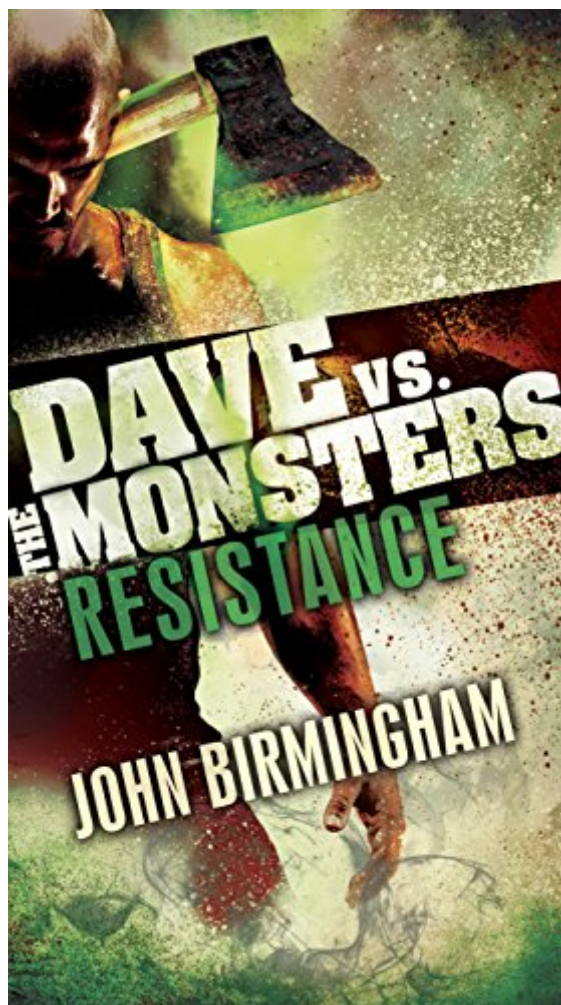


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Resistance: Dave Vs. The Monsters (David Hooper Trilogy)



Synopsis

For fans of Jim Butcher and Kevin Hearne comes a heart-pounding new urban fantasy series featuring monster slayer Dave Hooper and his magical splitting maul. When you drop a monster-killer on the Strip, all bets are off. Holed up in Las Vegas after the tumultuous Battle of New Orleans, Dave is enjoying the VIP perks afforded a champion monster-slayer. He may be a superhero of swag and the toast of the town, but if some fire-breathing dragons have their way, odds are everyone will soon be toast. As the hordes from the UnderRealms regroup for their next attack, Dave parties with celebrities, lunches with A-listers, and gets his ass lawyered up because his hellacious ex is looking for a piece of that sweet, sweet action. It's all good, until new monsters roll in, looking to parley with the Dave. WTF, monsters. Do you think the Dave can't spot a trap before he falls into it? And when things go to hell at warp 10, a suit from a shadow operation swoops in to offer Dave a deal he can't refuse. Now Dave's about to face off against an opponent who makes battling bloodthirsty behemoths look like child's play a ravishing Russian spy with a few superpowers of her own. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After the all-out crazy action of Emergence, the first novel of the series, I was surprised that Resistance is quite a different type of book. There are two major action setpieces, but most of the book focuses on the choices Dave has to make concerning his new life as a superhero celebrity. Critics of the character of Dave will probably not be back for the sequel, but if they made it this far they might be scared away by the hedonism he is engaged in as the story begins. When offered all the pleasures of the flesh in Las Vegas Dave cannot resist, but soon has to confront the cost to himself and others of his selfish ways. All is not serious and introspective. There are some hilarious comedic sections and snappy banter, stepped up from the first volume. I particularly enjoyed the conversations between Dave and the various monster chieftains he has to negotiate with, and the addition of Professor X (no, really!) as Dave's new cutthroat lawyer. Resistance ends with a cliffhanger which is a bit annoying but hard to avoid in Book 2 of a trilogy. I'm really enjoying the series and am eager to read the next book to see where the story takes me. 5 stars, highly recommended.

The first book in the series was good, but this one is questionable and this one is bad. I am fine with books where the protagonist starts weak/bad and develops. But in this series, the protagonist goes the other way. Starts out as a redneck and quickly gets superpowers which he uses well. But the second book has him pretty much taking advantage of his powers, although it feels there is still a chance he will redeem himself. The third shows him degenerating into a pathetic puppet. By the end I don't even feel sorry for him, just want to have him put out of his misery. Throughout the series the language is atrocious.

This is a difficult book for me to review. I like the concept of long-hidden (exiled?) monsters underground, emerging to match their primitive strengths against the technologically advanced humans upon whom they used to feed. The need for both sides to learn quickly what they are up against is convincing, and the absorption of the knowledge possessed by the dead is interesting. There is an interesting encounter at the end of the book that makes me want to see what happens next. But ... Dave is an irritating character. Although a flawed hero is not a bad thing in a book, Dave's flaws are too much: he is without empathy and is self-absorbed to the point of forgetting about the existence of his sons for long periods of time; he is highly educated but is unable to speak or think intelligently. I grant that his flaws were in all likelihood exacerbated by the mind-meld he experienced with a Hunn in the first book. But Dave is hard to cheer for. Much worse, however, is the Thresh, who absorbed someone whose thoughts and speech patterns I would definitely NOT want

to have occupying pages and pages of text in a book ... but they do. He performs a necessary function, but does he have to be so irritating? By the end of it all, I find that I am interested in the struggle between men and monsters, and the course of the story. But following Dave is not much fun and Thresh is an actual obstacle to my reading pleasure. I am on the fence about going on to Book 3.

I bought three books of this series because of the comparisons to Jim Butcher & Kevin Hearne's books. sorry bit I don't see it! I struggled through the first two thinking that it would improve then gave up half way through the third. Most anti-hero characters realize their shortcomings & get smarter as they go along but Dave just keeps getting more stupid. at first I felt sorry for him but he just keeps doing dumb things & not learning a thing from it. I got to the point I just don't even like him any more!

In the first book the main character, Dave, comes across as an unlikable jerk but you do find sympathy for him because of his situation. He's a 'normal' guy caught up in very abnormal things. His homophobia, sexism and near-racism come off as more the product of being 'small town' than willfully obtuse. There's even hints of character growth as the story comes to a close. That's all gone in book two. The author seems to be actively working against Dave, and not in a plot-driven way. Dave has reverted to being boorish, homophobic, mean, selfish - completely unlikable. And that doesn't change at all throughout the book. There are plenty of scruffy, rough-hewn protagonists to be found in literature but that's not Dave at all. The author paints him as just a really awful person. His one redeeming quality - wanting to do the right thing - gets smothered under the crushing weight of his often cringe-worthy behavior. I had never read a book where it seemed like the author actively hated his protagonist but this comes close. In the climax that seems to be firing on all cylinders. In my opinion, you have to relate to a protagonist in some way to fully enjoy a book. Or at least you have to see a character progress. Neither is true of this book. From a strictly academic standpoint, the author's prose is adequate, but the story leaves a bad taste in your mouth. Yes, it's light fare and taken in that context it gets 2 stars: poor example of the genre. I don't know who compared the author to Jim Butcher because he's nowhere near that caliber of author (which is sad because Butcher is a decent writer but not exactly a powerhouse of our age).

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