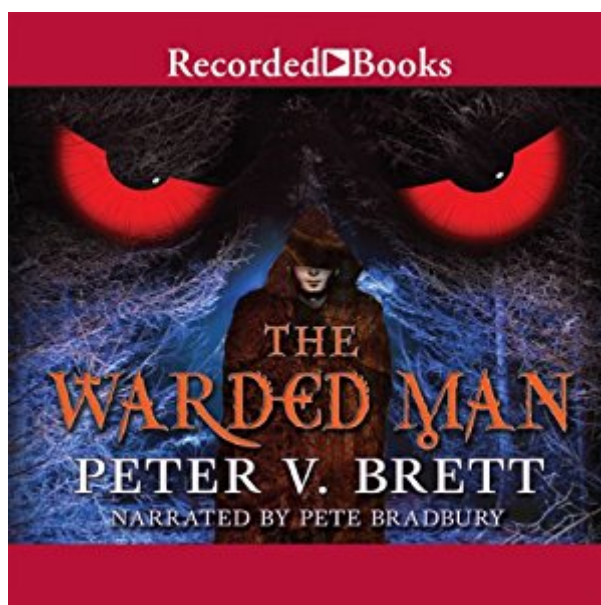


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The Warded Man



Synopsis

The time has come to stand against the night. As darkness falls each night, the corelings rise—demons who well up from the ground like hellish steam, taking on fearsome form and substance. Sand demons. Wood demons. Wind demons. Flame demons. And gigantic rock demons, the deadliest of all. They possess supernatural strength and powers and burn with a consuming hatred of humanity. For hundreds of years the demons have terrorized the night, slowly culling the human herd that shelters behind magical wards—symbols of power whose origins are lost in myth and mystery, and whose protection is terrifyingly fragile. It was not always this way. Once, men and women battled the corelings on equal terms. Once, under the leadership of the legendary Deliverer, and armed with powerful wards that were not merely shields but weapons, they took the battle to the demons . . . and stopped their advance. But those days are gone. The fighting wards are lost. Night by night the demons grow stronger, while human numbers dwindle under their relentless assault. Now, with hope for the future fading, three young survivors of vicious demon attacks will dare the impossible, stepping beyond the crumbling safety of the wards to risk everything in a desperate quest to regain the secrets of the past. Arlen will pay any price, embrace any sacrifice, for freedom. His grim journey will take him beyond the bounds of human power. Crippled by the demons that killed his parents, Rojer seeks solace in music—only to discover that music can be a weapon as well as a refuge. Beautiful Leesha, who has suffered at the hands of men as well as demons, becomes an expert healer. But what cures can also harm. . . . Together, they will stand against the night.

Look for Peter V. Brett's complete Demon Cycle: THE WARDED MAN | THE DESERT SPEAR | THE DAYLIGHT WAR | THE SKULL THRONE | THE CORE (Coming soon!) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found this to be a really entertaining read. At first I was concerned that the plot would lack any particularly imaginative twists (demons materialize, people hide, everything is okay again during the day). But the novel does a great job of exploring a the world and the resulting human community that has developed in a world in which demons are an integral part. The plot generally follows 3 main characters (one of which is, in my opinion, significantly more interesting than the others.) Ultimately interesting enough to compel me to read the next in the series.

