



The Dresden Files Collection 1-6

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The first six novels featuring Harry Dresden—Chicago’s only professional wizard—are a perfect introduction to the # 1 New York Times bestselling series that Entertainment Weekly describes as “Buffy the Vampire Slayer starring Philip Marlowe.”

Storm Front

Fool Moon

Grave Peril

Summer Knight

Death Masks

Blood Rites

The Dresden Files Collection 1-6 Details

Date : Published (first published 2006)

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Author : Jim Butcher

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Fiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review The Dresden Files Collection 1-6 for online ebook

Karen says

I have read them ALL and I love them all. The first 12 better than the last 3. But I kept reading. I you love demon hunters and all that goes with it and a rogue of a protagonist...this is the series for you.

Wylie says

This is how it almost began for me... the addiction to Harry Dresden and the Dresden files! I say almost because in actuality I watched the series on (I think it was... it was a few years ago) Netflix. My wife bought the first book some time ago and had it lying around. At which point I finish the short lived (and now looking back, misrepresented) series and read the first book and I was hooked! I bought the collection of the first 6 books on my Kindle and was more than happy to read Storm Front a second time. I took a break for about six months without reading the last book in the collection for fear of not having the second collection. So now just as I get near the end, I just purchase them separately and move on down the line. I can relate to Harry Dresden; Wizard powers aside he's a hell of a lot like me. And I'll damned if we both do make the same types of decisions and the same damn mistakes. And we hope for the best while we muck up the whole God forsaken thing. I tell you this only because if you are a guy or girl who just finds themselves in situations that thrust upon you by fate; or you get yourself into them because you just can't keep your mouth shut; or just in the wrong place at the wrong time; or just whatever the case may be! Read the books and find out that while you're reading life doesn't seem so bad!

Travis Gutty says

ADORE the Dresden Files. Have all the books on paper, but then I saw the chance to start building a digital collection and jumped on it. Great books.

Tom Russell says

Like many people, I suppose, I was introduced to the Dresden Files novels via the short lived television series that ran on the Sci-Fi Channel back in 2007. Yes, it was still properly named "Sci-Fi" back then. Soon thereafter I bought a copy of Storm Front, the first book in the series. I was hooked. Urban fantasy meets Sam Spade! What's not to like? I didn't read any further in the series, always meaning to, but always having other books ahead of it on the "To Read" list.

That changed when I saw the paperback of the 13th book Ghost Story in the airport bookstore while on vacation. It was time to get caught up on the adventures of Harry Blackstone Copperfield Dresden. A quick search through the B&N nook offerings turned up this gem, The Dresden Files Collection 1-6, and another collection for the next six novels. For my money this is by far the best way to get into this series. This is the sort of thing for which e-books are particularly well suited. I read the complete works of H. P.

Lovecraft in similar fashion. Reading all 6 of these novels back-to-back definitely gives one a feel for the breadth of the story as it builds through each installment.

Jim Butcher's writing style is airy and brisk. Each book is under 400 pages and a fully contained story in its own right which could easily stand on its own. However, one really comes to appreciate the scope of Mr. Butcher's world building efforts as the series progresses. I am not sure if he had the whole framework thought out when he started or just added on to what came before. Regardless, the world he presents is internally consistent and wonderfully imaginative while at the same time adhering to many well known and established tropes of magic and the supernatural.

Each of these first six books highlights a different supernatural aspect of Harry Dresden's world. In *Storm Front* we learn that magic does exist and some of the rules thereof. The second book, *Fool Moon*, centers around the lore of the four types of werewolves. Naturally, in the next book, *Grave Peril*, we are introduced to this world's vampires, as well as a brief look at the land of Faerie and the NeverNever. We get a deeper exposure to the Faerie Courts in *Summer Knight*. Next up is *Death Masks* in which a bit of Christian Mythology is added to the mix, especially demons and a special trio of Holy Warriors known as the Knights of the Cross. The final book in this collection is *Blood Rites* which delves a bit more into the politics of the White Council, the ruling body of magicians, sorcerers and such like.

