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Stacia Kane

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As a Debunker, Chess Putnam is used to investigating reports of suspected hauntings and sending ghosts back to the City of Eternity beneath the surface of the earth. What she isn't used to is having suburban housewives refusing to acknowledge the presence of ghosts in their homes. There are lots of reasons why someone might harbor a spirit, and none of them are good.

At least Chess has Terrible on her side. But things are never as black and white as they seem, especially not when love is involved, and Chess finds herself making a decision she never thought she'd make.

Home Details

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Tatiana says

Aw, this was very sweet. (Well, except for the drugs and orgies part.)

Kelly H. (Maybedog) says

This little short is a bit unlike the other work in the series for the simple fact that it's positive and sweet and the main character is happy. Terrible is in most of it, which is a relief because something is missing when he isn't in the picture. The haunting is different from the usual and there is a twist that made the story more interesting. Chess is very much Chess and Terrible is very much himself as well and the writing is superb and the pacing perfect just as I have come to expect from Kane. The story is also the right length, which is often not the case in shorts written with the characters from a series of novels. I didn't feel like I was reading a little snippet of the Downside Ghosts series as an introduction to it. I felt that I was reading a self-contained chunk of a novel, fully realized and containing almost all the elements of one. The only drink lacking was true danger, although there was suspense, and it would have been very hard to include peril in such a short space and do it right, let alone covering everything else.

In short (pun intended) this story is exactly what I want a short story from a series to be and yet could stand on it's own as well (although there are spoilers so don't read it before you've read books one through three unless you don't plan to read those.) I highly recommend this tale.

Sharon ♡ is an emotional book junkie ♡ says

Chessie is back investigating ghosts and thankfully she has Terrible at her side ... but wait a minute, who cares about the ghosts!! Yay for Chessiebomb and Terrible!!

There are so many wonderful and sweet things that it really makes me apprehensive for the next book. But scratch that, I'm not going to be a Debbie-downer so get yourself a copy of this short story and enjoy everything that is Terrible and Chess. It will definitely leave you with a smile on your face!

Favorite lines:

♥ "Gots me an idea, now. Whyn't you come on into bed with me, let me give you it."

♥ "Got some knowledge for you."

"Oh? What's that?"

His lips touched her forehead. "Don't give a f*ck what else I got. Ain't never sharin you."

Jen Davis says

Home is, without a doubt, everything a Downside fan could want. It gave me all of the warm and fuzzies I experienced at the end of *City of Ghosts*, but bigger and better. The plot essentially follows Chess as she works a debunking case where the so-called victims deny the ghosts exist.

But what makes the story so damn good is the fact that Chess is finally happy. She is in love. And she doesn't screw anything up. We watch her revel in her relationship and her joy, and we celebrate along with her. Terrible is there and he is so solid and wonderful. One of my favorite heroes of all time. It was perfect. I would not change one single thing.

SheLove2Read says

If Kane's intention was to reward the reader for sticking with this series, she succeeded in a big way.

"You so fuckin pretty, you got that?" The hand moved lower. "So pretty everywhere."

She swallowed. Her mouth had gone so dry it was hard to talk. "To you, maybe."

"Aye." His lips moved further up her neck until he pulled away enough for their eyes to meet. "Aye, to me."

and this gem...

"Got some knowledge for you."

"Oh? What's that?"

His lips touched her forehead. "Don't give a fuck what else I got. Ain't never sharin you."

Leea says

"Give you whatany you want, Chessiebomb. Anything."

Fans of Chess and Terrible, this is a must read. In classic *Kane* style we get the enchanted and the heart warming new Chessiebomb (how sweet is that!) and the loving, tender Terrible.

This short but sweet and a teaser for *Sacrificial Magic* because it's kind of behind the scenes into a new relationship.

Favorite quote of the book:

His lips touched her forehead. "Don't give a fuck what else I got. Ain't never sharing you."

Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says

Very short, and oh, so sweet! I didn't even know Chess had it in her to be so empathetic! And Terrible *sighs* Terrible, I **need** more of Downside Ghosts like right now!

No wonder this is my favorite series! Extremely well written, and a nice story to keep the fans happy while waiting for the next installment. Chess has changed so much since the first novel, even if she still has a lot of flaws, she finally realizes that some people can be trusted, and that she is loved.

Mimi Smith says

5+ stars

"Love is not the most powerful magic. But it feels like it is."
—*Truth for Teens, a Guidebook for the Young Adult, by Elder Carroll*

I loved, LOVED this admittedly extremely short story. We get to see Chess and Terrible together and happy and it's awesome!

First, one thing learned about which I was wondering about...

"After all, just because the population was smaller thanks to Haunted Week twenty-four years before..."

