



Spook Squad

Jordan Castillo Price

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Everyone enjoys peace and tranquility, and Victor Bayne is no exception. He goes to great lengths to maintain a harmonious home with his partner, Jacob. Although the cannery is huge, it's grown difficult to avoid the elephant in the room...the elephant with the letters FPMP scrawled on its hide.

Once Jacob surrendered his PsyCop badge, he infiltrated the Federal Psychic Monitoring Program. In his typical restrained fashion, he hasn't been sharing much about what he actually does behind its vigilantly guarded doors. And true to form, Vic hasn't asked. In fact, he would prefer not to think about the FPMP at all, since he's owed Director Dreyfuss an exorcism since their private flight to PsyTrain.

While Vic has successfully avoided FPMP entanglement for several months, now his debt has finally come due.

Spook Squad Details

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From Reader Review Spook Squad for online ebook

Shin Mon Thway says

Oh my God! I don't know who frustrates me more in this book, Vic or Lisa? ? Please do us all and yourself a favor Vic! Let that b**ch goooooooo! ? While you are calling her your best friend and being obstinate about maintaining your relationship with her, she calls you "her friend" (that's right, you are only A friend! Not THE best friend ?) and she has no regard whatsoever for you and Jacob. Oh my god! I can't even start on how much I wanna throttle her! ? How can a character gets worse and worse with every book in the series? Seriously she and Dreyfuss so deserve each other and the day wouldn't come soon enough if I never see that b**ch again in this series! ? *Whewwwwww* Okay .. enough ranting. That being said, although Lisa sent me on a psychotic murderous rage and the mystery in this story was quite predictable, I find myself still enjoying this book much more than my fellow bookworms. And I have to admit that the creepiness and scariness of this book far surpasses all the previous books. The last scene gave me chills and goosebumps. The reasons this book still amused me .. although it wasn't the best in the series, this book was essential for the change of tide in the upcoming books. This signifies how Vic has decided to walk a new path and I like it. ?? Second, I love the relationship between Vic and Jacob getting stronger and stronger! And kudos for that very hot smut in the middle. ? (Though only Vic can think about most ridiculous things while Jacob is on his knees in front of him. I find that endearing and hilarious. ?) I'm happy that Vic might find a new best friend soon. (Nope, I'm not going to spoil who .. you gotta find out yourself ?) And I'm satisfied that loose ties from the previous books including the GhosTV dilemma was neatly ended in this book. It gives me a satisfying closure. Again, Gomez Pugh did an excellent excellent job of narrating the hell out of this book. ? I must say I'm more excited for the upcoming books in the series because my next listen will be PsyCop briefs (I'm dying to get Jacob's PoV .. oh daddy please! ??), and Crash's story (Well, he's been proving his worth steadily so I'll finally decide whether he'll redeem himself completely or not ?) and I'd love to see Vic and Jacob finally working together at "Agent Bayne". That being said, I gotta end my review here because I can't wait long enough to get delicious little treat "PsyCop briefs". ?

4 Jacob will protect Vic against anything stars

?????????

Audio rating

Story - 3.75 stars ?? ?????

Narration - 5 stars???????????

Performance - 5 stars ????????????

Overall - 4 stars ??????????

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

I have been thinking on this review for a few days now so it is most likely not going to be very coherent. Let me just preface what I'm about to say with the fact that this is one of my favorite series of all time. I love Vic and Jacob and they hold a very special place in my heart. To say that the build-up to this book was enormous would be an understatement. I paid full price for this book (and you guys know that I NEVER pay full price!!!).

So even though I ended up rounding to four stars in the end, this book was a bit of a let down for me. My issue boils down to the fact that this book had very, very little interaction between Jacob and Vic. They had a few scenes together but not many. I read this series, mostly because of the chemistry between the two MCs. I care first and foremost about them. I want, no I *crave*, to delve deeper into their relationship. This book had so little of what I was wanting.

Also, JCP writes some of the hottest sex scenes out there, so why in GOD's name did she make this book so light on the sex?? I mean, they have a few scenes where they get home and kind of just snuggle... couldn't that have lead to some nookie?? Throw us a bone here, JCP!

