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Wrong Side Of Hell (The DeathSpeaker Codex Book 1)



Synopsis

Life was a whole lot easier when the dead stayed dead. I thought I was human. Apparently, I was wrong. I didn't even know there were non-humans. Others, they're called. Fairies, vampires, even the bogeyman -- they're all real. At least, that's what the werewolf told me when I saved her from the cops. Did I mention that I saved a werewolf? And those weren't just cops trying to kill her -- they're a deadly cult with the sole purpose of capturing and exterminating Others. Especially me. My name is Gideon Black, and I'm not human. I am the DeathSpeaker. And I am so screwed. ** SUMMER SALE: Grab book 2 (Fields of Blood) for just 99 cents while book 1 is free! **

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I feel bad giving this book only three stars as I really wanted to like it. It has an interesting premise and is reasonably well written, but it suffers from certain flaws which prevent it from reaching its full potential. (minor spoilers ahead) 1. The storyline is rushed; our MC hurtles from one event to the next with practically zero time for training or development. In the course of a few days, he goes from

knowing nothing of the magical world, to performing magic with no training and successfully attacking not once - but twice! - the headquarters of the primary antagonist cult, Milus Dei, who has specialized in hunting down magical beings for centuries. Furthermore, the number of coincidences is simply unbelievable (the Fae that the werewolf takes him to for help just happens to be his half-brother, the Police Captain the MC works for just happens to be the primary antagonist and the man who captured and tortured his father and brother, etc.).² There is no world-building. At the end of the book, I honestly can say virtually nothing about the magical world of this book. Milus Dei appears to be a large society that is fairly successful at hunting down the magical community, but it appears to be basically ignored by fae and other beings. There is a brief mention of an Unseelie Queen and nobles, and, of course, the Hive, a small market/community in New York for these magical beings, but beyond those small tidbits of information, this story fails to convey any sense of a larger world. I think both this author and the book have potential, but she needs to pay considerably more attention to building up her primary characters and sketching at least the general outlines of the magical world in which they are supposed to live.

Few years ago, I read Sonya Bateman's "Gavyn Donatti" urban fantasy series ("Master of None" and "Master and Apprentice") and I really enjoyed it. So I was bummed when I discovered that the series didn't continue. Then I found out that she released a NEW one (totally by and I was so excited! Well, I enjoyed this one too!!! The beginning had a tortured Fae, saving his haffling baby brother then the story starts 26 years later with Gideon Black, whose job is transporting corpses to the city morgue. Only this time, with a corpse that seems to be mangled by a big animal, well, the corpse TALKS to Gideon!! Apparently, it is a start of a 'new life' for Gideon when he finally finds out about supernatural beings as well as his own heritage. Of course, what's an urban fantasy series without some life-threatening actions to our heroes, right? Because Gideon must also stand up and fight against Milus Dei, an ancient cult dedicated to hunt down and destroy non-human beings. It was a fast-paced read, and I LOVE the characters introduced here. I loved Gideon, I liked that he embraces his power and heritage quite well, and when push comes to shove he doesn't hesitate. The villain is not a big mystery here, it's the adventure and finding a new-set of family for Gideon that just warmed me over. So yep, I loved it!! The book mentioned a title for second book already, so I hope, with this being self-published and everything, that it will have better 'life' than the Donatti series. Yay for new urban fantasy to follow!

There's no simpering heroine waiting to get rescued by the love interest. There's no clueless hero

that knows nothing one moment, and then magically knows all the very next. There's actually plot, and story, through the book, without relying on softcore porn that seems oh so prevalent in today's paranormal reading, whether modern or med. Gideon doesn't wait to get rescued, he doesn't sit in his little hole, and wonder WHY he was put there. He gets out, and carries on with what he was going to be doing in the first place. Gideon is clueless, but learns as things go along. That alone, makes the book worth it. He doesn't go from idiot to god in the space of a page. He doesn't walk through life unscathed by all, with a throng of adoring women aching to throw themselves at him. And he doesn't run around tramping like a hound through various bushes for fruit to pluck either. It's a great start for a new series. Give it a shot, and you'll enjoy it.

(Review books 1-5). The series is OK. Would not recommend and I will not be on the lookout for the next book. Plot synopsis for the first 4 books (literally the same for each one): Someone is already captured or gets captured. Protagonist and/or friends face unbelievable odds and win. Some unfortunate, very-minor, good guy dies. Rinse and repeat. Positives: + Quick reads. + Typical urban fantasy. + Unique character profession/abilities. Neutral: +/- No main character love life. Negative: - Way too short. - Lacks details. - First book is best in the series (and its only OK). - Can drift into -beyond- belief at times. The FBI characters progression.... really? - Repetitive plots between books.

Let me address some of the other reviews first. Yes, this book is not 100% developed, there are some plot holes, and many of the secondary characters could use some more substance and background. However, this story is part of a series and it is clear in the book that it is part of a series. I have high hopes that in the subsequent books some of the development issues will be solved. That said, this book is pretty darn great as is. Gideon is an interesting character, not super smart, not super strong, but a survivor with a strong moral code. The plot is fast moving and the world of the Others is intriguing. The evil cult is sufficiently terrifying. Best of all, the story leaves the reader wanting more without being the dreaded cliffhanger. If you like urban fantasy or action thrillers, I don't think you will be disappointed.

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