



White Night

Jim Butcher

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The inspiration for the Sci Fi channel television series

In Chicago, someone has been killing practitioners of magic, those incapable of becoming full-fledged wizards. Shockingly, all the evidence points to Harry Dresden's half-brother, Thomas, as the murderer. Determined to clear his sibling's name, Harry uncovers a conspiracy within the White Council of Wizards that threatens not only him, but his nearest and dearest, too...

White Night Details

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Author : Jim Butcher

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From Reader Review White Night for online ebook

Deborah Markus says

THIS BOOK IS OVERDUE AT THE LIBRARY IT WAS DUE YESTERDAY BUT MAYBE IF I GET THERE BEFORE THEY OPEN AND THEY FIND IT IN THE "RETURN" BIN THEY'LL BE ALL "OH, SHE *TOTALLY* RETURNED THIS LAST NIGHT AND THAT COUNTS WE WON'T CHARGE HER ANYTHING" WHICH STILL MAKES ME A BAD PERSON BECAUSE SOMEBODY HAD IT ON HOLD THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T RENEW IT AND HAD TO SPEND ALL DAY YESTERDAY READING SO I COULD BRING IT BACK TODAY

(pant pant pant)

So. Um. Okay. This is a good book. Good wizard-is-a-private-detective-in-modern-day-Chicago book. You should read it.

First, though, go read eight other books. Not eight *random* books. I mean, you *can*. If you want. I'm not the boss of you, the way my local library is the boss of me. I'm just saying, you should read this book but first you should read the eight "Dresden Files" books that come before it. Jim Butcher does a decent job of summing stuff up, but the world-building is amazingly intricate and the plot is way complicated and there are all kinds of awesome characters you'll want to follow from day one.

Seriously. You do NOT want to just jump into the middle of this party. That'd be like showing up at a New Year's Eve bash at 11:45 and then drinking really fast to try to catch up to where everybody else is, which will kill you or at least make you barf since they've all been here swigging away since five o'clock.

Okay, the analogy isn't perfect. But I don't have time to MAKE it perfect, because did I mention THIS BOOK IS DUE AT THE LIBRARY AND THE LIBRARY OPENS IN (checks watch) LESS THAN TWO HOURS AND I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE?

So read this book but first read the previous books in this series and be happy that Harry Dresden has finally stopped giving that pages-long speech he used to give once per volume like clockwork about how people don't believe in the supernatural anymore, which is *TOTALLY BOGUS* because have you looked around lately? People *TOTALLY* believe in all sorts of weird supernatural stuff.

Plus Harry's stopped being quite so much of an idiot when it comes to being all protective about women, possibly because he got his stuff stolen once too often by a female perp he let his guard down with in a way he never would have with a guy.

(checks watch again)

GOTTA GO BYE HAVE FUN READING BEST DRESDEN BOOK SO FAR BYE!

Arnis says

<https://poseidons99.wordpress.com/201...>

Audrey says

3.5 stars

This story is well structured. There's a crime mystery with personal stakes involved: women are being murdered, and Thomas becomes a suspect. He's actively avoiding Harry, so the case is personal. Then there's the road discovery filled with clues and setbacks and then a final big, huge climax. The creatures de jour are mostly White Court vampires and ghouls. I'm not sure what ghouls look like. Something like this:

They're definitely unpleasant.

It's not until the end we find out exactly what Thomas has been up to:
(view spoiler)

This is a fine addition to the Dresden Files collection. The language here is stronger than previous books, with about ten instances of the f-word.

Carolyn says

Love this series! it's so addictive; as soon as I finish one book I want to read the next. Jim Butcher is slowly building up a massive plot, revealing only a few small teasers each book, developing the threads and strings that will all eventually be pulled together in a massive showdown. Little hints at Harry's background are also building up slowly, working towards a big reveal.

In this episode, Sgt Murphy calls Harry in for his unofficial opinion on a series of deaths made to look like suicides. Harry pretty soon works out that some minor magical folk are being targeted in Chicago and other cities even though the Peace Accord between the White Council of Wizards and the Vampires is still active. Other people have disappeared as well, in the company of someone who looks like Thomas, Harry's half brother. Harry soon finds himself back in the White Court of vampires, having to overthrow a deadly plot. Plenty of fast action and witty dialog make this another enjoyable read. Harry has some new gadgets to play with and we get to see more of Ramirez and in particular his wizardry in fighting skills. Molly is coming along as an apprentice and becoming less sullen teenager and more junior wizard, Harry's dog Mouse exhibits some of his hidden talents and Harry's first love, Elaine is in town adding some spice and reminders of Harry's early life.

