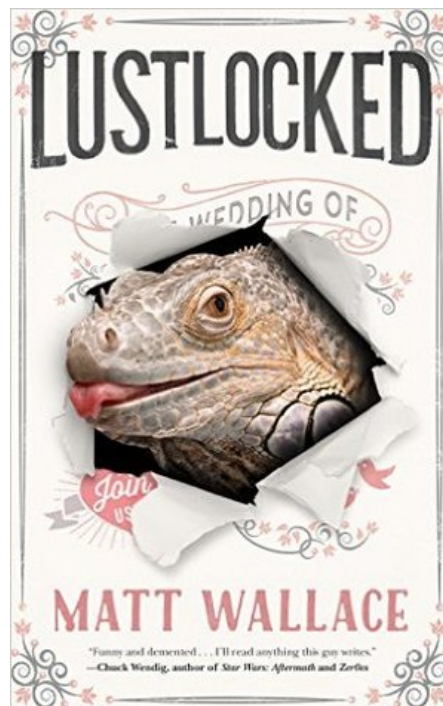




Lustlocked

Matt Wallace

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At a Goblin Royal Wedding party a magical food additive turns the humans in the room into horny 6 foot lizards, and all they want to do is have sex.

With anything. For as long as they can.

And as being screwed to death isn't something that interests Sin du Jour staff, something must be done, but the building's magical defences have kicked in, sealing off access to the outside world.

Lustlocked Details

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From Reader Review Lustlocked for online ebook

Bradley says

Very lighthearted fun. I mean, what else can you expect from a humorous fantasy featuring the feast of a goblin wedding from an error-laden crew of fantasy chefs that just happen to set off a horribly unfortunate scene of a magical sexy-time?

The real treat is in the details, and there's plenty to love. Can you imagine that the goblins are actually the beautiful people? That the Goblin King is the very one we just recently lost, for real, and sadly? Not Prince. The other one. ; ; It put a slight damper on my enjoyment, understandably enough, but it was charming and appropriate.

Even the scary bits with blood and screaming was light-hearted. Or maybe that's just me. :)

The bonus story to the text pulled off what would otherwise be a hard-pressed adventure into the realms of magic and mahem, of discovering warriors and defeating armies... but in all actual fact, it was just the attempt to fill out the regimen of chefs and servers. It filled quite a bit of backstory for me, since I had not read the first book in the series.

I got this copy as a promotion, but even so it was quite fun and quite worth reading. I do rather wish I had read the first, but alas, no chance just now. On the bright side, I did just get the Netgalley arc for book 3, so onward and upward and let's see what kind of dish will make the princess cry or destroy the kingdom. :) These *are* rather delightful and fraught with peril. :)

Megalion says

I discovered this series when I received an ARC for the 3rd book. I decided to start from the beginning.

See my review on Pride's Spell for my general thoughts and impressions about the series from the 3 book binge read.

Most important one being that in many ways this series feels like a mashup of Spider Robinson's Callahan's Saloon series and Robert Asprin's M.Y.T.H. series in style and comic timing. The first is considered science fiction. The latter is fantasy. Sin Du Jour falls between. Directly on the line between urban fantasy and speculative fiction.

If you like silly madcap adventures, this is for you even if urban fantasy isn't your thing.

Books are a fast enjoyable read.

In this one, the newcomers on the line find out that goblins have gotten a bad rap. They're not at all what lore makes them out to be.

Oh really? Then what are they really like?

The answer is hilarious and clever.

Carol. says

It's been awhile since I read any entries in the "Deadly Sins" series, so I had forgotten just how short a novella can feel. With that in mind, Wallace is heavy on the plotting and a little shy on world-building and character-building. Although he introduces characters from the first book, details on most are a little bit light, except for our nominal 'normal' lead of Cindy, introduced in the first book and still dealing with the mental fallout of the job. At any rate, I thought it went quicker than the first, *Envy of Angels*, with less bizarre action. Um, scratch that.

