



Red Iron Nights

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Blood soaked blades had been taking their toll among the luscious lovelies in Garrett's home city of TunFaire. And though Garrett could be as civic-minded as the next guy - unless the next guy was Captain Block of the Watch - the private eye wasn't sure he really wanted to take on a serial killer psycho who did too good a carving job and never left any of the blood behind.

Still, having Block pay him for his services with lots of ill-gotten government funds, and having his own partner, the Dead Man, strenuously urge him to take the case, proved an irresistible combination for Garrett. And so the top - and only - private eye around found himself lining up his allies for a search that would take him from the lowest slums to the highest estates, from confrontations with butterfly-and-magic-spitting enemies to run-ins with the king of crime's wayward daughter to a final encounter with an ancient evil which had once again been loosed on his unsuspecting town ...

Red Iron Nights Details

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From Reader Review Red Iron Nights for online ebook

Nicole says

Accidentally read this one before #5 so I don't know if I enjoyed it as much as I could have.

Convoluted, jumpy story with maybe a little bit more fantasy mixed in than some of the rest. Pretty girls with long legs who can't wait to get the main character into bed. A protagonist that's not that bright, sexist, racist (mostly against imaginary races), contradictory.

In short, an easy read and same as the rest.

Gio C says

Another Great installment. Not one of my favorites but it was still great. So many good characters and I like the way things around the town are shaping up. I look forward to the next one

Bogdan Capitanoiu says

Does it needs a review?

No.. it's just another Garrett story..as entertaining and enjoyable as the previous ones...

Any elements that u liked especially?

1 of the most cliche super-detective stories gets twisted in a visual&graphical way

Anything else you want to say?

I guess Cook, found the secret of story perennial/eternal telling, focus on a character, but do not challenge him with a *archenemy* or a as smart counterpart.

Just let your guy be; let him try to his hardest to do his job/*play his role...*

&in every book...besides the *heartbreaking* common elements, you just introduce a new element (e.g. **muscle(&vampires), politician ,god ,soldier, dwarf, police, royalty**)

And so u can stay in-love with the writer&characters, they do not start destroying planets/solve intergalactic mysteries but you are still rewarded when reading with a good exp (or like i like to call it A reminder that life is soooo funny .. :)

Mei says

Again, this didn't match up to my expectations after having read Old Tin Sorrows, which was probably one of my favourites in the series so far. This time there was less about Garrett, or The Dead Man, or Dean, or Morley, or Saucerhead, but many more new characters, a cast of thousands, almost, who were less endearing. So to me this was a little scatty, and not as well put together, as the other books (or redheads, for that matter).

Trish says

This one seemed to read better than the previous installment.

Dan Schwent says

A serial killer driven by an ancient curse is on the loose in TunFaire and it's up to Garrett to stop him. Meanwhile, Chodo is a vegetable after the events of the previous volume and Crask and Sadler are set on putting Garrett in the ground.

The tension level in this one was pretty high, especially for a book of this type. While I knew Garrett would win out in the end, I didn't know how many more victims would be killed before then.

I'm pleased that the Garrett books are getting better instead of worse. Glen Cook's writing is getting better but I think the real reason is that the overall plot in the background is moving along, unlike other series I could name (I'm looking at you, Dresden!). It looks like the war in the Cantard is nearly over. We'll see if Glory Mooncalled gets brought to justice in the next book.

Algernon says

When I shoved through the doorway of Morley's 'Joy House' you'd have thought I was the old dude in black who lugs the sickle. The place went dead quiet. I stopped moving. I couldn't push uphill against the weight of all those stares. "Somebody sneak lemons into your salads?"

"Aw, damn! It's Garret." That was my pal Puddle, safe behind the bar. "Here we go again, troops."

Cue in David Coverdale and his wicked solo on the Whitesnake album ... Garret is on the prowl again! investigating the vegetarian bar of his friend Morley, the disappearance of a bunch of young and pretty brunettes from the posh Hill neighborhood and the whereabouts of conspiracy theorist and amateur anarchist Kropotkin F. 'Barking Dog' Amato. Anything to put bread on the table, or to be more correct, to put 'beer' on the table.

I missed my old friend Garret, and I blame Goodreads for making me stay away from TunFaire and the Tenderloin slum for almost three years. I get so many new titles and new authors to add to my wishlist that sometimes I ignore what's right in front of my old shelves. This is the sixth adventure of our laidback (lazy) private investigator, and his sarcastic commentaries and irregular similes are as fresh and entertaining as when we first met.