Michael says

The ninth Harry Dresden novel is the series richest and most densely plotted to date--and the first in the series I can't recommend to someone coming to the series cold.

Not that this is a bad thing. It's a great thing for readers of the Dresden Files. While Jim Butcher does deliver payoffs and resolutions in his previous eight books, here in "White Night" he steps that up a notch, bringing back old friends and enemies to Harry Dresden's world all while building on several key plotlines from the last several novels as the war between the various supernatural factions begins to reach a boiling point and

Harry Dresden is, once again, at the center of it all.

If you're coming into this cold, you'll be thoroughly confused. If you've read the previous eight books, you're probably going to eat this up with a spoon, eagerly turning the pages, waiting for the next development to hit.

Murphy calls Harry in on a case that may or may not have supernatural undercurrents. Harry discovers a message that only he could find and begins to look into a series of similar deaths. Finding the same message, hidden in the same way, Harry suspects a serial killer is on the loose in the supernatural community. The problem: the number one suspect is his half-brother Thomas.

Harry is convinced Thomas isn't the killer, but the evidence is pretty damning. Harry begins to pull at the threads and uncovers someone or something targeting women of a Wiccan order. They've already asked for help from Harry's first love, Elaine, who is now a private eye in Los Angeles who investigates the supernatural.

All of this we find in the first hundred or so pages and that's just when it gets interesting. Butcher weaves together a complex, fascinating story with Harry firmly at the center, trying to find the pieces of the puzzle and prove the innocence of his half-brother. In the midst of all this, we learn about the politics of the current battle between the Red Court and the White Council and how Harry fits into a plan to possibly tip the balance. Along the way, we meet old enemies and have call backs to the first novel in the series.

About the only thing I found frustrating about this novel is that in the last book, Harry determined a secret group was plotting within the power ranks of the White Council. And while this development is brought up, we never get any movement toward discovering who or what is behind this and what their agenda is. I realize that Butcher may be setting up some things for future installments, but a revelation this big seems a bit difficult to only pay lip service to in the story.

But that's the only detraction I can find in this superb entry in the Dresden series. Butcher keeps getting better and better, continuing to keep the Dresden Files as one of the must reads on my bookshelf.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

LOVE this series and the narrator, James Marsters, can do no wrong, but this book was freakin' confusing as hell! Time jumps, lots of random things happening... it was just more chaotic than I would have liked. Still one of my favorite series of all time and I'm still jumping right into the next book!

Rob says

Executive Summary: This is one of three books from the Dresden Files series I've given 5 stars to, and if you follow my reviews, you know that's something I try not to do lightly. I really enjoy it start to finish.

Audio book: I could just copy paste this section from book to book. James Marsters is great. If you've been reading my previous reviews or listening to this series yourself you know that. Highlights in this book

include him actually yelling during one scene and this crazy french accent.

Full Review

So I finally arrived to what was for years my favorite Dresden book. I'm still not quite sure, but I think Changes edges this out for best in the series.

This is the book that turned me into a herald for Jim Butcher. I couldn't shut up about this series for awhile. I would tell anyone who would listen they should read this series. (NOTE: This happened a second time after Cold Days last year.)

Now this isn't a life changing book or something. It just one of those books I have trouble putting down. Page-turning fun. In fact I spent at least 2 hours doing nothing else but listening to the ending. Normally I'm driving, riding my bike, running errands or doing stuff around the house. I ran out of stuff to do to keep listening, so I just sat in my easy chair and finished it.

Gone is the stranger coming to Harry's office. Gone is the introduction to some new characters/aspects of Harry's world. Mr. Butcher simply takes all the building blocks he established in the previous books to tell a really fun story, with a truly awesome ending.

I'm probably overselling this book. Only one of my friends I've since recommended this to seems to love this book as much as I do, and he stubbornly refuses to admit Changes is a better book. Still, if you don't thoroughly enjoy this book, why are you still reading this series?

Murphy calls Dresden to check out a crime scene off the books. A woman is dead. It turns out a lot of them are. They appear to have committed suicide, but something just seems off.

If you know this series, you know if there is one thing that turns Harry Dresden from well reason detective to charge in first ask questions later neanderthal, it's when someone is hurting women. Especially in his town.

Harry is going to do whatever it takes to put a stop to it, even if it kills him.

We finally get to see Harry be a true badass in this book. There have been glimmers before, but nothing quite like this. With my vague memory of the next few books, it's something we won't quite see again until Changes either.

This book shows that both Harry Dresden and Jim Butcher have both matured into something more than when they started.

