



# BOOK REVIEW

Book Title	<b>Blue Angel</b>
Author	<b>Phil Williams</b>
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Stars	

Well, Phil Williams does it again with his second book in his Ordshaw series. In fact, I think I might have enjoyed this one even more.

This book retains the same light touch of humour mixed with relentless excitement and danger for our motley group of protagonists. Everyone continues to distrust each other, suspicion is rife. The Ministry for Environmental Energy becomes even more conniving, badly run and full of ignorance – so just like any branch of the civil service. Except now we've got politicians in London with even greater levels of these dubious qualities which manage to make things worse.

The Fae are as violent, aggressive and generally psychotic as before, we just meet more of them, their willingness to shoot first and not bother to ask questions later, is even more visible. That said, Letty is the stand-out character in this series. I love how everything she says begins with a foul-mouthed curse or an insult which combines so many original combinations of abuse, it astonishes me.

I described the humour as having a 'light touch' earlier, this is down to the whimsical tone of the narrative. It's refreshing in its wit, the ridiculousness of some of the situations – which can quickly turn into something dramatic. There's a scene in the MEE's offices that begins with amusing, typical-day-in-the-life monotony and then plunges headlong into an exciting, plunging-off-the-edge-of-a-cliff type of excitement. The relationships are the same. Everything is tinged with average normality, arguments based on minor resentments that flare up in stressful situations, distrust making someone suspect another of dirty deeds when there's no reason it. All irrational stuff that makes the human race what we are. And Phil Williams handles it all masterfully.

The fact that everyone distrusts each other, inevitably leads to a complicated tale. That's what I love about it. You never know what – or who - to believe just as you can't predict where things are going to go next in the story. Like the protagonists, you get dragged along into the next dramatic event without knowing why. I'm seriously impressed by the editing of a novel that can achieve that goal yet still make it a narrative you can follow without any trouble.

The next story in the series, *The Violent Fae*, cannot arrive fast enough for me. I can't wait to find out what happens to Pax and Letty next because it's obvious Ordshaw (and perhaps the world) has more secrets that it hasn't disclosed. And war with the Fae seems likely!