



## The White Gold Score

*Craig Schaefer*

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## **The White Gold Score** Craig Schaefer

When a high roller dies in his Vegas penthouse suite, that's a problem. When his ghost refuses to leave, that's a bigger problem. Daniel Faust is the solution. Called in to clean up the casino's mess, the modern-day sorcerer soon learns that the restless spirit isn't going down without a fight. To set things right, he'll have to delve someplace even seedier, even more treacherous, than the Vegas Strip: the Los Angeles music industry.

In a snare between a scheming record producer, an embattled songstress and a lethal drug cartel, Daniel and his crew hit the streets of LA. Opportunity is knocking. There's a score to be had. And with a quarter of a million dollars on the table, this murder mystery just became a heist in the making.

(The White Gold Score is a 46,000-word novella in the Daniel Faust series, a side-story that takes place between The Long Way Down and Redemption Song.)

## **The White Gold Score Details**

Date : Published February 29th 2016 by Demimonde Books

ISBN :

Author : Craig Schaefer

Format : Kindle Edition 159 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Magic, Paranormal, Mystery, Fiction, Novella

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## From Reader Review The White Gold Score for online ebook

### Steve says

Okay, so in the afterward, the author says he wrote this novella to appease his readers as they wait for the next full-length Daniel Faust book in late 2016. I guess I read this out of order, since I've only read the first book (The Long Way Down), and this one is book 1.5 in the series. I don't think I lost anything in reading this book second, and it made perfect sense to me since Faust and his crew talk about the events from their book one caper.

The plot is simple: Bad things happen at a hotel, Faust is called in to fix these bad things, things get weird, then bad, then fun. Unsurprisingly, it turns from a quick fix to a con/heist that solves everything in one fell swoop.

If you have read any books in the series, you are already aware of what you are getting into: basically the protagonist is a magician and a conman, and he is hired to fix "problems", sometimes causing great grief to the people who cause these problems. This novella is really no different than the others in that regard. This story does fill in a bit of backstory for a few of the main characters while teasing even more of a backstory for others.

While I wouldn't recommend this particular book as the first read in the series, I would wholeheartedly recommend it as the second. If you are looking for an interesting mash-up of genres, this one fits the bill: take an Ocean's 11 caper, a twist of Sam Spade noir, mix with a heavy dose of magic, and you end up with Daniel Faust and his crew working their cons. Fun stuff!

On to the next one: Redemption Song!

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### Orient says

A great continuation to BR with **Craig** and **Jokoloy** :)

"The White Gold Score" is a nice addition to the Faust series. I read this novella after book 2 so some of the twists concerning book two weren't so potent, as it should be read after book one. I liked "The White Gold Score" way more than book two.

In "The White Gold Score" I found a gripping story with exorcism, really interesting event, sneaks peaks into show business and the darkly alluring world. Faust's interesting nature gives craziness to this UF story. Charming in a rough and secretive way, driven by his own moral compass, Faust is a character I look forward in my reads and what stuns me is that in most cases I am on his side, even though his choices aren't the most lawful.

(view spoiler)

I knew about some twists in the story, but still it was an interesting read with some tough action scenes. The dark but exciting character from Russian mythology was a great addition.

Can't wait to see if Mr. Schaefer includes more of such personalities from myths in further books. I'm not sure, was it the length of the story or no, but it was way more better paced than the second book for me and I got more exciting action scenes.

I have only one issue, concerning Faust's and other goodies POV regarding coke. (view spoiler)

Can't wait to read the third book as I'm intrigued for sure :)

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### **Desinka says**

I liked this almost as much as a regular Faust book. It had all the pluses of the books in the series and it was pretty long. I really enjoyed it.

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### **T. K. Elliott (Tiffany) says**

Well, that was *fun*. I read it in one sitting and have this nearly irresistible desire to buy the next book in the series straight away and start reading it.

*White Gold Score* is basically a heist story, with a lot of running around conning people and other assorted mayhem. If you've read the first Daniel Faust book (*The Long Way Down*), you'll be glad to see - as well as Daniel - lots of Caitlin, and Jennifer gets some decent page time too.

This is dark urban fantasy, for fans of Harry Dresden who want something with a bit more bite. There's humour - but it's dark, and with more blood and fewer pop culture references than you'd find in the Dresden Files. Daniel Faust is a career criminal, and killing is part of the deal. Violence is what he does, and to some extent, there are no good guys: there are the bad guys and the *worse* guys. Although written later, this book is positioned early in the series, and I'm a latecomer to the party - so I don't know where it will go. But I have high hopes. I *like* it.

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### **Jokoloyo says**

A buddy read with Orient and Craig. Well, I am the late one.

