

Joe's Shelf

Important Note: All reviews reflected on this page are solely the expressed opinions of the reviewer. Our reviewers are not paid or given any incentive by any publisher.

January Reviews

Title: Imperial Bounty

Classification: Science Fiction

Author: William C. Dietz

Publisher: Ace Books/ Berkley

Copyright: May 1988

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: #2 in the McCade [series](#). McCade is tasked with finding the missing prince, but the princess doesn't want him found. She had control of most of the military and wants the throne for herself. All McCade has to do is find somebody who doesn't want to be found while dodging half the Imperial Fleet who are trying to kill him. I love this whole series and consider them my "comfort" books: friends to fall back on and read over and over again. I definitely recommend this for anyone's science fiction library. A great, fun read.

Title: PSI Hunt

Classification: Science Fiction

Author: Michael Kurland

Publisher: Berkley Books

Copyright: September 1980

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Lt. Robert Burrows, who doesn't believe in "mind tricks," is forced to work with a secret government agency using psionics to capture a rogue general who has nuclear weapons. Badly written; poor character development; fractured storyline. And on top of that, I didn't like it.

Title: Soarer's Choice

Classification: Fantasy

Author: L. E. Modesitt, Jr.

Publisher: Tom Doherty Associates, LLC

Copyright: November 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Corean Chronicles [series](#) #6. This story chronicles the transition between when the Soarers were active and when the Alectors ruled the land. This is a must read because it brings the story full circle. It is also an engaging read which clears up questions left by the other books in the series.

Title: Mistral's Kiss

Classification: Fantasy

Author: Laurell K. Hamilton

Publisher: Ballantine Books/Random House Inc.

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Meredith Gentry [series](#) # 5. Princess Meredith is still trying to consolidate her power and keep herself and her men safe while she navigates the twisted paths of the elven courts. With Mistral's kiss, more wild magic awakens. I like the dark mystery of where the story is going, because as you read, you really don't know what to expect next.

Title: Furies of Calderon

Classification: Fantasy

Author: Jim Butcher

Publisher: Ace Books/Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

Copyright: October 2004

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: 4 ½. First book in the Codex Alera [series](#). This is the story of a young man learning to

cope with life in a magical realm when he himself has no magic. Not only does he have to stave off an invasion, but he has also inadvertently saved one of the realm's spies, and has now become enmeshed in the struggles for power when all he really wants to do is be a shepherd. Very strong characters, lots of action, and truly interesting concept of controlling magic.

Title: **Academ's Fury**

Classification: Fantasy

Author: Jim Butcher

Publisher: Ace Books/Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

Copyright: July 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Second in the Codex Alera [series](#). After winning a scholarship to the Academy, Tavi is the First Lord's page. Now he finds himself covering for the injured First Lord and fending off spies and assassins while trying to convince everybody that everything is normal. And just to make it more interesting, he's got to fight magic users without having any magic of his own. Really interesting plot developments; fast-paced read with strong characters.

Title: **Cursor's Fury**

Classification: Fantasy

Author: Jim Butcher

Publisher: Berkley/Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

Copyright: December 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Third in the Codex Alera [series](#). Tavi is now a Cursor, i.e. a spy for the First Lord. His first assignment is to be with a newly formed Legion that is just crawling with other lords' spies. Not only does he have to take up the mantle of an Officer even though he is untrained, but he also has to prevent the assassination of his close friend and learn who is trying to sabotage the Legion. And fight a civil war and stop an invasion at the same time. It's not too much to ask for a man who has no magic. Great book! I read it in one sitting and could not put it down.

Title: **Master of Wolves**

Classification: Romance

Author: Angela Knight

Publisher: Berkley/Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

Copyright: April 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Third book in the [series](#). Jim London is trying to find out who murdered his best friend. Faith Weston is a small town K-9 cop. Together they form a great team, only Faith doesn't know that Jim's her partner. She knows him as Rambo, her German Shepherd police dog, but Jim is really an Alpha Dire Wolf, who finds himself falling in love with his handler. A fun and fascinating read. I enjoyed it so much I read it in one sitting.

Title: **Bring It On**

Classification: Fantasy

Author: Laura Anne Gilman

Publisher: Luna

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: No. 3 in the Retriever series. Wren is asked to find an object which turns out to be a very powerful magic talisman. While this is going on, she's also in the center of a struggle between the Lonejacks and the Mages' Council. The Council is trying to control who actually practices magic. Fun interaction between strong leading characters, and some really interesting plot twists.

Title: **Dark Demon**

Classification: Romance

Author: Christine Feehan

Publisher: Jove/Berkley

Copyright: April 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: No. 16 in the Dark series. Natalya is the daughter of the Dark Sorcerer and a vampire. She inherited the powers of both her parents and she's in a struggle to prevent the evil vampires from taking over the world and also fighting her father's evil legacy. Really fun and action-packed. I really enjoyed her introduction to Vikirnoff, who believes she is destined to become his main love interest.

Title: **Sleeping with the Fishes**

Classification: Romance

Author: MaryJanice Davidson

Publisher: Jove/Berkley

Copyright: December 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Paranormal romance. Stiff writing, hard to read. A bad "Splash." I didn't enjoy it at all.

December Reviews

Title: **Against Gravity**

Classification: Science Fiction

Author: Gary Gibson

Publisher: Tor

Copyright: 2005

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: 3 ½. A strong, well-written read. Fast paced and very suspenseful. Kendrick Gallmon was a survivor of a series of illegal and highly dangerous experiments designed to increase a person's abilities and perceptions. He finally escaped "the Maze" with a bunch of other people who call themselves "Lab Rats." He now finds his modifications malfunctioning, and somebody is trying to kill all the Lab Rats to keep them from finding out the true purpose of their modifications and what they can do.

Title: **Master of the Night**

Classification: Romance

Author: Angela Knight

Publisher: Berkley/Penguin Group USA, Inc.

Copyright: 2004

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Erin Grayson was tricked into investigating Reece Champion as a suspect in a series of killings, by the killers themselves. To finally defeat these people, she has to unlock her magical talents, but the only way to do this is by trusting the man she was investigating. Really fun. A good introduction to the rest of the series.


Title: **Benighted**

Classification: Fantasy

Author: Kit Whitfield

Publisher: Del Rey/Random House, Inc.

Copyright: 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: Lola Galley is a lawyer who gets involved in a case where she's defending somebody for a crime he did commit. In a society where most people are werewolves, she is not. The characters are hard to like and the storyline seemed jumbled.

Title: **Dragon and Herdsman**

Classification: Science Fiction

Author: Timothy Zahn

Publisher: Starscape/Tom Doherty Associates, LLC

Copyright: June 2006

Book Rating: 

Reviewer Comments: #4 in the Dragonback series. A boy and his symbiotic dragon find a group of the dragon's people, reverted back to primitivism, on a world where they are not expected to be. Jack and Draycos stumble

onto them in their continuing struggle to stop a conspiracy to kill the rest of the dragon's race.

©2006 Nancy's Book Nook