Scribble's Worth Book Reviews

May 2022 Book Catalogue

Length: 20 pgs



"Raw, Precise, Unbiased"

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This month's recommendations:

- 1- "Call The Bluff" by O. E. Tearmann- 9.5/10 (Cyberpunk/Thriller/Action/ LGBTQ+/ Romance)
- 2- "Raise the Stakes" by O. E. Tearmann- 9.5/10 (Cyberpunk/Thriller/Action/ LGBTQ+/ Romance)
- 3- "Aces and Eights" by O. E. Tearmann- 9.4/10 (Cyberpunk/Thriller/Action/ LGBTQ+/ Romance)
- 4- "Draw Dead" by O. E. Tearmann- 9.4/10 (Cyberpunk/Thriller/Action/ LGBTQ+/ Romance)
 - 3- "Double Jeopardy" by Alan Bayles- 8.8/10 (Sci-fi/Thriller/Horror)

Call the Bluff By O. E. Tearmann (Aces High Jokers Wild #2)

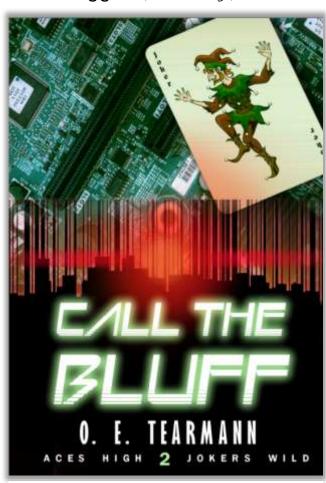
"But when perfect became a possibility, imperfect became criminal."

And after reading the first book, <u>The Hands We're Given</u>, in this INCREDIBLE Series, <u>Aces High Jokers Wild</u>, we begged (*internally*)

to read the following books.

The hopeful, romantic, soft, understanding and cozy narrative that made us fall in love with the series didn't change at all and this second part of the series feel like a perfect continuation of the story

The plot this time isn't just about getting a team together, and running things as smoothly as Aidan can, BUT there is a Massive mission going on that is "too big to drop", and just by the way the fierce commander Magnum explains it, well... it's scary, as, hell and it will be almost impossible to do it. They have one chance, and one chance only, and if they fail... Everybody dies.



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The question that will set this series, and this book for good, or for bad, is: "How the authors are going to pull off this GIGANTIC stunt, while also being believable in the

process?"



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Oh, as a side note... you want to avoid eating before you read the first chapter of the book. Believe me. It, will, be, SHOCKING!

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It's lovely how the book, the story, the characters, the narrator, and the authors never give a "sure deal". Like, you can never know if they are going to succeed, and above all, the characters, no matter how skilled they are (except Tweak) never boast of a yet-to-be success. They know they can and most probably will fail, but they never stop trying. They try. They actually try. Let me try to explain it to you, dear reader, this

way:

Have you ever read a book that the characters "tried", but it felt like they were just trying because they "were the ones supposed to win?", because they "knew" they were the heroes and all they had to do was to fill their roles? Yeah? Well, the characters in this book aren't like that.

This book (and series), is not for the faint of heart, and it feels like a slap in the face to the ignorant, the righteous, and those who think that they are above their own human condition in some way. Many times it slams down and steps upon the claims of religion, ego, narcissism, and immunity. It shows the choices we can make and how much taking the choice of cowardice costs, not only for one, but for all, inciting people to rebel, and speak up. *This is beautiful*! Love it!

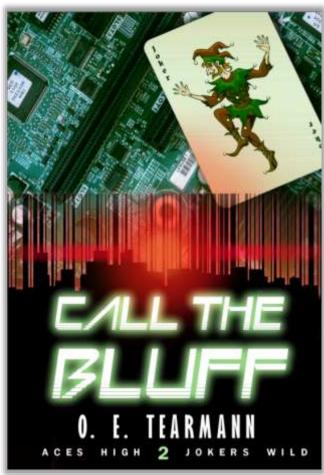
A book that makes you question, think profound thoughts, and realize subtle realities muted by the noise of today's world.

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You better have a seatbelt for your tears because they will crash to the ground <u>reading this fast-paced</u> <u>emotional adventure of a novel</u>. You have been warned.

To finish this off, we will answer a few questions you might have.

"Is this a series worth reading?" You are wasting time *by not* reading it. <u>Grab</u> the first book, this one and the rest of the series because this is a MASTERPIECE!!!!