Overall, the plot was interesting to me and after about 35%, I was hooked, but I left the book feeling sort of disappointed. I still gave 3.5 stars, mostly out of nostalgia and partly because I still love JCP's style. I can only hope that the next installment is a 5 star read.

Ami says

I'm going to be part of the very few people of the minority club (when I wrote this only 2 other people gave this 3-stars). I liked it but I didn't love it. Here are my reasons:

- 1) I enjoy paranormal but I am not very much into science fiction. So when this book (well, starting from GhosTV, really) starts talking about astral projection and white lights and GhosTV, it's a bit 'science-y' for me and I don't really enjoy it. I remember skimming a LOT in book #6 when they're talking about the GhosTV and the astral plane, and stuffs like so.
- 2) Some of the players and the main plot of finding out who kill Roger and the mystery with Jennifer Chance, as well as Jacob's job at FPMP is heavily connected with book #6. Maybe I would do better in this book if I re-read GhosTV. But I don't and my memory sucks. So I always appreciate a little cliff notes. Since I read book #6 a couple of years ago, let's just say that I am pretty much lost throughout the book.
- 3) Okay, maybe #2 is my own problem, and it won't bother other readers with better memory. **HOWEVER**, #2 aside, I am **REALLY** disappointed with the lack of interaction of Vic WITH Jacob. Not just the physical but the emotional intimacy as well. This series will **ALWAYS** be about Vic and Jacob first for me. The other

characters are nice, but shouldn't steal the spotlight.

Unfortunately, more screen times are dedicated to Lisa or Dreyfuss or Richie, heck even Laura or Agent Bly. NOT Jacob (and Vic). Jacob is pretty much on the sideline. I don't like that :(. Sure I like Laura Kim (The Fixer at FPMP) but Lisa, I can only handle her in small dosage.

I'm not amused with Lisa living with Jacob and Vic (which made the men should be careful with their sex). I'm not impressed on how she kept the real identity of his lover (duly noted, I guess early on, even before Vic, who Lisa's new beau is. So easy to guess) and refuses to help Vic and Jacob in investigating Roger's murderer. It's like she doesn't remember, Vic is in her life FIRST before her new lover.

4) I am also not very fond of the fact that it seems the FPMP is simply more superior than the Precinct. The whole thing with the bad guy being released due to evidences collected by a Psy-Cop, that the cop cannot provide what people like Vic needs, makes Vic easily question his worth of being a cop or not. It's too simple to tip the favor in FPMP direction :(

I can still give this one a 3-stars category though ... because when Vic is with Jacob, it's solid. It's good. The whole transferring white light back and forth is great. I also like Vic being very caring with Crash. It's just so sweet.

So there, not my favorite of the series. Hopefully if it's continued to #8, Vic and Jacob can get back front and center again. I can dismiss the whole talk about GhosTV and astral projection as long as I get enough dosage of Vic and Jacob (well, more Jacob than Vic *lol*)

PS: I guess the real murderer and how it happens ((view spoiler)) right before Vic makes the conclusion. Go Ami!

Sheri says

I was hoping to tell you how *wowed* I am right now.

I was expecting this to be the best one yet.

I was planning on gushing about how I was blown away.

Alas, I cannot.

No, wait...don't get me wrong, *Spook Squad* was good, **actually it was great.**

I was like a rabid reader, growling at anyone that came near my kindle.

But, I have some niggles that didn't sit well with me.

Can I complain for a minute?

I absolutely adore Vic, always have and always will. He ranks near the top of my all-time-fave list and he holds one of my precious and few gold stars, but unfortunately his star just lost some of its luster.

His pill popping is nothing new, and I've always understood why and gave him a pass because of everything he endures. However, this time around his drug dependency was a bit too heavy for me.

When he was bartering for pills, begging for pills and splitting pills while practically licking the powder from his fingers...well, frankly it was a turn off.

Let me tell you why...

When Jacob came into his life, he provided him with this 'Jacob peace' and relief that calmed him unlike his little red pills were capable of. So why was he back to numbing his mind and body when his own personal

sexy hunk of safe haven was right next to him? I felt disheartened and discouraged even after he refused his last 'payment'.

Which leads me to my next grumble....where was this sexy hunk of ~~mine~~ a man? Jacob had very little page time and this was not okay with me. Vic is most definitely the star of the show, but *but* so is Jacob.

