



Deuces Down

George R.R. Martin (Editor) , Melinda M. Snodgrass (Contributor) , Daniel Abraham (Contributor) , Kevin Andrew Murphy (Contributor) , Michael Cassutt (Contributor) , John J. Miller (Contributor) , Walton Simons (Contributor) , Jim Steranko (Cover Artist) , more... Timothy Truman (Illustrator) ...less

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An alien biological weapon was accidentally detonated over New York City, killing countless numbers of people. Those who survived, soon began to wish they had died once they discovered that they had been forever mutated by the virus unleashed in the blast. In this all-new collection of Wild Cards stories, the spotlight is on the most unusual Wild Cards of them all the Deuces. Their role in the Wild Cards Universe is just as important as that of the Aces and the Jokers. In fact, their actions have affected the course of Wild Cards history.

Deuces Down Details

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From Reader Review Deuces Down for online ebook

Michael says

"Deuces Down" is the 16th book in the Wild Cards series and one of the elusive two, "Death Draws Five" being the other, that have been out of print for years and recently available as an e-book, which is how I read mine via kindle. This installment lacks the shared world plotting seen in the others and more closely resembles the first Wild Cards novel in that it's an actual anthology, all stories about the deuces. Like Wild Cards, Deuces Down takes us through time, but instead of 1946, we start in 1968 with a trip to the moon no one watched, to the 1978 New York blackout, a couple of tales in the 1980's one of which being the secret truth of Grace Kelly's disappearance during a movie she was filming, into the 1990's after the events in the Card Sharks trilogy, and all the way to 2006.

It was nice to see the deuces get their dues, even giving me a deuce that I hope we one day see again. Overall, a great book and totally worth the years I had to wait for it.

Erth says

now i am hooked. This was such a great, easy and creative book. i was hooked after the first page.

The characters were easy to fall in love with and follow, along with the story. the author made the mental visions so easy and vivid of the surroundings and the characters actions felt so real.

i would highly recommend this author and this book.

Nicholas Ahlhelm says

A very solid collection going back to Wild Cards I's conceit of tales of super powered beings throughout the twentieth century. With a focus on the lower powered "deuces" this book becomes about much smaller scale tales than many Wild Cards books. Very solid stories overall, but the final tales by Steven Leigh and Kevin Andrew Murphy.

Craig says

This is the sixteenth book in the series, and the first from ibooks, the third publisher. It's less of a mosaic novel and more of a simple short story collection, like the first couple of volumes. The focus is on deuces, rather than aces or jokers, and the settings span the entire run of the series. My favorites are John Miller's baseball story, Melinda Snodgrass's Bradley Finn tale, and the Stephen Leigh story, though they were all pretty good. The cover is a very attractive one by Steranko.

Benjamin Kahn says

Although I liked this book, it wasn't as good as other *Wild Cards* I've read. "Father Henry's Little Miracle" was probably the best story, and best encompassed the *Wild Cards* feel. The other stories felt like stand-alone stories with quirks, rather than part of the series. "Four Days in October," about the Brooklyn Dodgers, was boring and only for those fans who still pine for the team. The final story, "With a Flourish and a Flare," was also a little boring.

The rest of the stories were fine, but none reach the heights of the other *Wild Cards* books that I've read (the first five), which have almost uniformly been excellent (*Aces Abroad* not quite as strong as the others). I had high expectations, partly because of my past experience with the series and partly because I thought stories about the deuces would be interesting, but this book unfortunately came up short.

Wai Kit says

Nice collection of short stories in the universe of the wild cards. Only recommendable if you really like the series so far!

Steven Morton says

Like the change in focus on Deuces but the not most exciting addition to the series but when I found this book it had been several years since I had read a Wildcards book so I was excited to find this book.

Iain says

A real curate's egg - good in parts. I enjoyed the tale of centaur doctor Bradley Finn's youth in Hollywood and the adventures of a stand-in priest for Father Squid, but too many of these stories were boring, predictable, formulaic or All three. The last tale, involving an utterly unmemorable deuce and Zatanna-lite Topper, was execrable. Still, it was nice to see the lesser powered members of the Wild Card universe get their turn in the sun, and I always thought Puddleman's power would be good for something.

Jimyanni says

This book rates a high three stars; I almost wanted to give it a fourth star, but I think that's only because I love the series, and have been far too long without reading a book in this world. This is a collection of unrelated short stories, all focusing on a "deuce": someone with a special power that isn't strong enough to be considered an "ace" power, but is definitely something a bit special. Most deuces are otherwise normal, but as with those who have "ace" powers, it isn't always that simple; some of them are both deuces AND jokers, deformed or flawed in some way by the "Wild Card virus" that makes some people in this world other than "normal".

