




BOOK REVIEW

Book Title	The Violent Fae
Author	Phil Williams
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Stars	

I know from experience that writing a trilogy is not only a massive undertaking, worse than that, it is equivalent to weaving a tapestry. A story made up of different threads that need to come together in just the right way so as to make sense to the reader. Plus, ensure it provides the right amount of satisfaction to reward the reader for sticking with the narrative.

It is not easy. But Phil Williams manages it. And does so with panache. He even makes it look easy. A crime, for which, I will never forgive him.

'The Violet Fae' never lets up on the action. The pace is furious. Tension exists in so many ways because the sources of threat exist at every narrative turn. Our protagonists, Pax, Letty and Sam Ward, are pushed to their respective limits and face danger in so many imaginative ways. Each time it happens it's because of the set-up established earlier in the story. Chickens are coming home to roost – and bringing their frightening, monstrous relations with them.

One factor that makes writing a trilogy so difficult, it to complete character arcs satisfactorily. It's the same challenge the Russo Brothers faced in the conclusion of The Avengers films, how do you ensure each character remains fully-formed yet doesn't slow the pace of the story with exposition? It's another success factor that Mr Williams achieves. Sam Ward is a good example. In the first book she is insecure, little more than an administration-freak who is too entrenched in a Ministry mind-set to fully appreciate the danger the Sunken City poses to the world.

In this third novel we see her gain confidence to stand up against her bullying boss, Obrington. She confronts and intimidates an executive of a powerful multinational company and survives a gun battle, albeit with the natural concern of someone who feels guilty for killing a man. She is so very normal and that is important. You see, like Pax at the start, we see this abnormal, chaotic, violent world through her eyes. We try to make sense of everything that's happening at the same time she does. Therefore we need to empathise with her, cheer her on too. Sam, like all the characters, is a realistic person in an unrealistic world. And what I love about these stories, the same is true for the Fae.

The Violent Fae is a wonderful, thrilling and highly imaginative conclusion to this trilogy and I'm so pleased that it looks like the door has not been closed to this world. I look forward to seeing where it goes next.