It's *them* together that create the sparks that fly. The fire I am addicted to was lacking oxygen and part of source dousing the flames was Lisa.

Lisa was like a cute new pair of shoes. In the beginning, I liked her well enough and in small doses she was fine. But then the slight irritation from rubbing me the wrong way turned into blistering pain. Before long, I just wanted to fling her across the room. I struggle to understand when they became so close that becoming roommates was a normal or even desired. They were briefly partners and then she was whisked away before she was kidnapped. Did I miss something?

That was more than a minute, wasn't it?

Pushing all of this aside...

the story was impressive.

Seriously, pieces clicked together, the action was intense and the obvious set up for MORE (yay!!) was exciting. The FPMP made me twitchy and Dreyfess had more than one surprise up his sleeve. Crash has something brewing and I'll admit I am tremendously curious to see what evolves. The psychic twists were fun, especially the new connection between Vic and Jacob.

The forehead caresses melted me every time. The snippets of passion were absolutely scorching, just not enough.

I have a feeling their future is about to get freakier, and my only hope is that we see more of the hunger and burn that brought them together.

4 *barely-bewitching-battling stars*

Shurrn says

Jacob and Vic infiltrate the FPMP

Change was in the air, and though I'd been tempted to stay the course and cling to my paper PsyCop license out of sheer stubbornness, I could see that someone needed to step in and take care of the repeaters, and the jellyfish, and the icky, grabby, self-entitled ghosts. That someone might as well be me.

By the end of this book I was just as messed up about my hatred of the FPMP as Vic was...

What lies are we believing to be truths?

Who has been manipulating us?

How much as been assumed?

Who are the good guys?

Who are the bad guys?

In a world where murders go free when PsyCop evidence is tossed out by biased judges, whose to say who the good guys are anymore?

Victor Bayne is more morose than usual - his work as a PsyCop has become tedious and monotonous without his partner around. To make matters worse, it seems that the killers Vic works to put behind bars each day are being set loose by a system that tosses out psychic evidence on a whim. Vic communicates with the spirits of the dead victims, their tragedies stare him in the face day after day...

Jigsaw puzzles have not panned out as an after work escape...

He can't lose himself in Jacob because he's busy being a Federal Agent...

Lisa is living in a tent in their living room and is busy with a mysterious new boyfriend...

Seems like a perfect time to pay his debt to the FPMP - he made a promise to the head of the Chicago field office that he would perform an exorcism to rid the office of ghosts... More murder victims... More murderers running free...

Jacob retired from his position as a Chicago PsyCop detective and is now working the FPMP - an organization who has been tapping their phones, tracking their movements, and who Vic knows for a fact has killed people, because they've called Vic in to clean up the repeaters.

This book wasn't as emotionally rewarding as the PsyCop stories which proceeded it. It was still witty and full of ghost action, Vic was still his charmingly awkward self... But this story lacked the Vic/Jacob connection which I've really come to appreciate about the series. The romance and interaction between those characters are the true strength of this series, and I felt that a great deal of focus was shifted onto other characters.

If I didn't know better, I'd say that this book is a stepping stone - all the secondary and tertiary characters became more fleshed out in Spook Squad. It was almost as if Price was building a bridge to something with this book - at the end we had the perfect launch for a new fresh leg of the series, and the opportunity of spinoffs with several characters... But then I see that this book was published nearly two years ago and there doesn't appear to be another PsyCop in the works.

Such a shame. This book provides the perfect launch for something new for this series, and it just doesn't seem *finished* to me. Maybe that's because I've fallen in love with these characters and I'm greedy for more?

Who knows. I shall continue to ship Vic and Jacob and hope that one day (maybe someday soon) we'll be blessed with more of this fabulous series!

READ ALL MY REVIEWS IN THIS SERIES:

I'll update the list as additional books are published.

0.1 - Inside Out - [Read my Review here.](#)

1 - Among the Living - [Read my Review here.](#)

1.1 - Thaw - [Read my Review here.](#)

2 - Criss Cross - [Read my Review here.](#)

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2.3 - Mind Reader - [Read my Review here.](#)

- 3 - Body and Soul - Read my Review [here](#).
- 3.1 - The Stroke of Midnight - Read my Review [here](#).
- 4 - Secrets - Read my Review [here](#).
- 5 - Camp Hell - Read my Review [here](#).
- 6 - GhosTV - Read my Review [here](#).
- 6.1 - In the Dark - Read my Review [here](#).
- 7 - Spook Squad - Read my Review [here](#).

