

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE *Grave Peril*
AUTHOR Jim Butcher
PUBLISHER Roc
COPYWRIGHT 2001
PRINTING 2001

This is book 3 in the Harry Dresden series, and this time it's vampire and demons from the Nevernever that are giving Chicago a bad time.

The book opens with Harry and his friend Michael who is a Knight of God taking out a ghost from the past who is terrorizing the babies in the nursery of Cook County hospital. Before finally taking out the baddie, Harry's godmother Lea shows up. She is a resident of the Nevernever, a place you can liken to the spirit world but each ghost or other resident can shape it to be what they want.

The problem with Lea is that she made a bargain with Harry when he was a young boy and she means to collect. Of Course Harry is not yet ready for a change of address so he finds way to 'cheat' on the agreement. They destroy the baby killing ghost but things are decided going to get worse.

The main story line here is that a demon is after Harry and others who have wronged it and the problem Harry has is that it is being assisted by a stronger evil that Harry has to find. IN the process Harry loses Michael's holy sword, gets his girlfriend nearly possessed by vampires, barely escapes himself from a vampire, gets trapped in deal with Lea the godmother, burns down a vampire's house and tries to commit suicide (well not quite).

In the end Harry figures it all out and gets the demon but as usual leaves a trail of collateral damage in his wake. If you are a Dresden fan you will definitely like this installment, if you haven't read a Dresden book, this is certainly a good one to start with.

After reading the first three in this series I can say that it ranks up there with Miles Vorkosigan and the other Harry as my favorites.

I give it 4 rings of Saturn.