



Thaumatology 101

Niall Teasdale

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Ceridwyn Brent had a fairly easy life, kept safe from the supernatural dangers of the world around her by the enchantments her parents placed on her when she was a baby. Then her parents died in a car accident leaving their daughter a well-protected nervous wreck, afraid of travel and especially cars, and unwilling to leave the house. Then she met Lily Carpenter, a half-succubus trying to get her life back on track and they helped each other back to something like a normal life. As normal as it gets when your house looks like the Munsters were the chief designers and your housekeeper is an enigmatic fairy.

It was Lily who persuaded Ceri to apply for the job as research assistant to Doctor Cheryl Tennant, lead researcher in quantum thaumatology at the London Metropolitan University. Doctor Tennant is locked in a battle with a better funded team at Cambridge to discover the fundamental particle of magic, the Null Thaumiton. Everyone knows the race has been heating up with both sides close to a result, but there was no way Ceri could have expected sabotage and murder to be involved in an academic contest.

Soon Ceri and Lily are in the middle of an academic war, surrounded by wizards, werewolves, and demons, and in the meantime there's still that elusive particle to uncover.

Thaumatology 101 Details

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From Reader Review Thaumatology 101 for online ebook

Heather (Raevynemyst) says

Loved it! Meet Ceri, a Thaumatology research assistant and her roommate Lily, best friend and half succubi. What is Thaumatology? The study of magic energy from what I gathered from the book. Ceri gets the job of her dreams but due to an accident in the lab gets more than she bargains for and finds out some truths from her past. As Ceri's dearest friend and protector, Lily is on hand to help Ceri adjust to the changes in her life. Along the way, we meet a wizard named Carter, a wonderful Thaumatomologist named Cheryl who also is Ceri's boss and becomes a friend, and Alec the werewolf bartender. Much more happens in this wonderful starter book. The plot is unique and flows perfectly. The characters are strong and very diverse and the enemies are believable. This first book introduces us to those wonderful characters and looking at magic from a scientific viewpoint, which is extremely interesting. I loved all the diverse characters and races and can't wait to read more in this series.

Cloak88 says

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Review Magic as a science and nerds FTW.

Ceri is a nerd and a bit of a recluse. Encouraged by her half-succubus friend and roommate, she applied for a job at the local university. Now she and her colleagues are trying to discover the fundamental magic particle: the T-null. In other words lots of cool magic techno-babble in a well-constructed magical world where people can get a degree in wizardry and magic is measured in Thausms.

Overall the writing style is lighthearted with quite a few explicit scenes (F/F and M/F) thrown in. Those are sometimes a bit distracting, but somehow still feel as integral part of the story. The only two negative points are some of the unrealistic clothing worn by the characters and the rather unsightly cover.

Ruby Ridge says

Like a mirror version of 'The Hollows', but with the 2 MCs actually getting together - hope it stays that way. Lost a star as I really hate werewolves! Also took away another star as the author needs to step up his game and straighten his book out - it is obviously not erotica so he needs to concentrate more on the story - keep the Ceri/Linda thing developing but develop the stories more also
Will read #2,

Alicia Manolas says

Not much like its blurb, it's much much better!!!

Woot! Woohoo!!! Yay! Fabulous! Fantastic! Engaging! Sexy and All kinds of other good things! I Highly

reccomend this magic learning series. Unlike JK Rowlings series Harry Potter or Christopher Nuttalls books Schooled in Magic, or any other novels centred on learning magic, this one is NOT in a school setting, oddly making it all the more strengthened because of that fact! The university in the story is just a work place. Readers of Kim Harrison the Hollows books, Patricia Briggs series about Mercy Thompson, and Laurell K Hamilton series about Anita Blake will love this book.

Rike @ RikeRandom says

So... there is an actually quite decent story behind that horrendous cover. The writing is solid, the pacing good with a nice amount of suspense and lots of likable characters. There's also a fair amount of tech-talk which I found vastly intriguing.

Unfortunately though, this book is pretty much a kinky sex-fantasy. There are passages that simply scream "Hey, this is how I, the clearly dick-controlled author, imagine the perfect lesbian couple in an - obviously - open relationship, so they sleep with absolutely everyone". That gets somewhat annoying, especially because the author seems to have a fetish for women in little to none clothes, so it is permanently stressed how little the characters are wearing - if they are wearing anything at all.

