



Academ's Fury

Jim Butcher

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For centuries, the people of Alera have relied on the power of the furies to protect them from outside invaders. But the gravest threat might be closer than they think.

Tavi has escaped the Calderon Valley and the mysterious attack of the Marat on his homeland. But he is far from safe, as trying to keep up the illusion of being a student while secretly training as one of the First Lord's spies is a dangerous game. And he has not yet learned to use the furies, making him especially vulnerable.

When the attack comes it's on two fronts. A sudden strike threatens the First Lord's life and threatens to plunge the land into civil war. While in the Calderon Valley, the threat faced from the Marat is dwarfed by an ancient menace. And Tavi must learn to harness the furies if he has any chance of fighting the greatest threat Alera has ever known . . .

Academ's Fury Details

Date : Published February 2010 by Ace (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9780441013401

Author : Jim Butcher

Format : Paperback 704 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy, High Fantasy



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From Reader Review Academ's Fury for online ebook

Kaila says

Although this installment was easier for me to read than *Furies of Calderon* (my groans were cut down by about a third, I'd say), I liked this second novel no more than the first one. It has been two years since the events of *Furies*, and we're plopped right back into the action without so much as an update, which at first had me a little miffed. The problem with plowing through novels so quickly is that proper nouns quickly find their way into the oubliette, so even though it's only been about two months, I was still playing catch up trying to remember who the characters were.

On second thought, let's not blame me. The names just aren't very memorable. I was 3/4s of the way through this book and explaining it to a friend and I had to grope for the main character's name. T...t...it's T-something I swear! Tavi? No wonder he's powerless, he *sounds* like it. (view spoiler)

From the first page, Butcher sets up the story, and from there on out it is non-stop action. I like a good action scene as much as the next bloke, but in this case it really started to grate on me. The characters are never given a chance for introspection, besides sparing a thought or two for "I wonder where this other character is right now? No matter, off to another near death situation!" So once again, one of my main problems is the lack of character development. I know what the author *wants* the characters to be, but they never seem to get there on their own. We're just told they do, and I am baffled at people who say these characters feel "alive." Only alive in the sense that fire is alive; expanding the story and going new places but leaving nothing behind to appreciate. Honestly, the only character I felt became a little more interesting in this novel was Fidelias, who I *hated* in the first book, so that's saying a lot. I always like it when bad guys become likable.

What really interests me about this series is the weak (well, relatively) main character. Tavi uses his brains and quick wit to talk himself out of - or into - situations. Usually in fantasy novels, any sort of magic is regarded with suspicion, à la X-Men. Someone with crazy powers and inhuman strength is usually incredibly frightening to the layman. In these novels, however, Tavi is the *only* weak character without magic, and *he's* the weirdo and regarded with suspicion. This flips my thoughts on magic and powers on its head, and I like that. I can't help but be gut wrenchingly involved whenever Tavi is in the middle of the action. I always want THIS to be the moment when his powers manifest.

I could have done without the weird women's rights story line. I know I know, I'm always touting about how sexist fantasy is and give me my strong female characters dammit. But in this case, it just came across as schmaltzy and a thoroughly fake story line to throw some pretend politics into the mix. Without it, there would have been next to no politics in the novel, and Butcher obviously wants us to be aware of the political situation in the realm.

The love story between Amara and Bernard was uncomfortable at best and gag worthy at worst. Here's my favorite quote from page 453:

Amara let out a nervous little laugh, and her cheeks flushed hot. She took two steps to Bernard and leaned up to kiss him again. He returned it, one hand touching her waist, a possessive gesture.

Please! Hopefully it picks up a little in subsequent books.

Pick this up if you want a fun romp with non stop action, with little consequence but also small reward. It definitely improves on the first novel, but not enough for me to legitimately like it on its own.

Scott Hitchcock says

I'd say this one is marginally better than book 1. The first two- thirds I wasn't please with the progress of the series but the last third really made up for it. I think part of my frustration is that the two best new characters both got killed off and they both had great potential. Additionally I like several of the secondary characters more than the main characters. More Katai, Lady Acquitaine and Odiana.

