



## Demon Hunts

*C.E. Murphy*

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## **Demon Hunts** C.E. Murphy

Seattle police detective Joanne Walker started the year mostly dead, and she's ending it trying not to be consumed by evil. **Literally.**

She's proven she can handle the gods and the walking dead. But a cannibalistic serial killer? That's more than even she bargained for. What's worse, the brutal demon can only be tracked one way. If Joanne is to stop its campaign of terror, she'll have to hunt it where it lives: the Lower World, a shamanistic plane of magic and spirits.

Trouble is, Joanne's skills are no match for the dangers she's about to face—and her on-the-job training could prove fatal to the people she's sworn to protect....

## **Demon Hunts Details**

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Author : C.E. Murphy

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## From Reader Review Demon Hunts for online ebook

### Darcy says

It seems like with this book Joanne hits her stride, she has finally accepted being a shaman and embraces her reality. It seems like there are ramifications that come from the ending of the last book that have changed the landscape in Seattle.

Through out this book Joanne makes strides to incorporate her new powers to figure things out right away instead of being forced to use them as a last resort. People from Joanne's past make an appearance and we get a better picture of her life as a teen and the events that changed her path.

Gary as always is a strong force within her life, and there is a touching scene with the two of them that is soul baring for Jo. Billy and his family are there too, which always makes for some fun scenes to read. And as always Morrison is there with all the strange uncomfortableness between them, but with a twist this time around.

I can't wait for the next book to see where things go from here.

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### Denisa says

Fun series, although it's getting a bit predictable.

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### Lia says

First half of the book was good, second half not so much. Loved the tension between Morrison and Coyote, wish things could have built up before they came crashing down with Joanne's revelations about Coyote. Loved that Joanne is finally asking someone for help, wish she had done it in the past 4 books! Would have loved to see more of Morrison, glad that Murphy has stopped with her killing rampage (seriously, the first couple books felt like anyone new Jo would meet would die), but the storyline was blah, world building really hasn't improved much either.

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### Starfire says

Currently re-reading because I totally forgot I'd already read it. And I must take time it to squee and flail at the best fandom reference I've found in an urban fantasy yet. As they're driving into the state park on p184, Jo's gaze lands on a '67 black Impala with Kansas plates.

Well played, Ms Murphy. Well played.

I \*desperately\* want the crossoverfic now!

ETA: and it just got better! Apparently, the FBI got to the body before Jo, Coyote and co; and there are three of them. There's a woman and two guys... one of whom was really tall, and the other was really cute". I'm vaguely amused that all these references completely sailed over my head last time I read the book

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Definitely enjoyed this one - it's great to see how far Joanne's come emotionally since the first books, and really good to finally meet Coyote in the flesh - not just in the spirit world as we did the first few times. Really curious to see where the series goes from here

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### **Marsha says**

Since the first book in this series, I've struggled with whether or not I would continue with it. I really like the supporting characters, Gary, Billy etc. However, I didn't particular care for the continuous venture into the astral plane and the incessant self dialogue of the main character. Over time, this corrected itself but now after reading Demon Hunts I am asking myself once again whether or not I will continue with this series. This time my problem is with the main character's lack of common sense. Joanne Walker, recently made shaman continual whines about how she has no shaman handbook or no way to learn her trade except trial and error. In this installment one of the characters tells her to go home to her people and her father to seek guidance with her skills. I've thought this all along. Another thing that truly pissed me off was that she apologized to Sara, her high school friend for sleeping with the boy Sara liked. Now understand, Jo did not know that Sara liked Luca but Jo was left pregnant and alone while Sara goes on to marry the cad. Sara never apologizes for Jo for keeping in contact with Luca or that Luca never did man up by checking up on his twin babies born. Instead Sara lords over her marriage to Luca like he is some prize. What does Jo do? She slithers on her belly in shame. Forget that! Stand up for yourself and your child why don't cha? Finally, Jo always whines about her attraction to Capt. Morrison; yet, she dates Mark, Thor, and Coyote. Then she dumps them. Enough already. If in the next book her feelins for Morrison are not resolved, I'm done! I am tired of being frustrated with Jo's lack of self knowledge.