Experiment BL626 says

CAUTION: spoilers, rant

Man, what a disappointment. I pray to Cthulhu this is not the last book of the Psycop series because it would be a GIANT disappointment. GIANT. “Throwing the book across the room” giant. It took me a few books into the series before I finally liked one enough where I could firmly rate it 3-stars without waffling between 2-stars and 3-stars and get a streak of solid good books running. That fun ride sure ended quickly because book 7 put me back to waffling with the rating. Correction: there wasn’t even waffling so it was worse. Did I mention *Spook Squad* is book 7? I don’t expect every book of the series to hit the mark, but once you hit book 3 of a long series, I don’t think it’s unreasonable to expect a minimum of... Well, I don’t know what the right word to use here so I’m going to say “quality” ill-fitted as it is. Maybe “entertainment”? You get the idea.

Things I Didn’t Like

The biggest problem I had with book 7 was the pacing. It was slow as a snail. The speed did not pick up till the last third of the book, and even then, yikes. There was just no hiding the problem that the plot MEANERED. I knew Victor paying his debt to FPMP with an exorcism wasn’t going to be a simple task, obviously. However, the way the plot tried to make the matter a complicated task was strained and convoluted. I love head games but the head games between Dreyfuss and Vic in book 7 were inane and unbelievably dull.

Now, I wouldn’t have minded the plot much if there were “good” interactions between Victor and Jacob. By good, I mean scenes with relationship development, emotional connections, and maybe a few physical connections to satisfy my smut cravings. Intimacy, essentially. There was barely any intimacy in the book. The mm-romance aspect was halfway to nonexistent much, much to my dismay. There was one romance scene, a pretty lengthy sex scene to boot (woot!), but it was token.

My goodness, Vic and Jacob didn’t even have the talk about why Jacob joined the FPMP. Considering book 6 ended on that plot twist, I would have thought book 7 would begin with the talk. Instead, what I read was Jacob having the talk with Carolyn, his ex-police partner. She appeared in the beginning and disappeared after a couple chapters, never to be seen again for the rest of the book. What the hell? There was no resolution with Carolyn whatsoever and it bugged me.

What bugged me Ten Times More was Vic. Dude fucking regressed a handful steps back to his junkie ways, trying to score pills off of Dreyfuss. Uh, I thought we were fucking past that. Apparently, not. *facedesk* I

know drug addiction is a life-long battle, but ugh. This was just... I can't... Stupid! It's book fucking 7. S-E-V-E-N. I wanted to smack Vic on the back of his head for not taking Dreyfuss up on his offer to receive alternative medicine that would come with no strings and no cost to Victor except only his time and patience. Aaack. Damn you, Victor. I know, I know. Flawed protagonist and all that shit. But this was some maddening shit.

SPOILERS AHEAD.

Lisa and Dreyfuss dating, WHAT THE FUCK? Then at the end they got engaged? What?!!! Contrived doesn't even begin to describe this shit. What the hell was Lisa thinking? Oh right, she wasn't thinking. Woman was camping out in Vic and Jacob's living room in a fucking tent like some hobo, I kid you not. Suffice to say, I was very disappointed in Victor and Jacob for not doing enough for Lisa. Not to say they didn't try to help Lisa (they did), but they could have done way more in my opinion. Woman needed a fucking intervention!

Runner up on the list of issues I had with Vic, second place to his junkie ways, was his gross insensitivity towards Richie. I was astounded and irritated how Victor did not know Richie had a developmental disability till now in book 7. How oblivious can he be? And this a fucking detective character and a character who have known Richie since teenage-hood back in their Camp Hell years, my goodness. All this time Vic just thought Richie had a horrible odd personality? *facedesk* Casual ableism: NO.

Speaking about Richie, what was up with him quitting FPMP at the end of the book? The portrayal of FPMP led me to believe no one could actually quit, especially psychics because the agency needs all the psychics they could get, especially those like Richie who have some exorcist capabilities even if it's mostly just BS. Beside, how would Richie support himself? Because it was not as if he could do anything else. Why am I the only one who seems to give an actual fuck about Richie? FFS.