Another fun part about reading these books one after the other is seeing how Mr. Butcher's style develops as he goes. *Storm Front* is a worthy introductory novel. The tone is wonderfully reminiscent of Chandler-esque hardboiled detective novels. This tone lightens somewhat as the series progresses, but is never entirely done away with. Mr. Butcher refines his style as he goes and one can sense his growing maturity as a writer. It is also great fun to watch Harry grow as a person.

Some may find the Dresden Files novels to be a bit formulaic, and they'd be right. There is a particular cadence, an ebb and flow to Mr. Butcher's narrative style that remains consistent throughout. Far from a detriment, I find this to be a comforting aspect. I know somewhat what to expect from the following novels, not in detail, but in feel. I know that every gripping action scene will be followed by recovery, examination, and a jump in a new direction. Knowing the pattern is like knowing that dinner will be followed by dessert.

If you get the urge to enjoy a solid piece of story-telling with witty, intelligent, well defined characters, fast paced action, and captivating mystery, I suggest you check out the Dresden Files. Only one thing really bugs me about this series. The cover art for each novel features a man who is supposedly Harry Dresden wearing a duster and stetson. While the duster is part of Harry's signature look, no where in any of the books I've read does he ever wear a hat. I hope he gets one somewhere in books 7-12 or I will be sorely disappointed.

Barry Moore says

The first two books are flat out bad. Almost every single issue Dresden runs into could be solved if any of the people in the stories communicated like regular people. The first book is especially bad, with Dresden going off to face the danger, without telling anyone who the villain is, even though he has ample chance to do so. So the hero puts plenty of lives in danger, because he isn't smart enough to say "Oh by the way, in case I don't show up again, I am going out to catch the bad guy. He lives at this location." The character development is even worse, because there is none. Since all the books are written in a bad first person style, you don't get to know anyone else as human beings. Needless to say, the women are all beautiful (Or cute, or sexy or whatever other adjective for highly attractive you want to put in there) and every one of them has a thing for our hero. Not a single female character is too old, or too young or too married. They are all pining

for Dresden, while he moans about his lack of luck with the fairer sex. I honestly don't get all the love for these books. The whole "Harry Potter for adults" stuff talked about here is just garbage. These books are much less well written, and have very simplistic plots. It does get better, in books 3 through 6, but none of these are amazing or incredible. If you want books that tell the story of cardboard cutout characters that do stupid things to forward the plot, then this is your series.

Shel says

Book one, Storm Front: 3 stars. I'm not in love with Harry's narrative voice - but then I usually don't care for first person narration unless it's done particularly well (see: Robin Hobb). Plot had me racing along...I pretty much finished it in two nights, though one was a night when I'd had too much caffeine and couldn't sleep anyway. I enjoyed the story and am intrigued by the hints we get of Harry's dark past. Hope to learn more about that in future books. If the rest of these are as quick to read as the first, I should have no problem finishing these before my loan expires :)

Update, 10/29: Book two, Fool Moon: 3 stars. Heck of an engaging story, but the narration is still getting in the way of my really getting lost in the book. If Harry refers to Murphy as "cute" one more time...ugh. Still interested enough to read on, though...onward!

Update, 11/7: Book three, Grave Peril: still 3 stars. A plot that begins to give glimpses of a more overarching story thread connecting the books is balanced out by the introduction of a character that annoyed the heck out of me. I like the idea of very powerful faith-based magic, but Michael was too over-the-top with it. I'm not anti-religion (I am of a somewhat religious bent myself), but I AM anti-rub-your-religion-in-everyone-else's-face. Everyone says that book 4 is where Butcher really hits his stride, so I'm going to keep on, but I might read a few other books first before going on to book 4...

Update, 11/24: Book four, Summer Knight: 3.5 stars. I can't quite bring myself to give it 4 stars, as I am still kind of annoyed with Harry's narrative voice, but this one was better than the first three. We start to get a glimpse of more of an overarching plotline rather than the episodic nature of the first three books, as well as the reappearance of some shady figures from Dresden's past. I liked Butcher's version of Faerie and the different personalities of the Lady, Queen, and Mother of Summer and Winter. I'm returning the collection to the library right now, but I will probably take it out again someday to continue with the series.