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### **Beth Cato says**

This is a brand new release in Murphy's The Walker Papers books, one of my favorite urban fantasy series.[return][return]It's almost Christmas and Seattle is in a deep freeze. Detective Joanne Walker feels the cold a bit more than most: another dead body has been found, obviously chewed on, and not even her shamanistic powers can find a clue. Her partner, Billy Holliday--who really does see dead people--is equally frustrated. All of the bodies have been found in the wilderness, all the victims the outdoorsy type, and the killer hasn't left so much as a footprint. This all points to a few nasty things, like the fact that the killer isn't quite human, and that the death toll will continue to mount unless Jo can find a way to stop it.[return][return]Ah, Jo. She's a great heroine as she accepts her shamanistic gifts. The first book is still about the best in the series, and this one is fun on its own right. My main complaint is that the pacing of the book is uneven. The first half feels more like a mystery as they try to find the killer, whereas the last half is mostly one big battle. It's rather exhausting to have the fighting go on for that long. There are some great side characters in this one, including a nosy news reporter and the return of someone very important to Jo. Still, no question that this book is fun and fast (I had to read it within a day) and will please anyone who enjoys the series.

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## Jackie says

Joanne Walker is really over her head in this one, a Wendigo no less and one that beats her down over and over before she finally embraces her full powers and does what Jo does best-wins.

Lots of interesting angles in the storyline, a deadly powerful supernatural villain to overcome and even some surprises for readers in Joanne's romantic life.

Next up is Spirit Dances and I am ready to see what this plucky *shaman/detective* gets herself in book 6 of the series.

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## Tracy says

Demon Hunts is the fifth book in The Walker Papers series, and by now, Joanne Walker (aka Siobhán Walkingstick) and her friends are familiar staples in my reading library. I've enjoyed to varying degrees watching Joanne mostly bumble along with this whole shaman gig she's always been pretty reluctant about, and while there have been times when her character's reluctance to just accept this new world she's been forced into has frustrated me, I have to admit, overall I've enjoyed the slow and sometimes fitful journey her character has taken to become more and more comfortable and aware of her skills and gifts as well as her calling.

Demon Hunts is no different in that regard, and it managed to capture in very poignant detail that growing up and accepting responsibility is very rarely a painless process. In fact, it's often burdened by farewells we have to say and amends we have to make. It's littered with regrets for past mistakes and tinged with the iridescent sheen of broken childish dreams. It's about doing what needs to be done in the face of criticism and rebuke, no matter the struggle, if the doing is the right thing. Above all that, it demands an acceptance of self that is often uncomfortable and a paradigm shift that is as necessary as it so often is terrifying. And at the very core, that is what Demon Hunts is about. Joanne finally...finally...growing up. That aspect of Demon Hunts was well written, exceptionally well paced, and a little heartbreaking, but there was also humor, self deprecating as only Joanne can do, and hope, and friendship, so it wasn't a totally bleak endeavor.

Unfortunately, the other aspect of Demon Hunts, the threat, crime, and rush to a solution, was bleak enough on its own. A series of odd murders that leave no clues of any sort are plaguing the Seattle Police Department - no blood, no DNA, no fibers, no footprints...nothing is left at the scene. So Captain Morrison calls in his paranormal dynamic duo, Joanne and Billy Holiday, because they're who you call when normal doesn't quite cover it. Except, there's nothing either one of them can pick up either - even with their magical connections. And people are still dying. Outdoorsy people. Leaving empty, bloodless husks behind.

