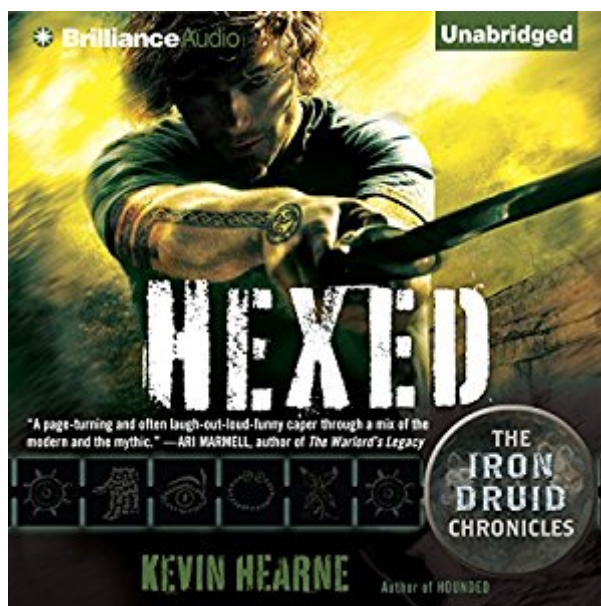


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Hexed: The Iron Druid Chronicles, Book 2



Synopsis

Atticus O'Sullivan, last of the Druids, doesn't care much for witches. Still, he's about to make nice with the local coven by signing a mutually beneficial nonaggression treaty when suddenly the witch population in modern-day Tempe, Arizona, quadruples overnight. And the new girls are not just bad, they're badasses with a dark history on the German side of World War II. With a fallen angel feasting on local high school students, a horde of Bacchantes blowing in from Vegas with their special brand of deadly decadence, and a dangerously sexy Celtic goddess of fire vying for his attention, Atticus is having trouble scheduling the witch hunt. But aided by his magical sword, his neighbor's rocket-propelled grenade launcher, and his vampire attorney, Atticus is ready to sweep the town and show the witchy women they picked the wrong Druid to hex.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not an especially big fan of urban fantasy, but the premise of the first book in this series was interesting enough to draw me in and I liked it enough to give this second book a try. I didn't like it quite as much as book one, but I'll probably try at least one more book in the series. I think the part I liked the most was the dialog between Atticus and Oberon, his pooch. The part I didn't like was that Atticus, who has lived hundreds of years by keeping in the shadows, suddenly seems to want to shine brightly. That seems odd to me and not in character, unless there's an explanation for this that I somehow missed.

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 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. Hearn, 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.

This is the second book in the series, but I think you could start here if you liked. I'd advise reading the first one, though, since in many ways it was tighter. I really love this universe. Hearne did a great job of pulling together an approach that can potentially include ALL the gods of every pantheon, but restrict their powers here in the Real World. So there's bickering both within and among the pantheons, but the gods can't just fight it out themselves; they have to go through our realm. This suggests an almost infinite number of plots possible, rather as was suggested by some episodes of Xena, but Hearne follows up much better! The characterizations of the gods are interesting. They don't meet my personal interpretations... but why should they? I think it's funny that Thor, for example, seems to be disliked by everyone he's ever met, across various pantheons! It's both a running joke and, apparently, a significant part of another book in the series. Similarly the witches. There are various "brands". Atticus, our protagonist, doesn't much care for any of them, but in this book has dealings with 3 varieties, two of which might be allies. The snark was powerful here- sometimes to good effect, but sometimes it got tedious. The banter with his dog, for example, is best when the dog is focused on a very canine view of the world, and less compelling when the dog makes Star Wars references. I have a dog, and even if you ramped up her intellect a lot, she would care nothing for movies! However, the intense focus on things like sausages, walks/runs, and bitches in heat is pretty plausible! The plot was fine. There were coincidences that were very useful, sure, but I think they were woven into the overall plot well enough to pass muster. There were also teasers for potential plot arcs in later books. All in all, I didn't like it quite as much as #1, but I did

enjoy it enough to look forward to starting #3.

It's always hard to follow up the first novel, this second novel is better than the first. We already know most of the characters from the previous, and it's quite a story. Atticus faces three challenges in this, and none of them are by his choice, he has unwanted visitors that can kill him, but Oberon is always by his side providing humour. There have been complaints about the women, mainly goddesses, that are weak. These are not weak women, they each have their own agenda using Atticus as a pawn and he really doesn't have a lot of choice in their game against each other. The only choice he has is to protect himself as much as he can and sometimes threatening, then resolving a situation to both parties satisfaction is the only way to get out without making an enemy.

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