



## Dragon Badge

*Scott Moon*

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## **Dragon Badge** Scott Moon

Street cops face a crime trend no one saw coming. Who could have predicted what a person would do to possess another soul?

Michael Prim is a cop's cop, taking down drug dealers, killers, and all kinds of predators, until he realizes a sorcerer has a vendetta against him and is using hellhounds, demons, and soul slaves to exact revenge.

### **MICHAEL PRIM**

Michael Prim is a hard charging beat cop soon to be thrust into a world of dark magic. He has always been a bit of a freak: different, strange, and always needing to prove himself. His last memories of his father were of bedtime stories—the mercenary war, dragon slaying, and demon fighting variety. He knows how to come down hard on wife beaters, pedophiles, and cop killing drug lords, but nothing has prepared him for the sorcerer who is coming for his soul.

### **KEITH MARIN**

Keith Marin takes a new prostitute under his wing and tries to protect her, because she continually winds up in the gutter raped, tortured, and clutching a strange jar with a preternatural magnetism. He begins a dangerous dance with the sorcerer who has found his way to Blue Point, and discovers people from all walks of life who are slaves to the soul jars and little more than zombies. When two homeless layabouts who frequent his beat turn up driving a BMW, wearing tailored silk suits, and carrying serious firepower, Marin takes his investigation to the next level.

### **NICOLE SIMMONS**

Nicole Simmons has come out of hiding and reinvented herself—as a rookie cop. She begins to doubt her choice as soon as she is assigned to a training officer who is the archenemy of her kind. She should kill him and disappear again, but she had hoped this time would be different.

### **DRAGON BADGE**

Michael Prim does what any good cop would do after discovering a soul reaving sorcerer is hunting on his beat, he goes to war, even as hellhounds and Rashfellen warriors come after him. He gets a little help from his friends—a tough as nails veteran and a zombie like prostitute who holds a soul trapped in a magical jar—but when the apocalypse comes, there is only his most hated enemy, the gang member who murdered his partner, to stand against Travass Isegurad and his demons.

## **Dragon Badge Details**

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Author : Scott Moon

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# From Reader Review Dragon Badge for online ebook

## Lauren Scharhag says

Written for Blue House Review (<http://bluehousereview.blogspot.com/>).

Dragon Badge by Scott Moon was one hell of a ride. I mean, one HELL of a ride. Pun definitely intended. This book left me feeling like I had been grabbed by the throat, tossed, spun, pummeled, knocked into a few walls, and, well . . . generally feeling the way its characters must have felt by the end—the ones that were left standing, that is.

The plot is deceptively simple: a bad sorcerer named Travass busts in from another dimension (presumably infernal). His deal is, he steals souls and imprisons them in magic containers called Sionk jars. He also appears to be gunning for someone named Michael Prim, a police officer in the fictional town of Blue Point. Travass starts wreaking havoc all over town. Prim and his fellow officers ain't havin' it.

Of course, there's a lot more to it than that. You sense from the get-go that things are not quite right in Blue Point, where cops have dragons on their badges, where the city emblem is a wizard-like bearded man. The setting struck me as something like the Hellmouth in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*—a center of mystical convergence where reality is a bit more malleable than other places. It's a place that doesn't really connect to the rest of the world, but rather, exists somehow wholly contained unto itself. I like the conceit. The goings-on in Blue Point are a microcosm for any US city's criminal underbelly—violence, gangs, drugs, prostitution, an illegal cage fighting ring.

Within Blue Point, the police force itself is yet another, smaller microcosm. Even without the supernatural elements, of course, being a police officer is not a job so much as a vocation, a lifestyle decision. Moon is himself a cop, and he plunges us headlong into the world of urban law enforcement—its fraternity, its politics, its contradictions. If you cut out all the supernatural elements, you would still have a compelling portrait of police activity. As it stands, I love the balance Moon strikes between the real and the fantastical. The shit a lot of cops deal with on a regular basis is pretty surreal. It'd be pretty easy to start ascribing some of it to demonic sources. We are shown, with brutal matter-of-factness, why it sucks so hard to be a cop. But Moon also shows why it just may be the best job in the world (worlds?) when the Blue Point boys in blue stand against the forces of Armageddon.

Our main two heroes are the sought-after Michael Prim, an almost freakishly big guy with uncanny purple eyes. Marin is an older veteran of the police force. Both men are cops down to their bones, to the point where it has cost them everything—their marriages, their sobriety, their religion, practically their very sanity. Prim is some sort of supernatural being, though he doesn't seem to know it. Marin is not supernatural, per se, but he is an ex-seminary student. His name and background appears to be a shout-out to Father Merrin in *The Exorcist*, which is very fitting, given that Officer Marin does perform an exorcism of sorts on a young girl.