The main character especially has a quite weird preference for one-piece teddies, the only piece of clothing that makes her feel sexy and which she owns in various styles all of which seem to consist mostly of lace, netting, see-through fabric and/or cut-outs.

Now, my problem was that as a non-native speaker this constantly reminded me of those over-sized, plush rompers for grown-ups, which are anything but sexy - and it took me ages - and a Google search - to actually realize that this refers to one-piece lingerie. Not that I find those much more sexy but at least it somewhat explained everyones obsession with those damn things.

Also there are lots and lots of sex in this book without there actually being any. Yes, it's pretty much everybody sleeps with everybody, but once the story establishes who will sleep with whom, the scenes end, so there is almost never any actual detail to the sex scenes, they mostly happen behind the scenes so to speak. Not that I would have wanted detailed descriptions but this lack of any made the sex seem even more unnecessary than it would have probably seemed otherwise and added to the whole kinky sex-fantasy atmosphere.

If you can ignore that atmosphere though - and honestly, beside being slightly annoying it mostly had me roll my eyes at some of the more stupid scenes -, the story is quite entertaining and I actually had fun reading it.

Iori says

Sex, science/magic mixed together and thrills what can I ask more ?

Gerald Robinson says

Much better than average for the genre 4 1/2 stars.

This review is for the entire series. Don't expect spoilers nor a book report.

The main character development is good. Ceri is the protagonist a brilliant thaumatology student and a grad researcher working for professor Cheryl. Her room mate is a half insomnia named Lily. The author has borrowed very likely from the particle physics standard model to explain-in very broad strokes-

thaumatology.

The plots are super incidents tied together by hero's thaumatology work and Julie's work in a club. The author doesn't make the mistake of confabulating demons and the fallen. Some of the character development is a little slow but the often seen sex scenes are missing. Yes there is some sex Ceri is no and has a werewolf boy friend. She and Lily have a Ds relationship.

Overall interesting and well written. There are occasional editing and auto complete errors. I particularly liked "prey" instead of "pray".

Libro Vore says

There's something really charming about this whole series, of which this is the first book. I'm a bit of a sucker for an author who can mix fantasy and science, and Niall pulls it off nicely, fashioning a universe where magic has a quantum-mechanical basis.

Ceri is an 18-year-old orphan who's inherited a house in London from her parents. She lives in a world of magic users, werewolves, vampires, dragons, fae and whatnot. While both parents were powerful magic users, Ceri has no ability other than to completely dispel any magic used on her. Ceri lives with Lil, a half-succubus, who's a boarder in Ceri's house and Twill, a four-inch tall fae. When Ceri gets a job as a graduate assistant in a Quantum Magic lab at the university, an engineered accident destroys the tattoos that were guarding her (and incidentally keeping her from performing magic) and she finds she may be the strongest magic user around.

The story spans a whole series of books as well as some ancillary short stories that provide background and contextual depth. One aspect I find especially compelling is the use of events in early books as drivers for later actions. I can't say if Niall was purposefully leaving all those Easter Eggs in or if he's just really good at weaving the later pieces together, but the result is compelling.

Lil, as a succubus, is extremely sexual and a strong subtext of the series is her attraction to Ceri and the eventual union of the two, so be warned if you don't like lesbian romances or light BDSM themes. I found the romance was very much a part of the story arc and thought it was well handled, with the latest stories actually depending on the relationship as motivation.

This is a series you can re-read a number of times with a lot of enjoyment.

Wolgan says

The cover is pretty bad. Which is a damn shame since the book is actually pretty fantastic. A great balance between the technical and fun sides of magic. The tone is primarily light, which makes the darker moments both more meaningful and more tolerable. There is flirting, romance and sex. But it never feels like it's gratuitous. There is also some BDSM elements, but it fell into context and was really erotic without being gratuitous.

There is hardly any angst, which makes me very happy, as I've OD'd on angst reading other books in this genre. The main characters are open and communicative, and they work through their issues like real people. Which is not to say it's all sunshine and roses, there are some significant challenges involved in maintaining

a relationship between a sorcerer and a half succubus. I loved Lily and Ceri's interactions, and the back and forth of their relationship dynamics was very entertaining.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and look forward to reading more from Teasdale.

