



# The Everything Box

*Richard Kadrey*

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2000 B.C.

A beautiful, ambitious angel stands on a mountaintop, surveying the world and its little inhabitants below. He smiles because soon, the last of humanity who survived the great flood will meet its end, too. And he should know. He's going to play a big part in it. Our angel usually doesn't get to do field work, and if he does well, he's certain he'll be get a big promotion.

And now it's time . . .

The angel reaches into his pocket for the instrument of humanity's doom. *Must be in the other pocket.* Then he frantically begins to pat himself down. Dejected, he realizes he has lost the object. Looking over the Earth at all that could have been, the majestic angel utters a single word.

"Crap."

2015

A thief named Coop-a specialist in purloining magic objects-steals and delivers a small box to the mysterious client who engaged his services. Coop doesn't know that his latest job could be the end of him-and the rest of the world. Suddenly he finds himself in the company of the Department of Peculiar Science, a fearsome enforcement agency that polices the odd and strange. The box isn't just a supernatural heirloom with quaint powers, they tell him.

It's a doomsday device. They think. . .

And suddenly, everyone is out to get it.

## The Everything Box Details

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# From Reader Review The Everything Box for online ebook

## Jason says

2 Stars

The Everything Box simply was not my cup of tea. I am a huge fan of Richard Kadrey and I cannot get enough of his Sandman Slim series. I absolutely consider him one of my favorite authors. This book was not a Sandman Slim novel. It is supposed to be funny and at times it is, but there is simply too much ridiculousness going on to ever focus on one thing.

I did not like it.

Oh well, I love the author and can't recommend his Sandman Slim series enough.

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## Lalona Hall says

I love every book that Kadrey has published, this one included. If you are a fan of humor, the supernatural and satire; and not easily offended by colorful language and risqué subject matter, you will love it. If Neil Gaiman, Jim Butcher, Terry Pratchett & Stephen King had book babies together, Kadrey's books would be their spawn! The Everything Box is awesome!

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## David Pomerico says

Just a touch biased, as I was the editor for this book...

But that just means that I loved it in the first place.

I'll be up front: humorous writing is hard. Humorous sci-fi and fantasy is probably even harder, because you're always up against the comps of Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett (talk about big shoes to fill!). There are so few writers able to do it and do it well, and one of them--Christopher Moore--has said that Richard Kadrey is about to join that group.

I guess for me, I just got sucked into the absurd world Richard has created. In a way, that's not too dissimilar to what he does with Sandman Slim, but unlike those novels, the darkness always gives way to acknowledging the absurdity (whereas Sandman Slim usually has to--literally--fight it!).

This is a new voice and direction for his writing, but the key thing is that Richard is not only a fantastic writer, but a fantastic storyteller. You are cheering for Coop the entire way, and at the end, I'm pretty sure you'll have had more fun than you've had in a long time reading a book.

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## Skip says

I thought this book was okay times, but suffered from too many characters and too much chaos. I like his Sandman Slim series much better, perhaps because I understand the characters better and edgier. The comparisons to Christopher Moore's humor should have been taken more seriously, at least by me. Thank goodness, a new Sandman Slim book, *The Perdition Score*, is coming soon.

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## Megan says

This book had the potential to be one of my favorite books. Sadly it failed to use the potential and became what I can only describe as a repetitive book. The book shifts between heists that could have been much more epic, to the main character being kidnapped, to planning the heist and then another heist another kidnapping and so on and so forth. The characters felt flat and while it was a bit of a page turner it's not one I would recommend.

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## Cathy says

It definitely had that comic rhythm, comedy of errors, that's reminiscent of Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch or Bloodsucking Fiends or almost any Christopher Moore. It had the similar dark wit, buffoonish characters interspersed with somewhat more serious characters, the feeling of things rapidly spinning out of control. But the comparison is all good, not intended to imply that its derivative. Or are we saying that no one else can write a darkly funny urban fantasy story anymore, the other guys have claimed the territory forever? They own the tone? That's silly. It was a fun book that straddled the line between the absurd and reality with ease. By creating layers of characters with true depth and interest, he anchored the story firmly in reality, which allowed the ridiculous, the dark and horrible, the silly, inane and insane, to flourish and be hilariously fun.

