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Hard Magic: Book I Of The Grimnoir Chronicles



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Synopsis

Jake Sullivan is a licensed private eye with a seriously hardboiled attitude. He also possesses raw magical talent and the ability to make objects in his vicinity light as a feather or as heavy as depleted uranium, all with a magical thought. It’s no wonder the G-men turn to Jake when they need someone to go after a suspected killer who has been knocking off banks in a magic-enhanced crime spree. Problems arise when Jake discovers the bad girl behind the robberies is an old friend, and he happens to know her magic is just as powerful as his. And the Feds have plunged Jake into a secret battle between powerful cartels of magic-users - a cartel whose ruthless leaders have decided that Jake is far too dangerous to live.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the first of another terrific series of novels by Larry Correia, author of the Monster Hunter International series of creature-features. As an amateur writer, the thing that amazes me about Correia, other than his apparently unlimited imagination, is his willingness to throw his protagonists into the most lethal and terrifying circumstances, then come up with deliverable escapes for them. Then, after they’ve escaped by the skin of their teeth, he collects them up and throws them into something much worse! It’s a lot like a multi-player team combat game in a way. You start at Level 1 (first novel), and the challenges keep getting tougher until you’re confronted with the Big Boss of the level. Survive him, and congratulations! You’re on to Level 2 (second novel) where the challenges are harder, and the Boss of this level could eat the first boss for breakfast. I can’t tell you how much I admire any writer who can pull this off again and again using different strategies and challenges

each time, while making the conflicts and escapes fit with the world and logic of the overall story. This is rare stuff, indeed, and not to be missed by readers who read for Story above all things.

Think X-Men meet film noire. Larry Correia has created a parallel universe taking place in the post WWI era that reads like a black and white serial we used to see at the movies. You can almost see the screen wipes and closing irises as each chapter comes to an end. "Actives", characters with a magical ability, like X-Men, constitute a small minority of the population of the world and for the purposes of this story are primarily divided into good (American and European) and bad (Japanese) with a few exceptions. The bad guys want to take control of the planet by exploding a doomsday device that will virtually destroy the US and bring the rest of the world to its collective knees. Lighter than air flying machines are the transports and military air weapons of choice. There is action aplenty and interesting, fun characters some better than good and some evil incarnate. Fight scenes are terrific and pull no punches, pun intended, as bodies at times are torn or blown apart causing fountains of blood to coat the combatants. There are zombies, ninjas, wizards, real historical figures and even a few "Normals" thrown into the mix. Spoiler alert, don’t be too disappointed if your favorite character is mortally wounded or even killed as there are ways to bring them back.The only reason I didn’t give this book 5 stars is that it reads like a graphic novel. The dialogue is stilted and compares to that of the Star Wars films. This is not a book that requires any deep thinking on the part of the reader nor will you be rolling the plot around in your mind once you have finished the book. It is mind candy, a guilty pleasure you can enjoy for what it is and escape the reality of life. If that is what you are looking for and enjoy then I highly recommend this book.

I like reading and books and bookstores and I like to browse and just look at the covers. I read a lot so I try to try new books and authors I haven’t read before. I saw Monster Hunters and Hard Magic on the shelves and read the backs and had this snobbish kind of reaction to them. "Oh its pulp. Just a Garret Files rip-off. Move on" I’m really sorry. I saw a recommendation on maybe IO9.com and decided to give him a try and got Monster Hunters International. I loved it. I read the books in that series and now I’m on the Grimnoir books and ripping through those and telling everyone I can about them. Nobody is ever going to say things like, "this is a groundbreaking classic, changed the genre for all time!" but it doesn’t stop them from being awesome. I compare them to Clive Cussler’s early Dirk Pitt books. The heroes are good people trying to do the right thing because its the right thing to do. You care about what’s going on in the story and I find myself rushing to see how it’s going to end. I’ve never gotten to the end of one of Corriea’s books and felt like it’s just a

come-along to the next book. My parents introduced me to Clive Cussler. It was in my teenage years and it was the first time that I had something to connect with my parents and realize that my parents had interests outside of me and my brother. It was a good time in my life. These stories bring me back there. Really, doesn't good literature make the reader form those relations to their own lives?Anyway, Larry Correia, I apologize for sticking my nose up in the air. Thank you for writing these great books. Give them a try people.

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