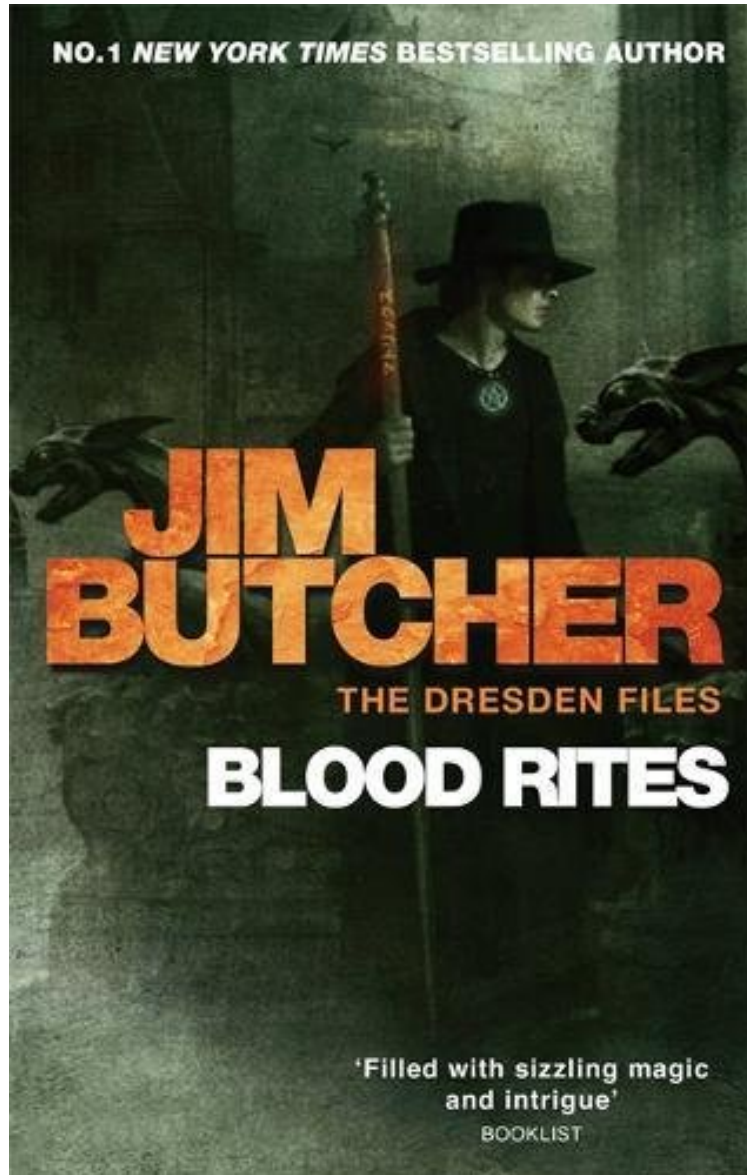


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Blood Rites (Dresden Files)

Jim Butcher

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Jim Butcher : Blood Rites (Dresden Files) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood Rites (Dresden Files):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. still loving this seriesBy Sneaky BurritoI've been reading through the Dresden Files books at a pretty fast clip and I'm almost out of the ones I got in the \$1.99 Kindle promo! So the first thing I will say about these books is that they're easy to read. But don't go too fast, because there are some funny lines

