



Witch Hunt

S.M. Reine

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A brutal murder.

There are scratches on Cèsar Hawke's arms, a discharged Glock on his coffee table, and a dead woman in his bathtub. Yeah, maybe he brought the waitress home for some fun — he was too drunk to remember it — but he knows for a fact that he didn't kill her. He's an agent with the Office of Preternatural Affairs. He doesn't hurt people. He saves them.

The cops disagree. Now Cèsar is running.

The search for a shaman.

Isobel Stonecrow speaks with the dead...for the right price. She brings closure to the bereaved and heals broken hearts. But when she resurrects someone for the wrong client, she ends up on the OPA's most wanted list.

One risky solution.

Tracking down Isobel is the last case assigned to Cèsar before he bolts. If he finds her, he can prove that he didn't kill that waitress. He can clear his name, get his job back, and bring justice to the victim.

She's just one witch. Cèsar has bagged a dozen witches before.

How hard can one more be?

Witch Hunt Details

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Author : S.M. Reine

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From Reader Review Witch Hunt for online ebook

Lana *Lifeinwordsandlyricscom* says

Maybe I'm missing something, no scratch that, I am definitely missing something, because this book just didn't do anything for me. Despite the cool Firefly reference. My friends seemed to enjoy it and yet I found myself unimpressed. The world as well as the main hero felt a little flat. Desert Eagle was certainly wasted on Cesar Hawke. Oh well, maybe it will prove useful in the future. Good luck on your journey, Cesar.

Over and out

Jeffrey says

Cesar Hawke is an investigator with a secret organization - the Office of Preternatural Affairs - which tries to stop demons, angels and witches from bad acts. Usually he is out stopping witches from committing bad acts.

Today, however, is shaping up to be a really bad day. First, he wakes up in his apartment after a night of drinking tequilla to find Erin, a beautiful dead waitress in his bath and her DNA in scratch marks in his skin, then the cops come busting down his door and arrest him, and he ends up locked up in a local jail, but his "allies" in the OPA are not coming to get him out of jail because they think he also killed Erin.

Hawke decides to help himself, breaks out of jail and tries to locate Isobel Stonecrow, an illegally practicing necrocognitive. He wants Isobel to speak to Erin and figure out who killed her. Naturally, the plan goes awry, and Isobel uses a pesky biblical spell on Hawke to get away.

Hawke tries to get his partner Suzy to help out, but she just wants him to run away.

Finally, Hawke has to visit Helltown, the demonic center of town, where the evil incubi live feeding on people. It turns out that Hawke had rescued his sister years ago from Helltown.

There will be run ins with evil members of the OPA, demons, and incubi, quick magic spells, necromancy and other oddities as Hawke and Isobel try to figure out who framed Hawke for Erin's murder. Its an action packed short novel.

Great for the beach.

Simply Sam ? says

The world's not what everyone thinks it is - unless you think that our world's a pawn in a game of chess between Heaven and Hell, and riddled with as much magic and wonder as it is with evil. In that case, the world is exactly what you think.

I had zero expectations going into this book. It's an Amazon freebie by an author I've never read. That can really be hit or miss (leaning heavily towards the miss). While it's not a perfect book it sure was fun to read. I liked our main man Cèsar immediately. He managed to be a cocky meathead who is ALSO a witch AND a pretty big geek (though that was only apparent through his mentions of Firefly, Brandon Sanderson, Star Wars, etc. He never really acted geeky per se). Talk about a conundrum! The story picks right up and throws you into the action. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed it, honestly. I'm definitely one who tends to judge a book by its cover but in this case I'm glad I didn't! I think I'll definitely be seeing what Cèsar and the OPA have in store for us next!

Aya says

Preternatural Affairs: 1

This book reads as if written by a manly man, intent on proving such, or a closet woman romance author trying to pull off the same. There's lots of descriptions of bodily parts and scratching of intimate areas. It put me off the story. Hawke as a main character isn't particularly likable, either. He spends most of the book running into one situation to another, trusting unreasonably in his partner, who appears to the reader as someone who's not on his side. Lots of plot twists near the end, as if the author received criticism and was determined not to make the story predictable. At least it's a short read.

Kezia says

I'd given up reading books about contemporary witches some time ago, mostly because the people writing them didn't know squat about either witchcraft or ritual magic. Reading them was an exercise in frustration. Watching a few episodes of *Charmed* doesn't qualify one for writing about witches, but publishers seem to be fine with putting out any amount of crap because, after all, there aren't such things as witches. Actually, I happen to know quite a few of them, and they aren't too happy with what passes for occult literature these days, either.

Witch Hunt is an exception to the overwhelming rule. It's entertaining - i.e., hysterically funny - and smart (mouthed). It also pays more than lip service to the basic principles of ritual magic and the elements of magical tools. Of course it's fantasy. Magic works in this fictional universe in a much more concrete way than it does in the mundane world. Also, there are demons. Several classes of demons, in fact, with their own cultures and languages. And, like all well-written comedy, this book is much more intellectual than it would appear on the surface.