As Joanne races to find out what is responsible and more importantly, stop it, long lost friends return to the fold and old friends stand as stalwart support. Old enemies pop back up and persistent thorns remain thorny. And while all that sounds like fantastic building blocks for another kick ass 'Joanne's Magical Mystery Tour,' in this case the Big Bad of Demon Hunts and the narrative surrounding it was ultimately a confusing, unrewarding mess that ended up feeling more repetitive than threatening.

I'll admit, throughout the series, I've had trouble understanding some of the magic related world building and mythos of each of the books. I don't blame the author for that, really. I have trouble wrapping my mind around magical concepts and other dimensions and stuff to start with (linear thinker, unfortunately), and Murphy just doesn't describe them conceptually enough for me to always catch on to the full scope of Joanne's shamanic world. I've gotten used to that. But this book went a bit further, and I struggled to

understand a lot of the too-subtly woven interpersonal stuff between Joanne and other characters - in particular a few scenes with Morrison and Coyote. There seemed to be an overabundance of dialogue with inexplicable double meanings and on top of that, I have trouble grasping the full impact of a scene if everyone's just looking at each other and the narrative doesn't really explain what's going on. In that regard, this book's narrative felt far more internal (from Joanne's POV) than others in the series, and that was exceedingly frustrating.

Another problem that's starting to niggle me is the evolving relationship between Morrison and Walker, which, in this book in particular, was far less 'evolve' and far more 'evade.' That whole 'one step forward two steps back' adage could definitely be used here...if the steps back were Jolly Green Giant-sized. I hope that Demon Hunts is a turning point, a stepping stone, or the last of the metaphorical shaman baby steps that Joanne needed to take to really become the warrior shaman Seattle needs and that by the sixth book in the series we'll start to get an idea of where that relationship is headed, as well as some overall arc progression or definition, because there wasn't any of that in Demon Hunts.

For the maturing and the personal growth, both well written and touching, I'd rate Demon Hunts 4 stars, but because of the weakness in the storyline of the killer and the repetitiveness of the battles with it, the conflict of Demon Hunts gets only 2 stars from me today. I averaged it out to 3 overall. I hope the next one has got a little more to offer.

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Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

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### **Deea (Andreea) says**

There's got to be a heartbreaking book in all the series, especially in the long ones. Well, seems like for the Walker Papers series, this was it. And I never saw it coming... \*sigh\* \*tear\*

Anyway, this series is getting better and better. I love C.E. Murphy's writing style, I love her world building and the realistic way she crafts her characters. And Jo rocks! I'm so glad I got to read (well, listen to) all the books back to back!<3

The villain in this book was sooo annoying! For the last 1/4 of the book, I was like "would you just die already m\*\$\*&W?!" :))

Also, my urge to reach into the book, grab Morrison by the shoulders and shake the hell out of him increases with each book. :)) So, book #6, bring it on!;

4.5 stars

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### **Susana says**

Once again:

**Love the characters!**

BUT, most of the times while reading what Joanne does as a Shaman, i can't help feeling lost!

YES, PLEASE!! O\_O

Heck, maybe i'm just too dense to understand it....

I can't help feeling that had the series been, less "inner dialogue oriented", less mystical or at least more interspaced with other parts, like some action or some romantic scenes, this would have worked better. As it is, i feel like there are "clumps" of the shamanic aspects....that suddenly remove all fluidity to the narrative. But that's just me. And i'm just a reader.

As it was, i'm liking the way Joanne has accepted the person she has become. She has a new maturity and a sense of self.

I also liked to see Coyote.

Gary is one of my favourite characters, as is Billy. (where are his dresses and his nail polish??). Like i said before, they're here more than to just fill pages, and i wish that the author would give them more spotlight.

Then there's Morrison....OH MY GOD....the way the romantic aspect of the Walker papers is worked, makes me want to scream. Really....this is.....

In the previous book, out of the blue Joanne started dating Thor. Then she breaks up with him, and that was it. The guy disappears...leaving the road free for Morrison....

Yeah, right...