What was awkward to me was the introduction of a seriously famous person as a side character without saying the celebrity's name, but including all the other details to give fans knowledge. I'm not sure why, to be honest. Then when the musician's children became part of the story, it was even weirder, because it diverted from real life. I feel like if you are going to borrow from real people/events, then it should be an 'all in' situation--either you embrace it with inclusions of famous references (and risk dating the book) or you are vague enough that it won't matter.

All that said, it was more fun than I expected. Wallace's 'Sin' series has one novella per sin, set in a obscure catering firm that does jobs for paranormal creatures. (My review for the first here). Given that, I was hesitant to start 'lust,' fearing a slicked-up orgy as centerpiece, but I should have trusted Wallace to put his own bizarre yet entertaining spin. Although a little weird in the plot development, it gave time for progress in Cindy's character, as well as a few side characters we hadn't met yet. Besides, as the origins to the disaster came out of good intentions (whoops! You know what they say about that and the road to Hell), it's nice to have a positive message.

The e-book edition also contained the short story 'Small Wars,' which details how the ingredients for the main course were procured. It makes much more sense now, and should have just been included with the novella.

Tammy says

The nitty-gritty: Another hilarious entry into the *Sin du Jour* world, with some of the funniest dialogue I've ever read.

"Are you guys almost done down there?" he asks the impossibly small piece of composite concealed in his right ear. "I'm fuckin' bored."

"Us 'guys' are rigging the final charge now," Cindy's irritated voice answers him over the

earpiece.

“Sorry,” he says. “Folks. People. Whatever. Nonoffensive gender neutral pronoun. When did you graduate from Feminist Police Academy, Cindy?”

“Words matter.”

If you’re in the mood for a quick and entertaining story, and especially if you appreciate absurd humor, then grab a copy of **Lustlocked** as soon as you can (Better yet, start with **Envy of Angels** so you don’t miss any of the hilarity!) As I’ve mentioned before, humor doesn’t always work for me. It’s got to be just right. But somehow, Matt Wallace gets me, and I’m sure thousands of other readers. This time around, the chefs of Sin du Jour, a very special company that caters to the supernatural realm, is preparing to serve the wedding of the century: the wedding of the goblin prince, who just happens to be marrying a human girl named Bianca. As you can imagine, things do not go as planned, and before long the wedding reception has devolved into nightmarish shenanigans.

Newbies Darren and Lena, whose first assignment with Sin du Jour took place in **Envy of Angels**, are now full members of the team and ready for their next job. As they prepare thousands of hors d’oeuvres for the wedding guests—making sure to separate the human food from the goblin food—something goes wrong, and before you know it, all the human guests have turned into giant, sex-crazed lizards. With the wedding reception in shambles, it’s going to take every member of the team to set things right before things get, well, even *more* out of hand.

One of my favorite things about this story is the conceit that goblins are all famous Hollywood actors and musicians, and I’m *pretty* sure I know who the goblin king is, from this description:

His hair, which has gone through so many famous and kaleidoscopic changes on decades of album covers, is now a simple, chemically flawless blond that falls loosely just past his ears.

The cast of characters is more or less the same from **Envy of Angels**, and Wallace gives us lots of funny banter that keeps this fast-paced story rolling along. These chefs have seen a lot, so even the unusual sight of giant lizards wreaking havoc doesn’t surprise them *that* much:

“What’s going on?” she asks.

“This giant lizard thing in a tux is trying to bone that dude from *Grey’s Anatomy*,” Pacific says, totally unfazed. “You know, the one with the hair.”

Wallace does a great job integrating the Hollywood elite into his story, while poking fun of them at the same time. The story takes “silly” to a new level, but I still enjoyed every crazy moment.

