



# Hexslayer

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## **Hexslayer** Jordan L. Hawk

Horse shifter Nick has one rule: never trust a witch.

Nick has devoted his life to making his saloon a safe haven for the feral familiars of New York. So when a brutal killer slaughters a feral under his protection, Nick has no choice but to try and catch the murderer. Even if that means bonding with a handsome Irish witch.

Officer Jamie MacDougal came back from the war in Cuba missing part of a leg and most of his heart. After his former lover becomes one of the killer's victims, Jamie will do anything to solve the case.

Nick comes to Jamie with a proposal: after making a temporary bond, they will work together to stop the murders. Once the killer is caught, they walk away and never see one another again.

It sounds simple enough. But the passion that flares between the two men won't be so easily extinguished. And if Nick can't learn to trust his witch, he stands to lose everything—including his life.

## **Hexslayer Details**

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## From Reader Review Hexslayer for online ebook

### Cadiva says

#### Another fantastic urban steampunk fantasy from Hawk

The Hexworld series is like no other I've read and it manages to combine a number of tropes into a seamless experience.

In this, Rook's brother Nick, a horse familiar, finds his witch in MWP copper Jamie, who lost a leg during a disastrous campaign in Cuba.

Part historical, part urban fantasy, total Steampunk, Jordan L Hawk creates a truly unique New York setting in which dangerous men plot behind the scenes.

This one was fairly creepy, had a seriously unexpected final twist and was utterly brilliant. I can't say more than that really!

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### ?? ? Michaele ♡?? says

Audio Rating: 4.2 Stars  
(No change)

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### ~☆~Doni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

I was disappointed not to like this book more. It's very well written, and the world building is as fantastic as ever, but Nick just isn't a likable character and I had a hard time warming up to him. He's defensive, suspicious, and rude; granted, he has reasons, but the piss-poor attitude got old.

Jamie was a good guy, though, mourning his dead lover and trying to break through Nick's walls.

I wish there had been a stronger focus on the relationship. This series is plot driven, but the romance in *Hexslayer* felt like a forgotten side dish. The mystery was a little convoluted and more than a little gruesome.

I have enjoyed this series very much, but it still doesn't feel finished. The HEAs are always tainted by danger lurking around every corner.

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### Chris says

Another great installment in this world of familiars and witches. I like Nicks character so I'm glad he got his own book and Jamie seemed like a good match. These two had more of a friendship bond, once Nick got over the whole witch issue, than a heated romance and I missed that chemistry. Of course the whole team became involved and the drama of blood hexes and crazy cults continues. It was an enjoyable read, not quite the Cisero / Tom combo, but I'm thinking no other book in this series will be like that one ! Certainly worth

continuing this series ?

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## **Kristie says**

### **Reviewed for Just Love.**

This book. THIS BOOK. This. Book. Goodness. This book.

Hexslayer is a well written, beautifully visual experience. You might not think of a book as visual, especially when it doesn't have pictures, but here is where you'd be incorrect. The mystery, the suspense, all of the nerve-wracking moments that take place during the course of this story are all tremendously visual. There are moments in Central Park that had me feeling like I was right there. Any time a book takes me out of the crappy world we're currently living in, pops me into another world, another time, I'm going to happy. And right now, I'm so very happy.

Not only is the experience of reading Hexslayer visually stimulating, but the story itself is fantastic! I've been intrigued by Nick from the beginning, so when I'd heard that this was his book, I could not wait to get my hands on it. Nick is so strict in his beliefs. He has so much conviction when it comes to what he knows about witches... or at least what he thinks he knows. No matter what he's been told by his own brother, no matter what he's seen for himself, there is no way he's going to bond with a witch. But of course, this was all before the murders happening in the park. This is before he makes it his mission to find out who is targeting other feral familiars in the city. This was before he met Jamie.

Jamie is Nick's witch, of course, but he's also so perfect for Nick at the same time. Perfect in all other ways. They have a connection that can not be denied, and when I read this, I was totally and completely delighted. Jamie is caring, compassionate, and honest. He's wonderfully fierce and utterly charming. He's not like any witch Nick has ever encountered or heard of, so as Nick struggles with the realities that things aren't always as horrible as they might seem, he starts to fall.