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Book Score: 9.5/10

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Raise The Stakes By O. E. Tearmann (Aces High Jokers Wild #3)



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We have been loving this series since page one of book one, were sold completely by page two of book one, and became book-o-dependent by the second chapter of book two, and yes, the series is THAT good (...) so we plunge into the book and right away we forget all our problems. Aidan's back into our lives, yeih!

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After a surgery, there's no time for recovery as the second BIGGEST mission is in place, *and* this time, it's "too dangerous to even write down" (...) and as Janice puts it:

"..this's about as easy as fuckin' a porcupine with a chocolate dong."

And to make things even more difficult, as if achieving the impossible while risking their lives wasn't enough, we have dirty tricks from the Corps as an added bonus to the mission.

This makes the mission all more exciting (for us readers) and it's nice to see the mission progress with many interruptions, backtracking their steps and seeing plans going wrong from day one. It *adds* to the level of reality and relatability of the book, and shows the work <u>the</u> <u>writers</u> put into the book. Nice.

After <u>reading book one</u> and <u>two</u>, we thought that we were used to the level of tension the writer could throw at us. Boy, were we wrong. There are scenes here that almost stopped our hearts with anxiety, terror and fear of what was going to happen next. Talk about a page turner. Damn. Scary stuff man. Woa. Does shit hit the fan? Ohhhh yeah. it does. When? We won't tell, but HOLY [*insert your favorite cuss*]!

The authors did, once again, an EXCELLENT job when it came to relaying trauma, anxiety and panic by showing both the mental and the physiological reaction of these conditions, especially on tense situations. *Gorgeous* and very relatable scenes indeed. I wish that every writer had this much level of attention to detail when it came to making relatable characters, each in their turn. It's amazing.

Remember those little secrets the authors refused to give us on book one and book two about Tweak? Yeah? In this book we finally get enough details to understand why she is so sensitive to touch, and why she punches, (or kicks) everyone that touches her, why she has so many traumas after she was captured

and it makes total sense!



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Now we understand why Jaz didn't want to let her go in the first place. Now we understand her motivations. Oh my god... This is so enlightening! Love it. We will warn you that it will make your gut

tighten just imagining it, so prepare yourself.

The <u>authors</u> did great with this aspect of the book! You get a trans, gay cyberpunk book filled with action, thriller, conspiracy, power, values, personal development tips, examples, motivational and inspirational quotes, *and* mental-health tips that you can apply *more happy screams*.

This is awesome. This is the type of literature we need! <u>These are</u> <u>the types of books that this generation needs.</u> The hell with the perfect Cinderellas, we need Tweaks, Janices, Aidans and Billies. [*Your favourite cuss*] yeah!



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For those who love an out-of-the-blue plot twist, expect several, and a *character twist* as well that will leave you with your mouth agape. Hahahaha. *And* to top it all, we have **Janice!**Three *freaking* books and we had **no** clue *whatsoever* that Janice was... *oh my god.*

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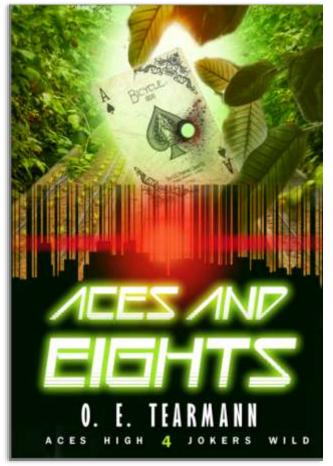
How can a book be *this* perfect? I mean, it even has *poetry* in it. It has... Rumi. I simply can't. I simply can't take the *gorgeousness* of this book, omg... this is too much. This book is *too* perfect, this book is too, damn, perfect.

Book Score: 9.5/10

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Aces and Eights by O. E. Tearmann (Aces High Jokers Wild #4)

The best <u>series of the year, Aces High Jokers Wild</u>, is back, and still punching hard in <u>this 4th book</u>, <u>Aces and Eights</u>, so *if* you haven't start reading this series, **do** yourself a favor and grab <u>book 1</u>, <u>book 2</u>, <u>book 3</u>, <u>this book</u> and <u>the rest of the series now</u>, because you don't want to *not* read this. <u>Our reviews of all the books are here</u>,



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and do check what other people have said about this **amazing**, <u>breath-taking</u> <u>series</u> by O. E. Tearmann on <u>Goodreads</u>. *Truly* phenomenal.

Read all the reviews of the previous books <u>here</u>.

So! To the review!