I don't much like work. Especially not work-out-type work. I figure in any rational world a man will get all the exercise he needs catching his share of blonds, brunettes, and redheads. Got it so far? I'm Garrett, investigator and confidential agent, not animated by any overwhelming ambition, with a penchant for figures

of a certain kind and a knack for stumbling into things friends and acquaintances don't find enthralling.

Garrett is a human shaped incarnation of comic strip hero Garfield. Please don't ask him to get up early in the morning or to do anything stressful. Put a keg of beer in front of his nose and a redhead in the vicinity and he is happy.

I have this thing about mornings. No sane man gets up then. They come too damn early in the day. Think about it. All those early birds out there, what do they get? Ulcers. Heart trouble. Caught by homeless cats. But not me. Not old Garrett. I'm going to lean back and relax and loaf my way to immortality.

Unfortunately, in this episode redheads are in short supply, since Garret tried to juggle one too many of these pretties in book number five, and now he has to do without as they are boycotting him, starting with Tinnie Tate, his diminutive former girlfriend. No worries, something alluring always knocks on the door in any self-respecting hard-boiled (or, in our case, 'beer-pickled') novel:

She liked black. She wore a black raincloak over a black dress. She wore high-top black boots. Raindrops shimmered like diamonds in her raven hair. She wore black leather gloves. I imagined she'd lost a black hat and veil somewhere. Everything about her was black except her face. That was as pale as bone. She was about five-six. She was young. She was beautiful. She was frightened.

I said, "I'm in love."

Morley's sense of humor deserted him. He told me, "You don't want anything to do with her, Garrett. She'll get you dead."

Morley is right : it's not healthy to try to date the daughter of Tunfaire's kingpin, Chodo Contague, especially not right after you tried to assassinate him in a previous episode. But the heart has reasons of which the head knows nothing, as the old philosophers tell us, and Garret is on the case again.

Much of the charm of the series for me comes from the running commentary provided by Garrett during the investigation : his self-deprecating confessions, his acid repartees with his dead partner and with his elderly valet, his inflated opinion of his charm as a ladies' man, his prudent approach (hit them hard over the head first, ask questions later) to street violence. There is more than meets the eye though to our gumshoe. I believe he is at his core one of the true knights of the mean streets of the big cities, in the mold of Philip Marlowe or Sam Vines of Ankh-Morpork. When Garrett occasionally lets his guard down and forgets to joke about everything under the sun, he provides as strong a rant against society's ills as Raymond Chandler or Walter Mosley.

The trouble with me is my work. Investigating exposes you to the slimy underbelly of the world. Being a weak character, I try to make things better, to strike the occasional spark in the darkness. I have a notion my reluctance to work springs from the knowledge that if I do I'll see more of the world's dark side, that I'll butt heads with the Truth, which is that people are cruel and selfish and thoughtless and even the best will sell their mothers at the right time.

The big difference between good guys and bad is the good guys haven't yet had a fat chance for profiting from going bad.

A bleak world view, unfortunately reinforced by events almost daily.

A bleak view that's scary because it keeps on telling me my turn is coming.

Garrett may act like a clown, and most of his comments about women are politically incorrect, but I admire him nevertheless because he sees the world as it is, yet he keeps fighting back, to the best of his abilities.

The actual plot of this episode is not all that original. It's a Jack-the-Ripper type story with a deranged serial killer that targets women of a special category. The details of the murders are pretty gruesome, and the case revolves around the use of magic, because TunFaire is after all a fantasy city with multiple races living side by side. Magicians and wizards, priests of a dozen dozen different creeds, scary wild creatures (thunder lizards, anyone?), dead loghrins that are still telepathically alive, ghouls, vampires, elves, ogres, giants, dwarves, ratmen, and flying warrior squirells (?) crowd the streets night and day. In fact, the setting is the second main attraction to the series. This multicultural, seedy, dangerous city of TunFaire is providing most of the originality and of the social commentary in the series:

The ratman hordes were about their legitimate tasks of cleaning and illegitimate tasks of removing everything not nailed down. Kobolds and gnomes and numerous varieties of little people dashed here and there on business. Sometimes I wonder how so many people can live side by side with so little contact. Sometimes I think TunFaire is a whole series of cities that just happen to occupy the same geographical locations.

I saw a troll family, obviously bumpkins, gaping at the sights. I got propositioned by a giantess of ill repute who was, evidently, suffering a business slump. I ran into a band of goblins riding red-eyed hounds that looked more wolfish than domesticated.

