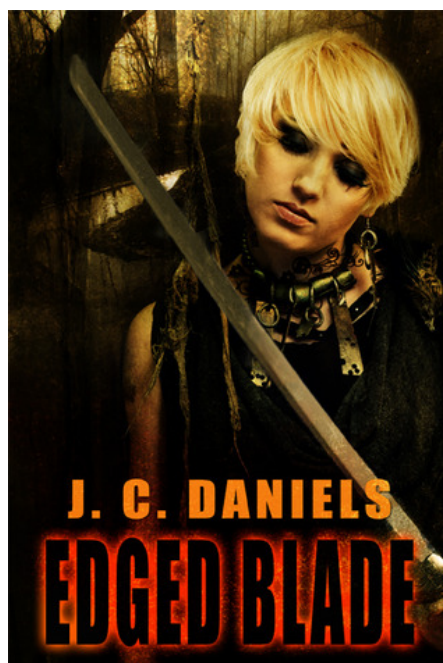




Edged Blade

J.C. Daniels

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When her best friend Justin comes to her for help, there's little question as to what her answer will be. Witches are disappearing and Justin won't rest until he has answers. Soon, they learn that it's not just witches who've gone missing, but vampires and shifters, too.

Unlikely alliances are forged as Kit and Justin found themselves drawn into a twisted web of lies and betrayal. As the clock counts down and the culprit behind recent disappearances is revealed, those Kit loves the most become the target of somebody who will kill to protect an ugly secret.

Edged Blade Details

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Author : J.C. Daniels

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From Reader Review Edged Blade for online ebook

Patti TheLoveJunkee says

PJV Quickie: If you've been looking for that 'Next Great Series' and you want shapeshifters and vampires and a kick-ass heroine, look no further: J. C. Daniels' Colbana Files is just what the book-doctor ordered, and Edged Blade is a fabulous installment to this ongoing series. (4 1/2 stars)

Review:

