



Idle Ingredients

Matt Wallace

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Catering for a charismatic motivational speaker, the staff of the Sin du Jour catering agency find themselves incapacitated by a force from within their ranks. A smile and a promise is all it took.

And for some reason, only the men are affected. It's going to take cunning, guile and a significant amount of violence to resolve.

Another day of cupcakes and evil with your favorite demonic caterers.

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Idle Ingredients Details

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From Reader Review Idle Ingredients for online ebook

Angie says

My Review: I find that I am oddly drawn to this series even though it is very quirky, has an odd sense of humor and is outside my normal reading preferences. I am glad I have continued to read this series though as this was my favorite of the books so far. I loved that Lena attempted to make a stand and the rest of the line let her take that time. I also really enjoyed the integration of a lot more mythical and magical creatures in this one, we only get a little glimpse of some of them but still it was great to see more new interpretations. The ladies are still my favorites in this series and this book really made them stand out! Definitely going to continue reading.

Devann says

Although still a pretty good book, this is definitely a low point in the series for me so far. Super unfortunate since the ladies take center stage in it, which made me really WANT to love it. I think at its most basic level Idle Ingredients just suffers from 'middle book syndrome' because it doesn't really feel like a complete plot in and of itself, just a bridge to elevate the stakes for the later half of the series. And while I do understand the title and I guess it works okay enough, this felt more like another book for lust a lot of the time instead of one for idleness. (view spoiler) Oh well, still looking forward to the rest of the series and hoping this is just the unfortunately classic low point in the middle of the series type thing.

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/03/02/...>

Put on your chefs hats and smocks, because it's time for another crazy adventure starring the ragtag crew of New York's most exclusive kitchen and catering company. And if the first three books of the Sin du Jour series can be considered the early courses of a meal, then with this fourth installment we have come to the entrée—the meat of this story arc, so to speak.

The last we saw these characters, Lena had just dropped the big news on everyone that she was leaving Sin du Jour. As we would soon discover at the start of Idle Ingredients, however, her so-called bombshell of a decision ultimately led nowhere, for it didn't take long for Bronko to track her down, pluck her up from her new place of work, and unceremoniously drop her right back into his kitchen line. That's because it's all hands on deck again for their next big assignment, catering a series of campaign events for the underground supernatural community's upcoming elections. Bronko has even brought on a new liaison named Luciana Monrovia to help him streamline Sin du Jour's operational processes and salvage their reputation after their last few disastrous gigs.

But instead of improving things around the place, Luciana ends up driving a wedge between Bronko and his staff. Jett, the event planner, is one of the first to be pushed out. Then Ryland loses his home as his trailer is towed away. Boosha ends up comatose in the hospital after a mysterious accident. Lena becomes infuriated after she is banned from the kitchen, reassigned to work with Nikki on deserts and pastries. Darren and his

new boyfriend James are inexplicably sent off on vacation in the middle of this busy time. The Stocking and Receiving department, a mainstay of the company, gets ordered off the premises and put on call. Worse, the women seem to be the only ones noticing these odd changes, since the men seem to be unnaturally smitten with Luciana, like they've all suddenly come under a spell. Something is seriously wrong at Sin du Jour, and it's up to the ladies to figure it out and put a stop to whatever's happening.

While it's true that Pride's Spell was an improvement over Lustlocked, this installment might finally be the one to bring the complexity and substance I feel has been sorely needed since Envy of Angels. Granted, the introduction was a bit weak due to the considerable time spent getting the team back together again (cycling through all the characters in order to catch up with every single one of them took up the entire first quarter of the book) but still, it's probably safe to say Idle Ingredients is my favorite addition to Sin du Jour so far.

For one thing, I like how this series has settled into a rhythm—and no, that does not mean things have slowed down or become stuck in a rut. In fact, it's quite the opposite. We seem to have found what works, and now Matt Wallace is building upon those foundations with this fourth installment. Apart from the intro, the story in Idle Ingredients was fast-paced and consistent, focusing on some of the most interesting characters like Lena, Bronko, and Nikki. The plot was tightly woven and we didn't waste much time with distractions, instead diving straight into the main conflict. Even though there wasn't as much cooking when compared to the previous three books, I thought Sin du Jour's catering job in this one—providing food for a party of elementals during a Sceadu candidate's campaign speeches—was their coolest assignment yet.

I hope we'll keep seeing these “big picture” plots, because as much as I'm enjoying reading about Sin du Jour's action-packed and insanity-fueled adventures, I think I like following the characters' relationships even more. As their personalities continue to grow and develop, the books also seem to be getting better, and Idle Ingredients is evidence of this upwards trend. Besides, with a teaser like that in the epilogue, how can I not feel excited for the future of this series? Thank goodness the next book Greedy Pigs is already on the horizon, because I can hardly wait.

Jen says

[But not all of the men! (hide spoiler)]

Ellana Thornton-Wheybrew says

This series is weird. I love it

Roberto Garcia says

Definitely fun, I love these series; the characters, the scenario, the cooking, everything...

But, this has been my least favorite of the four, it has a very simple plot and lacks the special sparkle Mr. Wallace has shown us in his astonishing writing. (My opinion).

That does not mean I'm not looking forward for the next delivery “Greedy Pigs” or that I'm going to stop

reading the Sin du Jour series.