Justyna says

Another pretty good Dresden book. But first thing I want to mention is the amazing narrator, James Marsters. It's the first time I listened to Dresden audiobook, and I loved it. James Marsters does an awesome job and he sounds pretty much like I imagined Harry would sound. I think I am definitely going to buy an audiobook when the next Dresden book comes out.

If you read any of my reviews of Dresden Files, you know I am a huge fan. I think I even get a little bit overenthusiastic in some of my reviews, or give the books slightly higher rating that they actually deserve. But well, can't help myself there. These books are pretty entertaining for me, they are fast-paced and full of action, magic, supernatural creatures and awesome characters. This series is like a drug, and I am addicted.

And Jim Butcher is an awesome author, and it was great to see how he improved with every next book. At the beginning, when I read Storm Front, I never thought I would like this series so much. It was interesting, but nothing special. But then the series slowly started to become more complex, Jim Butcher's writing better and better, and characters deeper and more complex. Now it feels like it's really big journey and it's really cool to be part of it. And Jim Butcher's has a way to make you feel like you are part of the story. If he starts a sentence like: "Have you ever been...? Have you ever thought about...? Have you ever felt...?" It automatically makes you wonder about some things that happened to you in real life, brings back some of the memories, and then it somehow makes you feel closer to characters, or makes you understand the situation better. He is pretty good in making you feel that way, and I love that when I read his books.

I will try not to get overenthusiastic in this review, I promise;) Of course, there are some things that I don't like about the series. First of all, since every book is told from Harry's POV, you need to like this character to enjoy the series. If you can't stand the guy, you obviously aren't going to last this long in the series. And while I really really like him, there are times that he annoys me greatly. He can be pretty whiny, he has a hero complex and he often forgets that he is not the only one who can deal with the problem or who notices things. Well, he usually is the most qualified I would say, but sometimes he is a big drama queen too. I am glad that one of the characters pointed it out to him in the end. I didn't like how he was withholding the information from one of his friends in the end. I think he should have learned that lesson by now. And the other annoying thing is the fact that almost every female monster has to be pretty, sexy woman and of course Harry can't help but notice it every time. The amount of beautiful and sexy women in these books, who in fact are horrible monsters, makes me roll my eyes sometimes. But, we see things through Harry's eyes, and I guess he can't help it or change it. It's just who he is and how he sees some things and he is far from perfect. But I guess I wouldn't like him so much if he was perfect. And although there are some annoying things about these books, they always stay in the background, at least for me, there are just too many cool things about Dresden to make me complain about the things I don't like for too long.

White Night is another pretty good Dresden book. It follows the usual pattern, there is a crime and Harry gets to investigate. That's how it usually starts. But it was never boring. First of all, this time I kept dreading that one of the characters I really liked was involved in the crimes. Second thing, Harry was joined by someone from his past. I don't really like her that much, but it was cool to learn more about her and it was also cool to see her in action. For once, Harry wasn't the only wizard responsible for destroying some of the buildings;) Plus compared to some previous crimes, this time it was much deeper than some kind of crazy, blood-thirsty monster murdering innocent people. I love how Jim Butcher keeps revealing just a little bit of what's really going on in each book.

And the ending was pretty cool, it was enough to give this book 5 stars. I love magical duels. I got to see one in the end, and Harry wasn't the only wizard involved. I love reading about other wizards and see how they use magic. It's usually quite different than the way Harry uses it, and that's always pretty interesting and cool to read. And the bad guys joined the good guys to kill some of even worse bad guys in the end, and I really liked it.

White Night might not be my favorite book of Dresden, but it's among the ones I like the most. And I liked how some of the issues were resolved in the end.

And I also have to mention one thing. I really appreciate the fact that Jim Butcher doesn't really kill a lot of the characters. At least so far, I am kind of dreading what happens when the final books get released, because there is no way that every character I love is going to survive. But anyway, thanks to the amount of books in this series, we really could get to know some of the characters so well, see them grow and develop. By now, they really feel like old friends.

This book is probably 4 or 4.5 read to be honest, but as usual with Dresden, I rounded it up to 5:)

Tosh says

Evil's afoot.

Well, sure...because it refuses to learn the metric system. Otherwise it'd be up to a meter by now.

I'm not usually one to push so quickly through a series, but I'm thoroughly enjoying myself and can't seem to pull myself away.