This novella convinced me to switch this series from grim dark urban fantasy into urban fantasy with dark humour. Reminds me of Bauchelain and Korbal Broach with anti-hero MC. Three stories I've read and each of them has mandatory heist theme that have atmosphere that reminds me of Ocean's Eleven .

This novella is a fun episode of Daniel Faust series without much character development or high stakes for

the recurring characters. And not too scary. If not for occasional magical power or ghost appearance, this is basically a crime story.

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### **Carol. says**

For fans of Faust, this will prove a satisfying entry into the Faust series that takes place between book one and two. When a house detective asks for Faust's 'special' kind of help in removing a ghost, it sounds like a simple matter. In the tradition of all detective books, he soon discovers there's more than meets the eye. He finds himself headed to Hollywood, and soon Caitlin is able to join him on the investigation. Faust has to call on even more of his friends as the investigation becomes more complex.

There's a fair amount of smart-assery here, perhaps more than the usual Faust book. Occasionally, it's funny: **"My magic is all about life, and growth, and nature."**

**I lifted my glass halfway to my lips and arched an eyebrow at him. "You were a disciple of the Order of the Septic Blossom, until they kicked you to the curb. You work with mold and fungus."**

**"Which are living things, thank you very much."**

In the afterword, Schaefer shares how he found himself mildly over-committed to a publishing schedule when his series was picked up, and how he didn't want to leave readers without a Faust story for over a year. As a fan, I appreciate his thoughtfulness, but as a reader, I wish it could have been a bit more polished. A couple of lines also felt overly meta-referential. The villain was Extra Special Bad Guy, so of course there was no problem with the ethics. Not deal-breakers by any means, but the sort of think that keeps a book from being amazing. I definitely appreciate Schaefer's efforts in getting it out, but maybe a week of rework might have been better.

Solid three and a half stars.

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### **Ann says**

Fast paced action and magic, a good combination with characters to root for. My first Daniel Faust book, won't be the last.

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### **Tami says**

Review on booklikes!

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### **xx Sarah xx (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

**? Daniel Faust is Mine Mine Mine Buddy Reread with my MacHalo Wives and Daughters and Stuff (DFiM MM Rwm MWaSaSTM) ?**

► **And the moral of this reread is** : ain't no first date like a **Daniel Faust first date**. Especially when it

involves a wood chipper. **Just ask Caitlin.**

**[Original review]**

**Actual rating:** 8 stars. Damn right.

This novella is **Pure Condensed Undiluted Daniel Faust Perfection** (PCUDFP™). It has it all:

- ✓ **My Yummy and Slightly Cunning Danny Boy** (MYaSCDB™)
- ✓ **My Ruthless and Exquisitely Demonic Caitlin Girl** (MRaEDCG™)
- ✓ Leading characters with ~~no~~ little **morals** and a delightful addiction to all things **somewhat illegal** and **kind of reprehensible**.
- ✓ A beautiful array of **deliciously shady individuals**.
- ✓ **Blood and gore, YAY!**
- ✓ **Noir meets magic meets humour meets awesome everything.**
- ✓ **Stuff.**

And all this right here ↑↑, my Little Barnacles, is what makes Daniel Faust **one of the best UF series you'll ever read**. And all this right here ↑↑, my Little Barnacles, is what makes Daniel Faust **THE best UF series with a male lead you'll ever read**. Hell yeah.

*In case you were wondering: yes, this is my slightly excited face. And yes, this is my natural hair colour.*

- » **And the moral of this Crappy Non Review is:** you can measure an author's talent by the quality of his/her short stories. See my rating? Get it? Good.
- » **And the other moral of this Crappy Non Review is:** will you read this series already?!

- **Book 1:** The Long Way Down ★★★★★
- **Book 2:** Redemption Song ★★★★★
- **Book 3:** The Living End ★★★★★
- **Book 4:** A Plain-Dealing Villain ★★★★★
- **Book 5:** The Killing Floor Blues ★★★★★
- **Book 6:** The Castle Doctrine ★★★★★
- **Book 7:** Double or Nothing ★★★★★
- **Book 8:** The Neon Boneyard ★★★★★
  
- **Short-story:** A Drive in the Country ★★★★

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**Maraya21 (The Reading Dragon) says**

Daaamn! That was one great first date/first couples vacation. Nothing says "fucking romantic" like bloody,

brutal & smart justice. \*swoon\*

♥ BR with my fellow MacHalo foodies Shrimpy (a.k.a Sarah) & Choko ♥

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### **Logan says**

4 stars

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### **Gavin says**

The White Gold Score was another super fun entry into the always awesome Daniel Faust series. It had all the stuff that we love about the Faust stories. Fast paced action, cool supernatural happenings, hilarious dialogue, likeable characters, and some dark happenings that keeps the reader on their toes.