As the murders that need solving escalate, the tension everyone at Witch Police headquarters builds. Who to trust? Who can you be honest with? What is even happening? How is it all happening? All these questions and more had me on the edge of my seat, and the suspense killed me in the best way possible. I greatly enjoyed working my way through this story to its ultimate conclusion. I loved the moments when we get to reconnect for a moment with past characters of the series. I relished the sweet and tender moments between Nick and Jamie just as much as I loved the moments when they argued. I quickly fell for the relationship between this witch and familiar, cheering them along on their way to happiness. I laughed. I cried. I laughed so more at the expense of Nick and horse puns. But in the end, I just smiled with happiness of my own.

Reading this had me falling in love with this world all over again, and I have so much excitement for this book to be out in the world for everyone to finally read. This is part of a great series where we know there is more... something sinister that is at play. When will we find out what that is? That's anyone's guess. What I do know is that this stop on the ride is not one to be missed.

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## **Ami says**

Nick, the horse familiar, has never hidden his despise over witches as well as the Metropolitan Witch Police

detectives. Nick feels that witches has robbed him from his family, that witches only use familiars for their magic and easily abuse them. Then ferals are getting murdered and MWP doesn't put it as priority.

In order to investigate this properly, Nick needs to have MPW resources at his disposal. But to do this, he has to join the department, even if that means Nick has to bond with a witch detective. Unfortunately, the available unbonded witch detective, Jamie MacDougal, the Rough Rider war hero happens to also be well, Nick's *witch* ...

I was pretty excited when I first saw the blurb for this book -- I mean, it's always FUN when a character is put down on his/her level from that high tower he/she sits \*grin\*. Jamie pretty much destroys Nick's perception towards witches. The way he reacts towards the murdered ferals, the way that he asks about the treatment towards familiars ... well, let's just say I was happily murmured "*Oh how the mighty falls*" as the relationship develops between Nick and Jamie.

I liked the murder cases too -- while the villain and the motive is a bit cliché but in overall I thought it was a good follow-up to the development from the previous books.

Basically, this universe EXCITES me ... more so than the Widdershins universe, which I have become a bit tired of lately. I can't wait to read other upcoming couples. When is Isaac's turn?!?

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### **Isak+Even says**

I didn't like Nick much before this book, and it took me a while to warm up to him even in his own book lol I understood where he was coming from and why he was being an ass all the time, but I still didn't like him much.

Jamie is an absolute sweetheart! And probably the only man in the world who would put up with Nick. Seriously, the man deserves a medal!

Everything came together really nicely in this book. The story unfolded leisurely and with just the right rhythm, and it made sense for the characters.

This series is so good and getting better with each book!

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### **Amanda says**

I'm in love with this series. The world building and the story arc is just amazing. We finally get Nick's story. I know he does not come across as a likable character, but I have a soft spot for these bad boy. In fact, he might just be the most selfless character in this series. He basically live his whole life dedicated to saving and rescuing feral in the city, providing them with a sanctuary. Despite, his overbearing attitude and fight provoking tendency and 'I hate all witches', I really like him and I'm just so happy that he finally found his own witch.

Jamie is a war vet that returned home with a broken leg and currently working for the MWP. Despite his experience with death and carnage, he still have a naivety and goodness in him. His view is very black and white and he follow the rules, a total opposite from Nick. Nick might seems like a bully and doesn't trust Jamie at all, but Jamie goodness and patience really did tame the wild horse. Seeing Rook's reaction to the changes in his grumpy, cynical brother is just icing on the cake.

Nick and Jamie formed a temporary bond to investigate the murders of feral in the city that was being

ignored by the higher ups. As usual, the suspense is well crafted that will keep you at the edge of your seat. Something horrible is at works and I can't put it down until the final page. I just discovered this series this month and went through all 3 books. I'm so ready for the 4th book to be release in a week time.

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## **Richard Derus says**

Real Rating: 3.8\* of five

An entertaining read, befouled by six (6) w-bombs, one extra heinous because it occurs midway through a sexual encounter. I mean! How the hell is one supposed to maintain an erection while some goofball w-verbs? Mr. Softee pretty much guaranteed.

Anyway, the story itself builds out Hexworld more completely. We learn that there are seven popes; we learn the ancience of familiars' existence with a reference to Altamira's cave paintings...an explanation of their odd actions that's just flat genius! We're "treated" to an expanded take on the plight of the familiars. We're shown why so many familiars are same-sex couples.

And the story itself? Well...I wasn't thrilled. Nick, the angry stallion, got old fast. His witch, Jamie, puts up with being lied to, manipulated, abused physically and emotionally, and absorbs with stunning rapidity the fact that "he didn't mean it."