The stories in this book are mostly good, if not in any way world-shattering as some of the previous storylines were. The best by far is "Promises" by Stephen Leigh, which left me hoping to see more of these characters in a later book. But the editing of the book is atrocious; there were at least 2 dozen sloppy errors -- typos, mostly -- that slipped through. Wrong word, missing word, extra word, tense mismatch, things of that nature. George R.R. Martin may be a great editor, but he clearly wasn't doing a good job for this book as a proofreader. I don't remember this problem existing for the previous books in the series, although admittedly it's been long enough since I've read them that I could just be forgetting. Hopefully, the problem was corrected for the later editions; this one was the hardcover edition.

Theresa says

Deuces Down (Wild Cards, #16)
by George R.R. Martin (editor)

a mosaic novel with an introduction written by Walton Simons in 2002 the 15th year of Wild card series. This book opens up the timeline of the series, allowing more stories in the four decades that encompass the stories. As Walton introduces the stories he states that it is common for the writers to continually converse about characters, and upcoming story ideas. One aspect that is unique in these stories focus not on the aces and jokers of the series but Deuces, those who are given an ability after surviving the Xenovirus Takisis A. these powers that are considered a Deuce are just simple abilities that are not heroic or large in composition. For instance Gary who can produce a small blue flame on his fingertips like a Bic lighter. Following an idea that has interested the writers like Sign Girl, Grow-Grip Man, Puddle man etc...

Storming space, Michael Cassutt

A short love story and the ability of Cash Mitchell and Eva-Lynne, tells the story of a deuce who can accomplish great things when used appropriately.

Four days in October, John J Miller

The introduction of Tommy Downs a journalist who finds his ability is to ferret out those affected by the wild card virus.

Walking the floor, Over You, Walton Simons

A beautiful woman with a deuce, that she can make people laugh has found herself in trouble, she turns to our favorite character Croyd for protection only to find it is her boss that is the hero despite his own deuce power.

A Face on the Cutting Room Floor, Melinda Snodgrass

My favorite story of this group, about Dr. Bradley Finn, a pony sized centaur, who as a child finds a mystery on the set of his Fathers movie. As Ms. Snodgrass says, she wanted to write about a joker that was well adjusted and saw his father like James Cameron as a filmmaker.

Father Henry's Little Miracle, Daniel Abraham

Father Henry, is taking care of the Joker Church in New York only to be drawn into an adventure he does not know how to handle. Unfortunately his deuce of producing water from wine may not be able to stand against Demise, one of the strongest evil ace characters in the series.

Promises, Stephen Leigh

A tragic love story between Gary a deuce, the same one who is a Bic lighter, and his love Caitlyn, a joker who is turning into a living doll. Looking at the human spirit and the interpretation of the term home.

With a Flourish and a Flair, Kevin Andrew Murphy

Swash is drawn on a quest similar to an adventure you could find Holmes, attempting to solve, He and Topper a Takian living in New York has a problem with a personal theft.

David Berkowitz says

If you have not read any Wild Cards books, this is not the place to start. Get a copy of Wild Cards #1. If you are hooked on the series after that, follow it with Aces High and then Jokers Wild. After those you can read the books in pretty much any order and have enough background to follow the stories. There is some small advantage to reading them in order, but it isn't a requirement.

Deuces Down is a return to the original Wild Cards concept. It is a collection of novellas that take place in the shared Wild Cards universe. Later Wild Card books tended to tell a single story at novel length. The novellas do not make up a continuous story. Some characters from other Wild Card stories make appearances, but they are not the main characters. The main characters are all Deuces (in Wild Card parlance) meaning that they have supernormal abilities of a very minor nature. One character, for example, can make himself flat enough to slip under a door. But then his ability to move is extremely limited.

The art in each story is finding a way to make the character's deuce power useful. Although, in one story, the character's ability is totally irrelevant to what is essentially a beautifully written love story.

Recommended for fans of shared universe stories that are already familiar with the Wild Card series.

Arjen Schwarz says

This was the first book I read in the Wild Cards universe. As it consists of a number of short stories only connected through the global events in the universe I didn't read it in one go but took breaks between the various stories which probably impacted my experience of it.

Some of the stories were better than others, but on average they were pretty good and allowed me to enjoy them without needing to read any of the other books. The universe itself is very interesting, and I'll probably check out some more of the in the future.

Luci says

Some of the stories were good but I think because it wasn't a mosaic novel (where all of the stories move towards a cohesive end) it didn't really pull me in. I liked a few of the stories but in the end I am glad I did not pay more than three dollars for it and that it wasn't my introduction to the series as a whole.

Michael says

Read some of this series when I was living in London in the early 1990's.

An odd and uneven series with each short story written by a different author.

A good, dark and dirty universe, but seems not to have a strong coherent through line of story or purpose.

Worth reading one book in the long and disjointed series to see if you enjoy them. This is as good a place as any to start.

Ivan says

These are cute stories -- some make you think differently, some have a bit of texture. For some reason this series appears in unrendered XHTML for me. For some other reason, that's not a huge barrier for me, other than my cringing at strange markup styles, wasted elements, poor spacing, and, oh yeah, images. I liked it but I'll be happy to take my angle bracket goggles off.
