



Tricked

Kevin Hearne

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Druid Atticus O'Sullivan hasn't stayed alive for more than two millennia without a fair bit of Celtic cunning. So when vengeful thunder gods come Norse by Southwest looking for payback, Atticus, with a little help from the Navajo trickster god Coyote, lets them think that they've chopped up his body in the Arizona desert.

But the mischievous Coyote is not above a little sleight of paw, and Atticus soon finds that he's been duped into battling bloodthirsty desert shapeshifters called skinwalkers. Just when the Druid thinks he's got a handle on all the duplicity, betrayal comes from an unlikely source. If Atticus survives this time, he vows he won't be fooled again. Famous last words.

Tricked Details

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Author : Kevin Hearne

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From Reader Review Tricked for online ebook

Rissa says

Tricked 4??

Oberon (the dog, i listen to the books so i dont know how to spell his name) is wonderful and makes the trials and adventure lighter and brings the book back to reality. Even though he is a talking dog, but yeah reality.

Again Atticus is on a mission in a new state and has a new mission to basically save the world.

The Morgan is a sluty, devious, cold killer and Hearne does an amazing job at making the reader like and hate her all at once.

Tim says

Another excellent story from an excellent author and fantastic narrator. 8 of 10 stars

Celeste says

Full review now posted!

Original review can be found at Booknest.

I just have to say, I love it when a series gets better and better with each new installment. And so far, that has been the case (at least in my opinion) with The Iron Druid Chronicles.

Atticus O'Sullivan is on the lam with his Druidic apprentice and his faithful hound. The only way to stay safe is to convince the gods of all the pantheons that he's dead. Really, really dead. To accomplish this without actually dying, he gains the aid of Coyote, the Native American trickster god, and stages a battle royale against thunder gods from multiple pantheons. After basically hacking him to pieces, the whole world is convinced that the last Druid is no more. There's a downside, through. Now, Atticus owes Coyote a favor. A big one. Unfortunately, nothing is ever straightforward with a trickster god.

There's so much to enjoy in this book. Character development, setting, mythos, lore, and magic all make for an incredibly compelling story. But as with all of the books in this series thus far, what makes it for me is the humor. Man, these books are funny. Atticus himself is always sassy, which makes him my favorite leading man in any urban fantasy series I've found. His apprentice is plenty sassy in her own right, and I love watching her cope with all the crazy stuff she learns through life experiences at the side of the last druid. Hearne has a gift for creating really fun secondary characters, as well.

But my absolute, hands down, very favorite character in the entire series is Oberon, Atticus's faithful Irish wolfhound. Through their mental link, Oberon is able to express himself and offer his own commentary on current events. Said commentary is what keeps me glued to these books, because it is legitimately laugh out loud funny. I love when an author is able to make an animal a fairly central character in a book, and this is just about the best I've seen that characterization handled. Is it cheating to include Oberon with the host of

literary animals who are unable to voice their thoughts? Undoubtedly. Do I care? NOPE. Oberon is sarcastic, irreverent, and intelligent. His cultural references (from all that tv he watches while Atticus is at work) are spot on. His love of all things meat and his vendetta against cats and squirrels are just enough to remind readers that he is, in fact, canine. I don't know how to properly express my love for this fictional hound, but suffice it to say that he's my favorite aspect of a series I'm loving more and more with each installment.

Something I can't stress strongly enough: if you aren't opposed to audiobooks, this series really shines in its audio form. I've always preferred the written word to audiobooks, and I always will, but this series is simply a pleasure to listen to. While the books are still great when read in physical form (I read some just to make sure), this is one of the few series I've come across that I truly believe is far better in audio form. Luke Daniels does a fantastic job narrating this series, and I've enjoyed every minute of my listening experience. I've already started the next book!