Um. Yeah...no. The man's a classic narcissistic abuser. The last-minute conversion/forgiveness isn't thrilling to me. But Nick's conversion to decency at least an admission that he wasn't a great guy to begin with. Rook, his brother, doesn't seem to be anywhere near critical enough of Nick's rage's effects of those around him.

I felt parts of the tale were rushed, eg the smuggled ferals, the quasi-redemption of a duplicitous relative; I suppose this is inevitable when publishing a book in this category where 100,000 words is way past the norm of 70,000. I'm also pleased that so many of the previous couples in the series get the screen time that they do. It's not a lot but it's used to reinforce the interconnectedness of problem-solving activities in this world. No one, nor any couple-unit, is required to rely solely on their own resources...IF they can get their issues out of the way of asking for help. Nick, angry stallion that he is, learns that lesson very late but very effectively.

I have nothing but happy feelings about the nature, identity, and fate of the baddies.

So there it is...more to like than to frown at, more to applaud than to censure. Hexworld is a terrific creation. Not every hero is blemish-free, not every villain is a wicked mustachio-twirling caricature. And in the middle of it all are men trying their damndest to grab and hold some happiness, spread some kindness, and sit in the sunshine with their loved ones, absorbing the world's sweetness.

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## **Chris, the Dalek King says**

If there is one thing that has been perfectly clear over the last few books, it is that Nick, horse familiar and brother to Rook, is not a fan of witches. He doesn't want to talk to witches, work with witches, or be in the same room with one. He sure as hell doesn't want to become some witch's familiar. Which is all fine and dandy...except some crazy person is killing feral familiars in Central Park and the only way the damn crimes

are going to be investigated is if Nick bonds with Jamie MacDougal, a witch in the MWP. And it might be his idea, and it might only last for the course of the investigation, but it doesn't make Nick any happier. He just knows that he can't stand by and watch familiars get killed—and the police completely ignore it—if he wants to be able to look himself in the mirror ever again.

So he gets Jamie to agree to a temporary bond. Despite his better judgement. Despite his distrust of witches. And most definitely despite the inconvenient fact that Jamie is Nick's *witch*. As in, he is nearly damn perfect for Nick in almost every way. Except for the whole witch part. Which means that Jamie is the one witch Nick must absolutely not fall for.

I was really excited when I realized that this book was going to be Nick's story. He has played small parts in the last several Hexworld books, and I must admit that I've been more than ready to see Nick fall on his horse ass over some witch. I figured it was going to be damn fun to see the familiar fight tooth and hoof against his attraction to his witch, only to end up realizing that he might not have all the answers in the world when it comes to those of the witchy persuasion.

And I was right about that, because this book was just about everything I wanted out of it.

I quite adore this series, with its wonderful blend of history and magic. Once again we are in early 20th century New York, amidst a growing discontent between the non-magical parts of the populous and the witches and familiars that keep the magic coming. After the events of last book I was pretty sure that things were not going to be going well for familiars in this story. And they really aren't. Laws are now tightening on what unbound familiars can do, and the Dangerous Familiars Squad is cracking down on any familiar deemed too aggressive to be free amongst the general populous. Needless to say, Nick is not a fan.

Which, in the Rules of Romance, probably almost guaranteed that Jamie was the one who makes Nick go against all his tightly held beliefs. Not only is Jamie a member of the MWP—which would earn Nick's ire all on its own—but Jamie's uncle is one of the lead officers on the DFS. Watching them clash over this, and their different beliefs on how familiars and witches should behave, was a lot of fun. And I really liked that I kinda got both sides on this. I mostly agree with Nick, to be honest, but I can see how Jamie, who was raised by his uncle to respect authority and follow rule and order, can see the laws and their enforcement as the correct way to go about things. Both Nick and Jamie have to learn to reevaluate their beliefs, and it might not be easy, but it does make for good reading.

While I might have spent the majority of the book thinking Nick was a bit of a horse's arse, he was also written sympathetically enough that I cared about him. Despite my desire to remove the three foot plank from his ass and use it to beat some civility into him. And I really love Jamie and the way he has to continually fight everyone around him to see that just because he lost part of his leg in the war, that doesn't make him useless or in need of constant pity. Nick's easy acceptance of Jamie's disability and the way he viewed Jamie as an annoying witch—and not as the “broken” witch—did a lot to endear him to me.

On the whole this is a damn good book. I've yet to come across a story in this series that I would not happily reread, and I can't wait to get more. The only slight issue I have with this story is that I kinda figured out who the killer was early on, but there were plenty of unseen twists to make up for that in the end. I've highly recommended every book in this series so far, and I'm not about to stop now. Pick this one up as soon as possible.

