can those that she has subjugated give him the key to her demise? Or will she prove stronger than all of them?

There is also a potential love interest in Deacon's future; the lovely Tiff. Deacon did her first tattoo years

ago, before the death of his family. She remembers the events that surrounded his family's murders and expresses her sympathy by giving him a hug. She is kind and sweet yet not put off by Deacon's strong exterior and harsh attitude. She is also strong-willed and willing to do whatever it takes to help out, even though she has no personal stake in the matter. She is just that nice of a person. She makes her interest in Deacon known with one hell of a kiss, but doesn't pressure for more. I don't think that she is good for Deacon, whether as just a friend or as more.

I am glad that I took the time to read this book. It is full of layers and depth that make me want more. The characters are all more than they appear, just like real people. Take the time to get to know Deacon Chalk for he is a good man to know. Especially if you need someone to shield you against things that go bump in the night.

Notable Scene:

Why would a vampire even think that I would work for them? I'm not a vampire hunter. I don't seek them out, but I've killed every one of the evil bastards I've run into. Most people have a romantic view of vampires. They picture them as the eternal lover full of longing and dark passion. Thank you very much Hollywood, but that is not the way it is in real life.

And vampires never sparkle unless they just ate a stripper.

The Deacon Chalk: Occult Bounty-Hunter Series:

0.5 That Thing at the Zoo

1. Blood and Bullets

2. Blood and Silver

FTC Advisory: Kensington Books provided me with a copy of Blood and Bullets. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review. The only payment received came in the form of hugs and kisses from my little boys.

Cats of Ulthar says

Talk about your protagonist with a Death Wish! One Deacon Chalk, monster-tracker, bounty-hunter of evil, paid to kill monsters, but consciously and unconsciously on hold, waiting for the one monster that he can't stop-whichever monster will finally kill him, so that at last he can be reunited with the family he lost suddenly and violently only five years ago: wife, daughter, son. Chalk is himself dead-and-returned, killed by Nephilim while rescuing an abducted Angel, then healed and resurrected by that same angel.

Deacon may now get his wish sooner than he expects; an anorexic-appearing young vampire girl, resembling his lost daughter, tries to hire him to take out a vampire-hunted named Nyteblade. Then the aforesaid Nyteblade attempts to stake Deacon, and before they can get that misunderstanding ironed out, the two hunters are attacked by upwards of fifty vampires acting like zombies.

"Blood and Bullets" is a gritty, down-to-earth, violent, realistic story, one that makes it easy to imagine a

world where the Supernatural really does exist-and dangerously so. Deacon Chalk does first-person narrative, a man who explains as he goes, and delineates the various Supernatural species on a continuum of good and evil, or somewhere in between. Vampires, he adjudges are all evil, and all vampires are evil. No doubt about it. This is a fast-paced and exciting novel. I would not recommend it for YA-age readers, because of the violence and certain other references, but for adult readers fascinated with Urban Fantasy, "Blood and Bullets" has it going on.

Mandi Schreiner says

Deacon Chalk is on a mission. Five years ago his wife and kids were brutally murdered by vampires. He has spent every day since, hunting those monsters, not caring if he gets taken out in the process. His proper title is an occult bounty hunter, and he also owns Polecats, a strip club.

One night, a child that reminds him very much of the daughter he lost comes to him. Except, this child is a vampire. Hesitant though to outright kill her, she starts to ask for his help to take down a mysterious "agent of destruction", until she attacks. After the attack, he finds a folder with information about this mysterious being and heads to the location to see what is happening. But it ends up being a set-up. Barely making it out alive, he runs back to Polecats to meet with his few close friends to make a plan. And along the way he picks up a mortal wanna-be vampire slayer who gets in on the action as well.

Blood and Bullets is the debut urban fantasy book for James R. Tuck. Told in the point of view of Deacon, this is pretty much a middle of the road book for me. I like Deacon, although I couldn't decide if he wanted to be truly bad ass as he proclaims in the book, or if he is more of a softer, gentle giant. He does take care of business when needed, but there are also a lot of threats, and I wanted to see him lash out some more. I also wish he had a little more sense of humor or sarcastic wit to entertain throughout the book.