The series has all the elements to be great but is just average at this point. I'm hoping it grows more.

I'll continue the series but will take a break from it.

Nimrod Daniel says

I really enjoyed reading this book. The book has two main plot-lines – The first takes place in Calderon, and the second in the Capital. You'll see here more politics and intrigue and a bit less action, in comparison the first book in the series. Butcher gives his characters more depth, and reveal to us more knowledge about the world.

Academ's fury is another great book in the series. I really like the world, the writing, the characters, the action, and all the politics and intrigue.

So, once again – definitely 5/5.

Tami says

OKAY, HOLY SH*T. Dieses Buch hat sich in eine Mischung aus Game of Thrones und Harry Potter verwandelt/entwickelt. Was zum Teufel? ICH LIEBE ES.

.

Edit: Ja okay, Harry Potter VIBES im Epilog, hab riesige Erwartungen an den dritten Band für mehr davon!! :D

Kevin Xu says

This book is just as bad or even worse than the first book in the series, but for a the opposite reason. This book I love the pacing, but I hate all the characters. All the characters to me seemed 1-dimensional and flat that I was not emotionally connected, which for many books the pace of the plot is more of a problem than disliking a character. I think the writing, design of the cover, and the overall series are all just god awful words can't describe it. I for one will never try to read or go near this series ever again. This is my third one star, and the other one is the first book. I don't think I will ever try or read this book ever again. I don't exactly understand how people could enjoy reading the series, maybe it has to do with the fact that many have enjoyed the Dresden Files, which I love so much as it has become one of the most fun series of all time for me. Will I guess everything does not work for everyone all the time.

Niki Hawkes - The Obsessive Bookseller says

I liked Furies of Calderon (the first book in the Codex Alera series) but thought it was pretty average compared to other works in the genre. Academ's Fury, on the other hand, was AMAZING!!!

Seriously – I couldn't put it down! It delivered on every promise made in the first book and completely blew me away with its stellar pacing, fantastic battle scenes, exceptional characters, and overall creativity. I felt like my heart was ripped out a few times while reading it and I love it when a book can make me feel that engaged. I already liked Jim Butcher, but this book launched him forward a few more notches in my book.

If I had any criticisms, it's that the main character was sometimes more suave and resourceful in difficult situations than I thought believable... but it did make for some excellent and memorable moments, so I won't complain too much. :-)

Overall, if you are on the fence with whether to start the series or continue on after the first book (like I was), take it from me – totally worth it!

Via The Obsessive Bookseller at www.NikiHawkes.com

Other books you might like:

Jonathan Terrington says

Jim Butcher's first two books in his Codex Alera are fascinating - weighted with capable, yet flawed female and male characters, and full of political intrigue and adventure. The very concept: an alien world populated by future descendants of the Roman people is intriguing. However, at times the writing itself feels 'too neat' and the suspension of disbelief falters.

The book follows Tavi, a young man in a world of furycrafters, who cannot furycraft. Furycrafting is the magic system of this world, whereby each citizen has possession of one or more elemental spirits called furies. This concept is of course, based upon the Roman mythologies and the concept of the one 'freak hero' in a world of magic who has none himself. In this book in particular, however, the reader witnesses the

development of Tavi as a man - whereas in the first book he was a young adolescent. This develops Tavi as an interesting character and leads the reader to want to follow his journey onwards across the continuing novels.

As far as fantasy works travel this is a 'nice' book. It is a neat distraction that allows the reader to pass away the time without every being anything grander. Yet it is for this reason that the novel works entirely. It is polished escapism.

At times Jim Butcher weighs his story and world down with various political machinations which add a depth of realism to his characters and story but which drag down the entertainment value. Which leads me to consider that I must complete the entire series before making an appropriate judgement of where the entire narrative is leading towards.

Amber says

When the first Lord of Alera Gaius mysteriously falls unconscious after drinking Spirit fire, Tavi and his friends must come up with a plan to cover for the ill Lord before the realm ends up in chaos. Can he succeed? Will his Uncle Bernard be able to save the realm from the Vord demons before it is too late? The answers you seek lie in this book when you read it for yourself.