Other members of the Blue Point community, on both sides of the law, are supernatural as well, most notably a dragon lady and a demonslayer. There are also hell hounds, zombies, and some red extradimensional warriors known as Rashfellen. The clash of these particular titans feels like something inevitable, two opposing forces that cannot coexist and yet cannot resist each other.

Dragon Badge is one of those difficult books with a large cast of characters to keep track of and lots of plot threads going on all at once. It's definitely an acquired taste. I, for one, happen to love that mode of

storytelling, and I loved this book. The prose is damn good. This is a richly dark fantasy, with enough horror elements mixed in to provide some truly heart-thumping moments. Moon pulls no punches in his descriptions, briskly yet vividly describing some pretty horrific things. The characters are well drawn. The dialogue is refreshingly realistic—I especially appreciate the cop gallows humor. Moon also introduces some shocking, and shockingly original images. I was particularly struck by a scene where officers come across of a pile of bodies beneath a bridge—not dead, but something far worse.

There are only a few reasons why I did not give this five stars—but they're big reasons.

One is the story's sense of time—or lack thereof. Sometimes, the story would ahead and leave you scrambling to catch up. I would've appreciated a handy, "Six months later" header at the beginning of the chapter or something to prepare me for the leap forward. Having finished the book, I'm still not clear on whether this story takes place over the space of years or merely months.

Timing is an issue with some of the plot threads—often, there are no real transitions, no connecting ideas, so the book feels like a bunch of vignettes. They don't always have satisfactory conclusions. Because of these issues, sometimes it seemed as if the story sort of rambled along with no real plot. Characters are introduced and then disappear for long stretches. I realize it's the beginning of the series and wrangling a big cast can be tricky. But I wouldn't even mind the focus shifting between the characters if I saw them interact with each other more. It's as if each character's plot, like the town, is also self-contained. I don't know if that was intentional or not. But some of the most intriguing characters, many of whom have fairly intimate relationships with each other, have hardly any meaningful scenes together and exchange disappointingly little dialogue.

Some character motivations are vague. What, exactly, was Travass trying to accomplish? For such a powerful dark wizard, why couldn't he, or some of the other magic beings that pop up, just find Michael?

Moon kept ramping up the situations that the police had to confront—he makes it clear, with increasing urgency, that they are under siege. All sorts of nasty creatures are running amok in Blue Point. The cops don't seem to ever discuss the decidedly supernatural turn things have taken. WHY NOT? And why aren't they searching for a common source for all these disturbances? Cops are dying left and right. Presumably, civilians are dying as well. What do the people of Blue Point make of all this? We never see things from the civilian perspective. Even Anna, one of Travass' early victims, never really gets to share what her life has become since she has become a jar junkie.

But the saving grace of this book is—it's never boring. For all its flaws, it remains excitingly original, and thoroughly engrossing from start to finish. I'm going to go back and re-read it. Then I'm going to go out and get the next. And while I'm at it, I'm going to check out other books by Scott Moon. You should, too.

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## **Greg McElroy says**

### **Unusually entertaining**

Seemed disjointed. But started coming together near the end.  
Build up to the rest of the series?  
Will try book 2 and see.

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## **Pamela Braxtonjoyner says**

### **Other Worldly!!**

I enjoyed the book and want to read book 2!  
I just need to get past all the profanity.  
But, I did like the story line!

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## **Teddi Deppner says**

I enjoyed this jaunt into Scott Moon's particular flavor of urban fantasy. It is well grounded in the details of the modern-day law enforcement officer, and that realism made the story interesting to me. The intrusion of hellish characters from another dimension into the city of Blue Point was the kind of mix I like in urban fantasy. Realistic, yet fantastical.

I also liked that the local law enforcement badge design hinted that this city has more than an accidental connection with the otherworldly. Some cops seemed to know more about what was going on than others, and certain characters were more than they seemed on the surface -- and even they themselves didn't always know it. That was fun.

These enjoyable elements aside, I almost quit the book partway through. I just lost interest in what was happening to the characters. There were a lot of characters to follow, and it was a struggle relating to all of them at once. The emotional connection just wasn't made. That, plus a number of mistakes that could have been caught by a good editor is what resulted in my "I liked it" star rating, rather than something higher.

