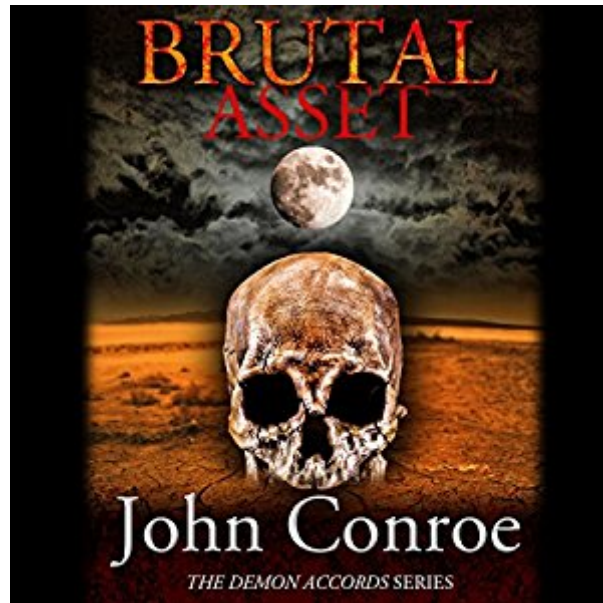


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Brutal Asset: The Demon Accords, Book 3



Synopsis

Book 3 of the Demon Accords. Partnered in an uneasy alliance with federal law enforcement, Chris Gordon has been hunting down the outlaw gang Loki's Spawn, who attacked his vampire girlfriend. But when he finds unexpected hostages who trigger his baser instincts, Chris is thrown into a search for answers to dark questions: how to control his inner demon, what do the Spawn want with children, and who is hunting him?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After reading God Touched I was hooked and couldn't stop reading. This is really good entertainment, BUT after devouring the first three installments I felt a little full and fed up. Here's why. The story is any young or young-at-heart geek's wet dream: a lonely young man who lost his family early has a special gift/curse. He can sense, fight and banish demons. For years he has waged a lonely war with only his grandfather as a friend. Then he stumbles on vampires, werewolves and a whole new world. Most of all he encounters a fabulously beautiful and deadly vampire princess. And the action just increases...In this third installment our hero is using his deadly new powers working with a covert government branch and of course encounters new terrible enemies. The story is written in the first person - which I always enjoy - and the hero is a likable humble guy with really bad-ass powers and a cool gang of top vampire friends. Everyone is superbad, supercool and the action raw and vicious. In short, urban action fantasy on steroids. Why I got a bit jaded after the first three installments is partly that there is little originality (standard

vampire/were urban fantasy) and that the darker tint in the first novel got lost in all the action and superb badass characters. It became a bit too much "teenage video game" for me. As a comparison the Hellequin Chronicles are more original and fascinating in their world-building and darkness. However, after a pause I have now picked up number four and I have to say that Mr. Conroe sure can whip up some really great, fast-paced entertainment. If you can identify with the outsider who always wanted to be someone special and like cool urban fantasy with plenty of action then you won't be disappointed.

Page 146 has a crossed out spelling error in it. At least the main character isn't threatening the president with his spirit bear god anymore. Yes, I'm still reading the books. He must be going somewhere with all this. A good beginning can carry you through a lot of bad middle, and these had such a good beginning... Also, I'm home sick and already bought most of them based on book 1 so it's not like there's much else to do. Also, sometimes they make me laugh, despite the outrageously over the top scenes. Weirdly enough, despite how he severely overpowered the spirit bear in the previous book, I'm missing Mr. Bear now. Although there's an alternate storyline in my head where instead of a spirit bear he gets a pet Cthulhu... Much funnier.

I was looking for something similar to Jim Butcher's "Dresden Files" series and ended up reading the first 4 books of this series => I will post this same review for all 4 of them. I enjoyed a lot the first 3 books - a steady pace, some romance but never overdoing it, a lot of action and some interesting concepts & names & informations => 5 stars and I think I might read them again in the future. For my taste they're not as detailed and funny and creative as Jim Butcher's series, but still, they were quite light (although I get crazy when the 2 main characters are separated) and enjoyable. I quite liked the first half of the 4th book (mainly when the main chars were doing their job as "rovers" in the wilderness), but then things started going downhill: some of the vampires were quite stupid, the main character still had his personality problems, there were a lot of open questions and the book itself was open-ended. Therefore, 5 stars for the first 3 books (you could read only those ones and then stop), but only 3 stars to the fourth mostly because of the bad 2nd half and the bad & open-ended ending. For the time being I'm taking a break from these series.

Conroe appears to be backing off from his tendency in the first two books in this series of product placement. He expended too much ink on describing the brand names of nearly everything that every character was wearing, eating, using as a weapon or brushing their teeth with. Thank

goodness he decided to spend more time developing his characters and the relationships therein. Conroe does kind of fall into what has become a fairly common story arc these days of the government adopting a paranoid stance towards things/people not under their control. There are some stereotypical players such as the over-zealous director of a mysterious government agency, the military general who knows better than anyone else, government officials with nebulous backgrounds, a fairly clueless and arrogant president, the computer wiz/geek/best bud of the hero, etc. When all is said and done, however, it's a page-turner and a fun read. On to book four!

Cheers to Conroe and his ability to make a supernatural character that is still very much human with abilities that could put the smack down on Superman. Also, I normally don't leave reviews on books and I'm not going to comment much on the story (because I refuse to give out too many spoilers), BUT what I will say is that John Conroe is an artist when it comes to creating and giving depth to this Demon Accords universe. Conroe has emotionally tied me to the main characters in this book and I get excited when the main character goes through a complex situation and proves just how powerful he is, and I actually teared up some at the loss of such a stoically great character at the end of the book. I have found that all these Demon Accords books are quick reads (because you can't put them down) but they are well worth the effort of investing time and energy in reading.

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