JustSomeGuy says

These novellas are easy reading fun - with the first in the series being the best. The two books that followed were a mixed bag for me - touching on the first book's creativity but never quite reaching that level. I went into book #4 wondering if the downward trend would continue, or would things pick back up. Unfortunately, not a heck of a lot happens in this book, unless you count the total wuss of the earlier installments, Darren, growing a beard and pair of balls. The strength of the previous books have been the supernatural events and how the diverse Sin du Jour catering staff prepares for them, with the pay off being the mind-blowing creatures and how their actions compromise the SDJ team. Along the way, we learn more about the various characters and as we do, the world expands to provide more context to the role this catering company has in this secret world that lies in the dark places of our own. Within this book, we get a lot of Lena and very little of anyone else. The preparation, the creatures and the actual event we get are actually tame compared to what else we've seen in earlier installments. The threat is as straightforward as it appears, with no twists along the way and the resolution as basic as it comes. I'm still on board because even a step back in this series keeps it a step ahead in terms of creativity with just about everything else out there. I only hope that this series still has some tasty dishes to offer or if I'll leave the table unsatisfied.

Vinay Badri says

Awesome fun as always even as it remains clever (too much at times), sly and engaging. The nature of a novella implies that certain things are resolved much quicker than in a typical book but the best part about the series has been the slow burn nature of certain threads that seem to be coming together.

By now, the personal quirks and relationship between the crew should have been known and yet Wallace throws in more color and different pairings. The central conflict wasn't as subtle as before but again might also be due to the nature of the beast in terms of page count.

Barb (Boxermommyreads) says

It's really hard to put into words why I like this series so much. I was afraid that as the series progressed, I might lose interest, but that simply isn't the case and once again, Wallace had added to his already quirky and often dangerous Sin du Jour world.

In this installment, the team is back at Sin du Jour trying to recover from the escapades in the last book. All is going fairly well, or as well as it can go when your catering service's primary customers are demons, trolls, witches, banshees and all other sorts of supernatural creatures. In fact, I STILL haven't recovered from the attack of the Giant Easter Bunny and the Evil Santa Claus so I don't know how they could have. Anyway, there is an underworld election going on and the gang has been hired to do the catering. In addition, a new liaison has been hired and she is having quite the detrimental effect on the crew, especially the men. The women decide to band together to figure out what the hell is going on, and if and how Hell might actually be involved.

Once again, the characters in this installment are great. The regulars have grown and dare I say, some have even matured. A few aren't seen quite as much in this book, but I have a feeling Wallace is saving them for something big in the future. "Idle Ingredients" also does a great job of sharing some more information about Boosha, an elderly advisor (for lack of a better word) and I really started to like the old hag (my words not his).

Since there are 7 deadly sins, I believe we are due at least 3 more of these wonderful tales and I'm already starting to miss them. If you aren't reading this series, what are you waiting for? It's quickly become one of my favorites!

Maggie Gordon says

Idle Ingredients is a fun addition to the Sin du Jour series that I have a love-hate relationship with. I really do not like the sex magic that keeps getting brought up, largely because consent is usually an issue. Fortunately, despite this being a book about a succubus, there was surprisingly little of that. Just some pretty awesome magic and the women of the book taking lead! This book also made book 5 make more sense, funny that :D (Silly library not ordering novella 4 and confusing me).

Bridget Mckinney says

Matt Wallace's Sin du Jour novellas have been consistently excellent from the first page of the series, putting them at the top of my list of most anticipated releases at all times, and Idle Ingredients is another great installment. This one is perhaps lighter on plot than the previous three, but it more than makes up with it with some compelling character work, especially for Lena who continues to emerge as the dominant character of the ensemble cast. Idle Ingredients also has an excellent villain, another standout action scene, and a heaping helping of the wry humor and snappy dialogue that gives the series such a distinctive voice and style. There's a real feeling here that Wallace is hitting his stride with the series, getting comfortable with the characters and setting so that he no longer wants to cram as much as possible into each book, and the somewhat slower-seeming pace and simpler plot make the reading experience more relaxing (though no less fun) than the first three books. Sin du Jour just keeps getting better and better.

James says

I have several issues with this book, first it's not obvious from the physical book that it's part of a series, a blurb on the back mentions "I fell in love with this series..." but I don't usually read those. Second much of the character development and relationships have (possibly) already been developed and you are left floundering if you haven't read the first books. Lastly there are chapters included that have nothing to do with this book's plot, they don't interact in any way with characters performing the main action. These bits aren't even sub-plots, I feel this book has been poorly edited and works poorly as a standalone, the basic idea was OK and it was short enough to power through, but I don't plan on reading anymore.

Mary Saha says

Awesome

Every time I get one of these I tell myself I am not going to read it in one sitting and every time I do anyway. I love this series and am both looking forward to and dreading the last three. Hopefully there will be more than just the seven. Am I the only one who thinks this would make a great TV series?

Kdawg91 says

The Sin de Jour series should be on TV, PERIOD. Massively fun series, great characters, tons of action and wild situations, it is tailor frigging made for a netflix series.

Perfect stories, in a semi perfect package(I do have one..small..gripe)

So, if you haven't read these, why are you still reading my review? hit your method of book purchase and spend that cash, I mean...what are you gonna use it for? Food? rent? come on already.

Oh yeah..my minor gripe, too short, stories are very episodic, while that's not a problem per say, I read stupidly fast...So when I buy a book, it's done before dinner.

then I get to wait.....and wait.....

Alan says

Another thoroughly enjoyable adventure in the Sin du Jour series. Matt Wallace treats readers to new tasty layers of each characters' stories when some of the team members fall prey to an unexpected foe, and then rally together, kick demon butt, and show once again why they are the most bad-ass caterers in this or any other world.
