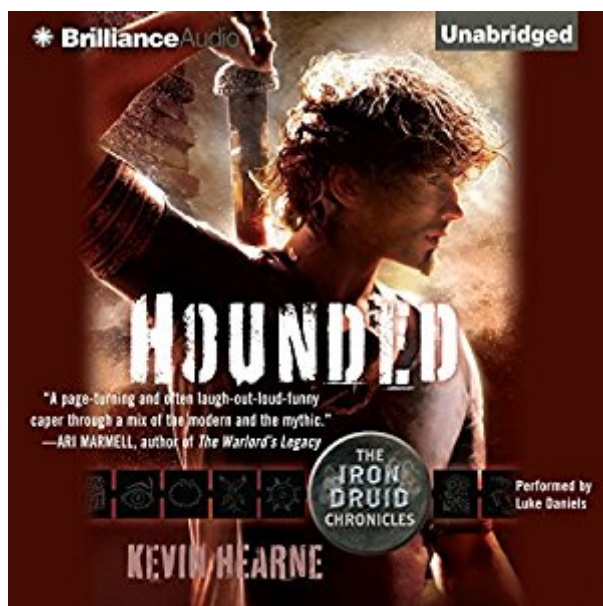


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Hounded: The Iron Druid Chronicles, Book 1



Synopsis

Atticus O'Sullivan, last of the Druids, lives peacefully in Arizona, running an occult bookshop and shape-shifting in his spare time to hunt with his Irish wolfhound. His neighbors and customers think that this handsome, tattooed Irish dude is about twenty-one years old - when in actuality, he's twenty-one centuries old. Not to mention: He draws his power from the earth, possesses a sharp wit, and wields an even sharper magical sword known as Fragarach, the Answerer. Unfortunately, a very angry Celtic god wants that sword, and he's hounded Atticus for centuries. Now the determined deity has tracked him down, and Atticus will need all his power - plus the help of a seductive goddess of death, his vampire and werewolf team of attorneys, a sexy bartender possessed by a Hindu witch, and some good old-fashioned luck of the Irish - to kick some Celtic arse and deliver himself from evil.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am head over heels in love with this genre of writing. Giving all the mythological figures life and voice and with humor included? What a ride! The only thing I hope is that Oberon remains alive because if he doesn't, I'll have to cry my eyes out. I found nothing that I did not like about this book. Oh my, everything moves so quickly here would be descriptive of the writing also. I get an uncomfortable feeling about the widow down the street. Watch out for her author/Druid.

The plot was multithreaded, and each thread was strong enough to support the whole book. While

Mr. Hearne does not always achieve this complexity with his novels in this series, you can count on at least three things- the current conflict will twist and weave, the rich biplay between the protagonists and their supporting characters will amuse and surprise, and the overarching story line will only gain in nuance and scope. A good read.

Atticus O'Sullivan - as he is currently known - is a peaceful man. He is a traditional Druid who grew up through the centuries and enjoys modern American culture for its distinct ignorance of historical knowledge. Atticus currently lives in Arizona - where there is a comfortable lack of gods and fae - with his Irish wolfhound Oberon. He spends his days running his occult book and tea shop, taking care of his neighbor's yard, playing with Oberon, and guarding his magical sword, Fragarach. Unfortunately, a Celtic god is disputing ownership of that sword, and so Atticus's carefully cultivated peace is not so quiet anymore. This is a light romp through urban fantasy, with the typical spiraling violence up to the final fight scene. While the world-building is reasonable, the magic is nearly elemental and only mentioned rather than explained. This world has all the magical types, too, from gods of all kinds to witches to vampires to werewolves. I have to admit, though, that the aspect of the book that hooked me was the sarcasm from Atticus on the one hand and the innocent humor of the dog on the other. I enjoyed the cast of characters and the various points of view that they bring to Atticus. Among the characters that I enjoyed seeing flash by are: a vampire lawyer with a team of ghouls on retainer, a pleasantly tipsy old Irish lady who doesn't mind killings so long as they are Brits, a goddess of the hunt who is recently addicted to smoothies, and a book store employee who takes everything at face value - including Morrigan's multiple visits. I picked this book up because I enjoyed Hearne's short story about Atticus in CarniPunk. I like the dog/humor element a great deal. I recommend it to fans of early Dresden for the great cast of secondary characters.

Hearne blends reality and fantasy in witty prose smoother than an overpriced infomercial blender makes margaritas. The dude can write. He crafts sarcasm, wordplay and dialogue in an obviously well researched tale that glides along a sea of ancient lore peppered with islands of pop culture, laugh out loud humor, and rich, endearing characters. He brings fantasy to your neighborhood with a refreshing dose of 'what if' that'll bring the towel-wearing-superhero-kid out in you. I read the Kindle version and listened to the audio production, and whereas my mental tongue tripped over many of the pronunciations of the Gaelic names while reading, the narrator for the audio was amazing and smoothed out my linguistic ignorance. I highly recommend both. I'm stoked to find a 'new' series, look forward to delving into Hearne's brain, and would gladly raise a pint or three with him at

RÃfÂºla BÃfÂºla. Bravo, sir.

I have been searching for a good series to read. After Eragon, Harry Potter, and The Name of the Wind, I finally found the next series I am going to read. I can count on one hand how many times an author has gotten me to laugh out loud while reading. This book, made it two hands!!! I haven't laughed this hard, been so interested, been eager to finish, and had such enjoyment in a book in such a long time. The main character is witty, smart, and wise! He was easy to "get to know" and "get along with." By the end of the book, I felt I was his friend, I knew him, and I wanted him to succeed in what the story had in store for him. Not only is the main character a great main character, the author did a great job with the story, other main characters, side characters, and dialog!! recommend this 100% Definitely a top 3 in my favorite books!

I appreciated the depth of knowledge and respect Hearne seems to have for Celtic mythology and history; I appreciated the tone of the work, and the characterizations of the gods. The Celtic god of love is not Cupid. The sense of humor in the first-person narrative is one of the main reasons to become fond of Atticus - and the humor started with the dedication. ("Hey, Mom!") It manages to avoid most of the clichÃfÂ©s that have developed in urban fantasies, except perhaps in Mrs. MacDonagh (the elderly Irish widow neighbor of Atticus whose yard he keeps up, and whose eyes are opened in the course of the book to his actual nature); I'm not sure how I felt about her. She came the closest to being a "shure and begorrah!" kind of Irish character. I'm not going to make a spectacular effort to get my hands on the rest of the series to date; three of the six projected books have been released to date, and I may just hold out a little while longer. But it's nice to know there's a series out there in which the Irish is a whiff of peat and whiskey, and not Lucky Charms. I'm grateful for that. Full review on my blog:[...]

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