Before the story starts, we learn that at one point while Deacon is out doing his thing, he rescues an angel that is in trouble. As a reward, this angel transfuses her version of blood into him. This now makes it so Deacon is faster, stronger, and immune to vampire powers. I wonder why more people are not demanding that they also have these powers? I believe the general population is not aware of supernatural creatures, but the way the world is described there are a ton. Shifters, vampires, angels, trolls etc. I wish we would have had a clearer understanding as to how everyone stays hidden.

When Deacon meets Larson in the alley when he is being set up, he soon realizes Larson is just a mortal who was there to slay some vampires. But with his family murdered, I would assume Deacon would have some trust issues when it comes to strangers, and he seems to allow Larson in his life quite easily. He picks up a few other "strays" along the way that again I had to ask, why?

As I said, this book is just okay for me. It doesn't really stand out, but at the same time it is an easy read. I kept waiting to get sucked into the book but that never happened. Maybe with book two.

Rating: C

Maghon Thomas says

I would like to thank, as always, R2R and the author for giving me a copy to read for a review :)

First I would like to say that if you like a great fantasy ride filled with action and fun weapons, this one is for you! Also, I have a thing for writing in the guys perspective. I love a strong female heroine but it's a rare treat when you hear from a dude :) now, on to the review...

I liked this book, alot. First, you have a guy, who's big, bad, scary, kills things, but still has a conscience! Ohhh and he's got tattoos, lots of 'em!! That's hot! He is a bounty hunter to kill the things that go bump in the night, and he's good at what he does. And he's not a man-whore hahaha sorry, I should bleep that out :) his main hunt this time are vampires. And he has some awesome HUMAN backup :) I like this too. I also like that there are some non-human characters that are good at heart and he chooses to leave them be.

The writing is done in a way that you can picture every shot, kick, punch, scream, smell. It flows very well, and it's like an action movie, you are excited and feel the tension. And I love the supporting characters that were created, they have as much of my heart as the main character does. And the bad guy(s), well you'll understand when you read :)

The main character, Deacon, is strong both physically and mentally, but has his soft spots and I love this. He's willing to sacrifice his life to save others, and he is very adamant about that. He's also sometimes the typical man with protecting women, but he's cool about it :)

I have only one negative thing, and it's not really negative, but sometimes it was a little long winded. I understand that some things need describing and if there isn't enough then it leaves the reader confused or lost or empty. However, it was just in a few cases and by the middle I was way too invested to care, and most of the details were already described. This did not have a negative effect on me wanting to continue reading.

Overall, this is a really good book, especially if you are like me, with favoring fantasy, on the darker side, without much romantic activity :) its gets 4 PAWS from me :)

Katherine McCarthy says

My Thoughts

My inner goddess now calls out for Deacon Chalk! This fearless and brave Bad Boy Hero that protects humanity is now one of my favorites. Confidence and power radiates from his very essence. He's scary and intimidating with his goatee and tattoos. The kind of man who will make you want to run and hide at first; but if you look a little closer, he'll stir something deep inside that will no longer let you look away. He's a strong, hot, alpha male with a huge heart and not afraid to show it.

So, *shaking head to get back on track*, this story is action-packed and has a powerful theme of good vs. evil. Early in the novel, we have to give Deacon a chance to talk about his passion for guns so it starts off a little slow. But when he's done, the story comes at you like a bullet. Pun intended.

This novel is a little on the darker side of Urban Fantasy with only a smidgen of romance so it may not be for everyone. However, I loved it. To deviate from the customary romance novels on Valentine's Day, I bought it as a gift to myself. Not one regret.

It's told in 1st person so we only hear the events from Deacon's point of view. I only mention this because some people aren't that keen on stories told in first person. However, I think the author's choice to go this route is perfect for the story and he does a great job of it. We still get a sense of what the other characters are feeling by their actions and obvious loyalty and respect towards Deacon. It takes skill to convey the thoughts and feelings of other characters using first person POV and this author does so brilliantly.

