



Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Vol. 2

Nancy Holder, Diana G. Gallagher, Christopher Golden, Joss Whedon (Creator)

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In every generation, there is a Chosen One. A slayer destined to protect the human race. She alone must fight the demons of hell. She alone must risk her life to stop the spread of evil.

Buffy is the Chosen One.

In *Halloween Rain*, as if Halloween at the Hellmouth isn't bad enough, a brewing storm threatens to bring new demons to life, just in time for a celebratory massacre.

A curse on the school's rummage sale causes strange behavior in the halls of Sunnydale High in *Bad Bargain*.

Buffy and her friends are looking forward to the revival of the old drive-in theater, but when people start slipping into comas in *Afterimage*, this late show may be their last....

Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Vol. 2 Details

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From Reader Review Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Cara says

This book consisted of three separate stories that took place in season two, but weren't apart of the actual series.

1) Halloween Rain:

Wasn't interested in this one at all. Zombies? Boring. They had a couple episodes with zombies, I wasn't interested in reading about one as the zombie ones weren't my favs. I had hopes it was going to be more along the lines of the episodes where everyone transformed into their costume self. Obviously I didn't want it to be the same, but something along that path would have been better than zombies.

1 star

2)Bad Bargain

This one was interesting. At first I wasn't too thrilled and was ready to give up on the book all together, but then I saw that Spike was in it, so I kept reading. Spike and Drusilla's parts made the whole thing worth while. This story I wish actually was an episode! What I wouldn't give to see Dru turned into a HUGE, insane bat-woman-vampire thing. Spike and Buffy have to work together and there was very little Angel action. Buffy and Spike forever! <3

3 stars

3)Afterimage

The best one of the book, though it was a tad confusing at first with all the POV changes. I literally LOL'd at the thought of Angel driving like a crazy man, whipping in and out of traffic at high speeds in Giles 'classic' car. Bahahahaha.

3.5 stars

Trisha FreakShow says

Love these buffy books. They are so much like the t.v series

Ket Shee says

barfy

Erin says

I'll state again, (as I did with the first), anyone who wants to read Buffy in order should not use these compendiums to do so. The books in each are not connected and not in any particular order.

That being said, here are my thoughts on each book. (may contain SPOILERS)

Halloween Rain- This one was thoroughly enjoyable to me. It contained the extreme sarcasm and jokes that the series is known for in the show, while also showing a more vulnerable side of Buffy. I didn't expect to find her so scared, but I was glad at the same time to see it. I only remember one time in the show when Buffy was really scared, but reading about it makes her that much more normal (even though she is far from normal)

Bad Bargain - While this was my least favorite of the three, it was still an entertaining book. Once again Buffy is thrown from her comfort zone with something she can not beat on her own. There is also a sense of false ending near the end, with some conflicts I couldn't predict the solution to. This is one of those stories you enjoy because it contains material they could never properly execute on TV with the restrictions they have.

Afterimage - The longest of the three, but a neat concept. Besides the storyline itself, what I most enjoyed when reading this was how the Author (Pierce Askegren) would switch character point of views. We would follow Buffy, Willow, Cordelia, Giles, and Xander. It was a nice change from the others to really get a feel for the other characters what we all know and love (or hate) from the series.

Amy Beer says

The only story out of these three that is worth mentioning was the second one.

The first story was horribly lacking in details and facts, it seems as if the person who wrote this has never watched Buffy in their life and therefore was unaware that even though monsters do seem to appear on Halloween, they shouldn't and take it as a night off! Not only that, but it was extremely predictable and lacking in originality. 1 out of 5.

The second story was far better. The story was original, had a great plot and kept me entertained from start to finish. The author managed to write the characters to perfection, both ones taken from the TV Show and new. This was the story that I read most easily, as it was the most interesting. 4 out of 5.

The final story was, once again, lacking something. I'm not quite sure what that something was, but I was bored the whole time I was reading it. I think the message of the story was unclear, proven by the fact that it ended without any explanation of what the villain was hoping to achieve, why the method they used to destroy him worked or how he even got his hands on some of the important artefacts he used to carry out his plan. This story had the potential to be great, the idea was a good one, unfortunately the writing just wasn't able to make it worth more than 1 out of 5 stars.

Overall, a rather disappointing 2 out of 5 stars.