Red Iron Nights takes us on a grand tour of the night spots in TunFaire city, drinking beer, oggling the go-go dancers, evading the thugs in dark alleys, listening to crackpots (Barking Dog Amato) shouting doom from street corners, playing hide-and-seek with the kingpin's goons, chasing a killer that refuses to play dead. It works well as a stand-alone novel for readers as yet unfamiliar with the cases of Garrett P.I., but there are a couple of running gags and world developments that work better in the context of what went on before. There is a multi-generational war with a neighboring empire that keeps intruding on the current local events. There are Garret's sentimental entanglements. There is political and racial unrest in Tunfaire that can explode into riots at any moment. There is an unresolved conflict with Chodo Contague, the boss of the local mob. All of these side acts are adding spice to the main attraction (the case of the dead posh brunettes), and are making me curious about the next episode in the series. I really hope I will not let another three years pass before I return to TunFaire.

Until then, to quote Garret, commenting on another hot brunette turning down his indecent proposals:

What is she, then? A nun? Never mind. I don't want to know. I want to sleep. Good night. Tight. Bedbugs. Bite. All that stuff.

Michael Brumbaugh says

A good Garrett book. Introduces Belinda

Book location: Gave away after reading

Geneva says

Oh! Hey! This was fun to read!

I have reservations, of course. I'm tired of the Heinlein-y presentation of women. It would've been nice if any of the female characters existed for something other than the main character to lust after or be murdered.

It was still fun to read. I will probably read more.

Also, where do we start a petition with publishers that IF THEY ARE PUBLISHING A SERIES THEY WRITE THE NUMBER OF THE BOOK ON THE SPINE? Like, seriously, how hard would it be to put a #6 on the spine of this book so someone new to the series would know it was, in fact, the sixth book? It didn't really matter with this series, that I read the sixth book first, but it's such a simple thing and it'd make everyone's lives easier.

Richard says

My 6th venture into the world of Garrett PI, an average detective in a fantasy world. My pet hate still rises in this book, which is that it doesn't really explore any more of the world than the city that almost all the series books appear to be set in. If one of your selling points is a fantasy world, then expand on it, have Garret take cases out of Tunfaire and explore some of the world for us.

Other than that I found myself fairly pleased with this book, the case Garrett gets is both eerie and shocking, the Deadman spends almost an entire book awake and actually gets involved as more than just a sounding board for Garrett's idea's and of course my favourite side characters make an appearance along with some progress on a secondary plot point in the series.

Overall the book is well written like most of the series, the story is more gripping than some of the series' previous attempts, and it moves the overall series along, hence I think its a pretty dam good book, its not quite worth 5 stars especially with my pet hate as mentioned above, but its definitely above average.

Candy says

This series, which is sort of Nero Wolfe & Archie Goodwin in Middle Earth, is delightfully entertaining and seems to be getting better and better. It's a fun blend of crime and fantasy and it makes for a great summer read!

Tyrel says

I love the series, but this one moved a little slow

Brandt says

Either i've changed, or there is just a limit to how much Garrett one person can take..

Garrett goes on, being Garrett as we know him.

Conquering the ladies, bitching about the help, drinking beer like it was water, moralizing and feeling superior, while not really providing anything all-that endearing in terms of personality himself..

He never learns, grows, gets ambitious, or anything.

All he cares about is conquering the women who needs his help, and when that is accomplished, he is done with them, and ready to move on to the next case..

Michael Hall says

I think I've been reading too many of the Garret Files books at one time... they are all fun, fast reads with likable and memorable characters, as well as having excellent dialogue. In this one Garrett must find a serial killer who targets a select group of women. The tension level is a bit higher than usual despite knowing that Garrett would wrap things up in the end -- with a little more help than usual from his partner the Dead Man. Glen Cook has improved his writing style throughout this series. Despite Garrett having the same old habits and methods it is good to see that the overall background story is moving along from book to book -- I'm actually curious to see just how much the world will change in the next book since it looks like the ongoing war in the Cantard is almost over with.

Joshua Simon says

4.5/5 stars

At this point, it's hard for me to say any more about the Garrett P.I. series than what I haven't said already. Good characters. Great dialogue. Fun and fast read. If you aren't reading this series, then I feel sorry for you. My only quip on this book in particular was that I felt things got a bit repetitive in spots and could have ended sooner. Otherwise, a good addition to the series.