stuck here and there that you don't want to miss. I think a lot of aspects of "Blood Rites" are pretty solid. Love that we're seeing another side of Murphy, that we're getting more information about Harry's past (and it's not just infodumping, but actually is revealed in relation to the self-contained story within this book). White Court vampire Thomas and mercenary Kincaid are back, as is Harry's mentor Ebenezer. We learn more about all of them, as well. The information is introduced in a way that makes sense, in terms of the story; there's a bit of telling with regards to background information, but it is smart for the author to do it that way -- if two people are angry with one another, and Harry doesn't understand why, someone has to explain it to him (and, thereby, also to us). At any rate, even though Harry is the POV character, we're far enough along in the series that we are getting to know the other characters better, too, and I like that. Too often, first-person POV novels involve a trade-off, wherein you just don't learn much about the supporting characters. It's still a slow process to learn about Harry's companions, but I like the progression. Harry is gaining depth, as well. We learn more of his feelings about family, his sense of loss at not having known his mother. He's also getting better at asking for help instead of going into a location and blasting away. It makes him more sympathetic and less aloof, and that's good. The action is pretty intense for the entire second half of the book, with multiple confrontations that build in intensity. (Suppose that was the case for book 5, as well, but I feel like the final confrontation had more impact in this book than the final confrontation in book 5 did.) Vampires once again feature pretty strongly in this book; we learn a lot more about White Court vampires (the Red Court is absent here) and there's a battle with Black Court vampires, as well. (White Court vampires aren't exactly good guys, which you learn here, but they feed on emotion and tend to work against each other in secret, subtle ways. Black Court vampires, on the other hand, are the nastiest ones out there.) My first thought upon the conclusion of the confrontation with the Black Court vampires was that things had been too easy, that that couldn't be all there was to it. Thankfully, the characters address this later on, so I know the author deliberated on this before writing the scene and didn't just add it as filler. One thing I've said about past books, and it's true here as well, is that I like the way Butcher doles out additional pieces of information about the supernatural world. It's not all thrown at us at once; rather, each book generally goes deeper into one or two of the world. It's much easier to keep track of everything that way. In case you didn't know, this is book 6 in the series. I'd highly recommend reading the first five books (in order) before getting to this one. Nearly all of them contain bits and pieces of information that shed light on events in this book, as said events relate to the greater story arc of the series. There are a couple of things you won't get at all if you haven't read the previous books. Small things, but noticing them added to my enjoyment. All of these books have self-contained mysteries and all of them reveal bits and pieces of magic, the supernatural, etc., as these things exist in the Dresden universe. I think this book is one of the better ones at integrating the mystery and its solution into the overall series. In this book, Harry is hired to protect the cast and crew of an adult film from a curse that's killing performers in the film, one by one. Further, the war between wizards and vampires (that Harry started back in book 3) is ongoing. As you might expect, there are a lot of descriptions of women and their physical features, but this is par for the course for a Dresden book. There's definitely some sexual content and a lot of blood, gore, and violence. These books do have a dark, bleak tone. I wasn't able to predict the ending (I'm never very good at guessing who the killer is in traditional mysteries), but all the clues made sense to me. Nothing seemed too implausible (at least within the universe of the story). I'm just pleased to have figured one thing out on my own (one character is engaged to be married but no one seems to know who the fiancée is), although by the end of the book, there weren't many candidates left, so that may have been process of elimination. The setting was (again) Chicago, but there wasn't really anything specific to the city in this book. The writing was similar in tone and style to previous novels in the series, perhaps with a few more snarky one-liners than in the past (I like this). This is definitely not a difficult book to get through. If you've enjoyed the previous books in the series, you should like this one, too.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. GREAT READ, AS ALWAYS! By Victor Smith Harry Dresden, Wizard extraordinary, never has a slow day! So, when Thomas, Harry's inexplicably helpful, white court vampire 'friend' asks Harry to take a client who's seemingly in fear for his life, Harry tentatively agrees with the caveat that if he takes the job, then Thomas must come clean with Harry as to why Thomas has been so very helpful and even gone so far as to save Harry's life a time or two... Thomas agrees to the caveat, though he warns Harry that he won't believe it, anyway! It quickly becomes apparent that there is indeed a dangerous plot underway that seems to be targeting the Producer of a newly formed motion picture studio that has moved into Chicago after breaking with a bigger studio in California, in hope of being able to make more creative pictures and cast a wider range of actors and actresses. Harry gets a rude surprise when he shows up for his first day on the case, undercover as a production assistant, only to find that the company is producing Adult Erotica...porno, in a word! Still off balance because of the unusual environment, Harry is quickly embroiled in one problem after another, fighting to derail what appears to be a very strong Entropy Curse that seems to be targeting all the women on the set, and there seems to be no connections between the victims. On top of that, Harry is attacked by Black Court Vampires, led by Mavra, a dangerous and very old survivor of the pogroms and Vampire Hunts that occurred following the publication of Bram Stokers "DRACULA", which spelled out, in plain language, all the weaknesses inherent in the Black Court Vampires, and how to kill them so that they stay dead!! Only the very strongest, most vicious, survivors lived through that time, and Mavra was in that number. Now she has come to Chicago with the express purpose of destroying Harry Dresden, and

every man woman and child that he has helped or cared for since he came to town. There's no rest for the weary, as Harry hurtles from one crisis to the next...full out mayhem on an epic scale! Harry must call in favors where he's able, and recruit from a very limited pool of talent, and while, as usual, he manages to put together a Dream team of potential power, even a win may leave him in an untenable position...it may take 'Blood Rites' to make things right in the end. I found the following review helpful. Money well spent. By CustomerNot much more needs to be said for positive reviews of this series. I am more than half way thru reading the current 15 books in the series, and intend re-reading them again to pick up pieces that I missed the first time. Not bad considering the first book was an "accidental" discovery.... guess Jim Butcher's teacher showed him - HA!

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's had worse assignments than going undercover on the set of an adult film. Dodging flaming monkey poo, for instance. Or going toe-to-leaf with a plant monster. Still, there's something troubling about this case. The Producer believes he's afflicted by an entropy curse - but it's the women around him who are dying. And Harry only got involved as a favour to Thomas, his flirtatious self-absorbed vampire acquaintance. Thomas has a personal stake in the case Harry can't work out, until his investigation leads him straight to Thomas's oversexed relatives. Harry's about to discover the skeleton in Thomas's family closet: a revelation that will change Harry's life for ever. Magic - it can get a guy killed.

From Booklist Per usual, wizard-detective extraordinaire Harry Dresden is in trouble. He barely escapes an assassination attempt, courtesy of the Black Council of vampires, when Thomas, a vampire who has helped Harry out on occasion, asks him to take a case. It seems someone doesn't want porno film director Arturo Genosa's latest effort to get off the ground. An entropy spell has killed two of Arturo's assistants, and Thomas wants Harry to find the culprit. With suspects abounding--Arturo has no fewer than three ex-wives--Harry decides to pose as a production assistant at the studio. Though he isn't able to stop another sabotage attempt, this one threatening an actress' life, he does save the young woman. With danger closing in, the last thing Harry needs is a sexy succubus and a surprising revelation about his heritage. Filled with sizzling magic and intrigue as well as important developments for Harry, the latest of his adventures will have fans rapidly turning the pages. Kristine Huntley Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Butcher still rules in my library * SFFWorld.com * Raw storytelling skills - practically unparalleled in contemporary urban fantasy * SF s.net * Filled with sizzling magic and intrigue * Booklist * About the Author As well as being a bestselling author, Jim Butcher is a martial arts enthusiast with fifteen years of experience in various styles. He's also a skilled rider and enjoys fencing, singing, bad SF movies and live-action gaming. Jim lives in Missouri with his wife, son and a houseful of computers.