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Micheline Helsing is a tetrachromat - a girl who sees the auras of the undead in a prismatic spectrum. Now she's facing one of her most challenging ghost hunts ever. Lock, stock, and lens, she's in for one hell of a ride.

Trigger Details

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From Reader Review Trigger for online ebook

Pili says

This was a short novella, but with enough meat in it to give us some foreshadowing for Shutter, a look back to our beloved characters and made me want even more a sequel for Shutter!!

Mel (Reviews In A Pinch) says

I started Shutter and have been loving it. Then I was messing around on Goodreads and stumbled across Trigger, the prequel to Shutter. I figured I would give it a shot because I love my prequels and it still fits for my Halloween theme this week.

Trigger is the full story of the kill that let Micheline get that red line tattooed on her arm. Therefore, the events take place before Shutter.

The action is well-paced and keeps the story moving. Even though Trigger is listed as a prequel, I think you should probably read Shutter first or at least start it like I did. Shutter introduces the characters and their lives to you better than Trigger (which is fair since Trigger is a short story). I did read some comments that suggested people hadn't read Shutter and Trigger was enough to interest them in reading more.

I love the characters that Courtney Alameda has created and can't wait to delve back into Shutter this afternoon (I'm hoping to finish it by tomorrow – Saturday). I'm sure some people will find the famous names Helsing, Stoker, etc. to be a corny addition to this story, but I enjoyed that twist on our world. I like thinking about the descendants of those famous names continuing on with paranormal work and being the best in the world at dealing with it. It actually made me go back and do some research on Bram Stoker and now I'd like to read Dracula (no, I haven't read it yet).

Overall, I enjoyed reading Trigger. It's also enhanced my reading experience with Shutter, which is a bonus. I'd love to read a short story about exactly what happened with Micheline's mom (maybe the author will see this and write/publish one). I would definitely recommend Trigger, if you're looking for a little horror or spooky reading. Since it's a short story you can probably read it tonight or tomorrow to get you ready for Halloween!

For more reviews, check out Reviews In A Pinch today!

Kari (BookandCoffeeLover) says

Satisfying prequel to Shutter, one of my favourite books. (I do recommend reading this after the novel though - it will make more sense.) Thrown right back into action with the characters we love, this novella is almost non-stop action. And I loved it. I do wish the story had been longer though but it was still enjoyable. I love the universe Courtney Alameda has crafted and I am eager for more.

Miranda Lynn says

Nothing too special, but made me remember how much I loved the first book in this series...can't wait for the second one!

Yolanda Sfetsos says

Last month I read SHUTTER and really enjoyed it. And since I'm between books, I decided to read the prequel, which is available at TOR.com for free.

This is actually an event mentioned in the book: the Embarcadero Scissorclaw. It's how Micheline gets involved with the hunt. It also focuses on the tension between her parents because they both want her to follow in their footsteps.

I disliked her dad as much here as in the book. And it was bittersweet to meet her mother and younger brothers. The family dynamic seemed troublesome even before the tragic events that nearly destroy Micheline in the book.

This was a great story, action-packed and creepy. Captures the essence and imagery of the book very well. I think it's a great intro into this dangerous world, but I'm glad I read the book first.

Jennifer says

I loved this story. But then again, you put the word Helsing in the first several paragraphs of pretty much anything, I'll read it through. But I really liked this. I liked that the main character was a girl, that she was badass, and when she screwed up no one said it was because she was a girl.

Mehsi says

This short novella is placed before all the events that happen in Shutter. I do have to say that I love the names. Trigger. Shutter. And it all fits the story so well.

I have tried Shutter, and when I couldn't get through that one, I saw this one and tried it out. I normally love stories like this, and I am always interesting in Helsings and monsters and special abilities.

I still want to further read Shutter, someday, but I had the same problem with that one as I had with this one. Our main character Micheline, she is not only not that likeable, she is also an enormous idiot, risking people's lives, risking her life. It is quite frustrating that someone tasked with such an important task does all these things. I know, she wants to show her dad that she is capable of leading the corpse one day, but there also must be another way to show him that.

The book was quite exciting, with a running wild scissorclaw killing/maiming people. I really loved those parts, well, all but the last part, because that was just overkill and as one might say: "That escalated quickly."

What happened there in the last part quite ruined the book for me. It was just over the top, weird, and I don't understand how Micheline apparently never got punishment or something? Or maybe she did, but after all that went down we are thrown in a time loop and end up a few months/weeks later. *sighs* I was kind of looking forward to the ending, I had quite a few questions after what happened there.

I didn't like the dad or the mom. The dad kept pushing his daughter, threatening her with losing her chance at leading the corpse, didn't hide his disappointment when she made a mistake.

The mom was also meh, I won't spoil that one, as that happens somewhat later in the book, but I was just shaking my head at what she said to Micheline.

I can somehow see why Micheline has turned out the way she did. With 2 parents and sky-high expectations of doom.

Would I recommend this book? At times yes, the chases, the hunt and the information about Helsing and what they do, is very interesting. But the idiocy, the expectations of the parents were just meh.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Badseedgirl says

This was a great story to introduce what appears to be an intriguing new (for me) urban fantasy series.