Another pet peeve is bad grammar. I couldn't find any in this book. Well, not any that isn't intentionally used to depict an individual character's voice. There were more than a few f-bombs, but as the story is written in first person and from a decidedly male perspective, the profanity fits. (I do realize that not all males curse, but most alpha male characters in modern fiction do, and this one is no exception.)

In short, this is a fun, action-packed, rollicking good time with very little in the way of romance or sex - an extreme departure from my typical choice of reading material, but I've always admitted to being an eclectic reader. Wholeheartedly recommended for anyone looking for fun escapism.

Karen says

With *Witch Hunt*, SM Reine presents us with a fast-paced – part gory, part hilarious – mystery. The story is cleverly elaborated, focuses on Cèsar and his way of solving a crime he did not commit. SM Reine describes her characters with not too many words and still makes you see them clearly before you. I was drawn in, felt like a shadow close to Cèsar and the events. I could easily envision the characters and locations. I had a very good time reading *Witch Hunt*. I also liked the quite different protagonist's name; not the usual César or Cesare – Cèsar!

If you do not mind occasional language (!) – and like this genre – you will like it.

Witch Hunt is well written and – I am really looking forward to reading the next books within The Preternatural Affairs series.

This is a book to read again.

Yzabel Ginsberg says

(I read this book as part of the Nine By Night set, which I got on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Since I'm not going to read all nine books in one go, I'm posting short reviews separately.)

A quick, easy read, with a lot of action and not many breaks, which fits the theme of "man on the run, trying to find the answers before his enemies catch up to him". No problem with that, although it was rather short, and so the characters weren't that well-developed. The world seems interesting, with a Men In Black feeling combined with department-to-department tensions and underhanded maneuvers.

Mostly it's César's decisions I had a problem with: he didn't strike me as particularly savvy, considering the job he's had for the past two years. Sure, going back to the crime scene to start looking for answers is as good a beginning as any, but he didn't do it in a clever way—and the same pattern repeated throughout the story. The ending was unsatisfying: César wasn't the one who actually solved the problem, he was more of a spectator at times, and I didn't like how a couple of key clues turned out to be just there by chance.

(Also, the NbN cover blurb spoke of "strong women protagonists", but I'm still looking. The only two prominent women here either don't appear that much, or are more like the must-protect-her type under a varnish of strength.)

Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says

Free on US Amazon: 19 SEPT 2015. (I know this has a lot of mixed reviews, but I thought it was great for a freebie and recommended for those who like urban fantasies.)

Review also found at: <https://theparanormalpaladin.wordpress...>

Cèsar works for the Office of Preternatural Affairs. He's a witch whose specialty is poultices and other minor potions for energy and stamina. To keep him on his toes and buff enough to outrun the bad guys. One day he

wakes up and there's a dead lady in his tub and he has no freaking idea what the heck is going on. The law (and the law the general public doesn't know about) is after him and he has to figure out who killed this chick quick.

I have to say, I have become sketchy towards Kindle freebies, but this was totally worth spending the time to read. It's short and the story moves along quickly with humor and entertaining pop culture references (hey, mentioning Star Trek and Indiana Jones is always a win for me).

I didn't care for Suzy, but I liked Isobel. Maybe I'm slow, but I didn't figure out the twists. Cèsar is a bit of a horndog and always thinking of sexual things when it comes to women, but I found it amusing, and he's a good guy, so it wasn't creepy or annoying, in my view at least. He did walk into some dumb situations, but you know, that's pretty common for Urban Fantasy characters. I thought he was sexy.

I think this was a solid first book in a series and I am definitely interested in continuing the series!

Buddy read with Supe-er Heroines group in July.

Free on Amazon 7/18/2015

<http://www.amazon.com/Witch-Hunt-Fant...>

Deniz says

2,5Stars

Witch Hunt reminded me of a mix of Man in Black (add witches instead of aliens) and Miami Vice (plus paranomal bits) set in LA.

To be honest I kinda wish I would have liked this better. Because if this would have been a movie- I probably would have loved it.

This is your paranomal mystery action flick. Totally my way to wind-down in front of the screen.

I probably would have liked this better as an audio book as well. Assuming obviously the narrator did a good job.

But reading it myself... nah, kinda didn't work for me.

The plot is good fun. Lots of action, mystery - it's non-stop really and had me guessing and working out things.

The world building is also quite well done. Clever paranomal mystery- not anything amazingly new. But really fun.

The writing style was a bit to simple for me at times but also ok

So why did this not work for me? Honestly I didn't care much for Cesar. I mean the character building was done, ok. He is your typical male action dude- down to the corny jokes. And even the support cast was ok, kinda been there done that characterwise. But Reine did a decent job at this. I just didn't enjoy reading this from Cesar's POV, I found his humor not particularly funny and in general wasn't able to connect with him. This is in the end just a taste thing. Which is one of those odd things. In theory this should have worked for me, but it just didn't.

I don't think I will be reading the next book of the series, I might try it as an audiobook if that ever happens. I will also read another book of Reine in the future.
And I definitely will go watch the movie...

?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says

3.5

I was a good book and entertaining. I might pick up book 2 to see if the characters and the story grow on me.

