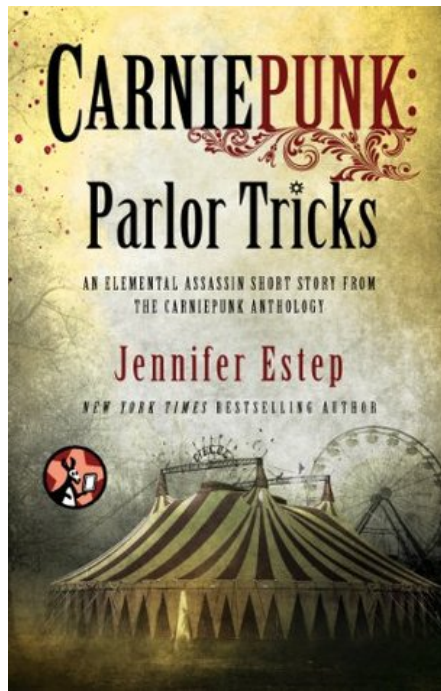




Carniepunk: Parlor Tricks

Jennifer Estep

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Carniepunk: Parlor Tricks Jennifer Estep

Come one! Come all! Witness Gin Blanco—aka the Elemental Assassin, aka the Spider—go toe to toe against the Esmerelda the Amazing's Wheel of Death and some dangerously creepy clowns! Only at The Carnival of Wondrous Wonders!

A free story from the forthcoming *Carniepunk* urban fantasy anthology starring bestselling authors Rachel Caine, Jennifer Estep, Kevin Hearne, Seanan McGuire, and Rob Thurman, and also includes Delilah S. Dawson, Kelly Gay, Mark Henry, Hillary Jacques, Jackie Kessler, Kelly Meding, Allison Pang, Nicole D. Peeler, and Jaye Wells. Samples of all fourteen tales are included to tantalize and to tease. Come to the *Carniepunk* midway and explore the creepy, mysterious, magical world of traveling carnivals today!

Carniepunk: Parlor Tricks Details

Date : Published June 3rd 2013 by Pocket Star

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Author : Jennifer Estep

Format : Kindle Edition 66 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Short Stories, Magic



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From Reader Review Carniepunk: Parlor Tricks for online ebook

Netanella says

I read this for the "Elemental Assassin" novella story, "Parlor Tricks" only. The rest of this particular collection featured samples of other authors, which I skimmed over. As I am bingeing this series, there is no current need for me to branch out to others.

"Parlor Tricks" is a neat bag of ... well, tricks, as it is the first story to feature Gin and her little sister, the cop Bria, on a mission together. They decide to spend the day a carnival that's come into town, and discover that a local teenaged girl has gone missing at the carnival just a day or two before. They decide to investigate it together, and quickly discover that there's a seedy underbelly to this particular travelling circus. As usual, it's good to see Gin in her element, *cough, cough*, and even better to see that Bria becomes a little bit morally ambiguous with her own dispensation of justice. All around, very nicely done.

Natalia Rox says

I enjoy picking up anthologies once in a while because you get to browse authors. I have done research to do into some new books, but the two authors I already love, Jennifer Estep and Rachel Caine had awesome short stories included.

I am a fan of Estep's elemental assassin series and experiencing Gin Blanco somewhere as normal as a carnival was a treat. it's her usual save the day kind if story, but hey she does it so well, why the hell not?

pick up a copy (hint Amazon's kindle store has it for free....)

Angie ? says

This was really to short; it could have been a nice little adventure for the gang. But it was Gin and it was fun.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Loved seeing Gin and Bria working side by side. This really is turning into a favorite series of mine.

Kelly says

Gah! Clowns. Why'd there have to be clowns? I think I need to cultivate Gin's scowl to make them run away if they get too close. Or just wear a handful of knives on me at all times.

So. Gin and Bria are looking for a missing girl. Bad things happen. Gin gets to kill folks. I love that part. I also love that Gin unabashedly chows down on corn dogs and cotton candy. I approve of BOTH those things. *thumbs up* all around. Well, except for the clowns. They get a thumbs DOWN.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Parlor Tricks was a free Kindle book I downloaded on 06/03/13 for the Why Buy the Cow? reading challenge.

Barbara says

Parlor Tricks by Jennifer Estep - a short story featuring Gin Blanco from her Elemental Assassin series which is one of my favorite series, so of course I adored it. It involved Gin and her sister Bria attending a carnival while looking for a missing girl. I loved the way Gin and Bria worked together to defeat the villains.

Sharon ♡ is an emotional book junkie ♡ says

♦ Only read Jennifer Estep's *Parlor Tricks* ♦

Gin ends up at a carnival when she agrees to help Bria search for a missing girl.

This very short story manages to evoke all the necessary elements that most carnivals have...from the creepiness of clowns and the swarminess of performers to the smells of all that wonderful, greasy and oh so healthy carnival food.

I loved reading about Gin and Bria together and even better is reading about them working a case together. They really do compliment each other and it was great seeing Bria have Gin's back.

The best part was Gin trying her hand at the Wheel of Death!

Favorite quote:

♦ "This old girl's still got it," I murmured, straightening back up. "Parlor tricks and all."

Shirley says

*I read **Carniepunk: Parlor Tricks** as part of the **Carniepunk Anthology** which I received in exchange for a fair and honest review.*

I should have known. I skipped this installment of Carniepunk when I read the book because I knew that I would soon be reading *Deadly Sting* and (when I'm paying attention) I like to keep my series reads in order. When I added *Deadly Sting* to my Bout-of-Books list I should have just thrown *Parlor Tricks* into the mix. Honestly, it was inevitable.