Kit Colbana is a half-human, half-aneira (kind of Amazonian) private investigator (and occasionally assassin-for-hire). Her BFF Justin (a witch) has come to her with concerns about missing witches. As their investigation intensifies, they realize it's not just witches but other non-humans as well. Of course the mystery is bigger than they thought, and while Kit is willing to risk it all to save her friends, Damon is less enthusiastic about risking losing her again. To solve this case, she's going to work with the vampires, and then things get even more complicated when one of missing is Damon's ex-girlfriend, who disappeared while she was on her way to see Damon...

~~~~~

For those who don't know, J. C. Daniels is actually Shiloh Walker. I did not know that when I picked up Book 1, Blade Song. I started reading J. C. Daniels' Colbana Files in December 2014 (I'm late to the party, I know!), and I fell in love with this series. Other reviewers have noted a similarity to Kate Daniels, and while there are some similarities, the Colbana Files stand on their own merit. I devoured the first three books, back-to-back, in less than a week. And after the ending in Book 3, I had to get my hands on book 4, had to. I was not disappointed. There is a big underlying story arc is happening over a few books, so while there is a conclusion to the main part of the story, Kit's still working on a much bigger end-game. So Edged Blade kind of felt like a 'bridge' book, but with essential plot, if that makes sense. The last page left me re-reading the last line, thinking "oh snap!"

J. C. Daniels writes great action, but she really writes the emotions of her characters really well, and that's what keeps bringing me back. Kit's still damaged from previous books, and parts of Edged Blade are painful to read, but there's a hope, and a refusal to give up, that I really love about these books. The romance is not the main focus of this series, but it is an important part of Kit's character growth; not that she needs a man to love her, but that because of her respect for him, she sees the good things in herself that he sees (if that makes sense). Note: if you're in this series for the romance, you won't be disappointed. Just sayin'...

I also love that Kit is loyal to her friends, and they are loyal to her. Her witchy bff Justin, and Damon's nephew Doyle are two of my favorite characters and I'm hoping that as the series progresses we'll be seeing much, much more from them.

#### Recommendations:

I really think that fans of Ilona Andrews' Kate Daniels series, or Patricia Briggs' Mercy Thompson series will enjoy J. C. Daniels' Colbana Files. If you haven't read the previous books in the series, I would not recommend starting with Edged Blade - start from Book 1, Blade Song, because this series is that good.

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### Merve Özcan says

It was boring as hell. I was very anxious over the story. Waited for it a year.

spoiler

The pace was slow, it was not going deeper and the end was cliffhanger. I loved it in the past but No more i feel the same emotions. I don't think i will go on to series. Shame.

Spoiler...

Damon is a joke and unlikely love triangle does not bode well with me. There was not even action to read.

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## **Feminista says**

Rating: 4.5 out of 5

Kit Colbana has had a rough past year. Make that two.

It all started when a big self-assured cat walked in to her office. Not all of it was bad, of course. The same cat became her lover, mate?, her forever. But then disaster struck her in the form of an evil vampire and nothing has been the same since then.

Kit is on the road to recovery. Her relationship with Damon starts of tentative but I do love their development in this series.

The one thing I did not appreciate was the inclusion of Shannelle and her non-official role in the plot, let's put it that way. I didn't like seeing a repeat of Megan happening. Nevertheless, the only saving grace was Damon's reaction to her and his unequivocal and unmistakeable 'no' to her, and let's not forget Kit herself. I liked how she handled t.

ARC Courtesy of NetGalley and Shiloh Walker inc. - J.C.Daniels

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## **Meigan says**

In Edged Blade, readers get to see a stronger, more intact Kit Colbana. Shattered by an abduction and subsequent torture by a ruthless vampire, Kit's journey to being entirely reconstructed is still very much an ongoing process. Slowly but surely, the Kit we've all fallen in love with is making her way back to herself, piece by piece. Of course, it helps to have the support from someone like Damon :)

Kit is back to work full-force alongside her new partner, Justin. When word gets out that NH's from all species are disappearing, Kit, Justin, and several surprising allies travel to Georgia to figure out the how's and the why's of the disappearances. With very little solid information to rely on, most of their journey is typical of the normal cases Kit takes on -- unknown enemies with danger seemingly around every corner. This is compounded by the fact that Kit has many a run-in with vampires during this latest case. She's never wholly trusted vampires, as one never really should, but her distrust has really put her on edge around every single one, friend or foe.

