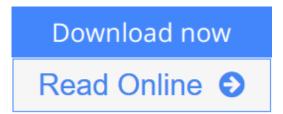


A Book of Tongues: Volume One of the **Hexslinger Series: 1**

By Gemma Files



A Book of Tongues: Volume One of the Hexslinger Series: 1 By Gemma Files

Black Quill Award Winner, Best Small Press Chill (2011)

Nominee for the 2011 Best Novel Spectrum Award

Two years after the Civil War, Pinkerton agent Ed Morrow has gone undercover with one of the weird West's most dangerous outlaw gangs-the troop led by "Reverend" Asher Rook, ex-Confederate chaplain turned "hexslinger," and his notorious lieutenant (and lover) Chess Pargeter. Morrow's task: get close enough to map the extent of Rook's power, then bring that knowledge back to help Professor Joachim Asbury unlock the secrets of magic itself.

Magicians, cursed by their gift to a solitary and painful existence, have never been more than a footnote in history. But Rook, driven by desperation, has a plan to shatter the natural law that prevents hexes from cooperation, and change the face of the world-a plan sealed by an unholy marriage-oath with the goddess Ixchel, mother of all hanged men. To accomplish this, he must raise her bloodthirsty pantheon from its collective grave through sacrifice, destruction, and apotheosis.

Caught between a passel of dead gods and monsters, hexes galore, Rook's witchery, and the ruthless calculations of his own masters, Morrow's only real hope of survival lies with the man without whom Rook cannot succeed: Chess Pargeter himself. But Morrow and Chess will have to literally ride through Hell before the truth of Chess's fate comes clear-the doom written for him, and the entire world.



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A Book of Tongues: Volume One of the Hexslinger Series: 1 By Gemma Files Bibliography

Sales Rank: #201854 in eBooks
Published on: 2012-04-10
Released on: 2016-12-30
Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A Pinkerton detective infiltrates a Wild West gang led by a spell-casting preacher in this boundary-busting horror–fantasy debut. Agent Ed Morrow is dispatched by a professor of magical research to evaluate the hexslinging abilities of Rev. Asher Rook, a renegade chaplain who survived his own hanging, and his lover, the prickly sharpshooter Chess Pargeter. As Morrow becomes part of the gang, the Aztec goddess Ixchel slowly seduces Rook into a bloody ritual marriage that endangers Pargeter and leads their followers down a road to hell. Files smoothly weaves an unusual magic system, Aztec mythology, and a raunchily explicit gay love story into a classic western tale of outlaws and revenge. Though it grows somewhat cumbersome in the leadup to a cliffhanger that demands resolution in the planned sequel, this promising debut fully delivers both sizzling passions and dark chills. (*May*)

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Review

Gemma Files writes her words and her images as deftly as a straight razor, slicing so surely that the reader is not even aware that the protective skin of his imagination has opened into two neatly divided flaps, (with) a few seconds of red grace before the pain comes and the screaming begins. ----Michael Rowe, editor of Queer Fear I and II

Boldly, brazenly, Gemma Files pushes her hands deep into the red and seeping unconscious places and finds the bits of treasure worth pulling back out into the light. ---- Caitlin R. Kiernan, author of THE RED TREE

About the Author

Gemma Files is a Canadian horror writer, journalist, and film critic. Her short story, 'The Emperor's Old Bones,' won the International Horror Guild Award. Five of her short stories were adapted for the television series, THE HUNGER.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Howard Martinez:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this A Book of Tongues: Volume One of the Hexslinger Series: 1 reserve written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still doubt A Book of Tongues: Volume One of the Hexslinger Series: 1 as good book not simply by the cover but also with the content. This is one book that can break don't determine book by its include, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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