



Called

Robert J. Crane

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Archibald "Arch" Stan was a local cop in Midian, Tennessee that was good at his job, good at being a husband, and exceptionally good at hiding his disappointment at not being able to figure out what was missing in his life that made it all seem so empty.

Lafayette Hendricks looked like a drifter, a broken-down hitchhiker blown through Midian on the prevailing winds. When Arch catches him in a fight on the town square, though, things start to get weird, fast, because the guy he's fighting doesn't die when he gets shot. And Hendricks is carrying a sword.

Pretty soon, Arch's whole life is turned upside down by Hendricks's revelation that there's a secret world operating under the one he's been living in his whole life - one filled with demons, chaos, and unspeakable evils, one of which is already in town, stirring trouble. And if the two men don't band together to keep watch on the darkness falling on Midian, then this small town might just get swallowed up by the forces of evil - with the rest of the world to follow shortly behind.

WARNING: Contains violence, coarse language and sexual situations.

Called Details

Date : Published February 3rd 2014 by Midian Press (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Robert J. Crane

Format : Kindle Edition 173 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Horror, Paranormal, Fiction

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From Reader Review Called for online ebook

Jenika Ioffreda says

Not my cup of tea. It could have been a nice book but I lost interest in the characters and consequently in their stories. Also I didn't like much the talk of races, skin colours, etc. I finished the book but I skipped quite a few pages. Not going to continue the series if there is any sequel.

Natasa says

I really, really love this series! I've read the first 3 books of it, one after another. It's about demons, they live along with people, but no one really knows the truth of it. I find it must have been hard to execute and develop this world.

Pam App says

I have to start by saying I'm a huge fan of this author and have read all books from his other series'. I had previously already started this book a few years ago but didn't carry on with it. I don't remember exactly why but have always thought it was because I couldn't get into it. Pretty frustrating for me considering how much I love his other works plus I am a fan of many genres. I've scrolled past it on my kindle many times and for other reasons recently decided to give it another go. I'm so glad I did because how I thought of it is was most definitely so wrong. I'm already hooked! Awesome story, fantastic characters & intriguing ending so I'm straight on to the next one

Denise says

'Called' is a good paranormal thriller. I truly enjoyed the story line. It was very creative and kept me glued to the pages throughout. The way it played out had all the required thriller essentials. Action, suspense of sorts, the unknown and great characters. Hendricks is a walking conundrum of a man. He's a pretty good demon hunter. His reasoning and lifestyle are a bit cliche but it works for him. Arch is an interesting opposite to Hendricks. He's the all-American good boy. The banter between the two was entertains. I look forward to reading the next book. A great add to your tbr list.

Kristina says

I had good hopes for this one. The 3 book box set was free download and thought I would give it a go. The story was decent and right up my alley with demons and hunters but the writing was lacking for me.

I am a fan of the TV show "Supernatural" and as I read the book I kept hoping that Sam and Dean would appear... it seemed like the sort of situation they would get involved in... but alas, they didn't haha

Seeing as I have the next 2 books I will move on with the series.

Anne Monteith says

While this series is disturbing on many levels, it is also a series that I am glad that I've read and will continue to read until the brutal, blood end. Many of the characters are flawed, some are just evil and the demons are enough to make any lover of horror stories cringe.

Mr. Crane has said that this is his least popular series and as such is on the back burner in order of writing, publication and release; book 8 was tentatively scheduled for 2019 and has been pushed back until 2020 and I'm disappointed. I'm not sure how many more are planned, but I'd like to finish the series before I die so I hope he'll change his mind.

Mr. Crane, because of this series you have a new fan who plans to read your other series. The next one will be the second least popular.

4.25 Stars

Sue Gill says

it was quite good. I think if I hadn't got it packaged as part of the trilogy I would be saying it was rather short. it is really only an introduction.

I liked the idea of creampuff.

The characters are all pretty much an extreme of a trope but that's not to say it is badly done.

I will read the 2nd as it's here in front of me but I doubt I would have gone looking for it.

Not bad in any way but nothing stands out as really good.

Miguel Ángel Alonso Pulido says

He disfrutado mucho con este primer libro de las aventuras de la Guardia del Sur. Me ha gustado la química entre Hendricks y Arch, los dos protagonistas; me he reído con los secuaces demonios, con el villano de película (apropiadamente llamado Hollywood) y con la vaca-demonio; y he quedado bastante intrigado con la trama general. ¿Por qué la pequeña ciudad de Midian se ha convertido en un "punto caliente" para demonios de todo el planeta? ¿Quién es la misteriosa Starling y por qué salva a los protagonistas? ¿Y por qué todos piensan que Arch será responsable del fin del mundo? Un comienzo de serie muy bueno, bastante entretenido y que es un buen modelo a seguir para los que queremos vivir de esto.