The Story

Just to add to the Author Summary above...

Deacon is one of the top occult bounty hunters in the country. His skill is impressive and has drawn the attention of powerful enemies. Slayers and executioners are rare and things would be much easier for the bad guys if Deacon weren't in the picture.

Someone is out to kill him and they know enough about him to know his weaknesses. They send in a young vampire girl knowing he will hesitate to slay her despite her being what she is. She leaves a note that will lure him into what he knows is a trap. Not one to shy away from a fight, he runs in with guns ablazin'. And so starts his mission to unravel the conspiracy and find out who's trying to kill him while protecting the innocents around him.

The Main Characters...

Deacon

When Deacon sought revenge against the Nephilim (offspring of humans and Angels) who killed his wife and child, he also saved an Angel who was being held captive. Actually he was killed saving her and she brought him back to life with her blood. By doing so, she made him faster and stronger and gave him the ability to sense magic and resist supernatural powers. Basically the abilities he would need to continue fighting evil.

Deacon is motivated by vengeance and really doesn't care if he lives or dies. He kills with the conviction that monsters are evil and a man with nothing left to lose is a very dangerous man indeed. However, he's not so hell bent on his revenge that he's lost his humanity so he does spare those supernaturals that aren't evil.

Actually, he's not all badass. He has a huge heart that he's not afraid to show. He cries when reminded of his loss and man enough to be ok with that. He takes care of those he considers friends and has the undying loyalty of those he knows.

He's also quite conceited which I found rather funny. He thinks he's all that and a bag of chips, and we know that he thinks that because he likes to tell us. Often. His ego should have put me off, but actually it didn't. It was just enough to make me want to know more about him. Maybe it's my fondness for bad boys. I really can't explain.

I'm not sure if it was the author's intention, but I found it kinda funny when Deacon yelled and screamed his head off and tried to intimidate when he didn't get his own way. He was like a 2-year old throwing a

tantrum. I probably wouldn't think that if I had this character in front of me in real life, but behind the safety of my Kindle, I giggled.

Five paragraphs about Deacon...I think I'm smitten!

Deacon's Team

So moving on...there are some excellent characters backing Deacon up in his pursuits.

Larson came into the story as a wannabe monster slayer. After researching what he could, he felt he was ready to take them on. However, he had no experience. Deacon figured he wouldn't last 10 seconds against a vampire. But Larson turned out to be a surprise. Despite his lack of experience, he was smart and brave and turned out to be an asset to the team.

His regular team includes an extremely loyal circle of friends - Father Mulcahy is very dedicated to the cause. Excessive coffee-drinker and chain smoker, he provided some comic relief. Kat is the computer genius in his circle that provides all the intel he needs to do his job. Deacon saved her from a very bad situation when vampires kidnapped her a long time ago. Tiff is a girl he just met that showed him a gentle compassion for his loss thus creating an instant bond of friendship and possible love interest when the time is right.

Antagonist

We didn't get too much detail about what motivated the immortal evil trying to kill him other than they're evil and considered Deacon a major threat.

There are only a couple of things I found slightly off-putting about this novel. I found that there was a little too much detail about the guns and bullets. However, given the title and the fact that Deacon is a slayer, I expected as much. The other thing is that I wish Deacon had shown a little more emotion at the ending since he was not afraid to be open about his feelings other times in the novel.

A Few Favorite Quotes

On Deacon...

“I smiled and tried to make it friendly. Really I did. I can’t help it that on me a smile usually looks like the grin of a pit bull.”

Loyalty...

“If Larson has been “bad” company, then when we pulled around to the drive-through, Katsumi would have been holding an Uzi out the drive-up window to distract him (Larson) while one of the ninja sushi chefs came around to slit his throat. The Takakage family takes my safety seriously.”

The Look...

“My hand came up to pause Larson. “Wait, where did you read the Morbius Manifesto?” Larson got that look that scholars get when dealing with the uneducated. You know that look, like the answer is so obvious they cannot even believe they are having a conversation with you. It’s the same look teenagers perfect when dealing with anyone over twenty-two. “Online.” The unspoken “duh” hung in the air. See what I mean?”