And now Coyote comes back, and once again the situation with Morrison is placed on hold!! I'm frustrated!!! Five BOOKS!!

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## **Jenna says**

Coyote is back! Loved him in this book and seeing how he and Joanne act around each other after meeting in person. It's clear that no one can compare to the Captain....I hope something will work out there.

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## **Dren says**

Demon Hunts is C.E. Murphy's fifth book in the Walker Papers series. Joanne Walker is a Seattle police detective who is trying to deal with the facts of her life. She has the Sight. She can Heal. She's a Shaman. What else could go wrong? When a cannibalistic serial killer starts leaving mutilated bodies in her jurisdiction, Joanne and her partner Billy are thrust into the forefront and try to use their supernatural skills to track a killer.

This is my first entry in the Walker Paper series and I have to say, I really enjoyed this book. I had no investment with Joanne's character since I was coming into the middle of a series which is typically something I don't do. But Murphy did a great job, bringing in details of previous books and characters as needed so that I understood each scene fully and intrigued me enough to want to pick up the previous books.

Demon Hunts is written in first person and while it was a little slow-going in the beginning, Joanne was able to pull me into her story. Murphy's style of writing creates a clear voice for any reader to follow. However, at times, the pace of the story threw. In areas, where I expected fast paced action it dragged a little and some scenes seemed to take forever to end. But overall I enjoyed the book.

Without giving away any spoilers, I will say that, Joanne's reluctance to accept who and what she is, will reach a pivotal point in this book. Fans of this series will not be disappointed.

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## **Fangs for the Fantasy says**

Joanne and Billy are now the woo-woo team – the pair with supernatural abilities who help with those cases that are just too weird for anyone else. So when people show up dying and partially eaten but without a scrap of any kind of forensic evidence on the bodies, it's time to call them in.

But even magic can't work miracles and there's a limit to what even they can sense, much to their frustration. What they do learn is that their enemy is far more dangerous than they imagined and is going to take some... unorthodox messages to track and stop

Thankfully, Joanne is pretty good at unorthodox methods – as she proves not only to the people around her but also to Coyote, her mentor, finally free from a supernatural coma. In his absence Joanne has grown considerable and they have to re-find their balance with what she's learned, how she's grown, the path she is on – and the fact they're both in the real world, in the flesh.

It's another fun mystery – with a lot evolved. The progression in how the police force treats Joanne and Billy has excellently developed through the series to Morrison now overtly recognising them as his woo-woo experts. The mystery itself is interesting and, while it is quickly solved in terms of "whodunnit" the how to stop it part of the story maintains some excellent tension and questions to keep the story going. The story is really well paced without any lags or moments of boredom, confusion, or vast leaps of logic. But the star of this book has to be the characterisations

I really love the introduction of Coyote, and I really thought I wouldn't. I expected his presence to shake his mystique and it did. But it did it extremely well because it not only humanised him but helped Joanne to grow. Coyote is a person. He's more knowledgeable than Joanne, in many ways more capable and Joanne and has powers and skills Joanne can't touch.

But he is a person and he isn't god. There are areas where Joanne is better suited than him, there are areas where Joanne is more powerful than him and there are things she can do which he cannot. And him showing up didn't turn this into a story that focuses on Coyote, Joanne is still the protagonist, she is still the one investigating, she is still the one in charge and the one who makes the decision in her city and her life. I liked that it made it really clear that they can be powerful in different ways and walk different paths. That Coyote, healer, teacher, advisor has far greater strengths in those areas – but Joanne doesn't have to follow the same way; she's a warrior, a defender, a soldier who heals things and makes things better in her own way. I liked that he had his precious philosophy that was truly valuable to him – but at the same time it was acknowledge he could have that and not need Joanne to follow it.

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## **Suz says**

I'm really enjoying these more as the series goes on. The tropes early on that bugged me have kind of resolved themselves and it's turning out to be a very strong UF series.

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## **Angela says**

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