A short bonus story called ***Small Wars***, which was recently published on the Tor.com website (and you can read it for **free**, if you'd like a taste of Matt Wallace's writing!), appears after ***Lustlocked***, and tells the adventures of Sin du Jour's stocking and receiving department (Ritter, Moon, Cindy and Hara) as they attempt to find a critical ingredient for the wedding, a rare mineral called Welsh gold. I loved that Wallace takes this opportunity to use flashbacks to show how each member of the team was originally recruited by Ritter, and it reminded me of the *Firefly* episode *Out of Gas*, which does the same thing. Wallace has created a world that is rich with story possibilities, and I look forward with glee and anticipation to the next one.

Big thanks to the publisher for supplying a review copy. Above quotes were taken from an uncorrected proof, and may differ in the final version of the book. This review originally appeared on Books, Bones & Buffy

Rachel (Kalanadi) says

Really enjoyed this, more than the first one. It hit the spot this week and I knew what to expect with the voice and humor. All these characters are effed up and whacky, but not caricatures or stereotypes, and all are **very** distinct people.

I do think Wallace's style verges on telling instead of showing. Usually that is difficult for me to enjoy, but like I said, I think I knew what to expect with this one.

Based on the ending of Lustlocked, I'm hooked for Sin du Jour #3, because I **need** to know what this means for the crew!

Cathy says

Another good one, funny but not silly, very good characterization to balance out the action and fantasy.

Verushka says

What is this about?: Lustlocked is the second book in Matt Wallace's Sin Du Jour series, about a catering company that works for the supernatural. In this instalment Lena and Darren are back at Sin Du Jour and working for a Goblin King and his son's wedding. In case you missed book 1, Lena and Darren are the very normal, human newbies to this whole world and readers' POV into things.

What else is this about?: There's some progress on Lena and Darren's characters and an ending that kind of turns everything upside down, but it's mostly about learning about everyone at Sin Du Jour running around trying to save the day.

I don't think there's any real way to do the utter hilarity and deadpan humour in some cases of Lustlocked justice. It's the second in Matt Wallace's Sin Du Jour series, featuring the catering company to the supernatural and it's crew of staffers — including zombies as servers.

Despite the title, Lustlocked is as much about love as it is lust as the events of the story take place during a Goblin prince's wedding to his human bride. Naturally, goblins are utterly gorgeous creatures, most of whom work at the CW network and their shows, but they are making Bianca, the bride, and her family feel like outsiders, which is when Boosha steps in and makes everyone into fornicating monsters.

It really was an innocent mistake.

Overhearing the bride's lament about her husband-to-be's family, Boosha took it upon herself to add something extra special to the menu to incite lots and lots of love, and it backfired and incited lust and turned every human into monsters.

Lena and Darren are still our POV into this world and yes, still employed by Sin Du Jour, despite Lena's misgivings — and yes, her misgivings are continually expounded upon. But, hopefully the staff will wear her down! On the other end of the of the spectrum is Darren, non-critical and accepting of everything Sin Du Jour throws at him. There really is no middle ground between them and how they feel about the company, but it makes for a fun ride.

So, when everyone gets turned into monsters, a force field — or force of bricks come up around every building this occurs, accompanied by a Droopy Dog cartoon security system — for real and And somehow Wallace makes this all work! His imagination is a thing of wonder, I swear! Read this series and be prepared to laugh your butt off!

Maggie Gordon says

Lustlocked is a spin on a "sex pollen" story. These are narratives where characters, because of magical or crazy science reasons, end up compelled to have sex with one another. I find these sorts of stories incredibly gross because hello massive sexual violation. And yet they are usually played for laughs as they are in this volume. I like the Sin du Jour series. The characters are fun and the set-up offers up endless possibilities for an urban fantasy, but this was lazy. It was also frustrating to see from an author who seems to have a clue about social justice issues. But seriously, all the humans get forcibly turned into "lust lizards" who screw everything they see. Really not into that type of story, no matter what else is in there.

