



Outbreak

Melissa F. Olson

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Melissa F. Olson's thrilling FBI vampire procedural Nightshades series concludes with Outbreak

The Chicago field office of the Bureau of Preternatural Investigation is facing its deadliest challenge, yet—internal investigation! Alex and Lindy are on the hook, and on the run.

But when all of the BPI's captive vampires are broken free from their maximum security prison, and Hector finally steps out of the shadows, Alex must use every trick to stay ahead of both the BPI and the world's most dangerous shade.

Confrontation is inevitable. Success is not.

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Outbreak Details

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Author : Melissa F. Olson

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From Reader Review Outbreak for online ebook

Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says

I have really liked Melissa Olson's other series so I decided to give this one a try. While I found the characters interesting I did not really bond with them. There was non-stop action and the world that everything took place in was different and fit the story line. The story seemed to pick up right after the second book and as I had not read either of the previous books it did take me some time to realize what was going on. For me just an OK series. I think it would have been better if I had read the previous books. This was not a good stand-alone.

I received a free copy of the book in return for an honest review.

Ami says

The story picked up immediately after the end of book #2, when the 'evil villain' Hector and his army broke the prison that kept shades prisoner. Within hours, FBI turns their investigation to Lindy -- as Hector's twin -- and decides to dismantle the Chicago field of Bureau of Preternatural Investigation. Alex and his team, alongside Lindy, have to find a way to defeat Hector once and for all.

I LOVED the pace of this book -- it's a page turner for sure. I loved that the team worked together to rally behind Alex and Lindy -- even after knowing that (view spoiler). It's full of developing plans, actions, and a little heartbreak.

I did wish that the climax battle between Lindy and Hector to last longer than the way it was written in this book. However, I was pretty satisfied that in the end, it was (view spoiler) who kill Hector. I thought it made sense, considering (view spoiler) was the one being mesmerized by Hector to give a lot of information about the bureau.

It's a satisfying conclusion of the trilogy. Melissa F. Olson has proven once again why she is one of my favorite urban fantasy authors these days.

Sherry says

This entire series of novellas would easily translate to film, and I'd definitely want to watch.

Shades (aka vampires) are out of the closet and known to humanity. Shades don't need or even generally want to hurt the humans they feed on, but the FBI has created an offshoot, the Bureau of Paranormal Investigations, to investigate crimes perpetrated by them. Lindy, one of the oldest vampires, has been drafted by the Chicago office of the BPI to help them take on her brother, Hector, who has murdered humans as part of his bid to be recognized as the king of all the shades. In this novella, Hector's plans come to a head, and Lindy and her BPI allies must figure out a way to take him down.

I could totally see this on screen; it's got all the elements. There's plenty of action, some of it gory, as the

shades clash with the BPI. It's got an investigative element that could hook in people who like shows like NCIS. The novellas even include a deepening romance between Lindy and Alex, the head of the Chicago BPI. All of these different aspects of the story are woven together very well to create a fast-moving story that I really enjoyed.

The whole series is just very entertaining. I'd recommend it to anyone who likes to read urban fantasy.

A copy of this book was provided through NetGalley for review; all opinions expressed are my own.

Ashley says

Outbreak picks up right where Switchback left off. The action starts from the very first page and doesn't let up. It's the most fast paced and quickest read of the entire series. It sure left me trying to catch my breath on numerous occasions. My anxiety was high, y'all!

I'm sad that this is the conclusion to the series. I've really enjoyed all three of the stories and don't want to say goodbye to these characters. Everything wrapped up quite well, but I definitely wouldn't mind more stories featuring Alex and Lindy.

Sophia says

Things were in a bit of a jam at the end of book two so I was ready to pounce when this final book in the series came available. Vampires, FBI, betrayals, and an enemy who seems to be holding all the cards was definitely just my thing.

Outbreak is book three in an Urban Fantasy trilogy so it does not work standalone or out of order.