This was a pretty good second installment of the Codex Alera series by Jim Butcher. It was action-packed and the dialogue and story was great too. If you enjoy fantasy stories, definitely check this series out for yourself. The Codex alera series can be found at your local library and wherever books are sold. I look forward to reading book III in the future.

Tom says

Another action packed installment of a great fantasy series.

I didn't know where it where it was going to go after the first book but was floored when it was every bit as good as Furies of Calderon and possibly exceeding it. In Academ's Fury we get to see Tavi grow as he studies to be a Cursor. We get multiple stories going again with many of the characters from the first book. In addition we are introduced to some new intriguing characters one of my favorites being Tavi's best friend Max. Kitai makes an appearance and she is just the perfect heroine.

This is the second book of the series so I can only say so much about it without giving things away. But what I love most about this series, besides the writing, is that it always has you thinking. The political villains in this series aren't Snidley Whiplash obvious villains. You start to see their side of issues and it makes it difficult to decide where your allegiance should lie. I love when a story makes you think about which side of the road is the evil. In this series most of the politicians fall in the grey zone. There is one group that is definitely the evil party but from there it is hard to decide whose team to root for. Although this is much more action/adventure there are some romances that are sprouting from the series but it is happening in a very believable atmosphere. The only negative is unlike the first book bouncing between stories was cliffier. Maybe that was just because there wasn't any breaks throughout the whole book.

If you are into Fantasy, like great writing, and don't need the steamy, you really need to pick up this series. It's not very often that I pick up a 600 page fantasy book and don't have to skim.

Terence says

[The Vord and Canim (hide spoiler)]

Steven Naylor says

Rating a solid 4 stars

I like these books much better than I like the Dresden books. Between the Dresden books and now the Codex Alera books I have come to the conclusion that Jim Butcher has an over-the-top writing style. There is basically non-stop action throughout all his books. One could argue that there is almost too much action. What I mean by over-the-top writing style is that he makes the odds against the good guys terrible from the beginning and then throughout the story makes them worse and worse. It seems a little redundant to make an impossible task even more difficult. I enjoyed reading about the fighting and the different ways in which the magic can be used. However, in my mind I am trying to keep track of the odds and how the overall fight is progressing, and in my mind what is being described is impossible. There are multiple battles both in this book and the first book with many waves in the fighting. Keeping track of the total number of people fighting from the beginning, and the number of people lost during each skirmish, would have left no people able to fight a long time ago. So, while there is great heroism in the fighting and I do think the fight scenes are very well written, I don't think they are very realistic. However, since I know that going into the story, I can just go along with it and enjoy the book - which I did.

The story takes place 2 years after the last book. Tavi is in the capitol studying to be a cursor. I love all stories that talk about training and how things are done. To be honest I wish the story had more on this subject, because again it is one of my favorite parts of any story. Tavi's Uncle Bernard also has a big part in this story as well as his Aunt Isana. Without giving too much away, Everyone is in trouble at the same time and needs help. Some of the problems are related and some of them are separate, which just coincidentally happen at the same time (see what I mean about over-the-top story telling?).

By not focusing too much on the impossibility of the story, I was able to sit back and enjoy it much more. While I do think Jim Butcher does a great job at "in the moment" writing, I don't think he does a great job at intrigue. Or to be more specific, I think I can see from a mile away where the story is going (at least on a big picture sort of way). I think I have figured out, even before starting this book, the secrets that are being kept. I also wish the Jim Butcher would spend a little more time on world building as the world that he has created is so interesting. I just think it could use a little more detail. He does do a great job with his characters though, and I really feel for the people that he has created.

Overall this book is better than the first one and while not perfect, it is a very good read and I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

Evgeny says

Minor spoilers follow as it is impossible to talk about the plot of the second book of the series without at least mentioning some characters indicating they survived to live by the beginning of the second one.

Two years have passed since the events of the first book in the world with magic inspired by very popular Pokemon franchise

with social structure coming straight from Ancient Rome. Thanks to a brilliant stroke by the First Lord (the Big Guy in charge of everything in the realm - for those unfamiliar with the series) in political maneuvering the main characters of the first book - a former shepherd boy Tavi and his foster parents - now have to support the First Lord at all cost whether they like it or not.