While most of the story in Edged Blade revolved around Kit and her job, I was super happy to have more Kit and Damon interaction. After the events of Kit's heinous ordeal, they both weren't in a great place, physically or emotionally. Together, they make up the bulk of what I enjoy about this series. They are both so very dynamic in their personalities, but despite the both of them being strong, they do have some of the same struggles and inner weaknesses. In this installment, more of Damon's struggles from his past were revealed

and it was nice to see that his life wasn't easy either, just like Kit's, and now they have even more of a connection to one another.

There is one thing that does bother me about this series and it really started with book 3. In the first two books of this series, Daniels had created a Florida/Orlando/East Orlando that was pretty solidly built. Solid enough that I quickly grew comfortable navigating this fictional world. In the third book, Broken Blade, Daniels decided to introduce technology and futuristic gadgetry that wasn't present in the first two books. She really took that original world and instead of building upon it, it seemed like she decided what she originally created wasn't what she wanted in terms of world-building after all. That really threw me out of the story with that third book and I'm sorry to report, she does it yet again with Edged Blade. The first three books, cell phones were cell phones. As of the fourth book, some are now "palm units". And now she has cars that go from road to air at the push of a button, which is also completely new. Personally, I think if an author wants a futuristic world, then make it that way from the beginning. Don't wait until there are a few books out in a series to totally repaint the world, at least that's how it feels to me. I also know that it's the author's world, their creation, and they have the right to do as they see fit. So while this aspect will niggle at me each and every time I start a new Colbana Files book, it's not enough to turn me off of the series altogether.

3.5 stars rather than 4 because of my irritation with the constant introduction of new elements with each new book. Still, it's a series I recommend to lovers of UF who like a strong heroine, written by an author who isn't afraid to rip her characters to pieces, much to the horror and delight of the readers. Daniels sure knows how to make readers feel and feel strongly alongside these characters, and I look forward to that with each new installment.

\*\*eARC received on behalf of the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **RachelW (BamaGal) says**

4.5 very strong stars. Now this is UF the way it's meant to be written, and EDGED BLADE is the best book of the 'Colbana Files' series so far. Great wordbuilding, nonhuman characters that are not stock stereotypes, and a really good storyline.

Kit is finally getting back on track with her life and her romance with Damon, alpha of the cat clan, after her horrific captivity and torture. Her good friend, the warrior witch Justin, has pulled her into his current case. He is investigating the disappearance of stray nonhumans, and needs Kit's particular skill set to help in his search.

The story kept my full attention from beginning to the (unfortunate) to-be-continued ending. Must have the next book now! The twist at the end, and finding out the secret of 'Blackstone' has me dying for the next book. I also really enjoyed the unique take J. C. Daniels has on shifters, vamps, and witches. I'm now looking at all three types of nonhumans in a new light. It's like a breath of fresh air in a set-in-its-way UF genre.

This is a UF series I'm really enjoying, and is getting better by the book...

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## Jackie says

### Book Info

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## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

In the year since her life was torn apart, Kit Colbana has slowly rebuilt herself. There's a promise of hope in the relationship with the alpha of the local shapeshifters and she no longer comes screaming into wakefulness. Life's not perfect but then again, when was it ever?

When her best friend Justin comes to her for help, there's little question as to what her answer will be. Witches are disappearing and Justin won't rest until he has answers. Soon, they learn that it's not just witches who've gone missing, but vampires and shifters, too.

Unlikely alliances are forged as Kit and Justin found themselves drawn into a twisted web of lies and betrayal. As the clock counts down and the culprit behind recent disappearances is revealed, those Kit loves the most become the target of somebody who will kill to protect an ugly secret.

## **My Thoughts**

Late June of 2012 my first encounter with Kit in Blade Song (Colbana Files #1) piqued my interest in learning more about her sassy character so when got the chance in 2013 to read book 2 Night Blade (Colbana Files #2) grabbed on to it and was stunned at how much it emotionally impacted me as it wound to a close.

Book 3, Broken Blade (Colbana Files #3) however changed the game even further as it is when Kit solidly won me over to her corner by showing the solid core of inner strength that I admire in a make believe character just as much as do in a real life person.

