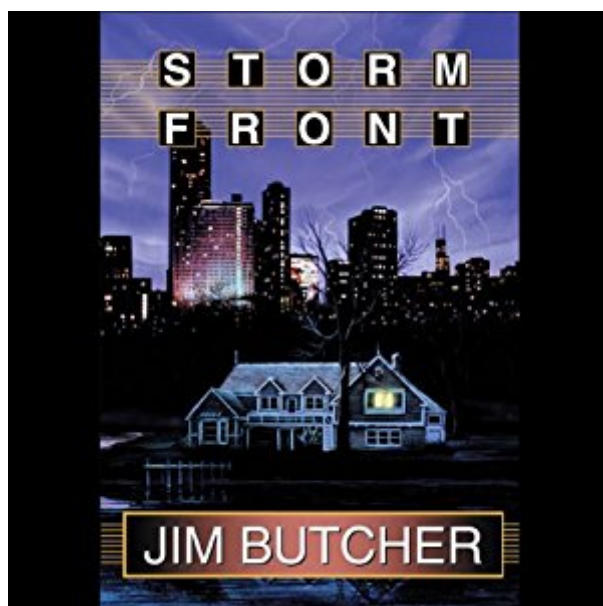


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Storm Front: The Dresden Files, Book 1



Synopsis

Meet Harry Dresden, Chicago's first (and only) Wizard P.I. Turns out the "everyday" world is full of strange and magical things—and most of them don't play well with humans. That's where Harry comes in. Harry is the best at what he does—and not just because he's the only one who does it. So when the Chicago P.D. has a case that transcends mortal capabilities, they look to him for answers. There's just one problem. Business, to put it mildly, stinks. So when the police bring him in to consult on a grisly double murder committed with black magic, Harry's seeing dollar signs. But where there's black magic, there's a black mage behind it. And now that mage knows Harry's name. And that's when things start to get interesting. Magic—it can get a guy killed. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As the author mentions in the Author's Note in my version of this book, the Dresden Files is a sort of mashup of various genres. An experiment, if you will, that ends up being deemed Urban Fantasy. A very good mashup, at that. Clearly, Harry's character is the real difference maker. A gentleman, bound to a code he could break at any time but doesn't, he's a resourceful (and morbidly funny) wizard who manages to get out of the tightest spots with quick thinking. Sometimes Stormfront seems like it teeters on YA, but I'm constantly reminded that this is an adult series with themes that are dark and mysterious and quite entertaining. There are sexual overtones, brutal but meaningful fight scenes, and Mr. Butcher puts Harry through hell (emotionally and physically) all the way up to

the end of the book. Only in parts did I feel the writing style was a bit awkward. Mostly, I slipped right through it. All-in-all, I really enjoyed this first book and can't wait to get to the next.

I've read the series about five times now. Each time, I pull in a new piece or perspective I didn't catch the last time 'round. For me, the meta-narrative Jim seeds throughout is reflected in the protagonist. Like Harry, each person in the df community all has it's beliefs of how the world operates, but not a whole construction of what's really going on behind the scenes. There is a meta puzzle within the puzzle presented in each work. The "true" nature of the forces at play, the physics of magic, the misunderstandings of the unreliable narrator, all gradually unfurl if you're really willing to spend the time. And if you're really bonkers, you can use external material, leveraged as a sort of extended narrative, particularly Lovecraft (mountains of madness, ghoul, nemesis) and T.H. White (once and future king) to gain background perspective and find the inspiration. For me the love of the series goes beyond the "wizard detective" angle, and hits on the journey of discovery beyond our own frightening levels of antipathy in the world around us. Whether intentional or not, Butcher has pieced together a work of challenging depth that can make the long-term journey into the series as rewarding as the pulpy detective sorcery the back covers deliver on.

The subject matter and plot are intriguing, particularly if you like the idea of "sword and sorcery in modern Chicago." I tend to prefer my genres to be separated, but the author makes it somewhat believable. It's like a Seanan McGuire book mixed with Janet Evanovich, but with a male protagonist. And I've only read one of each of those authors, at my wife's insistence. Written in first person, there are several instances of "eureka" moments for the main character, Harry Dresden, following some obvious "bread crumb" plot developments in which the reader is left out of Harry's reasoning. The character development for anyone other than Harry is relatively non-existent. A third-person viewpoint would have allowed for greater plot exposition and character development. The reader is left with more questions than answers regarding Harry's history, particularly his relationship with the Fey Court, but even the history behind the magical tools at his disposal and especially his companion floating skull, Bob. While it is fertile ground for follow-on novels, it is jarring for the reader to see so many items, tools, characters, and plots which are not explained well. I would have preferred a story set in his hinted backstory as an introduction to the character than this one. It took me months to finish the book, as the first half seems to force a "pulp-fiction private eye with magic" vibe that just didn't grab me. It picks up towards the end as the disparate clues begin fitting together, with a pair of "deus ex machina" moments. I will probably pick up the next book, most

because my brother insists that I should, but I find it difficult to give this book anything more than three stars.

I had seen the (unfortunately) short-lived sci-fi channel show a long time ago and really liked it. Finally got around to picking up this book and was not disappointed (the show was pretty good but as usual the book was better). Really like Butcher's writing style and the pace of the book. I read a lot of fantasy/sci-fi and I found this story refreshing. The urban/contemporary fantasy setting is cool but I liked how traditional elements of fantasy were woven in too. Looking forward to reading more of this series.

Harry Dresden's a uniquely down-on-his-luck Chicagoan: not only is he behind on his rent, he's a bit of a wash-out with women despite being tall, dark, & at least not overtly ugly. Worse, he's a wizard in a world that doesn't believe in wizards. Okay, so that last part's hard to believe given the kind of mayhem Harry manages to produce. Even in a rainstorm Chicagoans would likely notice an electric blue demon scuttling down the street, or a battle with lightning bolts.. Harry's landlord would definitely take exception to the destruction of his apartment, and I suspect Harry's neighbors would have a word or two to say about the destruction of the building's one elevator. In LA, maybe, you could get away without a demon being noticed, but Chicago? Not... Still this book zings along at such a magical pace that I'm not just willing to forgive the obvious but I've already ordered the series.

I really enjoyed this read. My best friend had bragged about it the whole 3 years I've known her. Even got me to watch the TV show. Yes, I did it backwards. Watched the show THEN read the books. whoops. Anyway, I was laughing the whole time reading it, and I honestly think Harry could be less of a screw up and the writing was sometimes just droning on, I thoroughly enjoyed reading book 1. I will likely get book 2 and go from there. I hope they're all just as entering as this one. Well done.

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