Alex and Lindy are trying to catch their breath after the bloody and deadly shocking ending to their last case, but then their peace is shattered when Chase bursts in with news he was mesmerized by Hector and made to be a departmental leak. He had no idea what intel he gave the enemy, but part of it was used to stay a two part prison break that now has everyone scrambling. Alex's FBI team is put on suspension and Lindy is under arrest. Now, they are all right where Hector wants them as he makes his big moves.

Things were so dire and exciting right from the start with this one. I enjoyed seeing what Alex and Lindy would do with their backs against the wall. It was going to take a team effort and some ingenuity which is something I've liked all through this series. The middle of the book is the team at work on their plans and the ending was another great climax scene with a bit of a denouement to give the series closure.

My only niggles are that during the middle, I did feel some lag while necessary preparations were being made and the epilogue gave closure, but didn't really have any shine to it. What it did do, thankfully, was leave a little window open in case the author wants to jump back in and do some more stories in the Nightshades world.

In summary, I loved the author's take on vampires and enjoyed how she paired the paranormal with an FBI procedural. It had some grit and some great suspense and action moments. I enjoyed all the characters and

how they came together as a team. Alex and Lindy were a good romantic pairing though romance was only one of the elements. Definitely a nice quick-read trilogy for Urban Fantasy and vampire fans.

I rec'd the book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

Henry Lazarus says

There's a prison Outbreak (ebook from Tor) of shades (think vampires) from a prison bus. That sets the final chase of the ancient shade, Hector by Alex McKenna of the Bureau of Preternatural Investigation and Hector's sister Lindy. At his heart Hector wants to become the King of the shades, something that hadn't existed since the death of his father thirteen hundred years ago. Melissa F. Olson has a fun tale of traps by both side until the inevitable confrontation occurs. This is a nice conclusion to a fun trilogy. Review printed by Philadelphia Free Press

Mandapanda says

3.5 stars.

Deanna says

Fun, light, fast moving series

I enjoyed these three urban fantasy books. They are quick reads, light but well-done. Fast-paced and fun. Read them in order.

Lucy Dosch says

This series is good but just too short to be great.

We start book 4 where we left off on book 3, where shade (vampire) Lindy Frederick and FBI Agent Alex McKenna have just spent the night together and wake up to the news that the shades have all broken out of the FBI holding in Washington DC known as "Camp Vamp." Many agents were killed in the break out and Alex receives a call from his boss to bring Lindy in. Alex isn't stupid and as Lindy is the only known shade and even though she has been working with the FBI, he knows the FBI wants to bring her in and make her take the fall for the breakout.

Alex also knows that Lindy has been working with them on the up and up and wasn't using her in with the FBI as a front for information. Lindy could have simply used her shade abilities and mesmerized one of the agents for inside information. She didn't need to work with them to help capture her brother, Hector. So Alex goes rogue and helps Lindy escape her apartment.

Alex gets his team involved, as they too have come to trust Lindy, and together they make a plan to take

down Hector. They just need to make sure they don't get caught themselves before their trap has sprung.

I am not certain if this is the final story of the Nightshade series, but it does end a story arc.

I liked the characters and as always, I was very happy with the narration by Luke Daniels. But my overall problem with the series is the fact that it was a group of novellas, which were each rather short, less than 4 hours of audiobook so the story is ending just as it is really getting started.

While the first novella was slow trying to set up the series and introduce the world of shades (vampires), the other two picked up a little more with more plot. With a novella size ending of story arc, the ending came too quick and there was no time for plot twists. The author did attempt to throw Alex and Lindy's perfect plan off kilter, but you knew, since there wasn't much story left, that everything was going to end really soon.

All the characters we have met over the prior stories are back so once again we can jump back into the story without further introductions but this was still not overly dramatic or exciting for a story arc ending.