In a world where it appears the only fantasy book series anyone ever tells you to read is Game of Thrones, I was hard-pressed to find one that was actually enjoyable without having other people constantly talk (and thereby spoil) every detail about it. And not to mention a book series that doesn't have it's own TV show that eventually leads readers to just give up on reading and say "I'll just watch the show to see what happens." Thankfully, I randomly discovered The Warded Man. First of all, it's important to make it clear that this IS NOT A CHILDREN'S BOOK. There is a lot of sexual content involved in this book, so if you're a parent, do not buy this for your young kid thinking that this is some Eragon-like book. Now with that out of the way, many readers will enjoy the way in which this book is written in terms of the English and wording. I am a huge LOTR fan but I'll admit that Tolkien's wording can come off as a little too 'proper' for me, (probably because he was an old English professor and I'm just a Midwestern American). But Peter Brett's writing is much more modern and easier to follow for today's readers, and even the characters seem to talk in a manner that correlates closer with today's dialects. I was also impressed with how Brett constructed the characters. I'm sure everyone's tired of hearing the cliché of how certain series have such 'complex' characters, but that's probably the truest thing I can say. Since the main characters start out as children and time actually passes in this book, you are made well aware of how they develop and what it is that haunts them through their lives. Basically, you learn to understand and love them, and you can only root for the good guys, can't ask for much more when it's good vs. evil! And demons are the main enemy in this book, there is no question about that and their existence and evil is what creates the situations in which the characters are placed in. However, most of this book actually focuses on the day-by-day lives of the characters and how they struggle to get by even when the

demons aren't present. Now that may sound boring, like when *The Walking Dead* has episodes with literally no zombies, but these events are actually the most fascinating. It is clearly shown that evil exists amongst men within these stories and often the demons in the night aren't even the greatest concerns for the characters. And since humanity doesn't have the slightest clue of why demons now exist in their world, the reader too can only wonder as to why the conflict between men and demons is happening now. There are definitely theories amongst the characters, but we are left to believe that there is something greater behind all of this. One thing that people may find a little ridiculous at first is the presence of wards and how they were just 'forgotten' until they happened to be needed when the demons entered the world. At first they may come across as just convenient magic in a world that shouldn't have magic, but if readers can get beyond this element and accept wards as essential to the story, then I'd guarantee their enjoyment. After all, it's made clear that wards aren't perfect protection, so all things have flaws as well as they should. I'll avoid giving spoilers in this review, so I'd recommend that reviewers read a synopsis of this book to see if they are interested. All in all, it is a hugely underrated series that people will love if they're looking for something that isn't obsessed over for being on TV or the big screen.

More than enough people have done a plot synopsis, that one more is unnecessary. There are demons, magic, heroes and violence, but Peter V. Brett makes it all feel new by spinning a very human story of three very relatable people. Brett excels in building fascinating characters and amazing worlds that keep you glued to his tales. The emotional growth of all his characters is particularly well written as well. I think he could write about almost anything and still have a fantastic novel. If you like this sort of thing, then get the series

Being a erratic reader due to time limitations, I found this novel very difficult to put down and ended up binge reading the whole series. After reading the series twice at a more casual pace, I again was highly entertained with the novel concepts in this series. I purchased softback copies for my teenager and he immediately started binge reading as well, allowing us to be able to enjoy sharing a common book with great conversations. Note: there are a few chapters that one must be careful about allowing young teenagers to be exposed to, but mine is 16 and I felt him prepared for these. This is a magic concept that I've not encountered before but truly enjoy. (Examples of other books/series I have enjoyed: *Thomas Covenant*, *Game of Thrones*, *Way of Kings* and of course the pinnacle *Lord of the Rings*)

I took a chance on the Warded Man on references about other books while researching what my next book would be; I wanted to step out of my usual group of authors because I read faster than they can write. The Warded Man has a sound beginning and just the right amount of detail and story behind the story. There is a small group of main characters that come together near the end of book one, nicely setting up book two. I am usually hesitant about books with magic because it has an anything goes quality and sometimes it can cheapen the story; this was not the case in book one. Peter Brett has a fine introduction to his series.

I always think of Haplo and The Death Gate Cycle when I think of a great character covered in tattoos. There are seven books in that series; but, they keep getting better and are worth the commitment. This series, judging by the further ratings, keeps getting worse and, not being 12, I was not the target audience. Some of the clear parallels that are drawn between the Mid East and occurrences in this book also made me feel that the author was lacking inspiration. Even if one chooses to forgive the fumbling, coming of age, peach fuzz moments and idiocracy that is this world, the whole demon thing is about as scary as keeping rabbits out of the garden.

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