



Blood Sacrifice

N.P. Martin , Damian Southam (Editor)

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An alternate cover for this ASIN can be found here.

In a town where magic festers beneath the surface and monsters stalk the shadows, someone has to fight for the innocent. That someone is me.

They call me sorcerer, fixer, finder, but mostly they call me Creed. Been hexed by a witch? Being stalked by a werewolf? Haunted by a crazy ghost? I'm the one you call to get my hands dirty, so you don't have to.

So when I got a call from a grieving parent to find their missing daughter, I was happy to help. Trouble is, what started out as another garden variety missing person case just ended up with me being hexed by an occult serial killer.

They made a mistake, though, whoever they are, when they cursed me.

They should have killed me instead because they're about to find out that Hell hath no fury like a sorcerer scorned.

*If you like Jim Butcher, Kevin Hearne, or Shayne Silvers, then you will **LOVE** the first installment of the Sorcerer's Creed Paranormal Suspense Series.*

Blood Sacrifice Details

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From Reader Review Blood Sacrifice for online ebook

Laird Bruce says

N. P. Martin is no stranger to the Urban Fantasy realm of prose with his Watchers series. Now he takes on the juggernaut that is the Dresden Flies. Introducing August Creed is a sorcerer of no-piddling strength, originally from Ireland and a family of sorcerers, he lives in a run-down slum in Blackham City and struggles to keep it safe from magical and supernatural threats. Creed finds himself where no one knows who he is and must barter with his soul to undo this heinous spell or he loses it forever to Oblivion!

Martin is swiftly becoming one of my favorite Urban Fantasy authors and has the chops to stand toe-to-toe with Harry Dresden/Jim Butcher. Though similar on first glance, Martin's August Creed has strikingly different points of view and style. Maybe down the road Creed and Dresden will stumble across one another. That would be a movie/story I would pay to see. His characters develop depth with each chapter and draw you into his world fraught with ghost, vampires, demons, evil wizards and more!

I received a free copy but voluntarily reviewed it. Thanks to N. P. Martin for providing a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Cecilia Jones says

Really enjoyed

I really enjoyed this book was well worth my time. The characters were well developed and the main character. It kept my attention and interest through.

Damian Southam says

Some days are lucky, and some just aren't worth getting out of bed for. This day is turning out to be of the latter variety, in spades. If the smell of the black magic permeating the air is anything to go by, this day is going to be at the top of the list of worse days ever had to date! August Creed might be a magickslinger for hire, but the way he just activated the trigger setting off the spell that slung him across the floor and into the wall, anyone watching could be forgiven for the false impression that he's nothing more than a novice looking to get an ass-kicking for not paying more attention to where he is. That is, if he could actually remember why he was there in the first place, then he might've been more convincing in his claims that he was somewhat more than just a sleepwalking stiff; just like the gruesome poor young woman lying dead and spread-eagled on the floor.

Yes, the one with the missing eyes and the glyphs horrifically carved into her flesh, most likely whilst she was still alive. If August's knowledge of the sort of black magic needed to work a spell powerful enough to affect the world's memory of someone is anything to go by, then the blood magic used would've benefited more from her emotions of the pain inflicted during the blood sacrifice. The disturbing holes now starting to take shape in his memory give a spind-chilling realisation of just how powerful the forgotten 'mark' must be to have been able to do what they've done; and to have channeled the inconceivable power of whatever Dimension Lord they were sacrificing to, the caster's power alone would not have been enough. August can't imagine the power needed to wipe the memories of the world itself.

Of course, that just had to have gotten worse (did he mention anything about not getting out of bed?), if the blank look on the face of the super hot 'friends with a bit more than benefits' pointing her cannon at his head was anything to go by, then this day just got immeasurably worse. The black magic fiend not only removed themselves from the world's memories, they'd done the same to August as well. Lucky for August he still had his mostly pleasant, slightly stand-offish, and sometimes erotic, memories of Leona Lawson; The Division Special Agent threatening to put a bullet between his eyes. Her misconstrued belief of the evidence staring her in the face, that he'd been the one to complete the ritual using the naked flesh and life force of the now cadaver on the floor, would've been more insulting if it wasn't blatantly obvious that she didn't recognise him for who he is. She might not believe he'd gotten his intimate knowledge of her body, such as the dainty birthmark on her inner thigh up near her nethers, and of her life through several years of patiently chipping away at her walls, but she couldn't deny the kernels of truth among the recalled moments of pillow talk, and vigorous horizontal (sometimes vertical, oh and sometimes hands and knees - dolt, best not to get too distracted) sheet exercises.

So, after several phone calls later and a couple of healthy (or heavy - depending on your perspective) doses of Glenfiddich, August firmly establishes his forgotten status. If it wasn't so damned inconceivable, and if it hadn't already been a mammoth undertaking to get inside some of Leona's walls, then he could guess that some might appreciate the tabula rasa of his current situation. Among the calls was his only remaining relative, uncle Ray, Mitsuo Sanaka, his magical mentor of two decades, and the infamous John Constantine; not a one knew his name and for some there was also the veiled threats. One of the subconscious biggest question is, what else did that blasted spell do to him; and yes (for all you smartass readers), there's the one about whether his pride could recover for being no better than a sleepwalker in having walked right bloody well into it.