That week and the arrival of Truth was only 20 some years before.

Next up:the quotes. I can't believe how much I had to control myself not to mark every other sentence, it's weird for such a short story, but I just loved everything! It makes all the BS on the way worthwhile.

"Love was terrifying, and weird, and sometimes uncomfortable. But it was so fucking sweet."

"You so fuckin pretty, you got that?" The hand moved lower. "So pretty everywhere."

She swallowed. Her mouth had gone so dry it was hard to talk. "To you, maybe."

"Aye." His lips moved further up her neck until he pulled away enough for their eyes to meet. "Aye, to me."

"Sometimes he looked at her and their eyes met, and it felt like time stopped. Like he wasn't looking at her, he was looking into her, and like she was doing the same to him."

"Terrible was... He was a miracle in a world without miracles, and she couldn't believe her luck. And there was nothing, absolutely fucking nothing, that she wouldn't do to keep him in her life, because without him it wouldn't be a life at all. So, yeah. She knew how it felt to find part of herself in someone else."

Michelle says

Stacia Kane's "Home" is probably one of the best short stories I have ever read -- or at least one of the ones I have most enjoyed. There is always so much going on in the Downside Ghosts novels, so much action and adventure, that it is easy to forget how wonderfully vivid Kane's characters really are. Their relationships are complex and complicated; their emotions deeply felt. Yet, even though Chess and Terrible are what brings me back to Kane's books time and time again, Kane's masterful storytelling constantly shifts my attention to other things.

Then comes "Home." In this sweet, but not saccharine, short story we really get a chance to see Chess and Terrible when their lives are not burdened by trying to save the world. Chess is able to show some emotions that are not forced out by circumstance, and I like her the better for it. It was also nice to see her on a (mostly) routine job -- so often in the full length novels the jobs are just the tip of an apocalyptic iceberg!

Suz says

Terrible yummy-ness abounds in this six chapter short offering in the Downside Ghosts series, with more softness for Terrible and a general acceptance of Chess's softer side and vulnerability than we've ever seen before.

If this is a glimpse of the direction the series is going in now that Terrible and Chess are together I can't wait for more! I see much growth in Chess's future, she certainly lives in "interesting times."

Alisa says

This was super good. Almost sweet. There's an interesting case as well as a really sweet side plot between Terrible and Chess. Some very tender and loving moments in this one.

Jamie says

Oh, how I ♥ Terrible :) SWOON!! Fabulous. Couldn't ask for anything more. The quotes I loved most:

"He looked better to her than anyone else in the world ever had."

"Give you whatany you want, Chessiebomb. Anything." Anytime he utters the word "Chessiebomb," I just want to melt ;-)

This time he was the one who stopped, tugged her back to him. His hands were warm and solid on the sides of her face, cradling it while he kissed her. "Got some knowledge for you."

“Oh? What’s that?”

His lips touched her forehead. “Don’t give a fuck what else I got. Ain’t never sharin you.”

Wendy F says

Who loves it when Terrible says 'Chessiebomb', raise your hand?!

So cute, and so needed after the turmoil of book 3. It was wonderful to just read happiness with Chess and Terrible. And actually, I really loved the short little plot with the 'Real Housewives'. It was cute.

Yay for Downside Ghosts!

AH says

You can read this here. I think it will only be posted for a week, so go read it while it's there.

This story takes place after City of Ghosts. To avoid spoilers, it is recommended that you read that book before reading this one.

Once again, I am in absolute awe of Ms. Kane's writing talent. Home was a treat to read, especially those little moments of bliss encountered by Chess. It is so exciting to see how this character has developed over the past few books. I think I am falling in love with Terrible.

I am so looking forward to reading Sacrificial Magic!

Duchess Nicole says

"Terrible was...He was a miracle in a world without miracles, and she couldn't believe her luck. And there was nothing, absolutely fucking nothing, that she wouldn't do to keep him in her life, because without him it wouldn't be a life at all. So, yeah. She knew how it felt to find part of herself in someone else."

Such a fast read, but it sucked me right back into the Downside world. This author is truly gifted, to make me love these two broken people to this extent.

Love is always thinking of the other first, always believing in them when they don't believe in themselves. Terrible LOVES Chess. He sees the beauty, the brains, the woman beyond what even she herself sees. And vice versa...Chess sees how smart and loyal and truly wonderful Terrible is. The world sees a junkie witch and an ugly enforcer. They see the world in each other. I'm getting all sappy about this twenty minute read, but I'm continuously amazed at Stacia Kane.

Despite their fallibility, Chess and Terrible are one of my favorite couples! This was a great moment of clarity, solidifying for me the stability of their relationship in the middle of a volatile series. Loved it!