To replace Richie, Vic joined the FPMP after so much hate for the agency. *raise hands* I give up.

Things I Did Like

I did like how there was little of Crash in book 7. I loathe the character.

I liked Dreyfuss's character development. Nice to see dude wasn't all that bad and that the FPMP wasn't this evil secret government agency who disappeared people as I was half-led to believe. Not say they don't do such things, but it's never a matter of black and white.

In Conclusion

I rate *Spook Squad* 2-stars for it was okay. Book 7 is undoubtedly one of the worst books in the PsyCop series. Despite the rantiness of my review, I was mostly bored with the book, believe it or not. Each issue I had with the book *by itself* wasn't bad enough to make me mad. At the very most, I was irritated. However, when put together to write my review, that's when I got mad.

The short version of it: book 7 was boring and bullshitty.

*Buddy-read with Dlee.

Ula'ndi Hart says

Overall book rating: 4.25

Audio Book: N/A

Book Cover: 3

This was one of my favourite ones yet.

We had MORE of Jacob and Vic (*Although it's becoming clear to me that JCP is NOT heavy on in depth relationship writing – so I'm making my peace with that*)

Vic is FINNALY getting his game on!

But don't get overly excited because he is still VIC, and THAT is why we love him. I've learned to appreciate him for who and what he is. Vic is an almost 40 year old with so many walls he's a human counterpart of Fort Knox. Watching him grow and explore is fascinating.

Everyone that is anyone has issues in this one, and nobody trusts anybody. Witch surprisingly leads to a grudging (on some parts) understanding and newfound 'respect'.

I still don't LOVE Lisa – there will be no skin of back if she doesn't make another appearance in the future. I don't really know what went wrong, but I liked her in the beginning and then.. I don't know. She just blended in with the furniture and I wanted to remodel? LOL

There is very little about Crash in this one, but I have to admit he had me worried and sad for him there. I can't decide if I want to know more about him or if he's just following dear old Lisa in my book? I guess we'll see in the next instalment seeing as we get a whole whopping book about the guy.

Of course I loved dear Agent Dreyfuss in this one once again.

BUT...I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE END AT ALL. Everyone is just getting their shit together and now this? Just think about what Vic and Agent Dreyfuss can do together and he is one of the most interesting characters in the series!

On the one hand I'm happily skipping along because I really enjoyed this, on the other hand.. why take such a strong interesting character away from the story line? No. No I am profusely sad and unhappy about that.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

4.5

"I didn't ask, since I knew full well that bailing out my dealer was a profoundly stupid idea."

How depressing the best book in the series is the last.

A shame not to see any more of these characters and the stunning world-building, unless the author decides to revisit, but she did end up most of the story-lines satisfactorily.

The main focus of the series has been the main character, Victor. That may sound like an obvious, duh statement, but actually not really. Most Urban Fantasy series have an overlying main goal about the world or a situation, but with Victor - while he has to solve individual cases and decide who to align with - the series is all about him evolving from his haunting past and finally seeking self-growth in the end. Most series have that as a side story online, not as the main purpose of the books joined together.

I've seen some reviews complain about the lack of steamy scenes between Jacob and Vic in this book and the last few, but this doesn't personally bother me. There were so many of those scenes in the first few books that I kind of overdosed on them anyway. I sense the close bonds of the pair without needing the book to be so erotically heavy.

As for the final changes in the end, I was a little less than happy. I'm glad Vic made a change with work but I wasn't happy a certain main character was leaving. I wanted him to personally stay there and didn't care for that change. Actually it meant two mains were leaving, which was sad. I hate goodbyes.

The storyline wasn't the strongest of the series but it was still rocking, but it went out there a bit. I'm a paranormal and fantasy fan but once you get into dimensions and science-fiction tropes, you have to be careful it stays interesting instead of overly ambitious. If it gets too technical I can get bored, and skim, which has happened a few times in the series and this book.

I still love the author's writing style. She's always been good but I've seen a progression over the books to where she's improving. The humor and quirkiness from every day life was appreciated and will be missed.

