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Chaos Choreography (InCryptid)



Synopsis

The fifth book in the New York Times bestselling Seanan McGuire's witty urban fantasy InCryptid series about a family of cryptozoologists who act as a buffer between humans and the magical creatures living in secret around us. "The only thing more fun than an October Daye book is an InCryptid book." —Charlaine Harris, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Sookie Stackhouse series
Destiny, Noun: 1. The inevitable or irresistible course of events. 2. The inescapable future. 3. See also Screwed.

Verity Price is back on the West Coast and getting back into the swing of the family business: cryptozoology. She's rescuing cryptids from bad situations, protecting them from monster-hunters, and generally risking life and limb for the greater good, with her ex-Covenant partner/husband, Dominic, by her side. Her ballroom dance career is behind her...or so she thinks. When Verity gets the call from the producers of Dance or Die, the reality show she almost won several years before, she finds the lure of a comeback impossible to resist, and she and Dominic are off to L.A. for one last shot at the big time. Of course, nothing is that simple. When two of her fellow contestants turn up dead, Verity will need every ally she can find—and a couple she wasn't looking for—in order to navigate the complicated steps of both the tango and a murder investigation without blowing her cover. It doesn't help that her official family backup is her grandmother, Alice Price-Healy, who thinks "subtle" is something that happens to other people. Winning this competition may have just become a matter of life and death.

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Customer Reviews

Enjoyable, fun, easy to read, all yes. But, the character development continues to lag, with continuing reliance on the Price of the week, plus the Aeslin mice (a big plus to be sure), plus a cast of guest stars, most of whom seem interchangeable - not something you see in her "October Daye" series, her "Velveteen vs." collections, or her "Indexing" serials. Ms. McGuire also may have a bit of an unacknowledged problem with the denouement this time around. The Covenant seems to be what folks are worried about, but with the body count, and worse, the visibility of the body count, the Covenant may be the least of the Prices' worries. Frankly, if I were a cryptid (and maybe I am, you never know), I'd be thinking, "with friends like these...". I will continue to read (and buy) future installments, because they ARE fun and light; but, I'm worried that Ms. McGuire's heart (or at least her focus) may not be in this series. This makes two 3-star episodes in a row, by my reckoning, and that's unheard of for her. She does give a nice shout out to Daniel Abraham's excellent Dagger and Coin series, so that's a plus.

When I bought this book I thought, "Hey, another Incryptid book. I like those." Then I started reading and I kept reading. Now it's 6 AM, I forgot to sleep, and my eyes are burning but I HAD to know what came next. This book is likely to go down as one they highlights of the entire series. The characters were wonderful and the twists great. The best part of all of this? That ending -- it is going to make for such an emotional ride in the coming books. Seanan, when's the next one? I can't wait.

Wow was I happy to be back with Verity, even though I really liked Alex's PoV too I have a great time with Verity. I was a little sorry that I didn't read a few of the road trip free stories available from Seanan McGuire's website here before starting this but don't worry I read them right after so I would have all the details of the 4+ month road trip to get back to Oregon. Verity and Dominic are living with her family and while they are not nearly as bad as Shelby's family was to Alex I couldn't help but feel a little bad that Dominic is still trying to prove himself worthy to join their ranks. This book started out a little slow for me and when Verity is given the opportunity to enter a dance competition as her alter ego Valerie I'm not going to lie I groaned internally. But let me put your fears to rest. IT

WAS AWESOME. And the reason it was awesome is because of her back up ALICE. Yep this book took off when Grandma Alice showed up. She is the only member of the family to have 2 congregations of mice following her. But that is what happens when you are close to 80 but look 25 because you are an interdimensional bounty hunter trying to find your husband who was sucked into some vortex 60ish years ago. She is fantastic in this and I love her and Verity hanging out together. Especially since if anyone is going to understand turning and marrying an ex-covenant boy it is her.*** Grandma Alice isn't a free-runner; like most of my family, she views my tendency to throw myself off tall buildings as just short of suicidal, although "being her" she also found it sort of adorable. When your grandmother with no sense of self-preservation thinks you're being cute, maybe it's time to reconsider your life choices. ***Okay so Verity is going to give Valerie (her dance alter ego) one more change in the spot light and then it will be time to tie off the loose ends and kill her off. So she is just going to enjoy the moment and dance for the fun of it but then she finds a few of the voted off contestants dead and that changes everything because someone is trying to call a snake god forth.*** (I don't have much experience with gods, and I don't want much experience with gods, since people who meet gods tend to wind up pregnant with demigods. Not my idea of a good time.) ***Since the stakes have just been raised the family decides that Verity needs a little extra back up and who better than Grandma Alice. After Alice showed up I couldn't put the book down. It was intense, fast and fun. Plus there were the mice and as always I love the mice and their sayings and rituals. *** "Hail to Verity, the Arboreal Priestess, bride to the God of Hard Choices in Dark Places, it squeaked. "Today begins the great feast of Dammit, Enid, Where Is That Girl, I Know She Tells You When She's Sneaking Out. We have come to beg a re-creation. " I was still partially asleep, and it took me a moment to remember which holiday they were talking about. "Wait isn't this the one where Grandma Alice got lost in the woods for almost a whole day, and then wound up at Grandpa Thomas' house for the first time? " ***I adore that as the books go on the mice get more and more page time and get to do more things to help out. I find them one of the best parts of this series. The ending surprised me, like really surprised me and wow is really all I can say without giving anything away. I didn't see the series heading in that direction but I'm pretty sure that whatever happens next is going to be just great. A few other things of interest.- Another clan of Dragon Princesses that need something from Verity.- cute Ghoul children at play- A shark shifter that can walk on land- Routewitches- A fight with a giant Snake God.- chupacabra- AND newlywed Verity and Dominic. (so totally cute)

Until now, I loved this series but this latest book is so dull and boring that I really don't know if I will ever finish it, which has never been the case with this author and the other books in both of her current series until now. Please note I didn't say it was "bad," but if one is a true aficionado of action-packed fantasy, then one will be greatly disappointed with the slow pace of action. I purchased this book when it first came out in March, unenthusiastically made it through about 30% over a week's time (normally I would have completed the book well before then), then put it down and was never tempted to go back until this weekend. I did not resume reading it until I literally had nothing new to read on my Kindle, which was on the last day in July. After two days I'm up to 50%, but I am so uninterested in the background story for the plot line that I keep asking myself "what the hell was Ms. McGuire thinking?" Combine that with the snail's pace of the action and I had to stop, come here and voice my displeasure - which I hardly ever do. Somebody's gotta say it so I guess it's me - when I read an action series, I expect action. The protagonist's character had already been thoroughly developed over the course of the series so the details and minutia related to what it takes to engage in her passion just seem too much for this genre. I guess plot lines that employ the protagonist's childhood dreams and a reality TV setting just ain't my cup of tea and are not what I appreciate in my action/fantasy tales. Oh well...

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