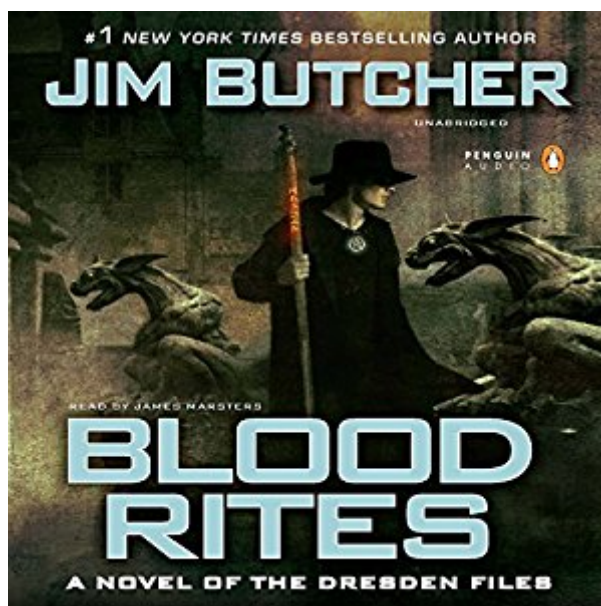


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Blood Rites: The Dresden Files, Book 6



Synopsis

Harry Dresden, Chicago's only professional wizard, takes on a case as a favor to his friend Thomas-a vampire of dubious integrity-only to become the prime suspect in a series of ghastly murders. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Harry Dresden starts this adventure in a car with a box of stolen puppies, running from demons and being driven by a vampire. Thomas is driving the car because he needs a favour from Harry as he thinks someone is targeting a friend of his with "evil eye" curses. Two women in his close circle died under very odd and slightly cartoonish circumstances. And there is also the tiny issue with the vampires of the Black Court that do not feel enough beings are trying to kill Harry. This story has an amazing start but then it slows down substantially. There is a great villain but probably because Harry did not need to save the world, I felt he could take on anyone/anything. I enjoyed seeing more Murphy and learning about her family, and learning so much about Thomas of course. Thomas was the best part of the storyline and the lack of action was balanced by learning more about Harry and his life. This book was hard to put down and made me giggle more often than not. This series is really good!

I've been reading through the Dresden Files books at a pretty fast clip and I'm almost out of the ones I got in the \$1.99 Kindle promo! So the first thing I will say about these books is that they're

easy to read. But don't go too fast, because there are some funny lines stuck here and there that you don't want to miss. I think a lot of aspects of "Blood Rites" are pretty solid. Love that we're seeing another side of Murphy, that we're getting more information about Harry's past (and it's not just infodumping, but actually is revealed in relation to the self-contained story within this book). White Court vampire Thomas and mercenary Kincaid are back, as is Harry's mentor Ebenezer. We learn more about all of them, as well. The information is introduced in a way that makes sense, in terms of the story; there's a bit of telling with regards to background information, but it is smart for the author to do it that way -- if two people are angry with one another, and Harry doesn't understand why, someone has to explain it to him (and, thereby, also to us). At any rate, even though Harry is the POV character, we're far enough along in the series that we are getting to know the other characters better, too, and I like that. Too often, first-person POV novels involve a trade-off, wherein you just don't learn much about the supporting characters. It's still a slow process to learn about Harry's companions, but I like the progression. Harry is gaining depth, as well. We learn more of his feelings about family, his sense of loss at not having known his mother. He's also getting better at asking for help instead of going into a location and blasting away. It makes him more sympathetic and less aloof, and that's good. The action is pretty intense for the entire second half of the book, with multiple confrontations that build in intensity. (Suppose that was the case for book 5, as well, but I feel like the final confrontation had more impact in this book than the final confrontation in book 5 did.) Vampires once again feature pretty strongly in this book; we learn a lot more about White Court vampires (the Red Court is absent here) and there's a battle with Black Court vampires, as well. (White Court vampires aren't exactly good guys, which you learn here, but they feed on emotion and tend to work against each other in secret, subtle ways. Black Court vampires, on the other hand, are the nastiest ones out there.) My first thought upon the conclusion of the confrontation with the Black Court vampires was that things had been too easy, that that couldn't be all there was to it. Thankfully, the characters address this later on, so I know the author deliberated on this before writing the scene and didn't just add it as filler. One thing I've said about past books, and it's true here as well, is that I like the way Butcher doles out additional pieces of information about the supernatural world. It's not all thrown at us at once; rather, each book generally goes deeper into one or two of the world. It's much easier to keep track of everything that way. In case you didn't know, this is book 6 in the series. I'd highly recommend reading the first five books (in order) before getting to this one. Nearly all of them contain bits and pieces of information that shed light on events in this book, as said events relate to the greater story arc of the series. There are a couple of things you won't get at all if you haven't read the previous books. Small

