



Unicorn Precinct

Keith R.A. DeCandido

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All in all, this is a fascinating excursion in genre-bending; worth a try even for readers who usually take either their procedurals or their fantasies unadulterated." -Booklist on Dragon Precinct Humans and elves, dwarves and gnomes, wizards and warriors all live and do business in the thriving, overcrowded port city of Cliff's End, to say nothing of the tourists and travelers who arrive by land and sea, passing through the metropolis on matters of business or pleasure-or on quests. The hard-working, under-appreciated officers of the Cliff's End Castle Guard work day and night to maintain law and order as best they can. Arra Cynniss is the youngest child in one of the most powerful families in the wealthy district of Unicorn Precinct. When she's found murdered, with the culprit's identity hidden from the magical examiner's spells, the Captain of the Guard sends his best investigators. Ex-soldier Torin ban Wyvald and half-elf Danthres Tresyllione have two viable suspects: Arra's fiance, who is the cousin of another member of the Castle Guard, or the unknown person with whom Arra was having a torrid affair. Torin and Danthres must navigate the difficult political waters of Cliff's End's upper classes in an attempt to determine the girl's killer. Complicating the case is the unexpected appearance of Torin's estranged father, who has come to return the detective to his far-off homeland of Myverin, and he won't take no for an answer At last, an all-new adventure of the Cliff's End Castle Guard! "Dungeons and Dragnet... As a take-off of the standard crime drama, Dragon Precinct succeeds nicely. Dressed in sword-and-sorcery trappings, the cliches of the genre are given a fresh twist. I would like to see more stories in this same setting." -The Journal of the Lincoln Heights Literary Society Authors and Editors

Unicorn Precinct Details

Date : Published July 29th 2011 by Dark Quest, LLC (first published June 16th 2011)

ISBN : 9781937051150

Author : Keith R.A. DeCandido

Format : Paperback 178 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mystery, Urban Fantasy, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review Unicorn Precinct for online ebook

E says

It was an enjoyable read but definitely worse than the first one in the series. We did learn more about the characters, but it felt like Anita Blake book - in the beginning you get the same descriptions and information like it the previous book. Which doesn't matter when you wait for release for a year. But when you decide to marathon it (like myself) it gets annoying.

Star says

Castle Guard Detectives Danthres Tresyllione and Torin ban Wyvald are back for their second adventure in 'Unicorn Precinct'. When the youngest daughter of a very influential Cliff's End family is murdered, they're on the case. Yet, as usual, things are not always as they seem and when Torin's father comes to take him home, it brings out a very different side of Torin – which may not help their investigation.

I really enjoyed the first book in this series ('Dragon Precinct') and 'Unicorn Precinct' is a worthy successor. Danthres and Torin have a great partnership, where each has strengths which complement each other. The murder mystery was tangled up in magic, which means the Brotherhood, which is never a good thing. I also liked seeing a different side of Grovis, who is such a prig, and learning about his family. Throwing Torin's father into the mix created an interesting dynamic and personality change in Torin. It was good to see Danthres has 'softer' side which can counter Torin's gruff attitude, which is not her normal mode. Fun and fantastical with a good mystery, 'Unicorn Precinct' is a delightful novel!

Series: Dragon Precinct (1), Unicorn Precinct (2), Goblin Precinct (3)

Tammy J Rizzo says

Another fun police procedural for the sword and sorcery set!

This is the second book about the castle guards of Cliff's End, and things have only gotten worse for them all. Aside from the murder of a socialite, they also have to look into corruption in the force, which hinders everything they're trying to do.

I enjoyed this book quite a bit, finding the characters fully developed and very believable. The setting is also fleshed-out even more than before.

I recommend this book to anyone who likes police procedurals and fantasy worlds.

Joe says

"I didn't see that coming"

That is what you will say at the end of this book.

Again Keith has done a fun job crafting a world that has "cops" and elves, magic and gnomes.

Even with magical crimes you still have to listen to the witness.
Well done.

David says

This series, originally published by Ace when originally released, is an excellent example of a police procedural in a fantasy setting - sort of like Ed McBain 87th Precinct novels, but with swords and magic.

Also, I built a fan site for it!

<http://medinnus.com/flingaria/index.html>

Darren says

Not as good as Dragon Precinct. Seemed to be a short story stretched into a short novel. The mystery was pretty easy to figure out, and I'm annoyed at the author's constant harping on the judgmentalism of one of the major families in town. But interesting enough that I'll probably try one more.

J.L. Zenor says

Entertaining fantasy detective story

I have thoroughly enjoy this series so far. The characters are interesting and relatable while they try to solve tough murders. I will say that I enjoyed the first book more than that one, but this was a good cookies on story. It was nice getting to know some of the other characters better and there were several moments in this book where I laughed out loud like an evil maniac. I look forward to the next in the series! :)

Kax says

I'm honestly not sure what to say about this book.

I've been a big fan of the author since I randomly picked up Dragon Precinct a few years ago, and I remember being so wowed by the original characters and plot, and after that amazing read I can't help but feel this was a rather lackluster effort. Dragon Precinct was one of those really original books where there was no way you could guess how it was going to turn out, and I suppose this had it going for it as well, but it lacks...well that certain charm the first one had. It had its moments, but honestly the plot seemed a little ham handed and the dialogue between the two characters, again, lacked that special something the first one had. Its somehow a little like the author had to revisit settings and characters years later, and only had vague memories of who the characters were to begin with. The author tries to connect us emotionally with the characters by introducing us to a painful period in Torin's life, and unlike when the same thing was done with Danthres at the end of the last book, the whole thing kinda failed to produce much sympathy or even interest on my part. As much as I love Torin as a character, I honestly didn't care that much.

Also, this might not be a huge thing, but I tend to mistrust authors a little (Terry Pratchett not included) if they turn out more than one book that's part of the same series per year. So far there's been 2 or 3. I don't know, to me that screams churning something out like production line crap, and I can't help but feel that's reflected a little in this novel, if not in its quality but in its length. Dragon Precinct had 260 or so pages, this has around 90 less.

I've decided to give this book 3 stars because I honestly couldn't dislike it. The characters are still good and the plot certainly wasn't terrible. I'd recommend it a) if you are a fan of the first book and b) if you're looking for a quick read (this one took me about an hour and a half.)

Mike Crate says

The upper social structure of Cliff's End tend to look down on everyone even the guards who often have the affront to poke their noses into business that is considered to be above their standing. However when Arra Cynniss the beloved daughter of a powerful family is found murdered her skull crushed Lieutenants Torin and Danthres Tresyllione are put onto the case. Arra was due to be married and there are hints she was having an affair, her husband to be has no alibi and the majority of her family were out of town. The case is further complicated by the ME (Magical Examiner) who was unable to identify the culprit after the "peel back" spell only showed an assailant under a glamour disguise. The detectives get the usual run around both through deliberate and indifferent attitudes of the upper classes and most of the useful information comes from the "help". The investigation proceeds and a picture begins to form more due to what they don't learn about the events of that night and the people surrounding young Arra than positive clues.

Unicorn Precinct is the second novel in this series and once again follows Torin and Danthres as they investigate the crime but the novel does incorporate more of the guards and other detectives as the crime leads them beyond the initial circle of suspects. An entertaining murder mystery with magical elements and the added complexity of a society made up from dozens of species all with their own morality, wants and needs.

Hasien says

I really enjoyed this story. I like this one more than dragon precinct. The characters are great. This was a fun whodunit.