Overall, I would read Scott Moon again (keep up the writing, Scott!), but I will probably wait until he has honed his craft a bit more. This is purely subjective; not everybody will even notice the things I did that bugged me, editing-wise. :-)

NOTE: If you prefer to avoid real-world profanity in your fiction, you might want to pass on this one.

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## Ray Briggs says

There was many characters presented in the book that although you came to appreciate them, they did not survive the story. Out of necessity of the story line the book does jump from one personal viewpoint to another. I would like to see a followup book that dealt with an interaction with the Lawman and the other character who survived to the end. The final disposition of the many jars could be explained or enhanced. If you like magic, Wizards and the like and do not mind a fair amount of violence then this book is for you. I enjoyed the book and will look for more from the author.

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## Kathy says

Tough Guy cop Micheal Prim has had his fair share of incidents during his time with the force he has dealt with gang bangers, child molesters, domestic violence calls, witnessed his partners murder and was shot several times himself. Nothing has prepared him for the level of violence that is shaking Blue Point. Someone is stealing peoples souls, and using their bodies as walking zombies. The Blue Point police are dealing with serial sociopath that has magical powers. Just what the Hell is going on.....

I was in two minds while I read this at first I was annoyed with all the cop talk, and the switching points of view etc as I was trying to figure out the paranormal aspect in this book, I felt like it was mostly just response calls, with a touch of off duty life. Then suddenly at the half way point you get a glimmer of what's to come and that quickly fizzles to back burner while the characters are still trying to piece things together. F R U S T R A T I N G. I almost lost interest but since I had already invested 4 days to this book reading it on my iPhone I was going to finish it out. I'm glad I did though it was a little slow going for me the later half of the book really picked it back up for me and returned the book to my good graces.

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## Sadie Forsythe says

### 2.5, slightly spoilerish

I really want to give this book more than two stars, because in some ways it was really interesting, but I just can't. Mechanically, it could have used a copy edit, but it was well written (word choice, sentence structure and such) but it was just all over the place, took about an eternity to get to the point, had a painful lack of realistic reactions to events and introduced numerous threads that were never tied into the story in any way.

My biggest issue is with characters lack of reaction to the introduction of the supernatural. For real, a man got trapped in a cage-fight with a demonic warrior with his soul at stake. Basically doesn't say anything, goes back to work. Man gets transported to another plane of existence and back again. Doesn't say anything, goes back to work. People are being enslaved to small jars that everyone anomalously seems to understand contain soul. The police treat them like any other addictive substance, no one discusses it and everyone gets on with work. Officers are killed by a hellhound. No one says anything about it. They all go back to work. Man is attacked by a demon. Doesn't say thing, goes back to work. Sorcerer tries to mentally influence a detective. Detective avoids it, but *doesn't say anything and goes back to work*.

The book sets all this up as if this is an otherwise normal world and these things should be freaking people out, but nope. No one seems to be bothered in the least. Half of them seem to know more than they should, but we're never told why or how and they ALL accept the preternatural with complete ease. It was so far from believable I almost didn't continue with the book.

Some of the loose ends suggest someone somewhere knows something. For example, at one point one character goes to an interview in which she's asked what she considers off topic questions about magic and dragon, but it's never explained and it never comes up outside of the one scene. Similarly, obviously the bad guy knows what's going on, but it's never addressed.

Actually, a lot isn't addressed. One person is apparently a dragon. It's hinted at but never addressed. One man is a dragonslayer, but he doesn't know it and it's never addressed. Another is a demonslayer, but he doesn't know it and it's never addressed. Another seems to have some sort of biblical ability to see things, but it's never addressed. There are apparently three different realms of existence, this is mentioned in one scene but never addressed. There may be some supernatural task-force, but it only shows up the once and it never addressed. Blue Point (the town) itself might be special in some way. It's hinted at, but never addressed. There is so much ALMOST here and if it was the book would be great. But almost just doesn't cut in when it comes to the enjoyment of a story and I finished the book scratching my head.

My second biggest issue is that the book contained a lot of unrelated police procedurals. I liked the Cop characters. I even thought that that aspect of the book was interesting and felt appreciably real, but it in no way progressed the story. In fact, it caused it to really drag. As an example, about 10% in you meet the sorcerer that will be the antagonist. Then he and that aspect of the plot doesn't show up again until about 60% in. Everything in between is police officers making routine traffic stops and enjoying (or not) their time off. Interesting if it had been another book, but just a disappointing break in tension in this urban fantasy.

It's all a shame too, because I so wanted to like it. I so wanted to wrap myself in this story and it's characters, but the story is so buried in itself I could hardly even find it. Close but no cigar, I'm afraid.