There is now a strong focus on Kevin as the plot develops around him. We get to know him, his past, his role in the Cavanaugh's Corporation, his enemies and his parents from a new angle and it's interesting to read layers of him that we didn't know existed. The thing is: this focus has a reason, that we will find out as we read, but on the beginning of the book, one thing can be

said, for sure: The heat is **doubled** on his ass, *and this has nothing to do with Aidan.*

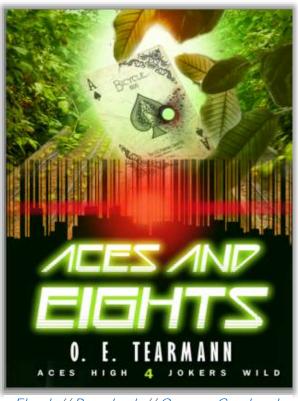
When the action and the thriller comes, they come with attack teams out of nowhere, compromised missions, runaways, bullets for everybody, (*Tweak saving most people's lives while calling them shitheads and competing in terms of cursing with Janice*), and lots of

blood is spilled. Expect people dying and you **won't** be disappointed, because the corps are attacking three times as much and things are **ten times** as difficult, so yeah.

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Trauma, torture, psychological warfare and PTSD shown in crude words raising the hairs on the back of our necks. Readers are warned. It's ... uffh, deep, powerful, graphic and the writers open your mind to many possibilities by telling these things in a way that you feel connected and understand what's happening and the damaged done.

And between all the gut twisting tension and all the fast-paced scenes that leave you pulling your hairs out, you get much needed brakes. Much needed because if the authors decided to simply continue with the scenes of thriller and action, well, we were



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I think that <u>the writers</u> gave us the romantic elements early on because we won't have much of that in the rest of the book, (well, we *do* have Billie, but that's *another* story)

Something that we have been noticing for quite a while now in the narrative of <u>O. E. Tearmann</u> is that, the body language reactions of the characters are *so* detailed, *so* well put, and *so well* timed that it

looks like both writers stopped, made a brainstorming session about the better suited body movements to use as reaction that created an almost cinematic imagery behind our eyes, because this is *perfect*, *too* perfect. It's beautiful. Excellently done right here.

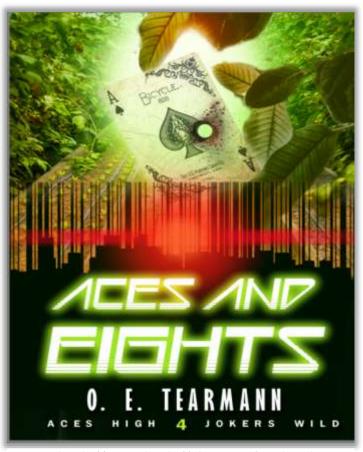
"Aidan was silent beside him for a beat. Then soft fingers tipped his chin up. "Kev? Look at me, okay?" Wearily, Kevin opened his eyes. In the dim light, the worry lines between Aidan's brows had deepened. He held Kevin's eyes. "Don't do this to yourself." Kevin looked away, closing his eyes. "I've got the alarm set. Let's talk in the morning."

O. E. Tearmann sprinkled the book with weird, quirky analogies that will make you laugh and think: "wau, I will add this one on my vocabulary", and yes, the include curses from Janice as well, like "go fuck a frag granade", ahhahahahaha. Oh Janice, we love you so much.

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Once again, <u>the authors</u> made *precious*, solid, and **heavy** arguments on moral points when it comes to treating people, dealing with enemies and keeping one's integrity in the face of harsh circumstances.

"You see, they've given you an enemy to hate. They've given you something to fear and to fight; the perverse, the Other. Because what does it matter that there are no more civil rights, that shareholders and corporations run our lives, when there's threats out there? Threats like two girls in love or someone planting apple trees." he affected an expression of sarcastically exaggerated horror. "And of course, that's what you focus on, these horrible crimes that the media keeps telling you about. Because while you're fighting the terrorists and the immigrants and the 'fags', you're not thinking. And if you ever had the time to start thinking, you might wonder why it's illegal to collect rainwater, why your Standing dictates the quality of food you're



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allowed to buy, why there's no such thing as upward mobility in the culture we've got and absolutely no way for us to make legitimate complaints. You might start noticing the bars on your cage, if you weren't given something 'better' to fret over." "

How powerful is this?! Oh my god. Love it, love it, love it!

Love this book. Love this series. Love these authors. Love this story. Love every page, not only for the tension, not only for the dynamics of the character, not only for the originality of the story, for the immersiveness of it all, the

couples and the ways they just... become, it's.... (*play a Keanu meme*) breathtaking!

This book, this series, these writers are solid gold. OMG!