The best thing about this novella was that it was not particularly short. It was about half the size of a regular book in the Faust series. It is set between the 1st and 2nd books in the series and is a fun self contained story that does not impact on the overall story arc of the series.

Word of Faust's ghost-busting in the first novel has gotten around and so he finds himself being contracted to get rid of a ghost that is terrifying guests in a plush Vegas hotel. Faust soon finds himself caught up in a murder investigation that leads him to Hollywood. While there he jumps on the chance to deal with the ghost problem AND score a little extra cash on the side. As an additional bonus Faust takes his new girlfriend along on the trip!

The story was pretty fun. It featured most of the familiar secondary characters that we have grown to love as Faust called upon their special help at various points in his plans.

All in all this novella was a very enjoyable read.

Rating: 4 stars.

Audio Note: Adam Verner is perfect for Faust.

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### **??? 2.? says**

I'm not a big fan of campy stories—I prefer fiction with more of a bite to it—and the urban fantasy genre often skews too close to cheesy, for my taste. Throwing a veritable smorgasbord of monsters at the wall to see what sticks - à la Charlaine Harris. The first book in this series thankfully bucked that trend, maintaining a dark and gritty tone, which suited me just fine. But in this installment, Faust seems to have lost his edge . . . or maybe it was merely an illusion.

*The White Gold Score* picks up shortly after the events of the first novel when Daniel Faust, a paranormal detective, is tasked with exorcising a ghost from the penthouse suite of a Vegas casino. He spends the night

in the room in an attempt to reach out to the spirit and wakes up to a terrifying vision of its last moments of life. Apparently, the ghost had ample reason for being upset, and Faust knows the only way to set the spirit at rest is to catch the one responsible for his untimely demise. That job calls for a deft hand able to probe the seedy underbelly of the LA music scene without causing too much of a stink. Lucky for him, he has a few associates with unique skill sets ready and willing to lend a hand . . .

This story was serviceably written—not great but not terrible either—probably par for the course for this genre. My issues lie mainly with the plot, which was dirt simple and read like the laziest Law and Order episode imaginable, and the so-called mystery, which was nonexistent. There were no missteps—the first suspect was the last suspect was the only suspect. All the pieces fell into place too conveniently, and nearly every facet of the plan to collar the perpetrator went according to script.

Then Faust finds a couple of musical artists, who didn't know him from Adam, ready to jump through hoops to assist in the investigation. One still agreed to help out even after catching Faust in multiple lies, and another allowed him to re-record two songs from her unreleased album in an effort to entrap the son of a bitch—even realizing that if the songs were leaked to the public it could potentially sink the album.

Also, the character development was a bit thin for the book to work very well as a standalone. I image the characters would come across as shallow and one-dimensions for those unfamiliar with their backstories and motivations. At one point in the story, Faust flies his dads in from Vegas for literally five minutes worth of work, that any bum off of the street could have handled, then ushers them straight back to the airport and straight off of the page. The pointless expenditure seemed to be merely a ham-fisted way to cram a cameo into the tale.

In the afterword the author noted that he felt bad about leaving his readers with no new Faust story for nearly a year, so he carved out what little time he could find in his busy schedule to pen this side story to tide them over. Therefore I won't judge him too harshly for this throwaway story, and won't entirely close the door on revisiting the series in the future. But he better cut the shit and bring his A game!

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### **Asya says**

Note to self: if you ever find yourself in the world of an urban fantasy book, get a woodchipper.

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### **kartik narayanan says**

Read the full review at my site <https://wp.me/p89tYT-g1>

*He held out his hand. “Give it to me,” he hissed as his fingernails lengthened into claws. “If you insist,” I said. Then I shot him in the face.*

The "Daniel Faust" series, written by Craig Schaefer, is an urban fantasy starring an anti-hero. The series consists of 7 books and a novella so far. Unlike other urban fantasy series like The Dresden Files, this series is far more violent, gritty and is noir in its approach to this setting. The protagonist, the eponymous Daniel Faust, is a violent con-man and sorcerer who has few moral qualms remaining but guards those jealously. In one way, you could of this of as The Saint moved to modern times, with a lot of occult and magic thrown in.

This series is also a backbone for the universe, Craig Schaefer is building, with multiple references to the 'Revanche Cycle' and 'Harmony Black' characters and series.

But enough about the setting and comparisons, what is this series really like?

I had a blast reading the series. It was unique, funny, violent and profane. It has all the elements that I now expect from the author. The pacing is brilliant and the characters are well fleshed out. You end up caring about all the main characters and even the ones on the sidelines.

Read the full review at my site <https://wp.me/p89tYT-g1>

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