Coffee & Smokes...

“Father Mulcahy leaned on the doorway and drank coffee. I knew for a fact it was not his first cup; hell I was

pretty sure it was not his first pot. Father Mulcahy does coffee really well, which is a good thing, because he drinks it all day long. He was holding a saucer that held his coffee cup when he wasn't drinking and also served as an ashtray for his ever-present menthol cigarette. He is the only man I have ever seen who could take a sip of coffee with a cigarette in his mouth."

?

Bottom Line

In my opinion, the author has delivered a spectacular first novel in the Deacon Chalk series. If you like bad boy heroes that are rough around the edges while at the same time, big teddy bears, I highly recommend reading this one! The next in the series – Blood and Silver – is coming out in August this year and I've already added it to my anxiously waiting list.

Happy Reading!

4 Bad Boys – Really Enjoyed It!!!!

Kayla Eklund says

Blood and Bullets was a great urban fantasy novel. I got very emotionally involved in it. Deacon's dark sarcastic humor had me cracking up laughing quite a bit. Beacon was a strong male character. He went through a lot that would make most people curl into a ball and give up on life. However, he didn't let that stop him. After his family was killed, he avenged their deaths by killing the monsters that killed them. I really hope to see a relationship bloom between him and Tiffany in the future. They seem like they would make a great couple. The plot was written fairly well. I found a few punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors. Not very many though. I liked that the plot was mostly non-stop action. It held my interest the whole way through. I got a little bit confused when Deacon was talking about the different types of guns because I have no gun knowledge. I am excited to start the second book in the series and see what kind of monsters Deacon runs into next.

Jeffrey N. Baker says

James R. Tuck is a local author here in GA. I had picked up his book to support him after having had an email exchange with him. He's a very nice guy and was very open about his experiences getting published.

I really wanted to enjoy his book. But sadly I can't say that I did. The main character, Deacon Chalk, is a Marry Sue for James. He is so idealized that I was constantly taken out of the story. It came to the point that I could predict how situations would play out.

For instance, Deacon went to his favorite sushi joint. He knew the proprietors by name. And with that, I knew he wouldn't pay for his meal. Because everyone he comes in contact with (assuming they aren't a bad guy) is instantly in love with him.

And anything that would be considered a flaw was superficial.

James had a chance for an engaging story through a secondary character named Larson. A kid who was way in over his head and dealing with stuff he wasn't ready for. I had wished James opted to tell the story through that character's eyes. That would have been a much more interesting read for me.

But, I guess I am not the target audience. This book reads like a Van Damme movie. Lots of ass-kicking, with little thought on story.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

Talk about a book that delivers on its cover! **BLOOD AND BULLETS** kicks off a brand new urban fantasy series featuring a wicked cool protagonist who's a cross between Batman and Snake from *Escape From New York*. Deacon Chalk, monster bounty-hunter, packs every type of heat known to man (and some that aren't). His arsenal is seriously impressive but no more so than Deacon himself. After name dropping a few uber famous UF characters like Anita, Cat and Bones, and Sam and Dean, Deacon's debut proves he's more than capable of hanging with the big boys.

I did have a few grumbles with Deacon. He's a little too perfect, almost like a Saint. He owns a strip club full of girls he has rescued from one heinous situation or another and every last one of them adores him to a degree that borders on worship. They prance around him in g-strings, but he's oblivious to them sexually. No straying eyes, no wandering thoughts that he has to battle. He treats them like an indulgent grandfather, bending down for kisses on the cheek and dispensing proud smiles. And that's pretty much the way he is with every other non evil character in the book. He's rescued them in the past and now they revere him like a savior. Yes, he was still in mourning over the murder of his wife and kids, but apart from one very random and uncomfortable breakdown in a club, it didn't seem to have damaged him a whole lot. I wanted one flaw, one vice, one thing that he battled with and, at least occasionally, succumbed to.

