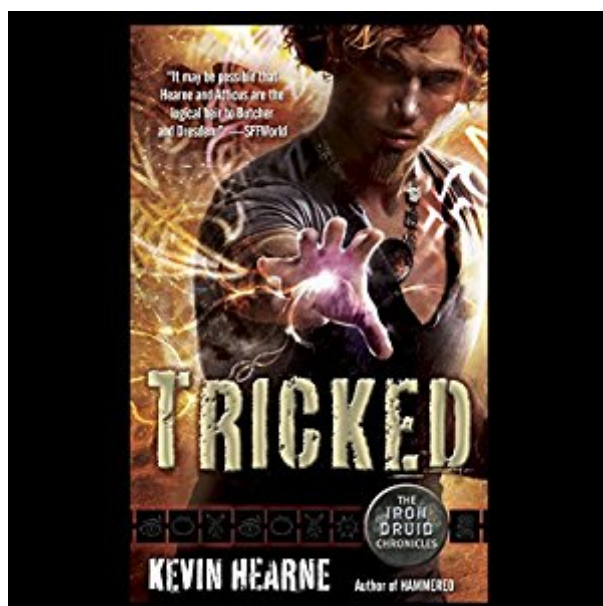


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Tricked: The Iron Druid Chronicles, Book 4



Synopsis

Druid Atticus O'Sullivan hasn't stayed alive for more than two millennia without a fair bit of Celtic cunning. So when vengeful thunder gods come Norse by Southwest looking for payback, Atticus, with a little help from the Navajo trickster god Coyote, lets them think that they've chopped up his body in the Arizona desert. But the mischievous Coyote is not above a little sleight of paw, and Atticus soon finds that he's been duped into battling bloodthirsty desert shape-shifters called skinwalkers. Just when the Druid thinks he's got a handle on all the duplicity, betrayal comes from an unlikely source. If Atticus survives this time, he vows he won't be fooled again. Famous last words.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thoroughly enjoyable, well-written and well-researched books with an interesting premise. I am more than happy to give Kevin Hearne a 5 star rating in addition to purchasing everything he has published. I hope many others discover the fun adventures of The Iron Druid and a very entertaining cast of characters. However, the reader must jump through a mandatory hoop if you choose to leave a rating. Star ratings are not acceptable on their own. No, any star rating is booby-trapped with the requirement of a written review, further weighted with a minimum word count, no less! Write a review or no stars from you. This is a tad bit bit onerous for the buyer who enjoyed reading the book and respects the author enough to pause and tap some stars. The demand for a written review effectively prevented me from posting the 5 star rating that might encourage others to enjoy an excellent book. This is ultimately unfair to Mr. Hearn, undoubtedly depriving him of many

well-deserved 5 star ratings. Guilt eventually caught up with me, so herein lies not only my enthusiastic support of this book, but a bonus review of a misguided policy: to the Kindle folks or whoever came up with this Either/Or toll: lighten up on the needy/greedy gate keeping, already.

It would be hard to top the last book with its quest into Asgard to kill Thor! and this book's plot is more modest, as is its body count. The pleasure of the humor and the magical, mythological world, however, are as strong as ever. Atticus is tricked by Coyote into battling skinwalkers and we're treated to a course in Native American spirituality. One complaint: I didn't think the Coyote and the vampire stories melded together very well. Usually Hearne's subplots intertwine nicely and come together at the end, but these two seemed somehow too disparate. A small niggle, though, and I loved the end with Atticus and Oberon running through the fields and rolling in the clover. I cannot tell you how wonderful it feels to run when you no longer have to do it.

A friend of mine introduced me to the Iron Druid chronicles and I've slowly been burning them down (ok, faster than slow, it's a good series). This time Mr. Hearne brings Atticus and his to be apprentice back to work with Coyote; this is something special since Mr. Hearne has a good understanding of Coyote and Atticus seems a very natural fit with Coyote. As with all books in the series twists occur when Atticus can't quite do things as "cleanly" or simply as he'd like and this is where the story really opens up and we learn more about Atticus and his to be apprentice Granuaile. A 4.5 star that I have to round down to 4 only because I couldn't justify the last half star, very enjoyable.

This fourth book in the series does an abrupt right face and takes Atticus away from the Norse gods I had become used to and plunked him (and me) down in the middle of Native American lore. The plot seemed quite a bit thinner than the previous books to me, with much time taken up in showing by example that Atticus is not immortal. The characters were still well constructed, but the newly introduced characters did not appear to have much permanence to the overall story. Almost as if everyone had to be expendable just to get Atticus from point A to point B. The humor was not quite as sharp and biting because the characters who had normally engaged in those episodes of dialogue with Atticus were absent for one reason or another and nobody was there to take their place. I still enjoyed Oberon and his obsession with sausages of all flavors and his ability to come up with a pun at just the right time was still thoroughly enjoyed. I think overall I would have to say that this book in the series was somewhat of a let down, probably because I had been absolutely

entranced with *Hammered: The Iron Druid Chronicles, Book Three*. I will just have to wait and see what the next thrill packed adventure has to offer.

I am a complete fan of Hearne and bow at his ability to make magic with the English language! He has kept me hooked on whatever the Iron Druid is doing in the First World and Earth. This installment in the series is a page turner. I could not put it down -- and as usual, I found myself Googling to learn more about the new religions (this time Native American) and mythical beasts that seem to pop up in every Iron Druid book. Hearne never fails to give my mind a lovely academic and intellectual workout. And again I found myself laughing OUTLOUD with the conversations that take place between Atticus and his trusty companion, Oberon. Hearne is the ultimate Fanboy -- and he lends these qualities to Atticus! I love it and eagerly wait for every installment of the Iron Druid series.

I definitely have a thing for Tricksters, no matter the originating mythology; which is probably why this is my favorite installment of the Iron Druid so far. A great many gods want Atticus dead. The only way he can safely train his apprentice is to let them have what they want with a little help from Coyote. Atticus makes a deal with Coyote to move a gold mine under the Diné reservation in exchange for help in faking his death. But a deal with a Trickster is always more than it seems, as the Morrigan warns him. When Atticus arrives at the reservation, he discovers a cranky elemental who doesn't want to help, a pair of dangerous Skinwalkers with magic wholly out of Atticus' experience and a wily Coyote who's playing Atticus like a fiddle. Oh, an Leif shows up to bring even more trouble to the Druid's doorstep. I loved *Tricked* because in addition to some excellent action sequences, it also had a fabulous game of wits between Atticus and Coyote. The dialog between them was always multi-layered and fun. *Tricked* was so engaging that I read it straight in only two days. Highly recommended!

I have been working my way down the read list in order, and found this book to be back on track with what I found fascinating in the first two books. Being from Arizona, and knowing the places in the story, draws me in with vivid vision in my head of the action. I will be going to Rula Bula to lift a pint to this work of true entertainment.

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