Michael Hicks says

Lustlocked is the second installment in Matt Wallace's Sin du Jour Affair series, which revolves around a New York catering company that caters to the supernatural elements of society.

In the previous book, *Envy of Angels*, the chefs and crew hosted a diplomatic dinner sponsored by a secret government agency in an effort to stave off war between two demonic groups. *Lustlocked* picks up on the heels of that event, as the company prepares to host a grand goblin wedding under the supervision of the Goblin King.

Yes, *that* Goblin King. In a fitting and sadly timely homage, Wallace gives us yet one more avenue to prove

the immortality of David Bowie's lasting legacy. Although at the time of Wallace's writing, Bowie was alive and well, and expected to remain so for quite some time. It's a sad fluke that *Lustlocked* just so happens to have released on heels of Mr. Bowie's death from cancer. This is, however, a wonderfully befitting bit of fan service toward not only Bowie's iconic character from the film *Labyrinth*, but of the iconic performer himself. It's a pleasure getting to "see" the King once more.

As with *Envy of Angels* and the short story, *Small Wars*, which acts an inbetweenquel, *Lustlocked* doses out the humor, providing a keen edge to the affairs and preventing the seriousness of the story from delving deeply in the morose and macabre. While preparing for the grandiose wedding of the goblin prince and his human bride-to-be, some shady bit of spell-casting goes wildly awry and leaves the human guests transformed into horny lizard creatures that threaten to hump to death the entire guest list.

Again, these books are crafted to be sheer entertainment, and Wallace maneuvers a peculiar tightrope with aplomb. This story could have drifted precariously into dark meanness, or perhaps a bit of weirdo erotica, but Wallace averts those traps and sticks to the fun and fantastical side of things, first and foremost. There's a certain *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* but for Netflix vibe here that I find really appealing. He also gives his characters brief moments to shine and continues to flesh out his cast in interesting ways, right up to its sucker-punch finale.

I am now feeling the long, heavy weight of the intervening months between now and June, when the third installment releases. I think it'd be a sin to miss what comes next.

Kdawg91 says

YET another home run by Mr Wallace, if you have not read *Envy of Angels*, fucking do it. It is a ton of fun and this keeps the fun and chaos at a demented and wild pace. Yes, I still don't like novellas, and yes, damnit.....I dropped what I was reading to read this and burnt through it like it was a crack rock and I had the itch for the pipe, so there!

No seriously, there is not nearly enough dark just wrong kind of fun in fantasy or scifi and this story and series has it in spades.

I am kind of down sick, so apologies for being short, but I made my point I think. Go give this man your monies!

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.com/2016/03/20/n...>

After the rip-roaring fun of *Envy of Angels*, I just couldn't wait to be back in Bronko's kitchen with all the gang. This time, things are really heating up as Matt Wallace serves up another course of humor-laden fare in *Lustlocked*, the second novella in the Sin du Jour series.

Having proved themselves on their first job, Lena and Darren are subsequently offered full-time employment by executive chef Byron "Bronko" Luck. Now all they have to do is survive the probationary period, which isn't as easy as it sounds, given the unusual nature of the catering company at which they work. Sure enough, no sooner have the junior chefs signed their names to the contract than Sin du Jour receives their next big

gig—a goblin royal wedding.

Unlike the mischievous, ugly and stooped creatures of folklore, Matt Wallace's goblins are actually beautiful and talented beings, which explains why so many of them have found success in Hollywood and the music industry. It's a star-studded night as all the goblin guests show up to the celebrations, excited to see their prince tie the knot with a human woman. As usual though, nothing at Sin du Jour ever goes as planned, and before long, giant lusty lizards are running amok through the wedding party, trying to have sex with everyone and everything. Let this one be a cautionary tale for us all: magic and love don't always mix.