Another thing that grew a bit tedious was the number of little lectures from Deacon. They started out very cool, almost like little side notes explaining various mythologies or Deacon's well honed methods for killing, but they started happening too frequently and for everything. There was a whole page describing the take out he got from a Sushi restaurant, the merits of one song on the radio over another, or he'd started repeating things he'd already told us like how fire could kill most supernatural creatures, except for Demons. These weren't huge problems, but I did notice them and they did slow down the story for me.

Those complaints aside, I really liked **BLOOD AND BULLETS**. Deacon brings a heavy dose of testosterone that the female dominated urban fantasy genre has been waiting for. He carries a big gun, drives a beast of a car, and blows a fist sized hole into anything that gets in his way. The action scenes are plentiful and adrenalin fueled, and we get lines like, "...vampires never sparkle unless they just ate a stripper." That's reason enough to earn the next Deacon Chalk book, titled **BLOOD AND SILVER** and scheduled for publication on August 1, 2012, a spot on my To Be Read list.

Sexual Content:

References to rape. A scene of sensuality

Jennifer says

Review also posted on The Cubicle Escapee

I knew within 3 pages I was going to freaking love this book, and love this book I did. Deacon is like Buffy but way more badass... Don't get my wrong I am a Buffy fangirl but I would not want to come face to face with Deacon.

Actually if I was going to sum this book up I would say it is like Buffy but for adults. This book was dark, gritty and very intense.

I liked Deacon I found him very likable and developed well, I will be curious to see how he is developed throughout the series, because I will continue to read this series, I placed the next book on my 2016 list. I am currently in the process of trying to read a book set in every state or I would jump right into the next book.

I will also say I am really digging a male lead in an urban fantasy, something that is typically always female. This was refreshing and a reason why I will read the next book.

This book is fast paced and a great urban fantasy. It is gritty and dirty and well I just love it!

Nicole says

My review

This was an action packed read. A nice change is the paranormal genera. Deacon Chase's family was killed by vampires and now his only goal is to kill monsters until one takes him out so that he may join his family. Deacon is not your typical hero, he is a 6'4 320 pound bad boy with a bad attitude... and a good Catholic. He owns a strip club that helps fund his fight and has taken in anyone who has had a run-in with the monsters. Shaved head, goatee, and covered in tattoos her appearance just screams trouble. He has no interest in women and just lives for vengeance. Maybe that might change in later books and as a lover of paranormal romance I really think I can love this series regardless if we cross that bridge. I am looking forward this series and you have a new fan Mr. Tuck!

Recommended for Adults

Found a couple of pics that could pass for Deacon...

XOXOX

Mihir says

Full review over at Fantasy Book Critic

Overall Rating = 2 & 1/2 stars

ANALYSIS: James R. Tuck's debut promised a lot of blood, mayhem and particularly dark corners in the urban fantasy world. I am usually a sucker for urban fantasy stories and if they are of the darker kind, then it just becomes that much easier for me to pick up those books. So it's with a similar kind of anticipation that I went into the first Deacon Chalk book.

The story is a very traditional urban fantasy with Deacon Chalk narrating the story, the opening chapter brings Deacon face to face with a child vampire and one who shares a bare resemblance to his lost daughter. Things aren't looking good for him but the vampire surprises him by asking for his protection. She is being hunted by a being called Nyteblade and seeks protection from the threat. This puts the vampire hunter into a quandary as his usual role does not have him turning protector for the very things he has sworn to hunt. Things however don't end to the vampire's benefit and Deacon is on his way to check up on Nyteblade. This is where's the story actually picks up and the actual plot kicks in.

The book with its dark, haunted protagonist, grim settings and fast paced plotline seemed to be everything which qualifies as fun reads for me, but somehow this book didn't do nearly enough. I shall present both reasons as to why I both liked and disliked certain aspects in this book and then maybe I shall be able to decide where I stand in the overall conclusion to the book. The positive points to the book are its quick pace, excellent action packed sequences and plot compactness. Firstly the best thing about this book is its pace, beginning from the first chapter all the way to its explosive climax. The book never lets us down in this aspect and the reader will not feel bored as things are constantly happening on the page. The author's flair for action sequences is certainly visible as Deacon Chalk is constantly going into or getting out of fights with vampires, their underlings and others sorts of things which tend to cross his path. Lastly the story is a compact one with a proper beginning and end as the author has very conveniently structured the plot so as to get the reader hooked for the sequel. Another cool feature which I read were some careful nods inserted to the creations of Laurell K. Hamilton, Jeaniene Frost, Supernatural TV series and a few others. This was just funny and a bit quirky to read about.

