



Snake Agent (The Detective Inspector Chen Novels Book 1)

By Liz Williams

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When a soul goes missing, an occult detective ventures into Hell to retrieve it

When the fourteen-year-old daughter of Singapore Three's most prominent industrialist dies of anorexia, her parents assume that Pearl's suffering has come to an end. But somewhere along the way to the Celestial Shores, Pearl's soul is waylaid, lured by an unknown force to the gates of Hell. To save their daughter from eternal banishment, they come to Detective Inspector Wei Chen, whose jurisdiction lies between this world and the next.

A round-faced cop who is as serious as his beat is strange, Chen has a demon for a wife and a comfort with the supernatural that most mortals cannot match. But finding Pearl Tang will take him further into the abyss than ever before—to a mystifying place where he will have to cooperate with a demonic detective if he wants to survive. It's easy, Chen will find, to get into Hell. The hard part is getting out.

Snake Agent is the first of the five Detective Inspector Chen Novels, which continue with *The Demon and the City* and *Precious Dragon*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The shade of Charlie Chan hovers over Williams's entertaining supernatural mystery, the first in a new series starring Det. Insp. Wei Chen of Singapore Three's 13th precinct. In a near future that allows travel between Heaven and Hell and Earth, "snake agent" Chen finds himself in hot pursuit of ghost-girl Pearl Tang and the father who murdered her to protect his business of "supplying the souls of the virtuous to Hell." Chen is not only a crack paranormal crime investigator but also a licensed feng shui practitioner never without his compass. While the plot might have benefited from a few more action scenes and some martial arts, Williams (*The Banquet of the Lords of the Night*) provides a sleuthing feast for those with a taste for the exotic Orient.

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From [Booklist](#)

In late twenty-first-century Singapore, detective inspector Wei Chen is a snake agent, a detective whose beat reaches to the fringes of Heaven and Hell. Married to a demon wife and surrounded by wary colleagues, he is nevertheless bored with investigating routine exorcism scams and bogus feng shui licenses. Then the newly deceased ghost of a wealthy industrialist's daughter fails to make her appointed arrival in Heaven. When it quickly becomes obvious that the industrialist himself is implicated in a netherworldly soul-trafficking scheme and is responsible for his daughter's death, Chen has to work with an unlikely sidekick, Zhu Irzh, one of Hell's own vice detectives and a demon cursed with a conscience. Twice nominated for Philip K. Dick awards, Williams should easily qualify for another with this original and stirring blend of futuristic technology and chilling excursions into postmortem landscapes. This first odd-couple pairing of mortal Chen and immortal Zhu Irzh opens a prospective series. *Carl Hays*

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Review

"A sleuthing feast for those with a taste for the exotic." —*Publishers Weekly*

"*Snake Agent* combines disparate elements of Chinese mythology, urban fantasy, science fiction and mystery to create a rich milieu and a highly entertaining story." —Jacqueline Carey, author of *Kushiel's Justice*

"This exotic amalgam of police procedural, SF, comic fantasy, and horror is a delight from start to finish." —*Locus*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nellie Davis:

Here thing why this Snake Agent (The Detective Inspector Chen Novels Book 1) are different and reputable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. Snake Agent (The Detective Inspector Chen Novels Book 1) giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no reserve that similar with Snake Agent (The Detective Inspector Chen Novels Book 1). It gives you thrill examining

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