So, I Read This Book Today says

Cèsar Hawke is a witch with the Office of Preternatural Affairs, a special agent in the division whose job is to get warrants, perform arrests, put the suspects on trial, and send guilty parties back to the Hell from whence they came with the travel forms filled out in triplicate. Which is pretty funny, seeing as strong magic makes him sneeze. But hey, it's a job, right?

But now, things have gone off all cockamamie – and Cèsar is now on the wrong end of the proverbial stick. He has found the body of his favorite waitress from The Olive Pit, his favorite bar, dead in his bathroom. He is the only suspect. And the OPA is more than willing to let him swing.

Escaping from 'mundane' jail is easy. Finding out who really killed Erin, the waitress, is much less so. And finding out why those who should have his back, his partners in the OPA, actually don't is even more confusing. Hell of a night, huh?

Cèsar has no memory of what happened that night, but he does know that the gun on his coffee table isn't his. And trying to prove his innocence is going to be terribly hard without his memory, and with the police arm of the OPA, The Union, hot on his heels with things like huge guns and graves in the desert on their 'must do' list.

In order to find out what happened that night, and to prove his innocence, Cèsar must find Isobel Stonecrow, a purported necrocognitive, in order to raise the shadow of Erin. Only by doing so can he find out what really happened that night. And finding Stonecrow isn't going to be easy. But then, finding out why The Union is out to kill him isn't all that easy either.

If you haven't read any of the Office of Preternatural Affairs books yet, you really should. They are creative, exciting, well, just plain awesome!

Highly recommended – you can start here if you like, but you can also enlist in the Army of Evil and read ALL of Sara's books – they are fast paced action/fantasy novels sure to tickle your braincells!

Lauren Stoolfire says

Cesar Hawke, an Office of Preternatural Affairs agent, wakes up to a brutal murder. There are scratches on his arms, a discharged gun on the coffee table, and a dead woman in the bathtub. He did bring a woman home that night and he got so drunk he can't really remember anything, but he knows that he did not kill her. He saves people, he doesn't kill them. As Cesar is on the run from the police, there is one person he knows he has to find, a witch who can resurrect the dead. Said shaman is on the OPA's most wanted list so his search could be extremely risky, but that's the only way he knows that he can clear his name, get his job back, and bring justice to the victim.

Overall, I liked the premise of *Witch Hunt*. I liked being dropped right into tCesar's world and getting to figure things out beginning with the crime scene. Our narrator also sets the tone in a fantastic way and the author really excels at describing settings and characters. It's quite dark, but then again I got a kick out the sense of humor - I was pleased to come across the *Firefly* references. My only real complaint is that in the middle it started to drag. Otherwise, though, *Witch Hunt* by S.M. Reine is an action-packed urban-fantasy.

Steven says

I frickin' loved this book, and it was completely unexpected. For fans of Dresden and Urban Fantasy, this fast-paced book will get the job done. :)

❁Aimee❁ Just one more page... says

2.5 STARS

It was OK. Cesar works for a paranormal policing agency. He wakes up and finds his apartment a wreck and a dead girl in his bathtub. He can't remember a thing from the previous night. He escapes police custody and goes on his own investigation to find out what happened. Nothing really had me gripping the edge of my seat or laughing out loud. The book felt more like a setup for the rest of the series. Maybe the next book is better. I ~~have to~~ get to read book #2 because I got it off NG last year when I joined.

I haven't read Kate Daniels series by IA, but from all the quotes I see in my feed, it sounds like this series is the not so polished or witty brother brainchild.

❁❁ Sarah ❁❁ (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

Actual rating: 3.5

Well this was surprisingly enjoyable! After a string of bad reads I had sworn off of Amazon freebies and I really don't know what convinced to download *Witch Hunt*. Whatever the reason, I'm glad I did since it was a fun, quick, entertaining read.

It's definitely light reading material but the book is action-packed and fast-paced. It's a mix of mystery and fantasy with witches, demons, secret government agencies... The world-building isn't terribly original but it is still interesting enough. The mystery was well-crafted and I more or less found myself suspecting every single character in the book.

Talking about characters, it is true that they could be better developed but it doesn't mean they aren't

likeable. Actually, it's been a long time since I read a fantasy novel with a male lead so it was quite a refreshing experience. Cèsar (strange accentuation, I would have written it César, but I guess that's the author's choice) is quite the alpha male in some ways but he isn't that patronizing and can be quite amusing at times. I like Isobel, Suzy, Domingo... Most of the characters really, which makes me want to read more about them.

Off to read the next instalment in this series!

- ∖ **Book 2:** Silver Bullet ★★★
 - ∖ **Book 3:** Hotter than Helltown ★★★★★
 - ∖ **Book 4:** Shadow Burns ★★★★★
 - ∖ **Book 5:** Deadly Wrong ★★★★★
 - ∖ **Book 6:** Ashes and Arsenic ★★★★★
 - ∖ **Book 7:** Once Darkness Falls ★★★★★
 - ∖ **Book 8:** Bitter Thirst ★★
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