Book 4, Edged Blade (Colbana Files, #4) changed the game again as Kit slowly emerges from the darkness to shine almost as brightly as she did in the beginning. In some ways all the travails that she faced in her youth forged the steel in her spine and in her mind that somehow carried over helping her to begin to fully overcome the trauma that she suffered almost a year ago at the hands of someone she never expected to would brutalize her body and soul.

My hopes for Kit and Damon were realized, my hope for Kit to recover her sense of self is slowly throughout this book brought to realization and the direction that we are headed with the setup for book 5 is one that I heartily am on board with.

All in all the series has more than fulfilled my expectations with each new book and with each step of Kit's journey she earns her place once again as one of my favorite female leads in Urban Fantasy genre!

The bonus Novella Hunt Me published in 2011 and included after this book was a nice sexy short read that was a welcome surprise, Drew and Dakota were very well matched physically as well as mentally.

*[EArc from Netgalley in exchange for honest review]*

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## Ferdy says

### 2.5 stars - Spoilers

Fairly enjoyable. The world was pretty fun and most of the characters were entertaining, but everything was rather formulaic and predictable.

-*Edged Blade* was the usual kind of investigation-of-the-week type plot with a bunch of non humans getting kidnapped and Kit and co rescuing them and fighting off the bad-guys-of-the-week.

-Even though I quite liked the world, it felt similar to the *Kate Daniels* series (only nowhere near as good) and other UF books.

-Kit and Damon were a crappy version of Kate/Curran. Kit was a likeable enough heroine, but she was rather generic on the whole. Damon on the other hand was plain irritating, the way he treated Kit in past books and his over the top alpha-ness completely put me off his character. I was actually hoping him and his clichéd personality would just die so that Kit would be free of his annoying presence.

-I didn't buy Kit being more or less back to normal again when it came to her relationship with Damon. It was as if his betrayal and her torture was swept under the rug, she had a nightmare or two but other than that she was back to fangirling over Damon and being full on with their relationship.. Which just ended up making her past torture/rape seem like cheap, temporary drama.

-I rolled my eyes at the whole Shanelle thing, I'm so sick of the jealous ex-girlfriend plot. They're always portrayed as desperate and bitchy, it's such lazy, shallow writing. And it all does is make the hero look like a fool for being involved with a person like that in the first place.

-Kit rarely interacted with other female characters, the few women that she was around were either awful in some way or forgettable.

She spent pretty much all her time with male characters (Damon, Chang, Abraham, Justin, Doyle), she was friendly with them and respected them and cared about them, she didn't really feel that way about any female character. Colleen was the only one she half respected but even then she was meaningless compared to the guys.

-The ending was kind of cheesy with the president turning up to get Kit's help.

-The grammar was poor and there were sentences that didn't always flow very well. Also, I had to keep re-reading parts to see if I'd missed something because characters, objects and other things would pop up all of sudden when they'd been no hint of them before. It made for irritating reading.

All in all, it was an easy, pleasing enough read but there was no originality or surprises whatsoever, it was just the usual sort of Urban Fantasy world, plot and characters.

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## **Mara says**

<4

There's more than one reason why this series is on my autobuy, pre-order list since the beginning (yes this time too).

I fell in love with Kit by book one, and she has never disappointed me. She represents every thing I love in UF: a good story, great world, nuanced characters and, yes, a strong woman.

Edged Blade is everything I wanted and something less :) I have bowed more than once to Ms Daniels' ability to centre my desires. She has given me a strong, real woman (yes in a fantasy setting it's not powers I'm talking about). A woman that of course can be defeated (and is), but who is able to spring back. And a real one as yes it takes time, no blue-pill-like way to do it. It's difficult, it's a long way, but it can be done.

Edged Blade story revolves around NH kidnappings, but it's mostly the story of how a woman fights back to regain her life. Kit survived hell, and now she's fighting to avoid bringing that same hell in to her life every time she sees a vamp.

It's always a surprise realizing Kit is not human, and doesn't think as one. She see us as the others, and you get a jolt every time remembering that well she sees you as somewhat less. [Yes, I realize I got my head too much into this world....]

I particularly loved how Ms Daniels played my expectations, turning them against me. (view spoiler)

Now what I didn't like that much. Bloody hell, a damn cliff-ending! Well, kind of it's a to be continued, but still. In my case I was irritated by the sudden appearance of it. A reading experience is based on some expectations, and length is part of this set. I was extremely surprised to see that when the end came there was still 20% of the book left. I really did not expect it and had a WTH moment :)