Update, 10/21/2013: Book five, Death Masks: 4 stars. Harry annoyed me less in this episode, though that may be less about the way he's written and more about the fact that it's been almost a year since I read the previous one, so I knew exactly what I was getting into. I refreshed my memory with the Wikipedia pages for the earlier books, though it turned out I didn't really need to since Butcher made sure to build little reminders into his narration. Anyway, Harry's misplaced chauvinism still makes me mad, but it didn't seem as overt in this book. Starting book 6 tonight!

Update 10/23/2013: Book six, Blood Rites: 4 stars. Starting to see actual character development in Harry, and some surprising plot twists. I did not see it coming that (view spoiler)! And also, puppy! I'll have to take the next 6-book collection out from the library when I can get it!

Justin Hargrave says

Lots of fun, sadly can't recommend because of occasional sexual 'stuff' in some of the books... And occult

references might bother some folks. If you were offended by Harry Potter, best not pick up these books. But then, why would any sane person be offended by Harry Potter..?

Catherine says

Awesome! I had no idea that I would like this type of literature. I was hooked on the first page of story 1 and continued to read through to novel 6.

Kare says

You can always get lost with Jim.

Been following Dresden since the 1st release and sadly I will be like Thomas to Justine, always waiting or wanting more.

Delighted they are on E reader format. Replaced too many books from wear and tear.

Lexxi Kitty says

Consolidating.

1. Storm Front - Nov 2005 - 3.75
 2. Fool Moon - Nov 2005 - 4.25
 3. Grave Peril - Nov 2005 - 3.75
 4. Summer Knight - Nov 2005 - 3.75
 5. Death Masks - Nov 2005 - 3.75
 6. Blood Rites - Nov 2005 - 4.25
 - 3.917
-

Laura says

I made it through three books before deciding to stop reading. There was a lot I enjoyed about them, Butcher has some fun and imaginative ideas and plots. The problem I have had (as have many others, I've noticed) is the treatment of women within these stories. In the three books I read, the women were, for the most part, only there as sex objects. A woman couldn't be introduced without describing the shape of her breasts under her shirt or other such nonsense. I have read many novels in which I overlook a few instances of this, but these books seemed to take things to an entirely new level. Other reviewers have discussed this issue in depth, so I will leave it at that. My other problem is the sheer number of times that Dresden finds some deep last reserve within him to keep going after getting beaten and bruised over and over. I enjoy seeing a character rise to overcome things, but it took me out of the story to see this happen over and over again to an excessive amount. I've heard that things get better as the series progresses and I may try some of the later books someday, but maybe not. I have read and enjoyed Butcher's Codex Alera series much more than these.

Kat says

The "magician" part of this series appeals to me more than the "hard-boiled detective" side. Butcher's writing has improved (Book 1 wasn't up to par) and his story, lore and pacing are really good. The main character's fatal flaw--chivalry--becomes annoying as it repeats over and over and, you get the point. Overall I like this series a lot and will continue reading the next 6+ books.

Ellen says

Sort of Stephanie Plum with magical bad guys. Pretty icky writing and some problematic stuff, but the stories do move along.

Hildegard says

Got better which each book

This was actually my third try at this acclaimed series. This time I managed to make all the way through the first book and by the time I finished the second, I was actually looking forward to the third. By the end of this collection Harry and Co has grown on me and I am looking forward to reading more about them

Allan says

Really enjoyable urban fantasy depicting a wizard in modern day Chicago who earns a living (barely) as a magical detective. The first-person narration gives it a hard-boiled detective feel, although it's more lighthearted than noir.

As others have noted, some repetition between the individual books is particularly noticeable in a collected volume like this. Every book includes similar descriptions of his apartment, of Murphy, of his leather duster, of Macanally's bar, of his chivalry bordering on chauvinism, etc., which gets a little eye-rolling after the sixth time. That said, it's obvious that Butcher includes these details for new readers or those returning to the series after an absence, not the reader moving through the books in rapid succession.

I'd read a couple of the novels in the past, but this was my first time reading them in sequence. The continuity and character development is quite good, and sets the adventures in a living world that changes as time progresses. The magic system is internally consistent, and puts a new spin on a lot of old fantasy cliches. Overall a very enjoyable and fun read for anyone who enjoys fantasy, especially urban fantasy.