Laurie says

Halloween Rain, 1* Really goofy and didn't sound like the characters at all

Bad Bargain, 4* Actually seemed like an episode

Afterimage, 2* A bit boring & repetitive

Melanie says

First off, I must say that I'm a huge Buffy fan. I've watched and re-watched some of the episodes (okay...ALL of the episodes) a hundred times. I was really disappointed when I read the first volume (Buffy the Vampire Slayer Volume 1 : Coyote Moon, Night of the Living Dead, Portal Through Time) so I was kinda hesitant to buy volume 2. But being the Buffy fan that I am, I just HAD to buy it. I'm really glad I did because this book is great.

A lot of the Buffy characters from season 1 and 2 are in this book: Harmony, Cordelia, Andrew, Jonathan, Oz, Jenny Calender, Angel, Spike, Drusilla, Joyce, Principal Snyder, Giles and of course Buffy, Xander and Willow. I was really happy that Angel, Spike and Drusilla were finally in one or two of the stories but I still would've liked to see more Angel. :)

The three stories are so well written that I could really imagine the characters, especially Xander, saying or doing those things . Xander always had something funny to say on the show and he's portrayed the same in the book.

Buffy fans will enjoy reading about the Chosen One battling creatures from the Hellmouth along with her friends, her Watcher and her vampire boyfriend. If you haven't watched the series (what are you waiting for??) I still think you will enjoy reading this book. It does mention a few things that happened during the show, like the Master, but you don't need to have seen the episodes to understand the story. Anyone who likes a good book with a kick ass heroine and some vampires will enjoy it.

Jim C says

This is a collection of three stories based on the television show. These take place during the end of season 1 and the beginning of season 2. I liked the stories. They were readable and the authors correctly portrayed the characters. Here is a review for each story:

"Halloween Rain" - If you are a devout fan of the show you have to take this story with a grain of salt. This had to be written before season 2 was televised and an episode in that season nullifies this story. There is a local legend that if it rains on Halloween a scarecrow will come to life. Being Sunnydale this actually happens. This story was my least favorite out of the three stories. I liked the storyline but the problem was the character's dialogue. They attempted to duplicate the show's witty dialogue but it was forced. This wasn't a bad story since it was written early into the show's run.

"Bad Bargain" - My favorite of the three. There is a leak in the Hellmouth and a school sale is being overrun by the Hellmouth's critters. This story had all the characters from season 2 and other characters from future seasons. It was a nice adaptation of a familiar story and I really enjoyed the little twist at the end. This story deserves high marks for its foreshadowing. Any story that has Snyder saying the band will sell candy next year is fun because we all know how that works out.

"Afterimage" - This is the longest story in the collection. A demon comes to town and his intent is to feed. His power comes from the reopening of the drive-in theater that allows him to make the characters enter this world. I liked how this story walked us through the process of a Scooby investigation. I really enjoyed the portrayal of Cordelia and Xander as it explored their development on the show. My complaint on this story was the villain was underdeveloped and the ending was a little too hokey.

If you are a fan of the show I believe you will like this collection as you get to visit old friends.

Marie says

Received this from a goodreads giveaway, and was very excited to be chosen!

I guess the first thing I should start with is that I **adore** Buffy... and pretty much everything Joss Whedon created or inspired. (Browncoat!)

I also write/read fanfiction sometimes, 'cause I'm just awesome like that.

Still, I was hesitant when going into these stories...but when I won it from goodreads giveaways, I decided to go for it.

I'm going to go ahead and talk about it by story.

Halloween Rain -- Not the best opening story. First, we have Buffy reminding us that she's the slayer every other page.

As well, the dialog falls a bit flat on me. Also, I was wondering if the author has watched all the episodes of Buffy, specifically the episodes on Halloween and how supposedly nothing evil happens on Halloween. Of course, Joss plays with that upside down and right side up, but that's not what this story is doing. This story just seems to ignore that convention all together.

I'd give the book a 2/5 on the stars. The grammar, plot, spelling, and just basic skill is much higher than you'd find on a fanfiction website, but it doesn't seem to be much more than a nicely written fanfic.

Bad Bargain - Dialog was better, but I didn't like the point of view, because it was jumpy and made it confusing and a little frustrating. There was a weird hang up on the music playing, that I thought was odd -- we were alerted every time a different song came on. Still, I overall enjoyed the story. It would have been a good episode. 3/5

Afterimage -- I really liked the opening to this story, because it does catch your attention well. There were a few lines that felt awkward and OOC (out of character -- a fanfiction term!) but it was a minimum. 3.5/5

This book isn't going to my favorites shelf, but it wasn't horrible and it was a good way to spend one of my days off. Buy it if you wanna/gotta, but I'd recommend waiting for the library to have a copy.