Michael says

This one picks up where that last book (Switchback) leaves off. A total non stop action romp through the Chicago area. Really enjoyed the Trilogy as a whole and this was a perfect ending for it. Got to see a bit of character development and finality to the whole evil Hector wants to take over the world thing. Would love to see this one get turned into a tv series or movie. Feels like it's made for either one and there seems like there could be so many more stories that could include Lindy and Alex. Highly recommend if you're into urban paranormal/horror stories.

Melanie says

My review and an extended sample of the audiobook are posted at Hotlistens.com.

In this third book in Melissa F. Olson's Nightshades series, we finally wrap up the story arc. I don't know if there will be more books set in this world, but this book does wrap up the story arc of the first three books. I really enjoyed this series. It takes everything I love about cop shows and combines them with vampires. What's not to love.

If I had to complain about this series, the stories are short. I don't feel like the author left anything out of the stories. The characters are well developed, as is the world that these characters they live in. But each book is around 4 hours long, which is really short. I am glad that she didn't just fill the story up with filler, though. I would just like more time with these characters.

Alex and Lindy have made their relationship more than a working one. But that doesn't mean they don't still have a lot of work to do. Lindy's brother, Hector, is still on a rampage. The FBI still need to catch him. Chase, Alex's best friend and second in command of the Chicago BPI team, passes along some news that is a big hit to the team.

I would highly recommend reading this series in order. Each book builds on the previous story. I think if you

started here, you would be completely lost to what is going on with the vampires. I hope to see more books set in this world.

Narration

Luke Daniels continues to narrate this series and does a fantastic job. There's a reason he is at the top of many people's favorite narrator list. He's great with a large selection of voices that are always attuned to the character's personality. He's great with both male and female voices. Pace and tone are always right where it's needed for the current scene. If you've never listened to Luke Daniels, you're really missing out.

**I like to thank the publisher for providing me with a copy of this audiobook in exchange for an honest review.

Laura Newsholme says

I have enjoyed this series as a whole and I thought this was a decent conclusion, albeit a little abrupt. This third instalment tells the continuing story of the Bureau of Preternatural Investigation and its search for the rogue vampire king, Hector as he bids to change the balance of power between humans and shades. The action is consistently good here, with lots of fights that remind us of the strength of the shades, which I enjoyed. I think that the series has introduced some interesting aspects into vampire lore, such as their inability to process synthetic drugs, such as meth, causing them to collapse. Many of the characters are quite one dimensional, but it is the plot that pushes the narrative forward here so I never missed deep character moments. What I do think is an issue was the climax to the shade/human conflict, which felt incredibly rushed and abrupt. This is a real shame because the trilogy has been building really well to a massive showdown that fails to deliver. Overall, I think this is a fun series and I enjoyed this book, with just slight reservations about the end.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Angela Shockley says

Outbreak picks up right where Switchback left off. And not with a moment to lose. The evolution of Alex and Lindy's relationship wasn't at all surprising, but I could have lived without it. I like that Chase was redeemed in the end. Hector, oh so crazy and infuriating Hector, got what he deserved (let's face it...he was a broken boy in an immortal body!). Solane and Reagan were wonderful, and I like how their story concluded. Other than a lull in the middle, Outbreak is an action-packed roller coaster ride. Outbreak was a fantastic continuation to the Nightshades series! I hope there will be more... :) ****Four solid stars****

Sandra says

3.5 stars. Very quick read, lots of action but no surprises or twists. Good end to the series with enough openness to the ending to allow the author to revisit this world if they choose. Definitely need to read the books in order for maximum enjoyment.

Sarah Leenart says

Just as good as the last two instalments of this fast paced, supernatural police procedural mini series, this was proof that quality always overcomes quantity. Sharply violent but with a very human heart, this is where Lindy and Alex must face the evil that Hector has become. Tense throughout, I was practically on the edge of my seat and the ease with which I believed and understood every supernatural aspect is testimony to the world building of Melissa Olson. Shades (as the vampires are accurately called in this world) are as one might expect, as good and as evil as their human counterparts and I loved every second of this wonderfully told story. I know that this is the end of the trilogy but I for one hope that there is more to come in this world.