Overall a great book to finish the series - but I'm crossing my fingers it won't be the last afterall.

Ingie says

Review written June 1, 2016

3 1/2 Stars - A good enough series closure

Book #7

A unbelievable year-long reading story... - June 2015: Started reading the e-book a year ago (a BR), took a short brake (at 33%) and time went. - May 2016: Added (just \$2) the newly published 12 hours WSfV

audiobook narrated by Gomez Pugh. In my earbuds these last days.

Another journey with this incomparably wacky Chicago friends. — Honestly in my opinion not the very best part. It felt too longish at times, I was even kind of bored and didn't manage to pay full attention all these 12 hours. Nevertheless, a good enough read when you're a PsyCop admirer.

The **PsyCop**, **Victor Bayne** and his sexy lover, Detective **Jacob Marks** (..or: “*Mister Tall, Dark and Infuriating*”) are the two always returning main characters. They started quite surprising a steaming hot relationship from the very first page in the first book. A few years later, many adventures and ghost hunts and these two are lovely steady partners as well as former detective colleagues and are by now living together in an old cannery. — Homely, safe and a romantic sweet secure relationship. Love these men.

Snowy November winter in Chicago..

‘That look promised to take me and use me and make me beg for mercy... then leave me wrung out and hung up to dry. He slipped through the door, and the devastating look was gone.’

New and quite surprising (we got a hint in #6) in this seventh book is that Jacob has started working as an federal agent for FPMP (*Federal Psychic Monitoring Program*). Our dear Vic, still a PsyCop police has some "free" days when his work partner is on leave, and he wants to solve some still unsolved 'spook problems' in the FPMP office. Being there means much more meetings with the mysterious odd FPMP boss *Con Dreyfuss*. There are also Vics old teen school "friend" *Richie*... a pretty stressful nerdy ghost destroyer.

... New odd situations, new crazy hilarious Vic thoughts, new lovebirds, old acquaintances, creepy ghosts and some sweet Vic & Jacob home scenes.

These PsyCop books turned out to be just better and better for every part. Sorry to say but this seventh *Spook Squad* is perhaps an exception to the rule. There are much to love even in this last part and we get many clues and questions answered here but I never "felt it" this time. It wasn't as fun or smexy sexy or touching sweet or fresh exciting. — Yeah, it's maybe me and my feelings. You might love it.

(Reviews for previous parts: (view spoiler)

)

The question we all want the answer for is if this number 7 (*Spook Squad* published August 2013) really is the last installment? Or will there be more to come? I'm hopeful and if, when or then, I will be there for more enjoying reading time with all these lovely and quite unique —both crazy unforgettable and very interesting— characters. Anyway, this (maybe?) last fulllengthfull novel ended well and safe. I like the place we left them in.

Forever my big sincere love to dear Vic, his yummy hubby, his lovely best buddies and them all in this intriguing PsyCop world. Jordan Castillo Price gave us a GREAT adventurous spooky series here.

I LIKE - even less good parts when written by JCP

This started as a Buddyread with Sofia and Are (RA) aka my dear "*PsyCop Swooning Ladies*", a year ago. Then RL disturbed. — Sorry Ladies!

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

I have conflicting emotions about this latest book featuring our favorite psycop Victor Bayne. Once again he steps up to the plate and performs beautifully when push comes to shove. His inherent goodness and resolve shine through despite his insecurities, making me like him more and more. But I also found said insecurities to be extremely frustrating and at times, such a hindrance! Secrets abound causing paranoia and distrust where one step forward results in three steps back.

Be assured that Vic and Jacob continue to be one hot item (more please). Their relationship - both personal and professional - grow to new heights as they discover they're literally made for each other in unexpected ways than either imagined.

This was basically about trust. Who to trust? When to trust? Vic wants answers, needs answers. How far will he go to get the truth? How much does he reveal of himself as he continues to evolve and acquire new psychic powers? I'm reassured that this isn't the last book in the series, especially as Vic's eyes are opened to a whole new world where he can do the most good. He finally finds a purpose and I'm very eager to see how the next chapter in his life unfolds, hoping this new change brings forth more confidence, initiative and Jacob time.

Thanks again to Sofia and Ingela for letting me tag along!

