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Staked: The Iron Druid Chronicles

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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.

My husband and I have been waiting for several months for this book to arrive - he reads it on his Kindle, and I enjoy Luke Daniels’ narration. I’ve been listening to a bit each day, and commented to my husband that it seemed kind of like filler material before the big Ragnarok finale. I don’t mind the alternating viewpoints too much, with Luke’s awesome narrating skills, but it seemed like there was not much really going on. I still enjoyed it - especially following the development of Owen’s character as he adapts to his new life.And then I reached Chapter 18, where Granuialle gets ready to deal with her daddy issues. I was a bit confused, since suddenly these issues were front and center, when she really could have been helping Atticus deal with the vampires. It seemed pretty selfish for her to suddenly decide to take care of her step-father’s evil ways, when maybe he would die in the next novel (with the rest of the earth’s population). How about you go save the world and THEN you can tackle the evil capitalist. So I get into Chapter 18, only to discover that she plans on sabotaging his oil business, since its so antiquated. I’m thinking, really, it must be nice to be a globe-trotting Druid who has no need of cars or planes or fossil fuels in general. She can just blow things up, destroy machinery and chalk it all up to a good deed done - no thought to the effect this would have on regular people - or the jobs lost - or anything else. She goes on about Climate Change and the evils of oil, and I finally just skipped to the next chapter.I’m not an idiot - I’ve known for some time now that Kevin Hearne does not share my view on politics or climate science - but I really didn’t care. He wasn’t bludgeoning me over the head with it!

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