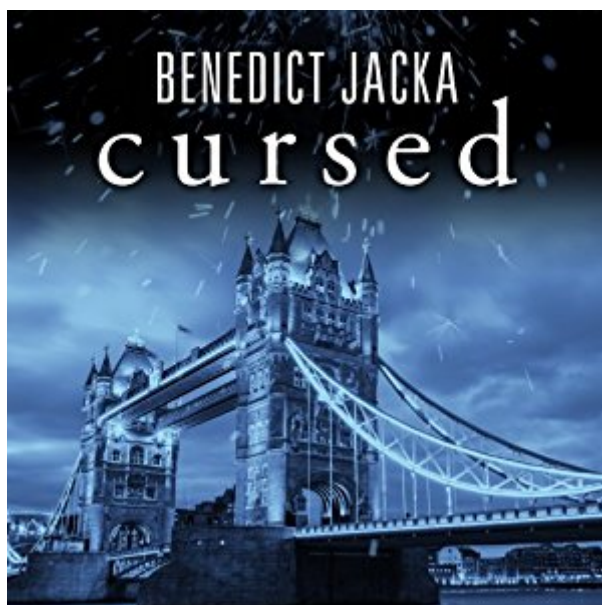


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Cursed: Alex Verus, Book 2



Synopsis

Since his second sight made him infamous for defeating powerful dark mages, Alex has been keeping his head down. But now he's discovered the resurgence of a forbidden ritual. Someone is harvesting the life-force of magical creatures-destroying them in the process. And draining humans is next on the agenda. Hired to investigate, Alex realizes that not everyone on the Council wants him delving any deeper. Struggling to distinguish ally from enemy, he finds himself the target of those who would risk their own sanity for power...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is something different about this series that I can't quite peg. I like it though. Maybe it is the lack of current event nods, jokes, and satire. I divide books into two categories, "good" books, ones that make me think or have a purpose, and "entertaining" books that let me have fun and forget life. Urban fantasy tends to fall into the "entertaining book" category. However this one falls more into the good book category. It doesn't quite reach the level of literature, but it definitely plays with themes. In this book, Alex is back and more popular than ever after the rumors of the events from the previous book leaked out to the magic community. So of course this means he is going to get pulled into the machinations of the council of light mages again in all their evil, Machiavellian ways. You heard that right, that's one of those themes I mentioned, the light mages aren't much better than dark mages. Luna is also back and gets much more page time and character growth. Frankly speaking, she is my favorite part of the series, I like seeing how her character grows. Beyond this, the story is very well trodden ground. It is how the story is told that makes this book stand above all

the three star urban fantasies. This is not a series you will want to binge, but it is an enjoyable series that I will continue. I love that Alex isn't afraid to do what must be done, unlike so many other protagonists. So if you liked the first book, I recommend this one.

I thought this was a solid sophomore effort for the author. I read the review by "gypsyreader" and felt like it was more than adequate at discussing the areas for improvement. Even while agreeing with it, I still enjoyed the book while I was in it. And when finished added the next book to my wish list so I will know when it comes out. I found the two book set refreshing - he took something that's been done a lot and managed to put yet another spin on it in this series. It being magic and the world of people who can do magic. The dreaming world was definitely interesting/scary. Alex's self analysis of his relationship with his protege and the direction it needed to take was mature. He came to the direction on his own, albeit with a bit of circumstance thrown in, but wasn't forced - recognized what he needed to do and did it. He is forming professional working relationships with frenemies. He is bonding further with his true friends. He's beating up the bad guy. Probably just needs a bit more personal pain in his life for this to truly start heading towards great. Recommended, good use of time, I don't believe you will be disappointed.

This is the second in the Alex Verus series, an urban fantasy about a mage living in London. What makes this series particularly interesting is that you won't see Alex slinging fireballs or lightning bolts. While there are plenty of those around, Alex isn't that kind of mage. Instead, he's a diviner, someone who has the ability to see into the many possible futures lying ahead of him. It's great help in a maze, but not so obviously useful in a firefight. In this second installment, Alex is asked to investigate some dark rituals for another mage, an employer he does not entirely trust. For starters, he's a mage, and Alex has learned not to trust other mages, and second, when this mages other employee showed up at his door, a nasty attack by some third party arrived within seconds. Meanwhile, some ambitious mundane is trying to make off with Alex's beautiful (but cursed) apprentice. And when Alex's best friend is attacked... well, everything just falls apart. I really enjoyed this one, and I'm starting to think of these books as great companions for the Dresden Files. While Harry often blasts his way in without thinking, Alex sneaks in because thinking is his only weapon. So, two thumbs up for this one, and as I say with all series, start at the beginning with Fated.

If you are reading this review, and have not read the first book in this series, Fated, stop, go back and read the first book. It is a great introduction to the series, the characters and the magic system. Fated was a book I found through suggestions, and I am so glad they suggested it. I really hate to compare authors to authors, if you like Jim Butcher you will like this kind of thing, but in this case it is so true. However, it should not be limited to just fans of Jim Butcher, it is a great urban fantasy series, Harry Potter for adults, (I know, another comparison!). The main character is a mage with a specialization that is not common among the mages, it seems to cause most people who have this talent, to go insane or something. Yet in the first book, the character tries to convince you and himself, that this particular magic, is not that strong. He has to get by on using his magic, but has to use his wits and smarts as well. So far, in this second book, the reader has come to realize the character is way stronger than all the other mages have given him credit for. Again, his magic with smarts and wits. The world building is really good, layers and layers, and the stories so far have been great. Exciting and since the main character has a great sense of humor, the books are just plain fun! I am really enjoying this series, I wish there was more chatter about these books, I want to make sure there are many, many more to come. Fun stories, great magical world, great characters. You never know who is a good guy, who is a bad guy, and the author has a way of making you love the bad guys as well. You hope to see them again in the next book. Who are the bad guys, who are the good guys? Really so much fun. Read them!

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