Now onto the parts that dragged the book down were its predictability, the main character's multifaceted persona and two dimensional character cast. The biggest letdown for me was the character's multifaceted persona, normally this would have been something to be counted as a positive however in this case the author has tried to make Deacon Chalk a man of many talents/sides. This perhaps worked against the book as the character does or says things which contradicts his own observations from earlier in the book. One example of such behavior is that the character constantly proclaims that he's not looking for company to replace his dead wife but then alternately talks about the specific type of perfume he utilizes and how his appearance attracts the ladies. Another point was that this hunter is supposed to be a person whose sole obsession in life is to hunt down supernatural killers but alternatively he has time to note what presume and

specific type of clothes he wears that accentuate his looks. The aforementioned reasons along with a couple other occurrences didn't gel with what the character kept on proclaiming. Usually I don't get bothered by such trivial things however in this case I felt that the author was trying to paint Deacon as more than a man and this attempt translated into giving him more than one persona that ruined the read for me as the main character's chatter made him seem more like a loudmouth than the real deal.

I will admit that this was purely my observational bias and maybe most readers will not be bothered by it however it stood in the way of me enjoying the book. The second downward point is that the plot's nature is predictable not overtly but for regular readers of the urban fantasy genre, it won't be hard to decipher where the overall plot might be heading. Thirdly the character cast which is introduced in this book seem very interesting however don't get much time on screen to make their presence felt. They remain two dimensional sidekicks and this again detracted a bit from the overall read. I would like to think that since it's the author's debut that some of these points can be overlooked and perhaps in the future books the author might be able to fine tune the character so as to not seem overbearing. I look forward to those future endeavors because of the novella which I also read at the same time and which helped redeem the author's cause.

CONCLUSION: Blood and Bullets is a quintessential urban fantasy book which promises to deliver like any Michael Bay film for readers who are looking for those sort of thrills. It however doesn't distinguish itself from the crowd and this is perhaps its greatest fallacy. It remains to be seen where this series heads in the future but for now Blood and Bullets wasn't a debut which particularly delivered on its blurb promises.

Courtney says

I... I tried. I made it about maaaybe two chapters in before I decided it was written entirely too much like a truly terrible fan fiction. *Terribly* written.

Seriously, the main character regurgitates his unbelievable back story in two pages. All of it. At once. No professional level writer does that and expects to be taken seriously. And certainly not with a back story that's quite so ... involved as that one was. It probably should have been book one all by itself, not this crap.

Also, as soon as the main character started doing shout-outs to Supernatural, Buffy, and Anita Blake (as if they all existed simultaneously as real people in the book), I deleted the book off my nook. I get it; they're all supernatural hunters and they're awesome. But the creatures in each of their worlds all operate under entirely different rules. Buffy vampires are definitely not Anita Blake vampires and shape-shifters in Anita Blake's series act nothing like shape-shifters in Supernatural. It's nice the author is a fan, but seriously? Create your own shit, yo!

Mike (the Paladin) says

You know, I like this book. This is another case of what I call brain candy. From the word go this book is breakneck action. Facing off with a Monster (Bounty) Hunter primarily after vampires in this case we will join him in lakes of blood, tons of violet action and expending truck loads of ammunition...

What you get here is the proverbial "thrill ride".

Deacon (who sounds suspiciously like Bobby Singer from Supernatural in the audio version) tells us the story dropping in just enough back ground as we go and telling us about the vamps in this world (as opposed to other UF) without resorting to "info-dumps".

I plan to pick up the rest of these. Their great action reads (yes I disagree with some of what might be called the "theology" in the book, but come on this is high octane mental junk food, not a teaching tool). If you like action, thrillers, UF...try this one. I can recommend it.
