



Broken

Susan Kaye Quinn

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Urban Fantasy with a Cyberpunk Twist

fourth episode of the nine-part serial

What's your life worth on the open market?

In this gritty urban fantasy, debt collectors take your life energy and give it to someone more “worthy”... all while paying the price with black marks on their souls.

Broken is approximately 15,000 words or 60 pages, and is the fourth of nine episodes in the first season of The Debt Collector serial.

Lirium tries to free himself and Ophelia from the Kolek mob, but Valac has other plans for him.

Contains mature content and themes.

OPTIONED FOR VIRTUAL REALITY BY IMMERSIVE ENTERTAINMENT

2014 Semi-Finalist in Science Fiction in the Kindle Book Awards

It is recommended that you start with the first season, but each season is a complete story for that debt collector and can serve as an entry point to the series. There are five planned seasons in the Debt Collector series, the first four each from the perspective of a different debt collector with the fifth season bringing all four together.

READING ORDER

Season One – Lirium - COMPLETE

Episodes 1-9: Delirium, Agony, Ecstasy, Broken, Driven, Fallen, Promise, Ruthless, Passion

Season Two – Wraith **available for pre-order releases 12.15.14**

Episodes 10-18: Wraith, Specter, Menace, Temptation, Shattered, Penance, Judgment, Corruption, Atonement

Broken Details

Date : Published April 17th 2013

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Author : Susan Kaye Quinn

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From Reader Review Broken for online ebook

Arlene Adams says

So you're speeding up my recovery by moving the point of entry to where the wound is.

Illegal lifehits only paying for two weeks

Two weeks times twelve high potential wives is twenty-four weeks of payout. Nearly half a year.

Emeryk, his brother. "My mistake was being lovers with a debt collector. My mentor. Eli was... different than anyone I have ever met. He helped me survive once Emeryk found me. He taught me everything I know about collecting. He was Emeryk's chief collector, He was Emeryk's friend, "I loved Eli. And I killed him.

Over time, you have... a strength that you didn't have before. I don't know why—it's like your body is in a constant wash of life energy, and it becomes more resistant to everything. You don't get sick. You don't age. You learn how to transfer at a rate that would leave scars on most men."

Lirium tries to run from mob. But Ophelia stops him by collecting life power from him. Ophelia betrayed me.

We can collect because it is our nature to take that into us. To live. To live longer. Don't you see, little bird, we will outlast them all. It's the one thing we were built to do. To relieve the weak of their lives, gather them into us, and make ourselves strong. To become immortal like the gods."

For every life you take, you lose a piece of it. And if you have no soul, little bird, you damn well better live forever. Because if you don't, there's something much worse than death waiting for you. I know... I've tasted it."

Kolek's two thugs—Nico and two-pints. Valac brushes past them without a look back. Consciousness flies away. I don't fight it. I'm not sure if I want to wake up again.

Monica Millard says

This is the fourth installment of the debt collectors serial/season. Lirium is now in the hands of the mob boss Kolek, and learning what he'll have to do to survive.

I'm loving that in spite of his terrible situation and the draw of being a mob collector, getting huge life hits, he's not forgetting himself or being lured into accepting his fate. This episode was just as amazing as the others.

Poor Lirium seems destined to be betrayed by everyone. I have to admit that I'm finding myself having a bit of sympathy for one of his betrayers, Valac, the mob collector who was supposed to help him, but instead turned him over to Kolek. I think there is more to him than meets the eye and I'm hoping he'll turn out to surprise me in a positive way, as Lirium has.

I can't wait for more!

Lady says

Betrayals Big And Small

This series must be read in order. The first book is Delirium (Debt Collector 1). The second book is Agony (Debt Collector 2). The third book is Ecstasy (Debt Collector 3). This is the fourth book.

Lirium now finds himself a collector working for the mob. Looks like he should have just let Ophelia take care of Ophelia.... She does not want to try and escape and thinks him ten times a fool for trying to rescue her. He is not buying it. He does not want to spend his life doing illegal collections and transfers! If he felt like a hitman before ... He is positive he is one now! They both are.... How could Valac turn on his own kind this way? Will Lirium ever escape? Is there even anything to go back to now that he is covered in mob taint?