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## Kdawg91 says

This book makes me happy.

As a huge fan of the Sandman Slim series, and why haven't you read them?!?!?! This somewhat lighter take on some of the same tropes previously hit on in that series made me smile from beginning to end. THIS SHOULD BE A TELEVISION SHOW..someone get on this already.

Fun characters, great world, the snappy dialogue and snarky fun you have come to expect with Mr. Kadrey's writing. This book is a blast and there honestly, very simply, isn't enough fucking fun reads now a days.

one of my highest possible recommendations, if you don't enjoy this you are probably are dead.

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## **Uttara Srinivasan says**

3.5 stars

A book that begins with an angel losing his box containing the power to end the world is off to a great start. Watching the box gain epic proportions and many suitors 4000 years later - now the modern world we know and yet know nothing of - is a plot no less worthy of a start like that. Add to it elements of fantasy that the author doesn't spend pages building but allows to become clearer as the story progresses; and humour that ensures a constant smile on your face that often even breaks out into a chuckle fairly frequently - this one is a complete fun package.

I haven't read the other, apparently more popular and engaging outings of this author but if this book is only average on his portfolio of works - I dare say my to-read list is about to find more additions shortly!

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## **Wes says**

A really enjoyable read. Fast paced, clever, amusing, and hopefully the start of a great new series from Kadrey.

While the gist of the world in which *The Everything Box* takes place is similar to Kadrey's *Sandman Slim* books -- there is magic in the world as well as magical creatures, God and angels, all powerful devices, etc. etc. -- the general feel of the world in which it takes place is a little lighter, a little brighter. In the *Sandman* books, the reader sees the world through Slim's eyes, and it is a jaundiced view of the world. In *The Everything Box*, readers are exposed to different viewpoints and a bit more of a broad exposure to the world, even if most of it is in Los Angeles. But the hero of the book, or anti-hero to be more exact, Coop, isn't quite as jaded as James Stark.

*The Everything Box* still features Kadrey's trademark humor, though tempered just a bit. It is directed more along a pop culture line rather than some of the darker societal jabs that he makes in the *Sandman Slim* books. And the baggage of those books isn't there to hold him down from creating a new world.

*The Everything Box* is a great stand-alone story that could serve as an introduction to Kadrey for some people, hopefully allowing them to discover the rest of his work as well. Highly recommended.

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## **Robert Dunn says**

This is a book I would have loved so much more had it been from another author. That, I guess is one of the problems of success. Richard Kadrey is the author of the *Sandman Slim* series, another kind of urban fantasy with a much harder edge. Had I just found *The Everything Box* in a vacuum, without the surrounding atmosphere of expectations I would have given in to its charms and been a new fan. So really my complaint is that this book is different from the *Sandman Slim* books but not different enough. Especially at a time when those books seem to be losing a bit of energy. I can't tell you what I wanted but *The Everything Box* wasn't it. That's more my problem than the book or the author's.

All of that being said, Kadrey can create a world and make it dance. In *The Everything Box* he makes a

reality where magic and the supernatural are again commonplace and still hidden. This time though he makes his characters a bit more uncomfortable with it. The criminal life of some of the characters seems more appealing and outsider than the magical world.

I'm sure there is a lot out there about the plot and characters, I won't do deeper. I will say, this is an excellent fantasy book. This will be a series that will get better I'm sure and I will read them. I just wanted... I don't know. And I feel like a jerk saying so.

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## Stewart Tame says

Most excellently fun! The Everything Box is a caper novel in the grand tradition. Coop is a professional thief who's good at his job, until a heist goes wrong--there was a dragon. And imps.--and lands him in prison. A secret government agency offers him freedom in exchange for the theft of a small box. But it will mean working with his ex. And there's more than one group who want the box to bring about the Apocalypse. What could go wrong?