This book touches *so many chords* in us, we feel *so understood*, honestly loved and guided by the gentle hands of the authors. This is a book series that readers, *once they give it a chance*, will find that it's not just a set of books that they want, but that they *need*, and *that* ending, oh, god, *fucking priceless*! Priceless!

Book Score: 9.4/10

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Draw Dead Hand by O. E. Tearmann (Aces High Jokers Wild #5)

And we are back with <u>the amazing series</u>, <u>Aces High Jokers</u>
<u>Wild</u> by <u>O. E. Tearmann</u>. OK, before we kick the review, we have to tell you this: If you haven't read <u>the previous books</u>, please do so,

DEAD O. E. TEARMANN ACES HIGH 5 JOKERS WILD

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because this *isn't* the right book to start with, *believe* me.

Even before the book starts we are already on the balls of our feet!

How <u>can a book</u> be this good? Simple answer: The Tearmann are writing, *of course*. <u>THE, BEST</u> <u>series you'll read</u>. Love this to the core of my existence! Let's go.

Book 5(!) — Draw Dead. Uff, ok. I'm here writing this before plunging into the book, because for the first time in my life I'm feeling that sinking feeling in my stomach, that nervousness that you feel before you do a presentation, you know?

Hahaahahaha, this book series is so gripping that once you dive, it's a rollercoaster of emotions, and you never know what to expect and leaves you tired and exhilarated, and... Ufff!!! Haahhahaahha. Ok, ok, let's do this. Maximum effort!!

We can see that on the first chapters, the authors are building up the upcoming events slowly, plotting and planting (pun intended) ideas on our heads to create expectations and surprises on the next pages and books because we now know that the authors leave nothing behind, and nothing to chance. Everything that they say will be used later, you just don't know where, how or when, and actually, there is no way to find out. Believe me, I tried to predict events on all 5 books and been wrong 100% of the time.

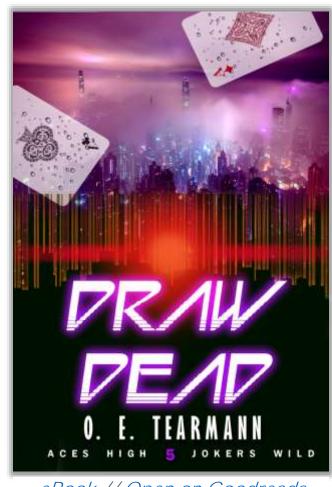
Few are the books that are **this** diverse and honest when it comes to "inclusion" of characters. Seriously. You get people from India, references of Nigeria and how beautiful Nigerian women are, people from South America, and China in important roles, with accents well put and even names that sound *and read* as they should according to their origin. It's something so natural that you actually feel at ease

reading this book, and series, without feeling excluded, regardless of where you are from. There's a cool character in here for everyone. This is spectacular. Love this series so much.

After a while of romantic scenes, lots, of success, happy moments, and Tweak smiling a lot, it hits you: this book is starting off too good... Too good...

* Looks skeptically at the fan *. * Puts helmet, glasses, mask and raincoat*. Any time now...

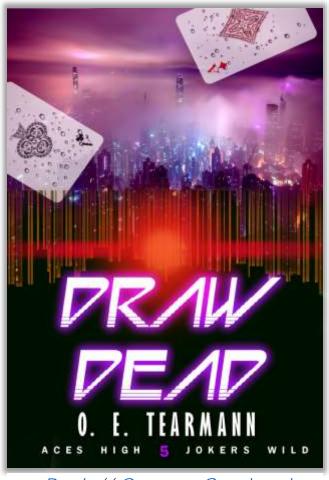
And we have plagues! Damn diseases. Yeap! It hit the fan, and... a Commander... Yeap!!!! Better run for cover, this will be grizzly! Add that to civilians needing to be rescued, and all the



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possibilities of them being bombed again by a drone.... We are talking about high stakes here. This will be *bad*.

Main characters won't die? Well, think again. You will cry with this book, and you will feel tired with all the anxiety and the dread. This is heavy.



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Don't expect action because this part of the series doesn't have much, if any, action scene, but there's thriller, oh you bet, the gut-punching, nerve-racking, throw-the-book-to-the-wall type of thriller and suspense, so hold your hat tight and prepare the tissue papers because this will be wild!