This episode reveals a lot but adds more questions than it answers. It seems Lirium is finally having his eyes opened to the true nature of the world he lives in and it isn't pretty! With more enemies than friends he is realizing the only person he can trust is himself... Too bad he didn't realize that he was right all along! If he had just stayed true to his original mindset he would not be in the situation he is now! I can't wait to read Driven (Debt Collector 5)!

***This series is suitable for adult readers who love cyberpunk SciFi in their futuristic dystopian worlds!

Ellie says

Serial or episodic fiction is a totally new way of reading fiction for me, but as soon as I saw Quinn was writing it I knew I'd soon be addicted. I'm a huge science fiction fan and coupling it with noir had me intrigued from the outset. Each 'episode' from season one is roughly the length of a novelette and readable in one sitting, something I have found I like. The drawback is that you have to wait two weeks until the next episode, but much like a television series you love, this only heightens the anticipation. You can of course wait until all nine episodes of season one have been published, but I wouldn't.

Episode 4, Broken, sees the lead character Lirium entering a new world, and seemingly powerless to fight the mob. It also has twists I just didn't see coming. Story-telling at its finest.

Make no mistake - this is adult fiction. The story itself is set in a cold and cruel future. The characters are gritty and hardened. But that only makes you love them even more. Season one hasn't finished yet and I'm already wishing for season two.

Debbie says

Better with each installment, Lirium's story continues to fascinate me. What strikes me as this story evolves is that line in society between the haves and the have-nots. No matter who is in charge - the government or the mob - the debt collectors job is to take from one group and give to the other. There doesn't seem to be

much difference between the two. Ophelia sees that more clearly than Lirium, but I think he's learning fast. Waiting for the next episode...

Lola says

I bought this episode as soon as I heard it was released. The 2 week wait for this one was really long and I was so excited to finally start this episode. I planned on reading just one more chapter before going to sleep and ended up reading the rest of the episode too. I just couldn't stop reading.

The story continues after where Lirium ended up in the last episode. Almost no time has passed and was looking forward to see how Lirium would get himself out of this situation. I have to say I was surprised at what happened. New twists and turns and we learn more about Debt Collectors and the mob.

I was also really surprised and glad to learn more about Ophelia in this book. There is something quite important to her personality we learn in this episode and something about her past that really surprised me. I really got a better idea of who Ophelia is in this episode and I think she is a great character. Lirium shows some strength in this book and I loved how determined he was to get out of the mob. Also his reluctance to perform certain tasks made him seem more real and believable to me. He really is a good character.

Again some things are added to the world building in this book, mainly we find out more about the mob and some tidbits about debt collectors again. There are also some descriptions of the city, which made me realize how dark and gritty this world really is.

To Conclude: this 4th episode is again fantastic. I love where the story goes and I was surprised a few times. I liked getting to know more about Ophelia. And there is some world building added about the mob. I can't wait to read the next episode! These two week waits are really too long, but I'll try to be patient.

Jessica Bell says

Despite the pace slowing a bit, don't miss this episode, the cliffhanger is a killer. Plus, if you're expecting it, the slower pace is rather nice for a change. The first three episodes made my head spin. In a good way, of course. :-)

Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

I received a copy of Broken in exchange for my review.

Having been caught, Lirium finds himself held captive by the mob alongside Ophelia. With Ophelia barely functioning thanks to the energy drain that had been done on her. Never having worked for the mob before, Lirium finds himself faced with things he's never before done, and things that he doesn't particularly want to

do. But sometimes running away isn't an option, and he is about to learn that not everything goes the way of the good.

[Link to Goodreads](#)

[Link to amazon](#)

Well I said that I thought there was something off about Ophelia in one of my previous reviews, potentially in my review of Agony, and Broken pretty much answered why I thought there was something off about Ophelia. I do enjoy being right! Weirdly at the same time I was actually really sad for Lirium cause he seemed to like Ophelia and was upset by the events that involved her in Broken.