He could at least be grateful for one saving grace, his faithful companion Blaez, a Garra Wolf he'd liberated from a Babylonian slave trader, upon which time he'd followed August back to Earth around a decade ago, and who still thankfully recognised him. Garra Wolves' abilities to be invisible whenever it suited their intelligent minds could've proved deadly otherwise. Having been a worldly traveller for much of his life since leaving his native Ireland, following the tragic and forever harrowing memories of the night his father's unquenchable desire for greater magical power led to the massacre of his whole family save himself, at the claws of the demon his father lost control over during a summoning, August had never really cultivated friendships.

The transient nature of never staying in any one place long enough for his memories to catch up with him, wasn't the fertile soil to lay down the foundations of getting close to anyone. Nonetheless, the solitary awareness of his now forgotten mark on the world is daunting to say the least, and fueling some heavy moments with his best pal Glenfiddich (woops, its sort of starting to seem like his friendship with the nifty bottle might be starting to get a little overindulgent). Between keeping the memories at bay with the constant distractions of new sights, sounds and smells, apart from his uncle who travelled more than he did, its been Blaez and the odd catchup with Mitsuo that has kept him company the past couple of decades. He should probably include in there the lost causes and downright dangerous damsels uncle Ray has sometimes sent his way, but more of that in a later story).

As August's detective duties lead him to the darkest of magical lore, practices, and books that maybe should never have been written, those that blacken your soul just for having opened their covers, Leona calls him away to deal with transient problems with other denizens creating catastrophe and death. Its upon returning to his Sanctum from one such callout, that the place where his and his uncle's documented knowledge are kept safe from missuse by the types of mages his father would have liked, the kind that want power for power's sake alone, that he finds his Sanctum having been penetrated by his mentor Matsuo. Given he mentored August it should probably come as no real surprise that he'd be capable of circumventing the security August had designed, and he'd known Blaez after all, but he is still a little pissed that he'd done it without even setting off either the physical or magical alarms. In less time than it'd take to complete a

traditional tea ceremony, the type Matsuo liked to torture August with during his training, he goes and destroys his future with the answer to what else the spell is doing to him.

In the tiny window of time that seventy-hours feels like once you've got the equivalent of a state worse than a death sentence hanging over your head, August's soul will detach from its current vessel, leaving nothing more than a ghoul behind. No doubt, said soul will then go toward fueling some sick design his tormentor has on the world. Its with cryptic clues, a soul rendering, and more dead bodies mounting up, that August's left to work out what's really going on, He has his work cut out for him. He's got an enormous job to do and his soul to keep, so there's no time like the present and no rest for the wicked, and yada-yada-yada that he's got to successfully save his own life, those of Blackham's residents, and pretty much the rest of the world's, so he needs to crack the whip, kick some arse, roll some heads, and mountains of magic to sling.

August Creed's experiences work toward proving that you cannot forever outrun the scariest nightmares of your past. That at some point, something is going to catch up with you, leaving you ill-equipped to deal with it. When this combines with the notion that once you eliminate all the probable scenarios in any given situation, then what sometimes remains, however improbable it might be, is still the most likely answer. Sometimes, in order to defeat evil one must do a deal with the devil, or become the definition of the very thing they're trying to beat, in order to achieve said outcomes. In some cases, these factors might likely go a long way toward understanding how the road to Hell can be paved with the best of intentions. Only August can later decide what to make of his commitments promised along the way.

With described action sequences capable of rivaling any big budget blockbusters, the detail is evocative and imagined easily. Characters who draw you in to empathise with their histories and their plights, Blood Sacrifice is a perfect blend of great content and pleasurable storytelling style. In a field made up of a lot of memorable heroines and female authoring styles, its great to find intriguing heroes and the perspectives of male authors. The complexity of the storyline and the desire to solve the mystery creates intrigue and captivates the reader to keep moving forward in order to solve the questions they have, and to confirm or refute the presumptions they've made along the way. Having been a fan and follower of The Watchers Series by Neal its great to see him tackle so successfully the male hero, and a new role model with gusto and the same attention to detail he's shown with his heroine.

With a plot heavily embedded with magic, magical lore, and a reimagined contemporary city landscape, Blood Sacrifice has all the components of what Urban Fantasy readers look for; and where the other types of fantasy genres can be made, given some are mostly the same thing under different banners. Baring this in mind its important that readers not be caught up in the banners, otherwise they'll only end up overlooking great entertainment through enjoyable stories. With a prequel fast on its way I'd be surprised if August Creed doesn't accrue a following all his own after the combined books are read. The dystopian locale of Blackham City is a fertile ground for the inclusion of every type of magical being, and a barrage of situations where the little guy wins and where superheroes are grown.

