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Hard Day's Knight (The Black Knight Chronicles Book 1)



Synopsis

This revised and re-edited edition presents the "Author's Preferred Edition." Children are missing. The police are stumped. Halloween is coming, with an ancient evil on the horizon. The vampires are the good guys. This is not your ordinary fall weekend in Charlotte, NC. Vampire private detectives Jimmy Black and Greg Knightwood have been hired to keep a young client from being cursed for all eternity, but end up in a bigger mess than they ever imagined. Suddenly trapped in the middle of a serial kidnapping case, Jimmy and Greg uncover a plot to bring forth an ancient evil into the world, and enlist the help of a police detective, a priest, a witch, a fallen angel and strip club proprietor to save the world. This unlikely band of heroes battles zombies, witches, neuroses and sunburn while cracking jokes and looking for the perfect bag of O-negative.

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Customer Reviews

I was looking for inexpensive books for my Kindle and stumbled onto John Harkness's Hard Day's Knight. I had read his book, The Chosen, and thought it was ok, and at this price was totally willing

to take a risk on this book. Man, am I glad I did. Witty, fast paced, an excellent story and fiercely awesome characters, this book has made me an indie convert. I know that some people have a prejudice against self published books, but I think that this author exemplifies all the reasons why you should give indie authors a chance. He has quickly become one of my favorites, and since he has priced his books so reasonably, I have no reason not to buy anything he publishes immediately. If you are looking for a fun story with interesting characters at a great price, this is your book.

Mysteries, detectives, and vampires??? Yep, count me in. Now, I am not going to summarize the book for you - mainly because I don't personally find such reviews useful. What I will tell you is that the sardonic tone of this book had me hooked from page (on my Kindle for Android - so not very far into the book at all). I was pleased to find that it was an enjoyable read the whole way through. In a busy week where I worked every day and had meeting into the evening every night, I finished this book in just four days. Typically it takes me a couple weeks or more to finish a novel. The bottom line is this, if the story description sounds remotely interesting, give this one a try. You won't regret it. ps - Joss Whedon fans, this goes double for you.

Greg and Jimmy are at that awkward age when young adults begin to sense that it is time to give up the games of childhood and accept the responsibilities of an adult. They are torn between the desire to change the world and the desire to sit on the couch in the parent's basement and play X-Box. Greg and Jimmy have been at that awkward age for the last twenty years, ever since they died and were reborn as vampires. Since they are nerds, they have managed to turn their afterlife into a nerd fantasy of solving mysteries and playing low-rent superheroes. In this instalment, Greg and Jimmy find themselves in a fast-paced story that begins with Jimmy's kidnapping by a desperate punk who wants to be turned into a vampire to avoid the curse of a 13 year old witch, and then transitions into a confrontation with a demon, and morphs into a zombie uprising and putting down the near end of the world. Along the way, we are introduced to the pair's childhood friend, now pushing 40 and an ordained priest, and to a very hot police detective. The story is narrated in first person fashion by Jimmy. I found Jimmy's asides, mental reservations, and descriptions of his even nerdier friend Greg very amusing. The story moved along at a fast clip. I did have two nits to pick. First, the chapter conclusions frequently involved a foreshadowing of action in the next chapter along the lines of "And then my night turned to crap." After awhile this got annoying. Second, one of the spear carriers - a fallen angel named Phil - paraphrases the line about "it is better to reign in Hell

than to serve in Heaven" and attributes the line to Dante. Obviously, the line is from Milton's Paradise Lost. Not a big point, but a gaffe. Let's hope it gets corrected in the next edition.

Hard Day's Knight by John Hartness Not to be confused with A Hard Day's Knight by Simon R. Green. This is an indie publication put out by pay to play gurus CreateSpace and set in Charlotte, North Carolina. So another vampire book set in the south, not a bad thing at all. The book has plenty of personality. The two main characters are snarky, rip into each other verbally like only the best of friends can, and don't take themselves very seriously. The plot is simple and straight forward, and doesn't bear looking at too closely. The supernatural is fairly mundane in the book's world. The angel runs a strip club, vampires are half-assed detectives, curses are tossed over schoolyard harassment, and most of the world somehow doesn't know the supernatural exists. Hartness has promise as a writer, but still has a way to go yet. The spelling and grammatical errors in the book are distracting. Despite being less than 200 pages, it's fairly repetitious, with the same phrases used over and over. You'll learn to dread yet another chapter ending with 'and then things got worse'. The good girls are eye candy, existing to be fed upon and ogled. And there were numerous inconsistencies and plot holes. As in many action comedies, there is little morality. The heroes assault and threaten two innocent kids when they steal the kid's car, and the main character has no problems with feeding on unwilling strangers. I ended up giving the book 2 stars on the scale. It's a promising beginning and I'm sure Hartness will get better.

Some people apparently paid 99 cents for this book. At that price it would have been a more enjoyable 3.5 star outing. For 3.99 though... That's the only thing I can think of as to why the other reviews were so much higher. The writing is vanilla at best, with a lot of long drawn out, uninspired paragraphs. The story builds almost no suspense, I felt no particular fondness or attachment to the protagonists and it was just all around a short, ho-hum outing. The setup is interesting though, so perhaps if an editor ever decides to take a chance on this writer, several drafts later his stuff might turn out pretty good. Maybe the YA crowd could get behind the rudimentary prose more than I could. I'd check out the Sandman Slim stuff instead of reading anything from this series.. Sandman Slim.

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