things, but noticing them added to my enjoyment. All of these books have self-contained mysteries and all of them reveal bits and pieces of magic, the supernatural, etc., as these things exist in the Dresden universe. I think this book is one of the better ones at integrating the mystery and its solution into the overall series. In this book, Harry is hired to protect the cast and crew of an adult film from a curse that's killing performers in the film, one by one. Further, the war between wizards and vampires (that Harry started back in book 3) is ongoing. As you might expect, there are a lot of descriptions of women and their physical features, but this is par for the course for a Dresden book. There's definitely some sexual content and a lot of blood, gore, and violence. These books do have a dark, bleak tone. I wasn't able to predict the ending (I'm never very good at guessing who the killer is in traditional mysteries), but all the clues made sense to me. Nothing seemed too implausible (at least within the universe of the story). I'm just pleased to have figured one thing out on my own (one character is engaged to be married but no one seems to know who the fiancée is), although by the end of the book, there weren't many candidates left, so that may have been process of elimination. The setting was (again) Chicago, but there wasn't really anything specific to the city in this book. The writing was similar in tone and style to previous novels in the series, perhaps with a few more snarky one-liners than in the past (I like this). This is definitely not a difficult book to get through. If you've enjoyed the previous books in the series, you should like this one, too.

Harry Dresden, Wizard extraordinary, never has a slow day! So, when Thomas, Harry's inexplicably helpful, white court vampire 'friend' asks Harry to take a client who's seemingly in fear for his life, Harry tentatively agrees with the caveat that if he takes the job, then Thomas must come clean with Harry as to why Thomas has been so very helpful and even gone so far as to save Harry's life a time or two... Thomas agrees to the caveat, though he warns Harry that he won't believe it, anyway! It quickly becomes apparent that there is indeed a dangerous plot underway that seems to be targeting the Producer of a newly formed motion picture studio that has moved into Chicago after breaking with a bigger studio in California, in hope of being able to make more creative pictures and cast a wider range of actors and actresses. Harry gets a rude surprise when he shows up for his first day on the case, undercover as a production assistant, only to find that the company is producing Adult Erotica...porno, in a word! Still off balance because of the unusual environment, Harry is quickly embroiled in one problem after another, fighting to derail what appears to be a very strong Entropy Curse that seems to be targeting all the women on the set, and there seems to be no connections between the victims. On top of that, Harry is attacked by Black Court Vampires, led by Mavra, a dangerous and very old survivor of the pogroms and Vampire Hunts that occurred

following the publication of Bram Stokers "DRACULA", which spelled out, in plain language, all the weaknesses inherent in the Black Court Vampires, and how to kill them so that they stay dead!! Only the very strongest, most vicious, survivors lived through that time, and Mavra was in that number. Now she has come to Chicago with the express purpose of destroying Harry Dresden, and every man woman and child that he has helped or cared for since he came to town. There's no rest for the weary, as Harry hurtles from one crisis to the next...full out mayhem on an epic scale! Harry must call in favors where he's able, and recruit from a very limited pool of talent, and while, as usual, he manages to put together a Dream team of potential power, even a win may leave him in an untenable position...it may take 'Blood Rites' to make things right in the end

Not much more needs to be said for positive reviews of this series. I am more than half way thru reading the current 15 books in the series, and intend re-reading them again to pick up pieces that I missed the first time. Not bad considering the first book was an "accidental" discovery.... guess Jim Butcher's teacher showed him - HA!

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