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Academ's Fury (Codex Alera Book 2)



Synopsis

In *Furies of Calderon*, #1 New York Times [®] bestselling author Jim Butcher introduced readers to a world where the forces of nature take physical form. But now, it is human nature that threatens to throw the realm into chaos. For centuries, the people of Alera have harnessed the furies [®] elementals of earth, air, fire, water, wood, and metal [®] to protect their land from aggressors. But no fury can save them from the dangers they face within. A mysterious attack from across the sea has weakened the First Lord. Should he fall, a bloody civil war is inevitable. The responsibility of fending off assassination attempts and treachery within the First Lord's circle of spies falls on Tavi, the one man with no fury to call...

Book Information

File Size: 1089 KB

Print Length: 722 pages

Publisher: Ace (November 28, 2006)

Publication Date: November 28, 2006

Sold by: [®] Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B001L10YA8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #13,426 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #23

in [®] Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman #30

in [®] Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Greek & Roman #31 in [®] Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Military

Customer Reviews

This author was recommended to me by my brother with quite a bit of passion so I was intrigued. Now...I see why!! The whole series was fantastic!! I couldn't wait to find out from page-to-page what was going to happen. The character development was fantastic! The story line, interaction between characters and battle scenes were some fantastic pictures painted with words. I was able to feel like

I was right there. I have to say that even the romances were so tastefully done that I felt that this book could translate between both genders (you know, most guys don't like too much explicit information on intimate acts in a book--or at least those that I know). I was very inspired by the writings of this author and very, very appreciative that I listened to my brother's recommendation of this author and this series. So...one and all, take it from me this series by Jim Butcher is very, very much worth escaping into!

Jim Butcher is an amazing story teller. I discovered him thanks to recommending his other series, the Dresden Files, to me. After getting caught up on that series and waiting for the next title to be released, I decided to check out his other series, Codex Alera. I generally don't read a lot of high fantasy, and was especially dubious about a series that started off as a bet, but wanted to give it a shot given my love of his other work. Who would have thought that the lost Roman legion and Pokémon would inspire a NYT best selling series? There is a wonderful blend of mystery, action, wit, suspense, humor, and romance in these novels and appeals to a wide audience. The story is comprised of several different character arcs artfully woven together to progress the overall plot, which helps keep things interesting and creates quite a few cliffhangers throughout each book. Overall, a great read!

Although I thoroughly enjoyed this book, I bumped a point off because it was a bit formulaic, at least to itself. I don't think there were any BIG surprises for me. There wasn't a terrifically large amount of new information on the world, beyond some things that most people had probably figured out by the end of the last book and introducing some of the other power players on the political scene. Oh, and there's two new(ish) species introduced and further mention (but no appearance) of another species. Where, in the last volume, I found it somewhat frustrating that Butcher used one of the 'bad guys' as a lens character, this time it did not bother me as much as his actions were portrayed somewhat less as the evil, mustache-twirling, baby-killing villain and overlapped more with the main storyline; providing a perspective on the events that we needed and wouldn't reasonably have achieved from any of the other points of view. I also find one-off lenses very annoying. I hope Butcher learns from the mistakes of Robert Jordan and doesn't do this too often. Time flow also feels a bit weird in this book. The start of one battle takes a chapter for a few minutes of progress, then a chapter for over an hour, then another chapter that only took a few minutes. Then there was a fight going on elsewhere at more or less the same time, that felt like it must be taking hours (it lasted several chapters) but realistically was probably only a handful of minutes during which our title

character spent most of one chapter running up and down stairs (literally). And although the number of characters killed on-screen adds up, considering the amount of fighting going on off-screen, I'm pretty sure Butcher's math was off on this one. Finally, I'm all for the underdog win, but somehow it feels cheapened when it was achieved primarily through the actions of individuals besides our lens characters. The reset to status quo (more or less) at the end also negates much of the feeling of progress in the book. That said, there were more witty one-liners in this book than the last one, though not quite to Dresden levels of wise-cracking. On the whole, there were definitely less lulls in the story than in the previous book. But mostly, if you read the last book, it's what you'd expect a sequel to be.

I've read the whole series and I'll just post this review on all of them. This is a great series. I love the characters. Especially the main character, Tavi. This series could have been written very poorly, like a grade B sci-fi movie. The basic premise of the whole series is that the world they are in is a dumping ground for other worlds' various Bermuda triangles. The leading people are descended from the lost Roman legion, so their society is highly based on this. There are native beings in this world they call Furies. They amount to the spirit that all objects and places have and take after elementals. Everyone bonds with one and sometimes more furies as they grow up. These can range from weak to powerful and often help determine your place in society based on how strong your furies are. Tavi, the main character, is the only person of the Roman descendants that doesn't have a fury and he's considered a freak. Throughout the whole series, he has to keep coming up with ways to stay alive and improve his situation without the use of a fury. You continuously come to turning points where you just know that he's fixing to get his own fury...then he doesn't. It's a riveting story that keeps you on the edge the whole time, wondering how Tavi is going to smart his way out of this one. You should read the whole thing and then move on to his 'Dresden Files' series.

I enjoyed the story. It seemed the same structure as the first but with more intrigue. I like the main protagonist being at a perceived disadvantage but leveraging that to his benefit. It also makes it a compelling story that most antagonists have legitimate reasons that could and do see their best interests sometimes align with the protagonists and otherwise not. And politics....well no one seems innocent there. Good use of prose to move the story and a great crescendo to finish. I enjoyed the book and moved right on to the next one.

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