Danyelle says

Being a long time fan of Buffy the Vampire the Slayer, I enjoyed reading the stories, but they are not the up to par with some of the other books written based on the series. I don't think the stories would stand alone or be as enjoyable for someone who isn't familiar with the series and isn't a fan. A few thoughts on each of the stories is listed below.

"Halloween Rain" - When I first started reading this story, it felt kind of rushed, like the authors didn't take much time. While the usual banter of the characters as seen in the series was present and accurate to their personalities, there was a feeling of disconnect as a reader. It wasn't until a little past mid-way that I was able to really get into to the story itself. From the first scene in the cemetery to the end, was better written with great description. I liked how they showed Buffy's vulnerability and strength working together.

"Bad Bargain" - In terms of well-written, I enjoyed this one the most. Each characters true personality is seen clearly, and it had all the elements from the series. It was easy for me to visually see the story as I was reading, always a plus for the written word.

"Afterimage" - This one was rather long in comparison to the others. It had a good story line, but for most of the story it was difficult to determine what direction it was going in in terms of purpose. The life lessons and learning experience(s) of the characters, which is one of the aspects that made the TV series go great, wasn't as clear. I did like the way the story would switch from each characters experience on the same time line.

Selena Beckman-Harned says

The ideas were fine and probably would have made ok episodes, but Joss these writers ain't, and they can't write real Buffy dialogue. Read more like fan fiction than an actual book. But still fun.

Jarcey says

Halloween rain I had a lot of problems with. First is that the author painted Xander as a sexist. One biased comment I could live with, but I counted three. Also, The way Giles saved the day just seemed so random. Maybe I'm nit-picking. Another thing, I wasn't quite sure why the big bad in this wanted the slayer dead. Maybe he woke up on the wrong side of the pumpkin patch?

Bad bargain was interesting. I'll be honest and say that at first it didn't grip me, but I eventually got really into it. I liked all of the monsters, each one unique, and there were a lot of characters from the show that made an appearance. Although, I am a big Willow/Oz shipper, and was a little disappointed they didn't really interact. Also, I actually felt bad for Cordelia (but not by much).

I quite enjoyed Afterimage, it felt like an actual episode, only missing some more witty dialogue, but still there was enough to satisfy. The original character, a goth girl who works at the magic box, was a little unnecessary, though. And the antagonist, while well thought out, was a little bland. Still, I liked it.

I give the first a 2, the second a 4, and the third a 3 (Can I give it a 3 and a half?) Now, lets see how I like the last one.

The SciFi Chick Muses says

Look, it's not Joss but it IS Buffy stories! What's not to like?

Desiree M ~*~*~ **LiveReadCollect** says

Over all the best in this collection was Bad Bargain. As a whole this wasn't a great collection of Buffy novels, sad to say. Individual reviews of each book are down below.

Halloween Rain:

2 stars. This one wasn't a fantastic read. It was all right but in comparison to other Buffy books I've read it wasn't up to par.

The story takes place in Season 1, the book references the Master and that he's still around, but it takes place on Halloween, which if you're a fan of Buffy you know that the first Halloween experienced by Buffy in Sunnydale was in Season 2.

There were some things that bothered me while reading, the constant punning that the characters did. I loved the dialogue in the show but in this book there was just too much of the characters trying to be witty and most of the time it didn't work the way the writers wanted it to.

There was a character, Mr. O'Leary, who was a wasted character. Everything he did, except (view spoiler), could have been done by Angel, who at that point in the TV series was doing what Mr. O'Leary did in this story.

The zombies were boring. I'm rarely interested in reading about zombies, watching it's a different story though.

However I did like the 2 chapters where both Buffy's fight scene in the graveyard and Willow, Xander, and Giles's fight scene in the school/library was written. The 2 chapters blended together wonderfully. Also really enjoyed that they (the authors) added in a character we only saw once, Aphrodisa, she was in the first ep of Buffy as one of the girls in the locker room right before the body fell out of a locker.

The one thing that really took away from this book was that there wasn't any normal teenage issue that Buffy had to deal with while at the same time battling evil. I felt that detracted from the story.

Bad Bargain

3.5 stars.

One of my goals this year is to read more of the BTVS novels I have. So I've started early on this goal.

I enjoyed this one. It had some of the elements that I really like in a Buffy story, one of those elements is having a normal girl/student problem, along with a Slayer problem. A rummage sale is going on at school and Joyce is in the middle of her keeping Buffy on track and know where and what she's doing after school hours kick. Now on top of all of that, the Hellmouth has been releasing little demonic plagues/viruses (for lack of a better word) that are causing bad things to happen to people and they are using items at the sale to infect the wearer's/users/etc.