With every installment Harry is becoming stronger and more experienced, while implementing interesting tools and forming unlikely alliances to aid him. Meaning, the action only gets better. *Next to Sue* the magical mayhem and fight sequences in this book were some of the best so far. The tension was so thick in the last few chapters, Mr. Butcher actually had me worried something terrible was going to befall one of my beloved characters. And no doubt this far into the series someone's luck is bound run out. The stakes are getting higher. The more Harry pushes back and interferes the worse it seems to get, the greater the threats seem to be, and the more power he and his peers have to expend to stop them. Makes for some pretty intense scenes and increasingly clever means to outmatch each new obstacle.

But the action isn't the only thing holding my attention. Outside the supernatural craziness and feats of wizardry there's some everyday drama and fabulous side characters. It's hard not to get caught up in the details, or the directness with which Harry handles his relationships, everyday issues, and his ongoing internal ones. Not to mention the heavy dose of humor he liberally spreads on every situation - sometimes unintentionally. There are tons of laugh out loud moments, and equally profound ones as well. It's always good fun when the MC can share a bit of wisdom in one sentence and turn around to hit you with some humor the next. I love a smartass :)

So yes, another great installment in the series and I can't wait to continue.

No one likes a wiseass, Harry.

Are you kidding? As long as the wiseass is talking to someone else, people love 'em.

Eon ?Windrunner? says

Harry Dresden is back and just like every previous book in this series, its better than it's predecessors.

I take my hat off to you Jim Butcher. It feels like we as readers have taken this journey with you as you started out in this career and you really have gone from strength to strength. This is also very evident in the evolution of the characters on your pages. They have become such complex and well liked beings that I doubt the author could off any one of them without a huge backlash from his fans.

As always, the dialogue is top notch and the banter just makes for a so much more enjoyable read. The plot

was fairly tight, twisty and felt much more layered than his earlier books, yet easily followable. I do admit that while I thought this book was pretty amazing, I never fell into that cannot-put-it-down mode that you get from your most favourite reads. I considered giving this a firm 4, but I cannot find anything negative to say about White Night, so I'm giving it the benefit of a full house of stars.

Highly recommended.

Duchess Nicole says

Classic Dresden files book, so it was good. But this read just like about three or four of his other books...

**Set in Chicago...again

**White Court vamps are evil and the war is ongoing...still

**Bob the pervy skull gets a complete intro and helps out with witty candor...

**Thomas is hungry and Harry is suspicious of him

**Harry STILL doesn't get laid

I'm ready for Butcher to move on to a new subject, a new setting, and to settle the score with all of the above. How many times does Bob need an introduction? If someone picks up book nine of a series and expects to understand everything, it's their own damn fault. I don't want to read the same thing nine times!

Same with Harry's chivalrous nature. I'm about tired of how Harry has to repeatedly tout his own heroics. Oh, the women and children...save the women and children! Must not see them suffer, even if they are cutting off my good parts and torturing my loved ones. If it's a woman, Harry **will** tell us, multiple times in the same book, how he can't bring himself to be less than courteous.

I think the reason this book bothered me so much was that the last book in the series had a different vibe to it, and I was so very interested the entire time I read it. That book took us to the land of fairy, gave Harry an apprentice, and I felt like it moved the series forward a few steps. So I expected this one to keep moving forward. Not so. It sort of moved backward, and it's annoying.

I listened to the audio again...James Marsters does an amazing job. You can hear how into his role he is, and it seems as if he has become more and more Harry Dresden with each installment.

I probably should give this more than two stars, but I ended up skimming through soooo much of it, and I really don't feel like I missed anything. I think I could have skipped the entire book and been just fine moving on to the next one. Maybe I need to just give the series a break for awhile so that it's all new again, because at this point, if the next book isn't vastly different, I may give up on Dresden.

Manju says

Before starting the review of White Night, I would like to tell you how I met Harry. After devouring the Fever series by Karen Marie Moning in 2012, I wanted to read another amazing Urban Fantasy so I requested for some UF recommendations. And first time I met Harry there when I was recommended

Dresden Files in response to my request. I read the blurb; saw the cover, length of the series, a male protagonist and instantly dismissed it. It was start of 2013 and had just started reading fantasy books at that time, so I searched Google for most awaited fantasy books of 2012. I opened the very first link and checked the list. Cold Days was sitting prettily at number four with this description:

“For those who have never heard of Harry Dresden, where have you been!? Harry Dresden is a private investigator who also has the added advantages (and disadvantages at times) of being a wizard. They are written in the sarcastic first person voice of Harry who tends to get hired in order to uncover the facts behind some kind of supernatural murder or crime.

The first couple of books were okay, nothing really breathtakingly brilliant about them, but from there they picked up and have quickly become fan favorites. Each novel is relatively short, but they certainly back a lot of great content in-between those covers.”