Like the previous book, Lustlocked is another rollicking romp into the culinary world, urban fantasy style. Once again, our characters are thrown into the zaniest and most absurd situations you can think of, playing up the action and the laughs. Compared to the Envy of Angels though, the plot feels much simpler and less adroit, giving this sequel novella a throw-away vibe which leads me to believe that it won't stay with me as long. That said, I still had a great time with the story, which is no less entertaining for being shorter and less complex.

In fact, pacing is helped by the narrower focus, and we also don't jump around as much following multiple groups of characters in different places. While Envy of Angels featured several side plots starring the Sin du Jour's stocking and receiving department, the adventures of Ritter, Cindy, Hara and Moon are more integrated in Lustlocked. Fans of this unforgettable foursome need not fret though, for Matt Wallace makes it up to us by including a bonus story called Small Wars at the end of this novella. This was a free short published at the Tor.com website, revealing the origins of the team by explaining how they were all recruited and brought together by Ritter.

If a couple hours with a bite-sized, light-hearted urban fantasy novella sounds like a good time to you, then you need to check out the Sin du Jour series. Already I am excited for the next book Pride's Spell, which promises to be even more wild and bizarre. At this point, anything can happen...and you can bet I'm looking forward to the insanity.

Alexandra says

This story was provided to me by the publisher at no cost.

An amusing, light and fluffy story.

It's the second story to be set in the restaurant Sin du Jour, and I've not read the first; that didn't seem to be too much of a hindrance. I think I missed a little bit of the tension between characters (and initially I thought the two main characters were lovers, not housemates), but the cast is reintroduced well enough that I had no trouble following the various interactions.

The basic premise is that there's going to be a goblin wedding - well, the crown prince of goblin-dom is marrying a human - and this version of goblins is that they are the bright and beautiful... in fact most of them are Hollywood celebrities. You already know who the Goblin King is (yes, really, Wallace went There); I'm not entirely sure who the queen is meant to be: she's described as the most famous supermodel, and my mind went to Elle Macpherson, but maybe that's just because I'm Australian? Perhaps it could be Naomi Campbell? (ETA: Thoraiya tells me a certain Goblin King is married to supermodel Iman. Oops.) Anyway, such beautiful creatures naturally require an extravagant wedding aaaaaand then things go bad. Some of the story is around preparing for the wedding (goblins eat jewels, of course) and some of it is dealing with, um, rampaging lusty reptiles. So half almost cosy culinary fantasy, half magic/mayhem fantasy.

Don't read this for deep philosophical reflections. Do read this for a bit of banter, a bit of snark about celebrity, and people getting themselves out of sticky situations in amusing ways.

Daphne says

This series is so much fun! It's so twisted and strange. Dialogue is superbly done, and hits over and over again with some great lines that made me laugh. Looking forward to the 3rd in the series to be released in June.

Jason says

3 Stars

Lustlocked the second novella of the Sin du Jour series was a pretty big let down to me after the amazing and fresh first book, Envy of Angels. This one was simply too short. It definitely was lacking in Salt, a cardinal sin. The world that Matt Wallace has created could be so much more. I can only hope that he puts together a full length novel of magical cuisine and pastries.

Even though this book was not up to the standards set in book one, there is still a lot to like. Like others have said it is a combination of a Food Network show that would be made by National Geographic or even The Animal Planet, set inside a universe created by Tim Button. This is a food story first, a comedy second, and a horror show third. Together they are served up to perfection through witty dialogue and the writing of Wallace.

This is a fun read. There are many laugh out loud moments that will bust your gut. The story starts out fast without much back story or explanation and things get cooking from there. The action is funny. The situations are funny. The whole thing just comes across as being Damn cool. Lustlocked unfortunately was just one noted. It needed more sage. I loved the first book and look forward to more from Wallace but this one was just OK.

Eon ?Windrunner? says

The staff of Sin du Jour return for the wedding of a Goblin prince & his soon to be princess, however, as with most weddings, something goes wrong. What? *Your* wedding didn't have lusty lizards?

Recommended.
