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Fool Moon: The Dresden Files, Book 2



Synopsis

Harry Blackstone Copperfield Dresden is Chicago's only openly practicing wizard. He is also dead broke. His vast knowledge and magical skills are unfortunately matched by his talent for making powerful enemies and alienating friends. With little more than his integrity left, he accepts an offer of work from Lt. Karin Murphy of Chicago's Special Investigations Unit. He wants to redeem himself in Murphy's eyes and make enough money to quiet his rumbling stomach. Soon he finds himself pinned between trigger-happy FBI agents, shape-shifting motorcycle gang members, a threatened mobster boss, and an heir to an ancient curse along with his primal fiancée. Throw in environmental activists and a pair of young werewolves in love and you have something of Fool Moon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are many kinds of wolves in the world, and not all of them are human. Not even those that walk on two legs. Someone, something, is shredding people in Chicago, leaving behind huge doggy footprints painted in the blood of the victims. Oh, and of course, it's round about full moon time. Reluctantly Karrin Murphy, Director of Special Investigations for the Chicago P.D., has had to call in Harry Dresden, professional wizard. Not that she trusts him much anymore after the way he left her hanging the last time they worked together. But he's the only one with the knowledge and special skills she'll need if she has to deal with a werewolf on the loose. In this second volume of his exciting new "Dresden Files" series, Jim Butcher has packaged up another action-filled detective story with a mystical twist. Like any good gumshoe thriller, "Fool Moon" has a plot full of peril, false leads, near

misses, and all the usual (and unusual) suspects. Like any good fantasy tale, it has a believable, well-developed mythology. The reader comes away with an arcane education--werewolf lore, potion-cooking, demon-summoning. As narrator, Harry Dresden lets his audience in on all the little trade secrets of the practicing mage. Now, if only he could learn to be so candid with his colleagues and friends....In the final analysis, "Fool Moon" is more about learning to trust than about foiling werewolves, more about self discovery than arcane knowledge, more about the demons in Harry's heart than those in his summoning circle. In other words, it is about Harry Dresden himself, a hero of pure intention, tremendous power, and courage in the face of unspeakable danger, who just happens to be afraid to meet his own eyes in the mirror.

After reading the first in this series "Storm Front" I had come to believe that the comic ineptness of Harry Dresden, the only wizard in the Chicago phone book (or any other phone book for that matter) was due more to the inexperience of the author than it was intentional. At that time, I thought the basic premise of the plot was serious. After all, people die when Harry gets things wrong. Well, it appears that I was wrong. Jim Butcher has clearly created one of the strangest wizards in detective fiction. Actually he is a wizard/gumshoe with the kind of do-gooder streak that is a cinch to cause trouble. In this volume Dresden is trying to solve a serial killer problem which seems to involve several different kinds of werewolves. These range from nasty people who think they are wolves right up to the honest-to-God tear-you-and-all-your-friends-to-pieces loup-garou. Inevitably Harry goes into each struggle well armed with wands, charms, and even guns. And inevitably he drops or loses all of them. In fact your first warning that Harry is going to get flattened again is when he points his magic wand. One of Harry's skills is the ability to alienate almost everyone. So this time Harry is not only dodging werewolves, he is also being chased by Chicago's number one gangster and all of the local FBI. Nor are the local cops fond of him. After the FBI manages to capture the loup-garou and lock him in a police holding tank, Harry manages to not get to the police station quite on time. Before Harry can do anything most of the occupants of the building are dead. What does Harry finally do? He blasts an invincible werewolf straight through the station's walls and several nearby buildings before setting him down so that the wolf can escape. Not too bright is our Harry.

The Dresden Files moves from exploring a dark wizard in the first book in the series, Storm Front, to werewolves in Fool Moon. The various types of werewolves are explored, more of Harry Dresden's powers and past is hinted at, and more of this universe Jim Butcher is building is revealed. Since the author can assume the reader is familiar with the basics, the pace of this book is much faster than

Storm Front. Action, action and more action with many of the same series characters from the first book. I found learning about Butcher's take on werewolves very interesting and enjoyed it very much. My issue with the story is that the final confrontation diluted the power of the main werewolf. In their first confrontation, Butcher wrote about a killing machine that took everything that Harry and Murphy could throw at it and still walked away defiant. In the final battle it seemed a much weaker and slower being, easily delayed and handled. A serious letdown. That said, Butcher has obviously mapped out his universe in detail and I'm looking forward to learning more. But the biggest weakness is still in the characters. Murphy is starting to annoy me and that's a bad thing because she should be a central character. As written, she's unbelievable. Same with Marcone. His involvement and survival of two major attacks in two books needs to be explained soon because I'm tiring of hearing about how cold and tough he is. I don't care. He doesn't fit in (so far) with a supernatural book unless there is some back story we haven't been told yet. So far I can't think of any hints in that direction so I worry that he's fulfilling some role Butcher thinks he needs. The love interest angle with Susan is fine but a little forced.

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