So Tavi studies in the capital's Academy, his aunt stays at her steadhold (a glorified huge farm), and his uncle is in charge of local military unit. Their world is not exactly a very peaceful place; in fact the only one more dangerous I can think of is David Gemmell's Drenai. Anyway, a new almost alien threat appeared - straight from John Carpenter's movie The Thing. Now the three people I mentioned and their sidekicks are the only defense of the realm against total destruction. Do I need to say none of trio has any superpowers? Tavi cannot even use any magic at all.

Minor spoilers end here.

One third of the book was spent on hinting at gloomy and apocalyptic things to come. While the plot moved along with a decent pace without losing any momentum I still got bored. I cannot even explain the reason for this, I just did.

I was sure this would have 3-star rating until I hit the second third of the tale when plot switched from fast moving to flying (supersonic aircraft style) mode. Once things began moving they really moved with people escaping extremely dangerous situations by inches only to end up in much worse ones. This reminded me of one of my favorite quotes by Robert Asprin:

"When things are at their blackest, I say to myself, 'Cheer up, things could be worse.' And sure enough, they get worse."

At this point my resolve to give 3 stars started to get weaker. And then I hit the last third of the book.

That portion of the novel contained such a nice and absolutely unexpected twist that I forgave the part where I got bored, I forgave the use of typical and worn-out classic fantasy tropes, I forgave killing off a fascinating character just when (s)he was getting some screen time, I forgave Tavi becoming the Wonder Boy for no apparent reason, I forgave countless other things. This was good enough for me to warrant 4 stars.

Before I conclude my review,

The first book could almost be considered standalone as it finishes practically all the plot points. This one albeit without cliffhanger at the end, still has enough dangling threads to knit a sweater for a medium-sized elephant. Among other things this means that if you made it this far it is too late to stop now - and it applies to me as well.

My special thanks go to my friend Jaime for the ideal Pokemon image idea:)

Philip says

3.5ish stars.

Book #2 provided a lot of what I loved about book #1, added a few more things that I love and, unfortunately, a few things I didn't love as well. Possible spoilers to follow.

The first chapter led me to believe that the series had gone waaay downhill somewhere in the gap between where the last book ended and this one began. Literally every stupid high school cliché I've ever read in one chapter- poor Tavi and his nerdy friends are getting bullied by the bigger, stronger more popular kids! Oh wait! Someone even bigger and stronger comes in to save the day and humiliate the bullies! What a lucky coincidence! Ugh. I'm glad that ended quickly. I realize that this is a classic high fantasy novel and there are certain tropes that are to be expected, even loved, but I like it so much more when Butcher transcends the particularly cheesy ones in his writing.

Despite what I was initially led to believe, Tavi actually became a better, more likeable character this time around. One of my criticisms of *Furies of Calderon* was the flat characterizations, Tavi included. I think he really came into his own here and I'm glad that Butcher hasn't (yet, at least) sold out and gifted Tavi with furycrafting abilities. He's way cooler and more interesting without them. Also, he pretty much (inexplicably) saved the realm again without any of those abilities. Pretty ridiculous but also pretty B.A.

One thing that was true about the first book and continues to be true here is that all of the "good" characters, the protagonists, are so *goood*. There's none of the moral ambiguity that makes a really great protagonist. Bernard and Amara and Tavi are just so *noble* (spoken in the voice of Hades from *Hercules*). Boring! Isana, ever the victim, did have some interesting developments but only because she's so *noble*. Boring! All of the interesting characters who played both sides of the good/evil field, like Fidelias, Gaius, Varg, Lady Aquitane, etc. were ones that we saw for like five minutes every once in a while before we went back to the *noble* ones. Boring! On a side note- favorite character? Kitai.

Butcher did a lot to expand the world of Alera by introducing a lot of political intrigue and moving the setting from rural Calderon to the big city of Alera Imperia in the heart of the country. It made things feel a lot bigger and more epic and dramatic.