& I finally decided to read Dresden Files but still it took me almost seven months to start this. I didn't liked it much and my friend who'd recommended it to me in first place told me to have some patience. So I kept reading Mr Dresden's story, and after finishing ninth book (& I'm almost 80% done with tenth right now) I'm glad I did not abandoned it after reading first book.

One of the best thing about this series is that the quality of books gets better with every new addition to the series and that says a lot as book #15 is coming out this June (& according to Wikipedia Mr Butcher is going to add another five books to this series and there will be a trilogy too after that). Mr Butcher's writing skill has improved a lot since the first book. Maintaining this level of quality with one book per year on average is amazing. Now he don't go in details to tell about a person from previous books. Readers have to rake their own brains for recognition.

So now back to White Night, this book starts with Harry being called by Murphy to a murder scene. Murder looked like a plain suicide, but a clue left at the crime scene told Harry that the victim was a magic practitioner. Murphy told Harry that there were more murders like this. One clue led to the other and they all points to Thomas Raith (a person very dear to Harry) and made him a prime suspect. Now it was up to Harry to clear Thomas's name.

White Night is a fast paced story that keeps you to the edge till you finish it. You don't know what is going to happen on the next page. Mr Butcher has blended mystery and action so well here. The climax action scene is my second favorite in this series (of course first place go to the dinosaur scene from Dead Beat).

This is a highly entertaining and excellent read.

Richard says

8/10

These are getting harder to review as the series goes on. 9 books in now and I feel confident that the reviews I write will be pretty standard throughout the series. The majority will be 4 stars as the quality of writing is good, the characters well rounded with enough development throughout the series to keep it from being stale, the plot getting more complicated with each passing novel but still easily digestible. There will be some that fail to meet that 4 star mark and some which shoot over it (only with the aid of Polka though).

This one is no different. The plot is more complicated than say the earlier novels, and rely on your

knowledge of previous novels to get you on board with what is going on and who all the major players are. There are handy little reminders throughout but done in a way which jogs the memory rather than gives bullet point summary of what has gone before which is a nice touch but may get tedious if reading back to back.

There are a few scenes in this one which stood out, none more so than the climatic ending. This was quite the finale and was tense in parts with a great mix of action, plot reveals and backs to wall scenarios but always knowing things would work out (the continuation of the series is a giveaway there!). For some reason the climatic ending reminded me of playing Gears of War. No idea why, but I'm going to pick that game up again now!

All in all, if you've read this far in the series then you're likely to continue and you won't be disappointed. This is another wise solid read in the series. If you've not started the series then I recommend giving it a whirl (at least up until book 4 to get a real feel for the series). I'd probably struggle somewhat with the series were I to read them back to back as they may become a little samey however reading them with a couple of months break in between is working out well for me. I look forward to picking the next one up in the near future.

If you enjoyed this try: "Gears of War" by Xbox

Luffy says

Hands down the most fun book I've read these past two years. White Night is also the best Dresden Files book so far. It restored my wobbling faith in the series. Jim Butcher has my respect. He can retain control over what makes Dresden special, yet dish out an entertaining, fast paced book that's unique in the series. Everything here was fun to read. Even the times where vampires' unearthly beauty was being described made me happy. I usually get bored by this lyrical waxing. But here it seemed so exaggerated and silly that it was...not funny, but pleasant. Oh wait, it WAS funny as hell! Can't wait to read the next Dresden book!

David Sven says

Another action packed episode. Murphy asks Dresden to unofficially look into a series of staged suicides. Things go pear shaped from there.

This felt a little "episodic" to me in that there's not a lot we haven't seen before. Ghouls and Vampires. Lots of them. There's plenty of action though and Harry has beefed up a lot of his magical *accessories* for that bit of extra punch – a regional commander of the Wardens of the White Council needs a bit of extra juice after all – especially in the middle of a war with the Red Court Vampires.

The action at the end of the book was pretty intense. Lots of guns, lots of Hell Fire, lots of blood and lots of ichor - Harry really cuts loose. James Marsters also really cuts loose with his Harry Dresden "belly yell" – nothing a change of pants can't overcome.

Molly Carpenter features, playing her part as Harry's Apprentice and we have some familiar bad guys return-one in particular who was supposed to be dead.

Oh...and Harry comes out of the closet. So does Thomas. Oops.

I don't know about the other Wardens, but Harry wears the "grey" cloak well – 'cause a lot of his actions, and some of the alliances he makes involve cosyng up to some pretty nasty characters – not everything is black and white – sometimes it's a case of living with the "devil you know" – particularly the ones on the inside.

3.5 stars.