I've seen no mention of the next book on Ms Daniels' site. Damn, we'll have to wait a year... again.

*Arc courtesy of author via Netgalley*

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## **TJ says**



Another great installment - much like it's predecessors in plot-line pattern. In this case, Kit is strong again but still not whole. Her relationship with Damon is getting back to scrumptious - slowly - and the mystery/suspense is as addicting as each of Ms. Daniels previous offerings.

As this is the 4th in the series, however, I am noticing a few things that I need to mention. Although I continue to give the books 4 star ratings, the technical aspect of the writing isn't as tight as it could be. There are quite a few threads in the story that have huge holes in them or are completely left and forgotten. At first I thought they might be picked up and finished in books to come but - nope. Although those forgotten threads are annoying, the overall storytelling is still top notch. So, if you can overlook the small stuff, the big stuff is awesome!

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### **Jilly says**

I'm not going to get into a big ol' review on this book because the story was kind of boring. There was waaay too much about Kit and Damon's relationship - which I hate. Damon is a total jerk who has never shown me any reason for Kit to be so crazy about him. I need to at least LIKE the book-boyfriends. Damon is a big ol' nope in my book.

So, instead, I will take this time, right before Halloween, to say to my beloved sister-females: don't be one of those girls, like Kit, who needs to dress-up for Halloween as the slutty-whatever. Kit goes to a party as slutty Tinkerbelle, and I say this needs to stop! Girls, why do we have to be slutty for Halloween? Why can't we dress up as dignified nurses, maids, and pirate wenches? As a matter-of-fact, why do we have to dress up as these characters who are only supposed to serve men's fantasy lives while they can dress up however-the-hell they want? Do you think they worry about showing enough skin in their costumes?

why is this fair? She's going to totally catch a cold!

I don't think this is standard issue.

And, that's my feminist rant for the day. Stay tuned tomorrow for my rant about Disney movies poisoning young girls' minds.

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### **Denisa says**

Not bad but not too good either...

This series isn't looking up for me.

This time the focus was the relationship, not so much the action, so I think I'll probably forget what happened here in a few weeks (days?).

But seriously, this was a pretty forgettable book. Too bad too, because it seemed to be a promising series, but after the first two books it all went downhill for me. I have no idea if I'll read the next one.

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## Shelley says

\*\*I received this book for free from (Shiloh Walker, Inc.) via (NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.\*\*

\*Genre\* Paranormal Romance

\*Rating\* 3-3.5

\*My Thoughts\*

J.C Daniels, in case you haven't had a chance to read this series yet, is the pen name for Shiloh Walker. Daniels series features Aneira warrior, assassin, thief, and investigator Kit Colbana. Kit lives in East Orlando where vampires, witches, and shifters all call home. Kit has had her fair share of trouble over the past year, and is just now getting back to where she once was. She still has some issues with PTSD, but anyone who has been kidnapped, tortured, and held prisoner would feel the same way.

\*Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

\*Recvd 12/24/2014 via NetGalley\* Expected publication: February 3rd 2015 by Shiloh Walker, Inc.

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## Kelly says

You know when something is painful to watch, but you do it anyway and you know it's needed, but you HURT for the person all the same. That's pretty much how I felt at the beginning of this book. The events in book 2 shattered Kit and it was a slow, heartbreaking journey in book 3 as she put herself back together and learned to trust again. Now she's ready to move forward, but those around her are trying SO HARD not to hurt her it's almost holding her back.

\*sniffles a little at Damon's fears and his obvious love for his mate\*

I LOVED that Kit was the one to push. Where book 3 had her friends pushing her to draw her back into the world, she's the one putting herself out there now. She's the one asking for more. She's the one ready to move forward. That she was able to interact with vampires without going into a panic attack said a lot about how far she's come.

As painful as what was done to her was, I'm thoroughly enjoying watching her pick up the pieces and see that she's far stronger than she ever thought she was.

As for the case she dives into in this book, the answers Kit finds only pose more questions. There's a lot of world out there and plenty of terrible people (human and non-human alike) are skulking about waiting to pounce.

I'm seriously tempted to go back to the beginning and have my heart ripped out all over again (not literally!) because these books make me feel SO MANY THINGS. \*slow thumbs up\*

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

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## **Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says**