Call me wishy-washy but something cheesy that I did love was the romance. Tavi and Kitai! *heart eyes* Amara and Bernard! *heart eyes* Max and Gaius's wife! *heart eyes* Let's hook Isana up with someone here! The poor woman is lonely!

Was it just me or is this significantly longer than *Furies of Calderon*? It felt overlong and there were a few parts I struggled through despite the generally quick pace. I'm really looking forward to book 3, but I think I'll have to take a little break before I begin.

Petrik says

2.5/5 Stars

Another okay installment in the Codex Alera series, it's time for me to part way with this series.

I'm going to keep this review short, I actually can copy my review for the first book here to explain why I won't be continuing with this series.

Although my review is going to sound negative, let me state that this is not a bad series, but then again there's nothing special about it and I don't see any sign of improvement from the first book. It's all once again, pretty basic and formulaic.

I can already predict that the newly introduced villain in this book, the vord, will become the final boss of the series. Let me make a guess, the vord sounds like a virus so judging from that, there will be a Queen or King vord that became the final boss of the series. Then, judging from the tone of the series so far, even though there are war, politics and all that jazz, none of the main POV characters will die, maybe one at most. Feel free to correct me if I'm wrong.

Academ's Fury, the second book out of six in the Codex Alera series, began two years after the events of Furies of Calderon and the plot is still immensely predictable. A lot of scenes were still too long for the pacing's own good and Butcher kept on repeating the things we already understood over and over again. For example, Amara couldn't have a child. This situation is repeated for so many pages throughout the book. I don't know why Butcher had the need to emphasize this point over and over again. I get it, she can't have a child, saying it once or twice is enough. The worst part is, this is only one of many examples. Also, this series actually featured a lot of romance and I'm generally not a big fan of romance in my fantasy read.

Characters are still very hard to care, I kept on wishing the entire plot to focus only on Tavi because his POV is the only one that I'm slightly invested in. The rest are just okay-ish to meh. Amara was probably the worst for me, I kept on wishing she would die already so I don't have to read her POV anymore. Maybe when it comes down to it, I just couldn't connect with Butcher's prose. I feel like I should've cared more about some of the events that happened in the book but it just didn't connect with me. I've read a few series that's predictable but they still managed to intrigue and made me invested, but not Codex Alera.

I'm usually a patient reader but still, there's a limit to my patience. This is not a small series at all, six books long and each book are easily over 600 pages. I've read more or less 1300 pages so far and I'm only slightly invested in Tavi. That's ONE character, only one over the course of 1300 pages and 400k+ words. If I'm not invested in the characters by this point, there's just no way I can push myself to continue with the series. I tried so hard and got so farrrr, but in the endddd it doesn't even matter.

This is a beloved series among many, but when it doesn't work, it just won't work. I won't be spending my time for another 3000 pages of an okay series, there are so many great books out there waiting for me. It's time for me to part ways with this series and maybe, all of Jim Butcher's work. Overall, this is a series that I would recommend only to anyone who's new to adult fantasy.

*You can find **this** and the rest of my Adult Epic/High Fantasy & Sci-Fi reviews at **BookNest***

Anne says

If you were on the fence about the first book (Furies of Calderon) then go ahead and give this one a try. The pacing was faster, there are finally *some* explanations for the way the furies work, and (now that I knew a bit about the world) the entire thing is a bit easier to understand. Plus, I really enjoyed seeing the characters again!

This one was a bit different than the last book because, besides all of the political intrigue, there was also an Invasion of the Body Snatchers flavor to it!

What the what?!

I know, right?

But it was really cool!

So not only is everyone in danger from all the *normal* backstabbing that comes along with an attempted coups but now our heroes have to try to convince everyone that there's an alien life form that...well, Invades your Body and Snatches your mind!

Ahhhhhhh!

And they're being led by these creepy-ass bug queens...

Toss in some really sweet (and in Tavi's case, kind of hilarious at times) romance and mix it all together to make a really fun story.

I'm sold!

I'm also guessing that if you *didn't* like this one, it's probably best to put this series down and move on to something else. For me, though? This is staying a top priority.