A perfect little glimpse into the Elemental Assassin world. I love Gin and having just her and her baby sister Bria featured in this short read was fun. Well as much fun as a scary, dangerous carnival can be. As per

usual, Gin dispenses her own brand of justice with her trusty blades, but this time she has a little help from her sister. There was even enough time in Parlor Tricks for some mouth watering food descriptions.

This one was short and sweet but still full of the wit, fun, danger and action that readers have come to expect from the Elemental Assassin series.

Steven says

I wish this one had been a little longer. I think it could have made a really awesome creepy mystery story for Gin and friends to solve. But it was fun even this short. :)

Experiment BL626 says

This short story was a delightful interlude in the Elemental Assassin series, one of my favorite-adjacent urban fantasy series. Unlike the many other short stories in the series that are flashbacks and, to be honest, rather dull backstory building, this one took place in the present and had a fair amount of action. It was more than I thought it was going to have. Nothing that happened in the story had an impact on the series at large or would necessitate a read if you're a follower of the series; it was only a slice of life story of a not-so-retired assassin, the series' star Gin Blanco.

In this short story, Gin helped her younger cop sister, Bria, search for a lost girl at a transient carnival where the victim was last seen. I liked the story fine up until the bad guys ambushed our heroines and they almost got killed. I would have preferred Gin and Bria to discover the truth and the bad guys through their investigation. Our kickass heroines were lucky the bad guys didn't kill them immediately. The Evil Gloating was cheesy but I admit it made the following asskicking gratifying.

The asskicking was my favorite part of the story, and I was ecstatic that Gin took no hesitation to magic up and magically whup their asses. Of course, she still used her special knives, her trademark weapon of assassination, but her super magic was what saved the day. I couldn't believe this short story seemed to display more magic asskicking from Gin than most of the main books. I've been hankering for this kind of action because the series is unfaithfully stingy with it. I was happy to receive a good lengthy one in this short story.

In Conclusion

I rate *Carniepunk: Parlor Tricks* 3-stars for I liked it. This is a short story from the Carniepunk urban fantasy anthology. You can get the individual short story for free as an ebook on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Be advised that half of the ebook is the *actual short story*, "Parlor Tricks," and the other half are excerpts of the other short stories offered in Carniepunk anthology. The free short story: good promotion. The excerpts taking up half of the ebook: bad promotion; publishers, don't do this.

Anyway, if you're looking for an urban fantasy appetizer as in-between read, this short story comes recommended. It's simple: search for missing girl. It's classic: good guys beat bad guys. It's free.

Melanie says

Great short story of Gin and Bria searching a carnival for a missing child. Things go exactly how you would expect with Gin at a carnival. Not a real long story, I read in about an hour.

Rose says

Loved this! From the first paragraph, the word Carnival appears. Jennifer Estep introduces the subject fast, and the story goes fast! I was sad to see it all end, but I loved Bria and Gin's character in Parlor Tricks. Wonderful.

Jessica ❀ ➡ Silverbow ➡ ❀ Rabid Reads-no-more says

There have been good Gin Blanco novellas, and there have been not so good Gin Blanco novellas. Parlor Tricks is one of the latter. It was too short for anything really interesting to happen and carnivals . . . well, carnivals are creepy.

Still, I love Gin and her "Ta da"s made it worth it.

Risco says

We've all heard of "chick flix", well now we have Menstrual manuscripts. I read this as a prelude to the full book which was on my list as a fan of Kevin Hearne. He should be embarrassed to be in this anthology with all these women discussing fashion as much as plot. There was only one male in the story and he was dumb, ugly, and totally controlled by....wait for it... a woman. And killed mercilessly byyou guessed it another woman. Talk about the dumb dude syndrome. If the author spent as much time telling the story as she did describing the clothing in minute detail, maybe I wouldn't have fallen asleep in the middle. Like: "country-fried clown wearing blue-and-white gingham coveralls, a blue shirt, and brown boots that were about five sizes too big"; "woman wore a short red ringmaster's coat over a ruffled white silk shirt and black satin short-shorts. Black tights encased a pair of black stiletto boots gave her a few more inches of height.....her tall black top hat"; "dressed in a sleeveless green silk shirt and black pants, but the most interesting thing about him was the black leather sash". The only guy in the story and "the most interesting thing about him" was his "black leather sash", wow! I felt like I was reading a cross between "Teen Magazine" and "Vogue".

This story of life sucking by the old from the young has been told in variation so many times from Dorian Gray to Star Trek, where, by the way, Dr. McCoy wore a snug pair of black trousers that were loose in both the seat and crotch as they gently fell over his knees to end in a mushroom form where they were tucked meticulously into his Federation issue black boots that zipped up the side and sported a medium height heel to accent the slightly pointed toes, the sporty, but practical trousers were complimented by a sometimes golden-beige and sometimes cornflower blue (never red - that meant you wouldn't make it to the next commercial) long-sleeved shirt/top adorned with piping about the collar and cuffs, the over told story line should be retired. GIVE IT A PASS

Scott says

A short story featuring Gin Blanco of Estep's Elemental Assassin (Spider) series. This was free on Nook, so I thought I'd give it a try, and it turned out to be an enjoyable, noir-ish, pretty well written tale, enough so that I'll be interested in checking into the series itself. The magic system described in this book was severely lacking in explanation, but I'm thinking maybe this is covered more so in depth in the actual Elemental Assassin books. A little too much focus on the "her hair was the color of", "her eyes looked like", but it fit the theme of the story, and Gin seems quite the bad ass heroine, so, makes up for it. The CarniePunk anthology looks to be a pretty interesting read, with several acclaimed authors represented, so I will be looking forward to that as well.