Jim says

Again, a fun romp with the druid & seeing how even his best laid plans can go awry, especially when a trickster is involved. I didn't enjoy this quite as much, but it was still pretty good. I've read 4 in a row, which is a very good run for me in one series. Oberon is as good as ever, possibly better. The love interest is getting old, though. I felt that way in the last book & was heartily sick of it by the end of this one. In all fairness, there wasn't a lot of free time to resolve it, though.

My biggest complaint was the Druid was a bit too human & stupid a couple of times, especially with (view spoiler)

Lynsey (A Bookish Life) says

This has to be my favourite book of the series so far and it's the first one I've wanted to give all five stars to.

You see, I've loved everything about the series prior to this book apart from one teeny tiny thing, which was that I didn't feel the main character, Atticus, had enough inter-character relationships. At least, nothing stronger than an acquaintance or a business relationship. And I felt that, had that been there, it would have given me something to connect with and follow as an ongoing development in amongst all the other general badassery that the books are jam-packed with. The only person Atticus really gave two hoots about up until now, as far as I could tell, was his hound Oberon. But in this instalment we have a developing friendship, a teacher-student relationship, a cute bit of flirting and also a betrayal that really added that bit of personal drama I'd been looking for previously.

Now onto the rest of the badassery I mentioned. This time, the mythology was mostly Native American in origin. Atticus has called in Coyote to help him stage his own death so that he might be able to stay in one place long enough to train Granuaille in her Druidry in relative peace. It's always easier to concentrate on a chemistry lesson when you don't have someone trying to take your head off, after all. Of course, Coyote, being the little trickster deity that he is, wanted something in return. That's how these things generally work. And so begins the part where it all goes to hell in a handbasket.

I really loved the plot for TRICKED. I thought it had excellent pacing, the mythology was interesting, the

action scenes were exciting and, of course, there were some hilarious dialogue passages thrown in there for good measure.

And this time, not only were Atticus and Oberon hilarious together, but Granuaille can hold her own in the conversations too! She had a couple of great lines. There was an ongoing point-scoring game that carried on throughout most of the book which provided many laugh-out-loud moments. A favourite quote from that game between Atticus and Oberon was:

"Heh. I think you made your point, Atticus."

"Gods Below, Oberon, that was horrendous! You just violated the Schwarzenegger Pun Reduction Treaty of 2010."

"What? No, that didn't qualify!"

"Yes, it did. Any pun related to a weapon's destructive capabilities or final disposition of a victim's body is a Schwarzenegger pun, by definition. That's negative twenty sausages according to the sanctions outlined in Section Four, Paragraph Two."

My hound whined. "No! Not twenty sausages! Twenty succulent sausages I'll never snarf? You can't do that - it's cruelty to animals!"

"You can't argue with this. Your pawprint is on the treaty, and you agreed that Schwarzenegger puns are heinous abominations of language that deserve food-related punishments for purposes of correction and deterrence."

"Aughh! I still say it's your fault for renting Commando in the first place! You started it!"

As with the rest of the series, I listened to it in audiobook format. There aren't many series that I would honestly rather listen to than read, but this is definitely one of them. Luke Daniels is a narrating genius, and he really upped my enjoyment level. I don't know, if I'd have read them myself, that Oberon would have been quite as funny to me as he is, but the voice Daniels uses for him is so incredibly perfect and hound-like and just adorably enthusiastic- exactly as you'd expect a mind-speaking dog to be- that it just makes it a delightfully enjoyable and entertaining experience.

There was an excerpt at the end from the next book, Trapped, which I am now VERY excited to read to see how my new favourite UF trio are faring.

Well done Mr. Hearne. Another excellent instalment. Go and have a nice cup of tea, you deserve it.

5 Stars! ★★★★★

Review Copy: Received from the publisher for an honest review

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

All the stars for Oberon ?

Steven says

Hel-la fun (see what I did there?)

Carol. says

Tricked. Well, I wasn't really. Atticus was, though, by friends, foes and everyone in between. I was Entertained, but while it was certainly an improvement on its predecessor, Hammered, character underpinnings and over-referential, jokey dialogue continue to limit greatness.

