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Staked: The Iron Druid Chronicles



Synopsis

Iron Druid Atticus O'Sullivan, hero of Kevin Hearne's epic New York Times best-selling urban fantasy series, has a point to make - and then drive into a vampire's heart. When a Druid has lived for 2,000 years like Atticus, he's bound to run afoul of a few vampires - make that legions of them. Even his former friend and legal counsel turned out to be a bloodsucking backstabber. Now the toothy troublemakers - led by power-mad pain-in-the-neck Theophilus - have become a huge problem requiring a solution. It's time to make a stand. As always, Atticus wouldn't mind a little backup. But his allies have problems of their own. Ornery archdruid Owen Kennedy is having a wee bit of troll trouble: Turns out when you stiff a troll, it's not water under the bridge. Meanwhile, Granuaile is desperate to free herself of the Norse god Loki's mark and elude his powers of divination - a quest that will bring her face to face with several Slavic nightmares. As Atticus globetrots to stop his nemesis, Theophilus, the journey leads to Rome. What better place to end an immortal than the Eternal City? But poetic justice won't come without a price: In order to defeat Theophilus, Atticus may have to lose an old friend.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I loved this series from the beginning. Atticus has a voice that carries, and it's this voice that has smoothed over thin plots and sometimes-thinner (and less-than connected) reasons for mayhem. But that rich and wonderful voice has been diluted. Eclipsed by a stronger, even better voice...that, I might accept. But diluted? No. Hearn is smothering his most engaging character while making room

for narratives of far less value or resonance. Until the last quarter of the book, Atticus goes so far as to descend into the territory of "cute"--and that's always dangerous; rarely is it an acceptable substitute for the real thing. And that's the problem. I expected the real thing and got cute instead. It's like turning Luke Skywalker into jovial and slightly smarter Jar Jar Binks--unexpected, crazy unnecessary and immensely disappointing. The last fifty pages are the only ones worth reading, the only thing with anything at "stake." It's the only time anything of any real value actually happens in the book, and it's sad that the plot has to turn so suddenly and so sadly for the book to have any depth at all. Before those pages came along, though, I was seriously entertaining the idea of closing the book and not bothering to read any further--a heresy, I would have thought, prior to reading this volume in the series. But it had just gotten so BORING and so almighty shallow!!! Even a death that saddened me no end was better than continuing on the pablum road, so that should tell you just how bad it was to that point. Please please please, Mr. Hearn: cut the revolving-door dialogue and completely separate story lines. There's just not enough room in any one book to gloss over so much so quickly. Pick one person's story and TELL it with the depth and development it deserves. Instead of one book with three separate narratives, give us three books with a single character's in-depth development in each. For the depth this series needs to be exploring at this point in its mythology, the scatter-shot approach is just too unfocused and diffuse to end well.

Not sure why many are slamming this last book, citing environmental themes and multi-character points of view. First of all, a druid's main purpose is to defend and monitor threats to Gaia. If you don't like the characters doing that (like our heroine), then don't read the book! And yes, there were different characters' point-of-view in different chapters. It added a little flesh to the meat of the plot for me, especially since the three druids were in different places at the onset of this book. Truly, it gave us three "head spaces" to contemplate. The only thing I didn't see resolved was what will happen with Fand and Manannan, and if Atticus ever got his stolen money back. Of course, there is that thing with Diana... But it was mucho entertaining, engaging and to put it in Oberon's words "it's all gravy to me."

Kevin Hearn's books are mostly first rate however I was disappointed in the latest Iron Druid Installment. Seemed to be a lot of writing for not as much action and now that the point of view is now from three people we have lost the purity of seeing everything from Atticus's perspective. Its not that I dislike seeing things from Owen or Granuaile's perspective its just it seems to lose the pacing that the earlier books seems to get perfectly. Maybe the other perspectives should be moved

to Side Novel's and Novella's I don't think most of the content for that needs to be in the main book.

Thoroughly enjoyable, well-written and well-researched books with an interesting premise. I am more than happy to give Kevin Hearne a 5 star rating in addition to purchasing everything he has published. I hope many others discover the fun adventures of The Iron Druid and a very entertaining cast of characters. However, the reader must jump through a mandatory hoop if you choose to leave a rating. Star ratings are not acceptable on their own. No, any star rating is booby-trapped with the requirement of a written review, further weighted with a minimum word count, no less! Write a review or no stars from you. This is a tad bit bit onerous for the buyer who enjoyed reading the book and respects the author enough to pause and tap some stars. The demand for a written review effectively prevented me from posting the 5 star rating that might encourage others to enjoy an excellent book. This is ultimately unfair to Mr. Hearne, undoubtedly depriving him of many well-deserved 5 star ratings. Guilt eventually caught up with me, so herein lies not only my enthusiastic support of this book, but a bonus review of a misguided policy: to the Kindle folks or whoever came up with this Either/Or toll: lighten up on the needy/greedy gate keeping, already.

I've read and really enjoyed this entire series. Up until the last chapter when one of the main characters decides to go off and shut down all oil and gas production. Because global warming and all. And instead of trying to talk the crazy druid down, the other druids go "horay for you!" What they should have said "How many millions do you wish to kill?" The entire economy runs on fossil fuels. So, go ahead shut it down. See how fast world war III starts.

Lots of action in this book 8 of the series. Also it continues in 3 person POV, which I'm enjoying as its three stories that meet, separate and then join forces to battle with centuries old enemies. Also liking Owen more and more as he's learning this new world. Atticus is also having to come to terms with what he's been doing for the last 2000 years, and now what to do, instead of just surviving by hiding. Granuaile, what can I say, she's 32 now, but still letting her teenage anger rule her, hopefully she got some of that taken care of and can move on. Still have enemies that need to be dealt with somewhat, and Loki and Hel are out there, so next book should be good.

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