A couple of warnings though. As other reviewers have pointed out, Teasdale has a weird thing about teddy's, and I don't mean the bears. It's a little odd and pulled me out of the story more than once. Also, the women giggle more than anyone I've ever met. I ended up just mentally substituting 'chuckle' for 'giggle' and 'corset' for 'teddy' (because I like corsets *shrug* I make no apologies).

Strina K says

The magic system is interesting, especially as pertains to the heroine, but I really had to work at ignoring the way the author dressed her. Sure, yeah, the inexperienced almost-recluse is constantly wearing revealing lingerie as clothes, in public. That's totally a thing girls do, meet strange celebrities wearing a teddy with an unbuttoned shirt over it.

Whatever, bro, I am just here for the magic and the queerness.

P. Industry says

Wow, well. The author certainly has a fetish, and he's definitely going to be telling you about that.

Plot; okay. Ceri is a norm, the non-magical daughter of two powerful enchanters. She is also a talented academic, specialising in the theory behind the magic which now permeates the world. After a tremendous explosion at the high-energy magical research lab, she's plunged into danger – someone is trying to sabotage the experiments, and the list of suspects is pretty long. Helping her is her roommate Lilly (an ex-prostitute, current barwaitress succubus), her boss Dr Tennen, and her housefairy... err... [insert name here].

Teasdale is determined to tell everyone what his dick thinks.

The book is well written, don't get me wrong – the mystery is well-paced (albeit tremendously predictable), the characters are kind of fun and interact well, and the supporting cast has charm. When you buy this book, however, you should probably have no idea how female clothes work. Teasdale's women literally wear teddies to work. These are described in detail. (At one particularly bizarre point, the ladies even fix machinery wearing them.) Policemen are greeted without the (female) hosts wearing pants. Every one of these ladies spends considerable time either topless, or entirely naked – these are lingered upon even as the plot goes on around it. Lilly is deliberately made a submissive sex-fiend, and the implications of that are drawn out at length. This is lesbian fiction written for the male gaze – and it's a male who is particularly sleazy. After a while the oiliness of the experience begins to impact the plot.

Which is a shame. The plot is fine. Perfectly serviceable, in fact. Not brilliant, by any means, but not bad. Well paced – well edited. I liked the secondary characters (especially the local night-school teacher). The world-building is impressive; the magic system has depth and logic.

But yeah – the general creepiness of the novel means I can't recommend this book.

Tony says

An embarrassingly guilty pleasure of urban fantasy. This series is extremely derivative of the Hollows series by Kim Harrison, taking a nearly identical set of characters but in London instead of Cincinnati. Three main figures sharing a house, with the lead being a magic user, the roommate a succubus instead of a vampire, and a female "fairy" instead of a male "pixy". There's enough differences in both the characters and writing style to set the two series apart, but if I were Harrison I might be more than a bit annoyed.

The biggest difference is in the relationships. Where Harrison's Hollows series certainly has the romance novel relationship stuff, it's definitely from a woman's voice; whereas, Niall's Thaumatology series features pure male fantasy of lesbian sex (and pretty much anything else). The amount of time Niall spends writing about the character's breasts is hilarious.

But all in all, the writing is clean and enjoyable. The characters work. The story is primary. The sex is male fantasy, and there's certainly a market for that in a genre that has been primarily dominated with women writers. There's no literary brilliance here, but the quality of the writing, or at least the editing, is certainly far better than that of Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake urban fantasy porn.

Oh, and the covers? Yeah...they're bad. Really bad. Like they came from 4chan or something.

N.R. Tucker says

I initially selected Thaumatology 101 because I needed to read a book by an author with my initials for a 2015 book challenge. The search was harder than I would have thought and I was pleased to find something in fantasy as that is my relaxation 'go to'. Overall it was a pleasant read with a world and characters that amused.

Daniel says

Yet another decent world that get marred by the author's proclivities, still entertaining though and I will always enjoy a more scientific approach to magic.

Cloak88 says

Magic as a science and nerds FTW.

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