This supernatural caper novel has it all: action, romance, plots, snappy dialogue, angels, demons ... Kadrey is best known for his Sandman Slim novels, but this book marks the beginning of a new series. Coop and his associates are a fine cast, well worth spending mental time with. The book flows along smoothly and the dialogue had me grinning from ear to ear. Recommended!

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## Bonnie says

My rating: 3.5 of 5 stars

Thousands of years ago, God decided to destroy the Earth and all who resided on it. Fortunately, us pesky mortals are pretty good survivalists and we didn't all perish as was intended. This time, God sends an angel named Qaphsiel to Earth with a special box that would take the rest of us out for good. Except all didn't go as planned. Qaphsiel lost the box.

***“So, you’re the angel of Death?” The angel shook his head, a little embarrassed. “I don’t have that honor. In Heaven, I’m the celestial who bears the great golden quills, the silver Chroma, the holy vellums upon which the Lord God inscribes the fate of the universe.” Tiras’s eyes narrowed. “You’re in charge of office supplies. You’re the angel of office supplies.”***

Thousands of years after the box was lost, we're introduced to Coop. Coop has had it a bit rough lately. He's a thief who was hired to steal some documents because his natural aversion to magical booby traps made him the perfect man for the job... but things didn't turn out so well and he was soon thrown in prison for an undetermined amount of time. An old friend pulled some strings to get him out but only because a man by the name of Mr. Babylon requires Coop for a job. A job to steal a mysterious box. But once he does steal it, he's instructed to steal it back for a secret government group that goes by the name of the Department of Peculiar Science, or else it's straight back to prison. Do not pass Go. Do not collect \$200. Problem is, there are two doomsday cults trying to get the box so they can trigger the apocalypse, criminals who want to sell the box for money, a mysterious stranger that only brings destruction, and the original angel that misplaced the box in the first place trying to get it. Coop wants nothing to do with it but he's soon embroiled in a

world-ending conflict.

*“I’m not sure I should smile at people anymore.”*

*“Yours is a little strained these days,” said Morty.*

*Sally came up with a drink in each hand. “Definitely don’t smile at people. You do look like you wonder what their liver tastes like.”*

The pending apocalypse has never been more fun. Kadrey brings a bizarre sense of humor (and magic) to the end of the world and Coop is the hilariously witty spokesperson. The focus is less on worldbuilding and more on extending the hilarity for as long as possible (and sometimes beyond) but I can’t complain because this story made me laugh far more than I expected it to. The multiple storylines were handled well without getting too convoluted but again, the focus was on the humor at all times and the bit players were, for the most part, a ludicrous bunch and it wasn’t vital to keep a close track on exactly who was who. The Everything Box is a refreshing variation on the Urban Fantasy genre that feels much like a Men in Black/The Italian Job mashup in all the best ways.

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### **Amy says**

This is just a fun book. It is full of snappy dialogue, strange characters and absolute chaos. It moves along at a really good pace and doesn't drag anything out. I found it similar to most Christopher Moore books. It was a great distraction to dive into

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### **Julie says**

This book is a blast (pun intended because, you see, it's about this box that can, sorry, no spoilers here). It's a refreshing read, unlike anything else unless you maybe compared it to Carl Hiaasen, but Hiaasen's stuff is hyperbole of events that happen and this is true fantasy. Well, I hope it's fantasy. This book had me laughing out loud beginning to end and I almost hope it's the start of a series. It would be a pleasure to follow our crook/hero and his crew of crazies through another adventure.

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### **Roy says**

Urban heist fantasy if that's even thing but it's the best summary for the style of novel. Coop is a thief who has the strange ability of not being affected by anything magical. He's asked to steal something and he forms a team to do it. It's a complicated heist novel set amongst a urban fantasy type background in LA. It's definitely a different novel to the Sandman series by Kadrey. I felt like this novel had too many characters and too many plot lines and directions. The Sandman series has a smaller cast so you have time to develop a bond. The dialogue is witty and fast which is great, but sometimes too much humour can be a little overbearing. Solid novel and I can definitely see it finding a particular audience.

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