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Black Spark (Dark Magic Enforcer Book 1)



Synopsis

I watched in horror as dark magic sprang from my hand faster than an imp after your socks. I didn't know my name, let alone that I had such power. The man was dead. I panicked. I ran. How was I to know I was a dark magic enforcer, tasked with keeping magic hidden from the world? Yeah, total noob move, I know. But my memory is returning, and the Hidden have given me twenty-four hours to make amends. Cover it up. Finish the job I was given, or else. Failure isn't an option. Well, it is, but I like me, and I like being alive. The clock is ticking as I battle to make things right and exact revenge on those that took so much from me. Easier said than done as I deal with angry mages, bitey zombies, oversexed imps, creepy necromancers, and grumpy trolls "and those are just my friends!" all while trying to stop myself falling in love with my best friend, Kate, who just so happens to be a hot vampire. I'm Faz Pound, a.k.a. Black Spark, Dark Magic Enforcer, and time is running out. At least I have my looks. For now.

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Customer Reviews

I wish I could give this five stars but i can't. It has an interesting premise and magic system which is

why i gave it three stars and not two, but there are so many redundancies in the writing that i had to take a break from the book. I mean i read a little over 20% and just had enough. I intend to finish but wanted to write this review first, and will update it once i finish the book. For example, how many times do we have to read that the main character is Faz Pound a.k.a. the Black Spark, Dark Magic Enforcer. It's mentioned 3 or 4 times in 30 pages. I get it already ok? Also I understand that he works for Mage Rikka, you don't have to mention it over and over and over again. Also, vampires, the author says that as they age they become further and further distanced from humanity and hints that it also affects their looks but the old vampire the main character meets is never really described beyond being powerful and having long fingers. The writing can also be very redundant with different aspects of the world explained over and over again in different ways. The book just didn't flow for me. It needs a good editor to go over the intro with the author to tighten things up. It's gotten great reviews so some people are liking it but for me I feel like there are some other urban fantasy I would hit up before I would give this book a try. If you have already plumbed the depths of kindle's urban fantasy then give this a go, just know what you are getting into first. Updated: Finished the book and I reiterate my rating of mediocre. The book is ok but wont be a go to when i am looking for something to read. Maybe if the writing quality improves in later books. The flaws in the beginning just made me irritated and any time i found another problem it just got worse.

I am a loyal and devoted fan of Simon Green's Nightside books and Derek Landy's Skulduggery Pleasant set, and this new series fell right in line with those books, in terms of both strengths and weaknesses. All of the books feature witty, wisecracking heroes who call upon magic, sometimes dark magic, to fight evil. Green's books feature John Taylor, a private investigator with a special gift, who is based in the Nightside, a dark, hidden part of London. Landy's Skulduggery is an undead, skeletal, sorcerer and detective who fights magical dark villains. Line's Faz Pound, (aka Black Spark), is a dark magic enforcer, tasked with keeping magic users in line and punishing those who break the magical rules. This book breaks out of the mold a bit in that Faz has a boss, a number of bosses actually, and he's more of a guy caught in the middle than he is a lone wolf enforcer who plays by his own rules. Can you have a dark magic procedural? That's a little bit like what you get here. But, no quibbles - this book delivers where it's important. Faz is wry, sarcastic, has a bit of a temper, and doesn't take any guff. He alternates between cool competence, bemusement, desperation, depression, ruthlessness, and a certain amount of self-deprecation and restraint. In other words he's a classic comedy/action/suspense magic enforcer/detective. And he has style and personality that shines through even the most bizarre story developments. The book is narrated by

Faz and that confessional, first person style suits the material. Faz isn't an unreliable narrator, but he's a cagey one, and reading between the lines adds a bit of mystery and spice to the story.

Faz Pound, AKA Black Spark, is a Dark Enforcer, keeping the knowledge of the ones who use magic or Empty from the Regulars, or humans. This day, he comes to with the knowledge of who he is, but not much else other than he needs to run because he has killed and now his killing with magic is being broadcast on social media, just the kind of thing he is an enforcer for. As things slowly come back, he is given a second chance to clear up his mess and find out what went wrong in the time he can't remember. But, time is against him, and he needs to fill in the blanks before the lost time catches up to him. When I bought this book, I was expecting a really good read, but wasn't expecting a great read because I think this is a first book for this author. At the end of the book, I was glad I had read it. It did have problems, which I will get to, but overall I see lots of potential. The book was overall well-written; the premise was different and interesting; the characters were interesting and I hope to get to know them better; and I see lots of ideas for future books. Now for the things that were not so good. The beginning of the book was very repetitive, and it could get a little repetitive throughout the book, stating the same things in different ways more than once. The plot did have some holes, but they were not glaringly obvious. And last, information was given at the end of the book that I think would have better served at the beginning, i.e., Faz's sight changes when he used the Empty. All of these things could be fixed with more editing, which says the book has promise. About a third of the way through the book, however, the writing smoothed out a great deal and I believe the author finally found his stride.

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