Shile says

5 star for the audio

2 stars for the story

It's me and not the book!! Will just be over here soaking in shame!

Oi! This was such a letdown. Honestly if it wasn't for Gomez's narration, this would have been a dnf.

I found this book 60% of this book very boring. The writing was amazing , but this one had too much information.

What I Liked

-Vic as usual and him being his sarcastic charming self.

-Vic and Jacob as a couple, they have an amazing chemistry and are hot together.

-The writing was good too.

What I didn't Like

-LISA!! Ugh! She is the most annoying, infuriating character ever. And her dating Dreyfus?? That was so far-fetched and unbelievable. What was with her camping in Vic's living? Agrrhhh! I want her to disappear.

-The mystery, Oh! lord! it was a mystery within a mystery within a mystery, at some point I got lost.

-The story is no longer paranormal, it has ventured into Sci-Fi territory.

My Major Dislike

MINI RANT!

-This book is about Vic and Jacob, and these two were not given page time. There is only one sex scene, one freaking sex scene!!!! I wanted to scream at this !! I mean Lisa and Dreyfus spent more time together than Vic and Jacob. I was ok with book 6 having one sex scene because at least we had Vic and Jacob spending precious moments together.

Overall I will give this 2.5 stars rounded up. It was one hell of a disappointment. I need a book with very hot sex scenes next.

Susan says

4.5 stars!!!!

This book was a **TREAT!**

Admittedly, I am new to the PsyCop fan train. I only just read the series this year and thankfully, did not have to wait very long for book 7 to come out. STILL...it was torture...wanting more Vic & Jacob and trying to be patient w/o them in my reading life. They're one of my Top 3 M/M couples and I feel empty w/o them. :)

“Spook Squad” is WORTH THE WAIT!

This book, straight up, is Victor Bayne at his BEST. He's still neurotic. He's still odd. He's still a nut. He's still LOVABLE. But he's even funnier and more adorable now that he's figuring out the extent of his gift/talent and now that he's embraced into his life LOVE (Jacob!) and FRIENDS (Lisa and Crash). And his care towards them is so un-Vic-like, yet so...Vic-like.

And if you're like me and LOVE the coupling of Vic & Jacob, this book was such the culmination of where their relationship has been growing. COMPLETE DEVOTION to one another, utter trust. It's SO FREAKING GOOD with them! Their ability to communicate and just KNOW each other is....gah...so good!

JCP is a master in this book...she writes all the BIG and LITTLE things so well. Musings, thoughts, observations in Vic's mind were just spot-on-Vic and it honestly felt like a gift to fans of the series. I laughed and cringed and laughed some more. And she brought pretty much the entire cast of characters back and made everyone have a place and a role...even if was just referring to characters who don't actually have scenes. But what makes me MOST excited is how she ended this and set the series up for MORE (*ahem*...MANY, MANY, MANY more books! <-pleeeeease!)

My tiny beefs with the book are:

1)NOT ENOUGH SMUT (!!!). I needed more Vic & Jacob smexy. I think there was only 1 sex scene in the book, YET, there were many “intimate” moments that went beyond the physical. That was beautiful. But still I want, ummm, more SEX!

2)There were times that Vic's curmudgeonry (<-so not a word, huh) actually kinda turned mean. I think in the past, no matter how grouchy he got, it was always just him being grouchy. There were a few scenes in the book that I thought Vic's thoughts leaned towards the cruel side, especially when it came to Richie.

BUT, those are truly minor. The rest was just so good and I felt so happy at the end and then immediately felt sad because I didn't have more Vic & Jacob.

*If you're a fan of this series – YAY! Book 7 is great!

*If you've never read the series – YAY! You have 7 books and a bunch of shorts to look forward to!

*If you're not a fan of the series & have read only 1 or 2 of the books – well, obviously, don't read book 7...but you're missing out! :)

ttg says

4.5 stars – I'll be honest and say I don't know if I can review this book or any Psycop book objectively after reading book 1 *Among the Living*. (Especially after the year and half of waiting since I read #6 *GhosTV*.) Settling into #7 *Spook Squad* was like finally getting a chance to revisit a crazy, hilarious friend who you adore, even though he's a little nutty, self-centered, oblivious, and begrudgingly optimistic about the world (once he gets over his trust issues.)