Cas says

uuuhhhh *drags on for five minutes*

I'm an eloquent reviewer.

I think it's a bad thing when you start to skim during the 'exciting' portion because it's not all that interesting and you're bored. By the time I reached the big action scene, I was sighing so hard you'd be amazed I still had breath to give. I don't think that it helps that the narrator, Micheline, was bordering hardcore on Mary-Sue, petite and pretty and special with 'badass' tendencies. And her best friend was obviously this beautiful, tanned Australian man that *obviously* has repressed feelings for Micheline so oooh pretty couple. And **WOW**, I am so bitter about these types of characters anymore.

I don't know. I have no idea. I think this is about 1.5 and I rounded it to two because I didn't bash my face on my desk and I applaud Alameda for her originality because she had a lot of it.

The idea of this was very unique (though aye, Dracula) and I thought that was great. I loved the idea of this, of the undead hunting and the tetrachromat concept, because I've never read or even really heard of anything like this, but I don't even know. I feel like something just fell disappointingly flat and by 'fell flat', I mean total splat against the concrete from the Empire State building because at the time I should have been invested, I definitely was not.

Surprisingly (because I tend to make everything sound awful), I'm actually going to say this wasn't bad, I don't want people to take it like that; it just wasn't for me so I don't think I'll be reading the actual book.

carol. says

This ought to be right up Correia's alley. A teenage Helsing is pulled out of gun class (for the Colt M1911, to be exact) by her father to help hunt a monster. Escalates quickly into various fight scenes, tempered some family drama and coming-of-age angst.

The Tor.com segment doesn't mention it's a book prequel, but the GR description does. Styling it as a prequel makes more sense. It lacks the fluidity of a true short and feels more like an episode/chapter, although it does take place over some months.

Main character has serious daddy issues (eyeroll) and there's some odd issue with ignoring her 'heritage' that comes from her mother's side that is only hinted at and isn't resolved. The author/lead has a tendency to tell us all what Helsings and their team/friends/dogs all believe/act ("A Helsing dog only whines if..." "A Helsing dog only growls for one reason..." "A Helsing's heart is a dam..."). Teammates call each other "Princess" and "Loverboy." You know what this reads like? Somebody's National Guard experience Van Helsinged.

Oh, as an added character bonus, Heroine is a long-haired petite blonde with "tetrachromatic blue eyes," and her best friend is a big hulking Australian hunk.

Damn, lost my contact in the back of my head again.

Added note: this might be the only f/sci-fi I've read that used the word "core" to describe a physical maneuver and not the central portion of a hive or power generator.

Storm Arashi says

Five stars easy. Getting to see the Helsing Corps, Michaeline, Ryder, Oliver and Jude again was SUCH a treat and this is pre-Shutter at that.

Seeing the Helsing's before things went... Very dark... Seeing Michaeline before she became the bad-ace huntress of Shutter... Just... Oh it was fantastic!

If you haven't read this OR Shutter... What the heck are you doing? Get up off your butt and get it!

Ellen Gail says

"Come, shutterfly, you have a monster to hunt."

Courtney Alameda continues to amaze me. In *Trigger*, a short prequel to the uber-creepy and exciting *Shutter*, we get to see in detail Micheline's battle to bring down the Embarcadero Scissorclaw. Those who've

read *Shutter* (and if you haven't what are you waiting for? Go read it right now!) know how it ends, but that doesn't lessen the enjoyment of getting to peek into Micheline's past.

One of the best prequels I've read, in terms of adding to the story and/or world. It's not necessary to read it in order to follow *Shutter*, but it's like a delicious slice of chocolate cake for dessert. You don't need it to finish off a great meal, but oh is it a treat.

Kimikimi says

I feel like this should have been a novel instead of a short story. There was this hanging plot thread with her mom's mirrors that was just left for no reason. Maybe there will be a second short story covering it?

Keeley says

Wonderful. Now I'm in a reading hangover. Ugh. When do I get more Micheline????!?

This was a fantastic addition to the world of Micheline Helsing created in *Shutter*. Micheline has to prove her worth to her father as someone able to take over his legacy. With a huge scissorclaw hiding in the sewers and killing people left and right, Micheline has to somehow be the one to make the kill shot without dying and without losing her relationship with her mother that is slowly dwindling.

Oh and Ryder's gorgeous face is part of this too :D :D

Barbara says

This story is a prequel to *Shutter*, and if this is any indication of the level of excitement and action, I'm excited to read it as well. Micheline Helsing is able to see the auras of the undead, which makes her invaluable to her father, the monster hunting Leonard Helsing. She's been training since childhood to destroy both undead monsters and ghosts, and now she has a chance to prove herself to her father in the search to destroy an especially nasty scissorclaw. We get a bit of personal history and family relationships, but most of the story is taken up with the intense and exciting monster hunt, which is fast, furious, and oh what a wild ride. I loved this introduction to a very interesting world and characters and look forward to reading more.