I've come to realize my most significant problem with the 'Iron Druid' series is Atticus' overwhelmingly young behavior and voice, firmly rooted in current American culture. By 'firmly,' I mean that he makes references to microwaving Peeps, TARDIS, Elmo and the Sturgis biker rally, the Pacific Coast Highway and Lou Ferrigno. Atticus couldn't get any more current than if he was a forty-some-year-old white American male who grew up geek. The incongruity inhibits my enjoyment of the series, especially when Hearne keeps drawing my attention to it--interactions with Oberon and his own internal dialogue make it unavoidable.

Throughout the book, there is ever-ending repartee between Oberon and Atticus. It is humorous, but it is overplayed and doesn't quite fit. The joking also overly roots the story in modern culture--for instance, Atticus explains the Schwarzenegger Pun Reduction Treaty rule to Oberon.

Add the modern underpinnings to a relatively infirm sense of responsibility for an earth-connected druid and it equals a severe cognitive dissonance headache. If I completely ignore the fact that Atticus is supposed to be a 2000 year old druid responsible for the health of the earth, we get along fine. Unfortunately, the first offending sentences show up on page 3, so it's not like I had a choice of forgetting it: "the world desperately needs more Druids. So my choices were to stay on earth and die or leave earth and let the world slowly die of neglect--which wouldn't truly help, since all planes connected to earth would die at the same time." *Riiight*. So he's essential to the earth's health, which is why he's only recently taken an apprentice, why we've only seen him working to rebuild a forest once and why he spends all his time helping 'friends' and not the earth.

Once I took some Advil for the dissonance-headache, I found it to be a relatively enjoyable book. It was a 'hero's task' story, with the task chosen by Coyote in return for helping fake Atticus' death. To no one's surprise when dealing with a Trickster, completion did require a number of side journeys and unexpected obstacles. Several conflict points from previous storylines were also continued, interrupting the task, including the Morrigan, various Norse gods, and Leif the vampire.

Positive notes include the background on the Dine culture to be well-researched and respectful, a pleasure when there is often cultural misappropriation of Native culture, ignorantly applied. Each section of story was well written, inciting my interest, even if I didn't understand the logic (view spoiler). The opposition was formidable, and Hearne cleverly hamstring's Atticus' power in a number of ways including opposition by a different spiritual background, constraining his earth magic.

At the end of the day, I'd rate Tricked above the average April Fool's Day joke, and somewhat below Houdini. I enjoyed it, as long as I turned off the character-logic section of my brain. So, three and a half stars, rounding up for being respectful to Dine culture and for enticing a re-read despite not believing the central character.

Cross posted at <http://clsiewert.wordpress.com/2013/0...>

Alan says

I'm lucky enough to be one of Kevin's alpha readers. That's bound to make my reviews biased. I will concede that point. However, I am also a huge fan of the series, the characters, and the world Hearne has created. It's from this second position that I'm writing my review.

Let's face it - if you're considering buying *Tricked*, you've already read the first three books and enjoyed them. That being the case, you will love this book as much as the rest of the series, and maybe even more. Let's run down the list...

1) Kick ass fights and danger? Check - Atticus has fought gods, demons, and all other manner of nastiness in between. But the main enemies in this book are more than a match for Atticus - he has his work cut out for him. And he takes his lumps along the way, believe me.

2) Humor and wit? Check - Hearne's sense of humor and snark are as present as ever. And for those of you who missed Oberon in *Hammered*, never fear! Atticus's best friend is a nearly constant companion in this book as he was in *Hounded*.

3) All of the supporting characters we know and love? Check - we get to find out what happened to the Widow (and it's not what you're thinking!! ;-)), Granuaile continues to develop her skills, confidence, and role in the series, and there is a MAJOR development with another secondary character that made jump out of my chair! (I won't spoil anything here - you'll just have to wait.) And maybe best of all, the book features a LOT of Coyote. He cracks me up, and I love having such an important and likable character that nevertheless can't be trusted by Atticus.