It's was such a *treat* to be back in Vic's head and ride along with his narrative, that it's easy for me to thoroughly enjoy myself and love the experience of the work. Everyone is back (although not much Crash or Zig), but Vic & Jacob are back, and still super-solid, which was nice since at the end of book 6, you didn't know how Jacob's decision to join "the dark side" would affect their relationship.

What I loved: I find JCP's writing, especially Vic's voice, incredibly breezy and effortless, like you are really traveling along in Vic's head. There are a lot of throwaway details and references that flash (and even a super-fast reference to the climax of book 1) that feel like little rewards to the reader as you figure it out ("Oh yeah, that's that thing from the past book!") but at the same time, it felt very natural, like Vic was connecting all his experiences in his head as he pushed forward on figuring out who are the ghosts that are hanging around FPMP.

There's some good Vic & Jacob time, although less so than book 6 (and way less sexy time than book 5 *Camp Hell*.) Their scenes together are still the tops though, and it's so great to see how much Vic trusts Jacob and how solid their relationship is. They're definitely one of my favorite m/m couples and their lack-of-drama relationship is incredibly refreshing. (I wouldn't have minded more V&J time though--I'm greedy and I lurve them together.)

Probably my main issue is that I felt the pacing slow down in the middle of the book as Vic explored different mysteries, like who the repeating ghosts were in the FPMP, where the ghost of Dr. Chance is, and the whereabouts of a missing Psycop. I wouldn't have minded some more heightened tension in this section somewhere to spark up the pace.

That, and even though some big things happen in this one, it somehow felt less big compared to the revelations and power-ups that come out of book 5 and book 6. But Vic still takes a big step (by his own will), and it will be interesting to see how things go.

It's neat to see the trajectory of his character, from someone on the fringes, barely "awake" to the living world, to then slowly shift and become someone with attachments, intimacy, love, friends, trust, an understanding of talent and a new purpose to use it, an understanding of others and the willingness to connect to them (and care for them.)

I don't know where the next installment will go, but I'm definitely looking forward to where Vic and Jacob go next. (Now the wait until book 8 begins...)

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

Kaje Harper says

This book could be subtitled "Changes." Although the whole PsyCop series has been about Vic's journey through the complexity of his life, this one more than the others heralds some sea changes in Vic, both in internal growth and in his relationships with friends and enemies. I very much enjoyed the plot and watching Vic become more than he has been, although a little corner of me missed the anxious mess that I'd wanted to hug in past installments.

**This review may contain untagged spoilers for previous books in the series.

I reread the whole series, going into this book. They are addictive, and follow so closely one on the other that they shape an ongoing narrative without real breaks. That doesn't mean they have cliffhangers, but the "for now" part of the HFN endings has a very short time frame, although by this point the concern is not the romantic relationship between Vic and Jacob, but whether they will survive the next plot events intact. I was glad I'd done the reread, and would encourage at least a skim of GhosTV if it's been a while, to get up to speed on all the characters and events.

In Spook Squad, we see Vic and Jacob rock solid in their relationship. The inferiority complex that in the past made Vic insecure, wondering whether Jacob will stay with him, is gone. The out-of-body experience in GhosTV where he found out that Jacob had his own similar insecurities no doubt helped. Plus Vic, while still neurotic and anxious, is much more secure in his own abilities and even in his own body. This puts a small shift into the romance relationship part of this book. The love is solid, the sex (although more rare in this one) is hot. But all the angst comes from facing the outside world and worrying about each other. And even that is slightly muted, as Jacob's own abilities are better known, and they begin to work together. I did miss the edge of desperate protectiveness from Jacob, although this is a more mature relationship now. There were some very sweet moments of caring between them, but the focus shifted off the relationship just a bit more than in the past.

The plot was interesting, and kept me guessing for quite a while. Vic's world has become wider, including more people, more friends and colleagues and enemies. His ability to be social, and even sometimes to empathize, is improving. His background issues, from childhood, Camp Hell, and ongoing paranormal exposures, are still there in the background, but limit him less.

A couple of threads nagged at me a bit. (view spoiler)

All in all, another excellent installment in a series that is imaginative, unexpected, with a hot, loving and growing relationship at its heart. So.... when's the next one :)