Gene says

pretty good for the first book in a series. I've been looking for new Urban Fantasy books (Since JB dosen't want to public the next DF book :() And this one helps fill the niche some. The character is pretty crass, so be aware. And bonus John Constantine cameo :)

gordon musgrave says

Something is wrong

I only started reading a few pages but it was really messed up ,the book was repeating itself over and over,missing words,I think I could read it if the book was fixed,the story seemed good but I could not even get to it because of the format it was in

Cyrene Olson says

Uncaged Book Reviews:

This book is pretty fast paced, it does tend to slow when the author goes into a description mode, and the action sequences are well done. The Supernatural world that is built in this first book is exciting and I'm looking forward to see how the series progresses. Reviewed by Cyrene

More at UncagedBooks.com

Karen says

An excellent read for paranormal mystery and magic lovers. Great story and characters and N P Martin keeps the reader interested with his storytelling.

Tom says

Puerile.

David says

Blood Sacrifice

A great read, plenty of action and a really good storyline. All the characters leap out of the book straight into your Imagination. Creed the hero of this book is a pretty Intense person, with a lot stuff going round in his head as well as dealing with a rogue sorcerer. Read this, and escape the mundane world for a few hours. Fab

Wendy Holmes says

Good read

Enjoyed this book. Creed is an interesting character in an unfortunate unavoidable situation. A great mate

story tell how and why and going on the journey with creed unravelling it all was an enjoyable one, a bit gruesome, a bit sad, a bit happy,n.a. Lot magical. Everything you want in a good read

Katherine says

Pretentious, overly serious, and just tiring

I really wavered in my thoughts about this book. Sometimes I figured it was just that it didn't match me likes, and that's why I wasn't enjoying the read. Other times I was sure it was just that the book was bad. Then occasionally I would actually think it was good.....before it it swung right back over into not at all good.

This book starts off pretentious and that bothered me right out, but I thought it might change. It's all 'magick with a k' and how Creed knows it so well and being such a practitioner is beyond what we sleepwalkers know, its better (because it has a k). This probably should have tipped me off, but I wanted to enjoy it so I pushed through.

As the story moves forward it becomes one of those get this for that type of stories. You know, you need this necklace, but you can only get it if you get the person who has it a particular wardrobe, which you can only getit m toj exchange it for a certain comb, and so on and so forth. Usually this is done as a running gag but it was so serious in this story and by the time everything had been successfully retrieved I had bloody well forgotten where we started off, and then we still had to go get the big bad. It just dragged on and every time a goal was done or the bad guy stopped, it was right on to the next horrible thing. By the end, instead of being interested in what had been told, or happy for the characters, I was just tired and ready for it to be done. Which it still wasn't.

Ending without an ending, I have no interest in continuing this series even though it means I won't know what happens. My curiosity is not enough to continue and I will be stopping before the story gets even worse.

Davinia says

3.5 stars

Could have been a 4 star book if it was better edited

Took a while to finish this one. I'm in a bit of a new-book-funk.

Even though it took a while, this book was worth reading to me. It had some interesting new spins on things and I liked the 'romance' between the two main characters.

1 negative point though: this book could really benefit from a little bit more proofreading! I have the feeling that it was written, spellchecked and put online. It had quite a bit of missing/wrong(? autocorrect?) words. At one point I had the notion of bookmarking them, but I was already too far into the book for it to matter overall. These missing words really tore me out of the story which was annoying to me. Hence the 0.5 star less.

Cheryl Brandt says

So, with the start of a new book and a new story, the very odd parallels to Harry Dresden stopped and Creed started becoming his own character.

He is a bit whiny sometimes, though not enough to be annoying - and I will say, he's having a hard time of it in this story.

No one knows who he is anymore due to a curse that also wiped out the memory of the one who put the curse on him.

Add demons, souls black enough to be demons, and the end of the world, and Creed is having a bad week.

I like the characters, although they're still a bit one dimensional. That may change in coming books. It feels like there may be change brewing and if so, it would make the stories more enjoyable.

.I'm moving on to Book two of the series (book 3 if you count the Prequel) and I'm hoping it gets better as it goes.

Nervous Nellie Justice says

The cover is what attracted me to this book. Once I started reading, though, the story pulled me in. There are some typos, which I hope the author will fix. I won't lie, I did think of putting this book down a time or two because of the editing, but the interest in the story made me plow on.

The protagonist was a combination Harry Dresden/Yancy Lazarus. A rogue cowboy mage that takes on anything evil except he is already fully grown into his power. He knows how to wield it and though he isn't loved by local woo-woo law enforcement, he is necessary to their closing cases.

The end isn't a cliff hanger but it does lead in to the next book. There is a LOT of gory death sacrifice but no blatant sex scenes. The premise is somewhat a new spin which I appreciated. I would bet that I will find myself searching out the next book in the series because the characters were engaging.

Jayne says

Enjoyable reading

Good story line. If it weren't for the numerous grammatical errors, I would have rated it higher. Practice, practice, practice...