One thing that did bother me was that the time line was a little messed up. Not much, I don't think it would bother anyone who has only watched the show a couple times but for anyone that has seen the show multiple times it might bother them. There are indicators that it's post Halloween and pre-Surprise. If the timeline had remained vague it would have been fine but there were moments pinpointed that made the timeline now between episodes What's my Line Part 2 and Surprise. Spoiler for the show ---> (view spoiler) So little things like that took me out of the story but it's not a huge deal, I've seen a lot worse continuity errors in other BtVS books.

I felt the story was too long. It's under 200 pages but it felt dragged out. I wish the author had slimmed the story down about 50 pages.

I wish there had been more Angel but that's just because I love Angel and I adore Bangel. So if you hate Angel or don't like Bangel this probably won't bother you that much.

Overall this was an enjoyable BtVS novel and I look forward to reading more this year.

After Image/Afterimage (I've seen it spelled both ways)

1.5 stars.

If this wasn't a BtVS book I would have DNF'd it at the half way point...maybe earlier.

This story was about some force putting various people in Sunnydale asleep...well whatever force was at work in the book was making its way out of the book and putting **me** to sleep too.

Normally I can bust through a 250-300 pg Buffy novel in about 3 to 4 hours. As I was reading After Image I could only read about 20 pages at a time before I had to set the book aside. There were some pros but the pace of this and the lack of anything going on just made those pros not matter.

Takes place in Season 2 sometime after 'What's My Line' but before 'Surprise'.

Let's start off with the Pros!

--There were no major continuity issues that I noticed. This takes place between WML and Surprise and other than that the time line is vague. In a lot of Buffy books the author makes the mistake of pinpointing exactly what episodes the book may fall between or on but they'll mention stuff from future episodes that in the timeline they started out with it doesn't make sense if you've watched the show. --(For example: Xander and Cordelia are still hiding their relationship or just got together which would be during the episode 'What's my Line' but then the narrative will mention Angelus and Buffy being possessed by ghosts in 'IOHEFY' so by that point Xander and Cordy would have been exposed by then.)

--The different perspectives. There wasn't a lot of Buffy in this Buffy novel. It was mostly a Xander outing with a decent chunk of Cordy and a smattering of Buffy, Angel, Willow, Jonathan and Giles. Xander is usually my least favorite of our core team but I appreciated getting a story that was more centered around his character.

And now the cons....

-Nothing/very little happened for soooo long. All we got for about 150 pages was some slightly weird

interactions or visuals of people and 1 creature. (view spoiler)

-The book was too long. There was nothing happening but there was so much filler and a lot of descriptions about various things. This whole book felt like the author needed to meet a word count but because the plot was really fairly basic the story had to be filled in, in other boring and long winded ways.

-Buffy and Angel's interactions with each other were a little too awkward for the point of their relationship. During their first meeting in this book I was confused because it read more like early season 1...maybe late season 1 interaction than post-WML. And I think Angel would have at least offered to carry Buffy's books.

-Some of the lines of dialogue didn't seem to match the characters. Willow and Giles were fairly on point but there was a line or 2 that Buffy says that sounded more like a Xander line. There were a couple words here and there that Buffy wouldn't say. Minor nit-pick but still annoying.

-And lastly (or at least the last thing I'm going to talk about) I figured out pretty much what was happening in the first 30-50 pages and then I had to wait 100 more pages for it to be revealed in the narrative (at least a little bit) and then another 50 or more pages for the characters to figure it out.

So this was not a good BtVS novel experience. I will never read this one again. I'm happy it's over.

Midu Hadi says

Halloween Rain (2 stars):

Jeepers Creepers meets a zombie flick. When Halloween arrives, the dead rise. Adding to the fearsome mixture is a scarecrow possessed by the evil spirit of Samhain. Liked the humor as always but the slang used by Buffy and her friends is just weird in places. I also liked how the scarecrow seemed to instill fear into everybody, including the Slayer.

Bad Bargain (3 stars):

During a sale at the High School, various creatures find their way out of the Hellmouth and attack students and teachers alike. Of course, Spike and Dru were attending the sale. Not only does Buffy have to call a truce with Spike, she also has to work with a demonic Pied Piper to send the creatures back. I loved the looks Buffy exchanged with Angel when he arrives on the scene but was disappointed we didn't get to see the couple on their date.

Afterimage (3 stars):

A bit more of Angel and I loved it. Angelus' drinking buddy comes to Sunnydale and tries to feed on people's souls by putting them into comas. Cordelia's parts were written really well. My favorite out of the three.