4.5 stars

*This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.*

## Kaje Harper says

I really enjoyed seeing Nick - the witch-hating horse shifter - find a witch he couldn't manage not to like. *His* witch, although he struggles not to admit that. The romance is warm as it develops, and simultaneously Jamie's eyes are opened to unpleasant truths he had been shielded from. Truths which in turn help him see the world through Nick's point of view, even as he fills a lonely void in Nick's life.

There is a lot of action in this book. It works well, and keeps things exciting, although a few little tropes about the villains at the end nagged me. I did love seeing Nick realize the ways he'd have to interact with Jamie, to be effective when it counted. The stakes are high, and the plot drove the story forward.

The world-building here echoes some of our own worst fears for the future, with oppression of a minority getting worse through a combination of religious fanaticism and underlying money and cynical economic drives. I think that parallel actually pushed me away from the story a bit - I'm bruised enough at heart with the real world to try to dodge similar pain in my fiction. For other readers, it may be an appeal instead.

I think this was my favorite in the series, and look forward (if slightly apprehensively) to the next one.

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## Nerea says

4.5\* This saga never lets me down!!!

It has an interesting story, set in the gorgeous world built since book 0.5! The previous main characters are very present and is so nice to see them again :)

In this one, I must say that Nick was a difficult character xD Jamie is so sweet and adorable so you want to kick Nick when he was been rude with him at first!! But their relationships developes in a very good pace and is well mixed with the mystery plot of the book!

Can´t wait to read the next one \*v\*!!

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## Caipi says

I love this series!!!

Horse shifter Nick is definitely not an easy character and I'm so glad that he found his witch in patient Jamie. The investigation they had to solve was interesting, the whole plot captivating.

And the audio, wow, the narrator Tristan James turned this great story into a fantastic one!!!

I really hope there'll be soon the next book in this series!

4,5 stars

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## ?? ? Michaele ♡?? says

4.2 Stars

I wish there was a bit more romance detailed between Nick & Jamie...but I do so love this series because of the world of possibilities it contains. I hope Isaac has a story coming up soon!

That said, this one hit hard - specifically the bits about minorities, religion & the power of money...just as Kaje Harper said in her review. The bits in this book about people in power setting things in motion in order to fan the flames of fear-mongers & scare the people to give into those who'd take our freedoms reflect all too accurately some of the unforgivable positions we see from our so-called "leaders" *right now*. That's just so depressing. And as much as I have hope that it will change, it won't happen in 4 years.

So, it's hard to divorce current politricks from those in this book and I think that's a good thing; after all, I prefer realism in even the fantasy stories I choose to read. Sometimes, though, I just want a little more escapism.

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## Tamika ♡RBF MOOD ♡ says

This book!!!! It was everything. Hawk never disappoints. I mean the story was so heavily featured with an actual plot plot for this series. Not that the other ones haven't been, but this one had alot of grit in it. Nick finally gets his love and book. Ornerly stubborn as this horse, Nick. He finds his match in the last person he'd ever want. Jamie MacDogual, MWP policeman and witch. Two things Nick abhors the most. This is definitely a longer book in the series compared to the others. A lot of things took place. I enjoyed it from beginning to end. My only issue was the ending. Bit abrupt in the Nick & Jamie sense. I mean, the fight the good fight and we get maybe 3 pages of them at the end. I'm not looking for full chapters of what's to come, but I definitely wanted more.

I admire Nick and everything he's stood for. He has his personal beliefs and the reasons for all his reservations with the police and witches. His past plays a big part of how he moves in & out the world. Nick is up against the wall in his crusade for the familiars in his world. He's a major play in the Familiar world in New York. He's also a major pain for the cops and the bad guys in this book. He has to bite the bullet and do something he didn't think he'd ever do. Bond with a witch. Not any witch, but his mate. The one person that is going to unlock his magic together through their bond. Jamie MacDogual is his mate. Jamie has his own reservations. He's trying to live up to the war hero. It isn't that he doesn't want to be it, but the truth and who he is now is different. I loved that Jamie was a listener. He was really adamant about seeing both sides since he's involved so much.

Their progression together isn't easy. Nick fights his attraction every step of the way. Jamie realizes his feelings for Nick is only about Nick. I thought the story was really well thought out. It was written amazingly. Oh my goodness, I got to see some of my favorites like Rook, Cicero & Mal. Issac, I cannot wait for his book. Hawk's work is always impressive and really well written. She continues to execute her work as amazing as ever.