4) A fully realized world with interesting cultures and world views? Check - Atticus leaves the big city and spends time with the Navajo, and we get a glimpse of their culture and beliefs. Hearne does a great job of respecting their culture and weaving it into the world he's already established with the series.

You won't have to wait long to get in to this book. The opening chapter is the best opening chapter of any in the series, and Atticus's monologue on the first page is hands-down my favorite page of the entire series. :-)

Lauren Stoolfire says

Navajo trickster god, Coyote, gives Atticus a hand when some bloodthirsty thunder gods come looking for vengeance after Thor's death. And, by giving him a hand, he becomes Atticus's body double and lets the assorted thunder gods think they've chopped Atticus into itty-bitty pieces. Soon enough the real Atticus finds himself wrangled by Coyote into fighting brutal skinwalkers. Just as Atticus thinks he's starting to get a handle on things again, betrayal comes from an unexpected direction. Atticus won't be fooled again, if he survives this time that is.

I'm so excited to be back to the awesome *The Iron Druid Chronicles*! I have so much love for this series. This time around the experience was a bit different, but still just as great. This time I read the paperback copy rather than listen to the excellent audiobook narration provided by Luke Daniels. Honestly, while reading I had his voice in the back of my mind the entire time, and just how he sounded in general in mind. Some of my pronunciation of the Irish (and Navajo) words were probably quite off, because I either couldn't

remember how it sounded or because it was one I had never heard said aloud before. Regardless, I had a great time getting to know some of my favorite characters again. On that note, as much as I like Atticus, Granuaile (I love her relationship with her sensei), and Oberon (a close second favorite, here), I think Coyote easily manages to steal all of his scenes. He really manages to shake things up, and it was good to see Atticus face something he's not all that familiar with from the start.

Overall, *The Iron Druid Chronicles* by Kevin Hearne just keeps getting better and better! I could go on and on about this book, but I'll just save time and tell you to pick up this book (or start this series from the beginning), especially if you're a fan of urban fantasy in the vein of *The Dresden Files* by Jim Butcher or the television series *Supernatural*. I can't wait to dig into book five, *Trapped!*

Patrick says

Dear Kevin Hearne,

Please stop writing fun books like this so quickly. It makes me look like a chump for writing so slowly.

Sincerely,

pat

P.S. Thanks for writing fun books like this so quickly. I like reading them.

Phrynne says

Fourth in the series and still going really well! Bonus in this one was lots of dialogue between Atticus and his canine companion. I love the humour. Occasionally I felt there was a bit too much explaining going on - I realise Atticus is teaching his student but I don't want to be taught as well! Nevertheless it is a very readable story with plenty of action and fun. On to the next one a.s.a.p.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Hm. This wasn't what I expected at all. I was tempted to give *Tricked* only three stars, but then I decided against it because Hearne's writing and research deserve some reward after all. That said, me counting pages to the end is never a good sign, and I caught myself doing it more than once.

I didn't mind the extensive worldbuilding and the occasional mythology lessons in the first two books, quite the contrary. I got a little tired of it in book three, but I was tempted to skip entire passages in book four. And yet I didn't because I was determined to carefully read every single word so that I can be sure the problem is him, not my lack of attention. And guess what? It's him. There was simply not enough to connect the huge infodumps in this book, especially in the first part. While I'm always up for a challenge and I'm more likely to enjoy a book that actually teaches me something new, it still bothers me when parts of it read more like a textbook than like an actual novel.

With a group of Norse gods hot on his heels, everyone's favorite Druid Atticus Sullivan must come up with a solution that will keep him, his hound Oberon and his apprentice Granuaile safe. Fortunately for them all, he's made some friends along the way too. With a little help from the Morrigan and Coyote, he succeeds in throwing them off his trail by faking his own death. But making a deal with a trickster god, however benign it may seem, is never a good idea! Pretty soon, Atticus has to face an even worse enemy – one he's learned very little about in his two thousand years of existence.