This book is outstanding, deep, relatable, incredibly unexpected, specially once we regard all of Janice's time in front. Loved it. In a weird and sad way, yes, sure, but still, it's another incredible book by theses incredible authors, and you will totally agree with me once you read it, so do get the book, check out the

reviews of the previous books here, follow the authors and see other reviews of this same book and series on <u>Goodreads</u>, so you can be sure of how stunning this book and series is. See you in book 6. :)

Book Score: 9.4/10

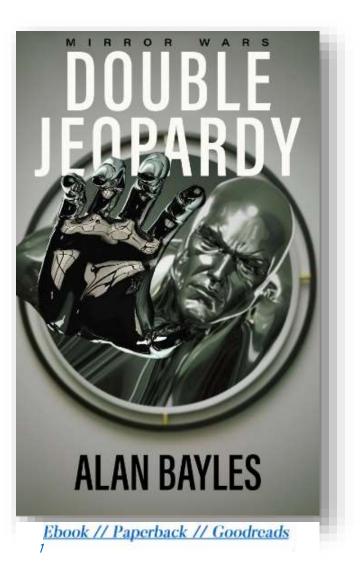
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Double Jeopardy by Alan Bayles (Mirror Wars #1)

<u>Double Jeopardy</u> is the first book in <u>Alan Bayles</u>' Mirror Wars series and this science fiction thriller is one book you're not going to want to miss. What if your reflection was watching *you*? What if it was plotting to take life as you know it away from you? What would *you* do? Would you fight? This thrilling novel asks these very questions and digs deeper as the characters find themselves plagued with a danger that threatens everything they know.



<u>Double Jeopardy</u> is the first book that I have read by <u>this author</u>, and I am already eager for book two. I have to know what happens next! <u>This book</u> is written in the third person and doesn't focus on just one character. You get a nice variety of characters who guide you through the story and keep you on the edge of your seat. The prologue is set in the past and is quick to grab my attention and hold me riveted to the story. Setting the stage with intrigue, mystery, and danger. The author plucks some familiar names from that particular time period to amplify the dangers of the situation being painted upon the pages. The specific time period focused on, the faked death of a character, and the secrecy surrounding everything transpiring is **gripping**. At the end of



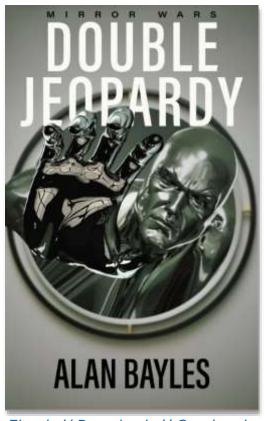
this first chapter, I *literally* had tears in my eyes. The prologue honestly promises to grab you by the eyeballs and drag you into the book. Once you start **you're not** going to want to put it down.

As this book shifts forward to the present day it seems to move forward innocently enough. Do not believe it. Don't be lulled into the false sense of security and calm the author wants to lure you into! Don't do it! I fell for that trick and by the end of the chapter my jaw was literally on the floor, my eyes were bugging out of my head, and I was in pure shock. If you're guessing that I immediately dove right back in to find out what exactly is going on, you'd be 100% correct!

Page by page the author builds scenes of calm and then moves in to **smack you in the face with danger** *and drama*. The twists keep you on edge as you just **don't know** what is going to happen next.

When I first started reading this book and Inspector Barnes was introduced I was so sure that the story was going to focus on him. So, you can imagine my surprise when the author takes a different tract. I was literally thinking "Wait! Where are we going?? Barnes is over there..." I can imagine the author shushing me and telling





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me simply "Just pay attention. You're not going to want to miss this upcoming twist." Inspector Dave Barnes is one of the main characters of this novel, but the author keeps things interesting with the variety of characters the author allows to shine when Inspector Barnes is off doing other things. It all connects to create an intriguing story as Barnes and his fellow officers work the case to figure out who or what committed these heinous crimes. There is one character that I quickly begin to question not just their motives, but who it is that they are working for. How are they connected to what is going on? What do they know? My eagerness for answers drives me to continue reading.

Trust me when I say that <u>this book is packed with mystery</u>, intrigue, and edge-of-your-seat thrills. My eyes are probably going to need to be checked with as many times they bugged out of my head reading this book. There are particular scenes that are dark on their own, but the author doesn't stop with the expected. *No*, the author



down the road of the unexpected.

takes things a step further with the full intent of leaving readers horrified and shaken. Being a fan of horror —<u>I</u> absolutely LOVED it! I love it when an author keeps me on my toes and takes me

The ending is going to send a shiver up your spine. Cue sinister smile. LOL! The **author's attention** to

detail, the mystery, and the drama make this sci-fi conspiracy thriller novel a must-read.

Book Score: 8.9

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This amazing review was written by Bunny.



Hey there writer)

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