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## **Melanie Adkins says**

Michael Prim was not like other officers. No one could say exactly why but everyone knew it. To start with Michael had these strange purple eyes. They were intimidating to most who looked deep into them. Michael wasn't afraid to get in the thick of things either. Even situations where he knew he could end up in trouble, he charged head first. The Blue Point officers started seeing other strange things in the city too. People, zombie-like, carrying these jars in a cloth bag. No one knew what was in the jars or why they carried them. Michael and his fellow officers were about to find out a lot they didn't know. Michael's life might change forever.

Police drama with a kick, this book has it all. Mystery, suspense action and romance, it's all in there. Mr. Moon did an excellent job of writing this book. He took an ordinary job and made it extraordinary. The characters are very realistic. I recommend this book to everyone but especially to those who like a little something extra in their books.

I found no issues with this one.

I gave this one 4 cheers out of 5 because it was a little hard to follow in some spots. There's so much going on.

## **Nicole Lopez says**

### **Crime fighting plus demons**

There isn't a huge supernatural bent to this book until towards the end. Mostly it reads like a regular cop novel. The crime rate in Blue Point is soaring and no one can pinpoint why. We meet a slew of cops fighting gangs and crime and trying to keep the streets safe, even though they suffer casualties. People are found holding jars that they refuse to relinquish even though they seem to be suffering. Some even die upon losing them. No one knows what they contain as they are sealed and no one can figure out how to open them. Strangers with swords are seeking police officer Michael Prom but he has no clue why they are after him. Strange red skinned men are found to be involved in some kind of underground fight club. Many seemingly unrelated crimes are connected and they have cops scrambling to try and keep the peace. Realistic characters in a gritty, action packed drama. Takes awhile to get into the book but then you can't put it down!

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## **Montzalee Wittmann says**

Dragon Badge (Lost Dragonslayer) by Scott Moon starts out just as a cop/detective type book but then it soon turns into something much more! I haven't been to the east coast but I don't think hellhounds, sorcerers, demons, soul snatchers, and other strange predators roam the streets there causing havoc. The book is very fast paced, tension filled, mysteries, magic, intrigue, action packed, and scary as all get out at times! Michael Prim, the man cop of the story, what he doesn't know is that he really is a dragon slayer from another world/dimension. I loved this book, can't wait to start book 2.

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## **Danielle Young says**

3.5 Stars!

Dragon Badge takes us on a journey through everyday street cops day to day lives, as they slowly discover that things are not as they always believed. People obsessed with seeming-less empty jars, strange red men, mysterious beatings and maniacal creatures are running a muck throughout the city and they are all looking for one man, Michael Prim, one of the street cops that you get to follow throughout Dragon Badge.

In the beginning of Dragon Badge Scott Moon gives you a really good look at the inner workings of being a street cop in Blue Point, as you are given the opportunity to follow a number of different cops through their day to day run ins. I like to relate it to watching an episode of Cops and in my opinion that is sort of how Scott Moon tells the story, instead of getting one point of view or one cops opinion on what is happening in the city, we get multiple points of views with multiple opinions. But despite all the differences, it really all boils down to the same thing. Weird crap is happening all over the city and no one knows what the hell it is, or what the hell it means.

I both liked and disliked the level of mystery that surrounded the weird happenings in Blue Point. On one hand, it kept me reading and interested; on another, it frustrated me and made me feel lost at times. I just wanted answers, so I kept reading. My main problem comes from the fact that even though I finished the

book, I still found myself a little confused as to who or what exactly was going on in Blue Point.

Names of creatures are thrown around but never really explained and that left me on the line between frustrated and fascinated. I was frustrated because I expected to have a certain level of clarity upon finishing Dragon Badge, but all I got was more confusion. But despite that confusion I can say I am curious to learn more about this world that Scott Moon has begun to uncover in Dragon Badge.

I enjoyed the fact that Scott Moon gave me the opportunity to get to know many different characters throughout the book and I really enjoyed the realistic approach to the life of a street cop that he took with Dragon Badge and the small peek he gave us into his magical world. I just wished it was a bigger peek.

Overall I liked the story, but I couldn't help but feel lost at times. I thirsted for more of that magical world, as well as a bigger explanation of that world. But I can say that I am looking forward to peeling back another layer of this story and I hope to see a second installment in which I get more of my questions answered as well as more of that magical world that Scott Moon touched on.

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### **Nephylim Nephylim says**

I'm being a bit unfair I think, sacrificing justice for honesty.