Though Lirium seems to have trouble with accepting that he's actually a decent person, Broken went even further to proving that he was. Though Debt Collecting in concept is actually a morally grey area, Lirium does seem to have some morals and he'd much rather stick to them. Even more than that, he doesn't seem to want to survive if he has to do it by being a bad person. I just really like him as a character.

There was a little more learnt about debt collecting in Broken, though not as much as in the first three, which I think was necessary. There seems to be a lot of information missing from Lirium's education about the true nature of debt collecting, and I'm definitely interested to know more about it, and what Lirium will do with that information.

Broken counts towards Winter COYER.

Cherie says

Such a dark episode. Poor Lirium. Loved it and can't wait for the next one!

(Proper review forthcoming.)

Norm Davis says

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In Broken, Debt Collector #4 we start out with debt collector Lirium in bed with his mentor, debt collector Ophelia, who he had

Veronica of V's Reads says

In this fourth installment of The Debt Collector serial, Lirium learns what it's like to be an unwilling collector--as well as a donor. On this journey Lirium joins with Ophelia and Valac--fellow collectors--and united they are an awesome force.

In his race to break free of his current position, Lirium finds he's responsible for two lives lost within forty pages. And, one of the three collectors is left in a bloody heap.

Suspense abounds, and the narrative is as strong as ever.

Julie Stafford says

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LIRIUM??? This episode is as exciting as the rest!! I think I have become too invested in the characters. I worried all week about what will happen to Lirium now that the mob has him? Yet, I can't bring myself to start the next story for fear of what that will be. Lirium is learning a lot of lessons about a lot of people. Especially Ophelia and the mob. He is having trouble justifying what he's doing now more than he did before. Susan does an excellent job of keeping the suspense level high yet opens up serious questions about life and who gets to live. Great job, Susan. I will read the next one soon and then will finally see what happens! This series must be read in order. Don't hesitate to start it now. You will not be disappointed.

Eliza Tilton says

Another excellent episode. I'm really digging the world and each episode makes me hungry for more. Can't wait for the next one!

Brooke (The Cover Contessa) says

The wait for this episode was really hard. I kept checking and checking to see when it would be released! Finally, it was and I was so happy! I liked this episode a lot. However, not as much as the last one. I found it to be a little slower, not as much going on. But, in the defense of Quinn, she is writing this in episodes. So, if I think of it as a few chapters in a book, it makes total sense. I am loving this series so much. It's really keeping my interest and once I finish one episode I'm chomping at the bit for the next. I love watching Lirium grow and change. He's learning all sorts of things he didn't know about. Ophelia made me mad in this episode, but perhaps she has reason for what she did and it will be explained in later episodes. And I love the villains: Valac and Kolek. I find myself wanting to learn more about them and see what knowledge they possess about the collectors!

Anxiously awaiting the next episode, Ms. Quinn! I am very excited about this series!

J.A. Belfield says

With each episode I read of this amazing (mini) series, I find myself falling in love with Lirium (and the series itself) a little more. Lirium is such a troubled, misunderstood, and rash character, who starts the series appearing to be worldly wise and street smart, yet the more time we spend with him, the more we realise how much of the opening is an act—an act he doesn't even realise he's playing in, because he has no idea how clueless he truly is, until he's faced with situations he probably never imagined to find himself in. In case you haven't figured it out, I'm slightly in (fictional) love with Lirium. The last episode, Ecstasy, was the best episode so far, and a tough one to top. To be honest, Broken was maybe a star rating behind Ecstasy, until I headed through the action at the end, see the betrayal, witness his downfall on a scale nobody would truly want to ever experience, and the dude just tugged on my heartstrings hard enough to earn his top marks.

So, to wrap up: great addition to the series, great character development, enlightenment, discoveries, and a fresh in depth glimpse at a new level of this awesome world building.

Now, hurry up and give me the next one. Because I need to make sure Lirium's okay (my poor pet).