Coyote is a common enough character in urban fantasy. I liked him in Patricia Briggs' *River Marked*, really loved him in Allyson James' *Stormwalker* series, but I think Hearne came closest to what I imagine a trickster god would be like. Both Briggs and James portrayed him as mischievous, but ultimately benevolent; however, Hearne clouded his intentions a little bit, made him even more unpredictable, and quite a bit dangerous.

This is the first time that I really felt the tiredness and the emotional depth I would expect from someone with two thousand years of experience. Atticus has millennia of losses on his shoulders and I loved that Hearne explored that part of him a little bit. I understand why he can't dwell on his emotions too often, I do, but it's unavoidable sometimes even for him. It was a nice change.

Usually I try to suppress any emotions that savor of regret, because they are invariably aperitifs to a main course of depression, and for the long-lived, that's a recipe for suicide. But that doesn't mean they can't sneak up on me sometimes.

And, like, gang-tackle me.

As for the romance, in the interview he gave the lovely Missie at *The Unread Reader*, Hearne promised us a love interest for Atticus in *Tricked*, and he certainly didn't lie. But if you're expecting some big romance, you might end up disappointed. There are just subtle hints of one, more reluctant attraction than anything else, and it doesn't affect the plot in any way. I, for one, appreciate this about the series. If I want romance, I read PNR. That's not to say that I wouldn't be happy if Atticus and the person he's interested in get their HEA, I would. I just don't think it needs to be a priority for Hearne.

I had pre-ordered this book about three months before the release date, just to be on the safe side (my paranoia knows no limits – what if ALL the copies were sold before I managed to get one?), and I will pre-order the next one. Hearne can easily be forgiven for this weak link in the series, he has more than earned it with the first three books.

Also posted at [The Nocturnal Library](#)

Wanda says

This book is an improvement over the third one in my opinion, but not as good as the first two books in the series. I was glad to have Oberon the wolfhound back, being his usual goofy self. I was also glad to know a bit more about apprentice Granuaile and to get some background info on Atticus.

I was sorry that Atticus and Leif ended up at odds with one another—I will miss their Shakespeare quote battles and Atticus instructing the unwilling vampire on how to appear more modern, something which Atticus excels at.

For someone who is supposed to be preserving the earth, Atticus spends an awful lot of time haring off on missions determined by others. Some of this was pay back, of course, paying back Coyote for services

rendered and dealing with blow-back from the book 3 mission under taken to humour Leif. One would think that a Druid as aged as Atticus would be less focused on honour and more focused on the big picture—keeping the earth healthy and building the relationships that will help him through the next 1000 years.

I still feel that Granuaile is being under-utilized—hopefully this will be rectified in upcoming books. My hope is also that Atticus can settle down again and develop another circle of interesting friends (similar to the first two books). Having an awesome main character is great, but good supporting characters can kick things up a notch, in my opinion.

Still, some good ideas and I will definitely continue on to the next installment.

Lyn says

A trickster god has fun with Atticus and Granuaile!

Kevin Hearne's Iron Druid chronicles continues with *Tricked*, the fourth novel in the series (there are also several short stories and novellas). Though the series, as such, has devolved into a serial re-hashing of the original cool idea of a two thousand year old last druid, his sexy ginger apprentice and his wise cracking sidekick Irish wolfhound – Hearne has a winning formula. Essentially mixing in the comparative theological funkiness of Gaiman's *American Gods* with a hip urban fantasy salute to Jim Butcher's *Dresden Files*; Hearne has a virtually limitless literary tree from which to pick.

Tricked sees our three protagonists on the lamb in Arizona and swapping tricks with the Native American trickster god Coyote. Also making appearances are litigious werewolves, a PTSD vampire, a putrescent Norse god, and a couple of super fast Navajo skinwalkers.

Hearne also introduces a Kwai Chang Caine type flashback to his arch druid master in ancient Ireland. One of these sequences produces the novel's best term of endearment. "poxy shit weasel".

Sláinte mhaith!