This book is VERY well written and an unusual mix of reality and fantasy. There was a little to much reality for me though. The fantasy is too rooted in the gritty world of the modern cop.

Having said that. The story is quirky with a grim realism even to the fantasy elements, a very strong story, rounded characters and great dialogue.

I have no complaints to make about the book at all and my only criticisms are wholly subjective. It's definitely worth a read if you like dark urban fantasy.

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### **Rhonda says**

The author had great ideas and tried to pack far too many of them into a single book. After a while I wondered whether I was reading about people, demons or something else....and, of course, it was all about how the writer decided to rip the covers off reality and create a new world reality.

My first criticism is that it is very uneven: one doesn't expect that it is anything but a cop thriller in the beginning... and that would be fine except for the fact that it is not the fine writing that hides this from the reader but what I suspect was the intention of the writer to write this way. Some of the abrupt changes from chapter to chapter work well and a few do not. The author's great passion cannot mask the gaps that appear in the reader's mind when he is wondering what has happened to the previous story line a moment ago.

Yes they can do it effectively in TV, but they stay within a few finite scenes and it took the book a long time before it settled down to those few scenes. As someone else said, an editor could have made this a much better book. As it was, it was about too many things and perhaps it should have been the story of the anti-hero and how he found his other-worldly calling. It seemed like this was where it wanted to go at the end.

The writing was often passionate and well executed, certainly not painful to read in the least. It portrayed the kind of life these people lived in a rather gruesome and yet detached way, the way in which many people in law enforcement seem to be able to survive. While requiring editing and in desperate need of smoothing, if only for continuity's sake, this book was still worth the read for its adventures in fantasy.

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## **Robin French says**

Had me wondering and guessing the whole time!

Dragon Badge is the first installment of The Lost Dragonslayer Trilogy. Michael Prim is a police officer that has seen a lot of hard knocks. His ex-wife left him for someone else, he's no longer on the Street Tactical Team, he lost his partner when they were both gunned down, and he's been seriously hurt more than once, yet he keeps going. Most people think that there is something just plain odd about him with his purple eyes and other quirks, but he does his best to do his job even when it seems that the world is against him.

This book is not my usual sort of read, but I really enjoyed it. The police codes threw me off and confused me a bit at the beginning, but a quick internet search took care of that. The world and the characters in that world are carefully thought out and seem very "real", even when things start to change and the not so "normal" start to come out and play. One of the things that I liked about this book was that there are so many subtle little hints given from the very beginning that things are not as mundane they appear. I've read the book twice now and listened to the audio book version. Each time I caught something new that I had overlooked.

This is not a light and fluffy urban fantasy read. There is loss, love, violence, mystery, and drama. There is a wonderful blending of the real with the unreal that makes the world it's set in believable. I plan on reading the second book very soon... if I don't go back and re-read this one once again, that is! Books like this one keep me completely engaged with the world in which they are set and have me going back for more, which is why I gave it five stars.

I purchased this book for myself. All opinions within this review are true, honest, and completely my own.

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## **Bonnie Dale Keck says**

kindle unlimited, but got 1 and 2 and picked up 3 on ku to read back to back. Have read, and reviewed, quite a lot of his books, but not all yet, but 3 more off tbr{reviewed} list now. Always interesting but always trying to make sure no spoilers etc so read the blurb and look at the stars {rating}.

Cops. Sorcerers. Demons.

When forgotten people lose their souls to necromancers and demons attack victims with swords, Michael Prim charges into action with or without backup. Hell doesn't breakout on his beat — not on his watch.

With the help of new friends and allies, he will learn the secret of his past and why he has never fit in on this

side of the Rift. For the son of a Dragonslayer, duty is life and death.

Nicole Simmons has come out of hiding and reinvented herself as a rookie cop. She doubts her choice when she is assigned to a training officer destined to be her archenemy.

She should kill him and disappear.

Keith Marin takes a tough street girl under his protection, shielding her from a strange jar with a preternatural magnetism. He begins a dangerous contest with the sorcerer who has found his way to Blue Point and discovers people from all walks of life becoming slaves to the soul jars. When two homeless layabouts on his beat turn up driving a BMW, wearing tailored silk suits, and carrying serious firepower, Marin takes his investigation to the next level.

Dragon Badge is the first novel in a trilogy spanning two worlds — one of imperfect law and another of chaos and magic. Action, suspense, and horror make this a dark urban fantasy like no other.

Dragon Badge

Dragon Attack (Lost Dragonslayer)

Dragon Land (Son of a Dragonslayer Book 3)

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