Opening a few months after the conclusion of the previous title, Edged Blade continues with Kit's recovery from her abduction and torture at the hands of an evil vampire (Blade Song). While the majority of Kit's journey finding her way back to life after her horrible experiences were chronicled in the previous book, Night Blade, I was glad that Kit still isn't (and never will be) her old self. This is one area that the book and story excels; Kit was broken and now she must come to terms with how to live her life under a new set of rules.

Kit and her lover/mate Damon, alpha of the powerful Southern Cat Clan, share some amazing moments throughout Edged Blade. Both are uncertain and awkward, yet full of desire and love. Ms. Daniels continues to skillfully put the pieces back together for this pair, allowing them to safely express concerns and share their feelings. The scenes focusing on Kit and Damon's relationship were by far my favorite parts of the story.

Unfortunately, I had issues with much of the rest of the book. Kit's good friend (and former lover), Justin, pulls her into a case involving several missing non-humans who have mysteriously vanished. This case is not straight-forward and left me constantly trying to understand what was going on. In fact, I had to re-read and/or go back to find a scene for clarification at least a dozen times. Time after time, scenes would begin or change, leaving me unsure as to what had just happened. At one point in the story, Damon's second (and good friend of Kit), Chang, says to Kit "Saves time when I don't have to connect the dots." But the problem for this reader is that I DO NEED help connecting the dots. Too often Kit makes connections that I just don't see, causing confusion and making it hard for me to follow and enjoy the story.

In addition to my confusion was the frustration of what appears to be yet another female jealous of Kit and her relationship with Damon. While this particular storyline is a bit different from previous one, it was too similar, making me angry to see it happen again, especially with Kit and Damon finally healing deep wounds. Also, there were a couple of side storylines that seemed to have potentially serious impacts to Kit and/or the Cat Clan, yet weren't followed up on after initially mentioned.

In the end, other than seeing Kit recovering and her relationship with Damon healing, I didn't care much for Edged Blade. I felt lost and all over the place far too often, with questions constantly plaguing my enjoyment. Even after finishing, I was still trying to sort out the pieces and realizing that this was just the first chapter in a bigger story arc. The story had a strong transition feel, and I do not suggest anyone start the series with this book. I am grateful to the author in her handling of Kit and that she still isn't the same Kit she was before her kidnapping and torture. But moving from stories focused on Kit to some HUGE conspiracy event, left this reader frustrated with an abrupt ending and many loose ends.

My Rating: C

Review copy provided by author

Originally posted at That's What I'm Talking About

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## Hannah (fullybookedreviews) says

I think this is the best of the series so far. Things are getting tense, with strange disappearances involving all the paranormal species in East Orlando, and naturally Kit, our investigator MC, ends up right in the thick of things.

Right from the beginning, I haven't been a fan of the male love interest, Damon -he's a typical alpha male, he-man - sniffing around Kit, questioning what men she's been around, extremely possessive - but only because its in his shifter nature, etc. \*eyeroll\* This behaviour doesn't fly with me. I will admit that he's gotten better as the series goes on, and is far more chilled now, but I would be remiss if I didn't point out how problematic this kind of behaviour is.

The only part that redeems it for me is that Kit is no pushover. She stands up to him, makes it clear she has a job to do and won't let him stop her, and specifically tells him that he cannot speak for her.

*"You do not speak for me." He opened his mouth and I whirled on him, driving my finger into his chest. "Ever."*

Kit is a ballsy character - she has been hurt many times in her life, and is tough as nails, but still retains her compassion and will go as far as it takes to protect her loved ones or the vulnerable who need help.

The book also deals with Kit's PTSD, and her recovery from her ordeal at the end of book two. While it's quite jarring to read as Kit relives her trauma night after night, I admire the realism - i.e. Kit isn't magically cured after a good month or two or some boyfriend lovin'. It's something she has to constantly deal with.

I also don't like the constant pitting of strong females against each other - with Sam and Megan in previous books, and Shannelle in this one - they are always in a power play over Damon - I mean, really ladies? Let's have strong female characters who don't feel the need to hiss and snarl over a man. Bechdel test FAILED.

Nevertheless, for all my complaints, I find this series entertaining.

*ARC received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Quotes taken from an uncorrected proof and may change prior to publication.*

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