Barbara says

I enjoyed this a great deal. The author has a distinctive voice, which is an achievement in what is getting to be a fairly crowded sub-genre.

The personalities of the two main characters, Arch and Hendricks, are clearly different which was a good thing. Although Hendricks seems a little too world-weary for someone who is meant to be just 25. Arch's relationship with his wife and his satisfaction (or not) with his life was deftly described without unnecessary detail. Where there was too much detail was on the smells and the weather. I got the point that cow shit is whiffy and it was humid the first 5 or so times these facts were mentioned.

I particularly liked the way this story didn't take itself too seriously, given Creampuff and the main baddy who, while evil, was also vain, self-absorbed and not nearly as clever as he thought he was.

Sharon Michael says

Entertaining urban fantasy read, a bit on the dark side. Good characterization though a little uneven, overall.

So, I Read This Book Today says

I don't know. There are parts of this book I really liked. And it is odd how I came across it. On the Goodreads Urban Fantasy discussion group Dennis brought up the topic, "Dresden Files without the fairy dust" and I thought it was interesting, as did several others. We came up with several possibilities, Green, Del Franco, Henderson, Anderson, and others. Then, that same day, I came across an advertisement for a series by Robert J. Crane, an author I haven't read before. "Called" is the first in the Southern Watch Series.

The beginning told me that this might be something that Dennis would find interesting. "A drifter, a broken-down hitchhiker blown through Midian (TN) on the prevailing winds. . . and Hendricks is carrying a sword." Of course, it excited me also, as I am a huge Dresden Files fan as well. I passed the info along, and then discovered that the story is part of the four book anthology, "Sinners & Sorcerers: Four Urban Fantasy Thrillers". I eagerly picked it up, as it has not only Crane, but also the amazing S.M. Reine, Daniel Arensen, Scott Nicholson, and the astounding J.R. Rain. And it is only 99 cents, so what a deal!

After reading "Called", I am, again, of two minds. The concept is good. Demon hunter Lafayette Jackson Hendricks strolls into town and immediately runs into his first demon. And things go downhill from there. Archibald "Arch" Stan, ex-football hero and now a deputy sheriff, lives a quiet, boring and ultimately unfulfilling, and yet goodhearted, life – until he runs across Hendricks slaughtering a demon on the town square. Arch's life will never be the same. Things are different now, in more ways than having the blinders ripped off. For where once only a single flare might show up on the map around the world, there are currently fourteen flares, more than ever before, hot-spots which "pull in demons like the light on a bugzapper - but without the zapper. . ." which as often as not leave whole cities ghost towns, no bodies to be found. And where Hendricks would once have had multiple demon hunters to back him up, suddenly there is only him – well, and Arch.

This is all good. And yet, what drove me NUTS about the story is the pure stupidity that Hendricks shows. It is to be expected from Arch. He really doesn't have any idea what is going on, if demons are real, or if Hendricks is just some whack-job running around with a sword and a 1911 revolver. I can't give Hendricks the same grace. Knowing that things are bad, that demons are overrunning the tiny town, and things are really, really not right in the world, he still follows the head between his legs and not the one between his ears, more interested in getting drunk and getting into the pants of the police dispatcher than paying attention

to business. And of course, said mindless horndoggedness (yes, I made up that word) nearly costs them everything . . . getting drunk and chasing tail doesn't really make sense under the circumstances. Between that and unnecessary usage of trash language and sexual stupidity, I was disappointed. I am no prude about language, but I am much of Ernest Borgnine's way of thinking "Writers used to make such wonderful pictures without all that swearing, all that cursing. And now it seems that you can't say three words without cursing. And I don't think that's right."

I suppose it could be that this is a more "male-centric" story, which these days seems to include much more violent, sexual, and foul speaking lifestyle and expectations than I find acceptable. Who knows? I am a true proponent of kindness over what is considered "moral", and the power of intellect over violence and ignorance. Whichever one prefers, there are things to recommend in Called, and others to abjure. Crane makes a point that I find most appropriate, though I am by no means religious. Arch says, "Side of the angels, huh? I haven't seen any of them show up to help me yet." Hollywood, the demon: "And they won't. Because they don't get involved, not anymore." And I wonder whose fault that is?

But that is my opinion; yours may not be the same.

Jonathan Wilson says

The end brought this to a 4 Stars for me.

S.M. Reine says

I don't want to get too much into a review for this book yet, since it's not out yet - I beta read it for RJC, who's a friend of mine. But I tore through it on a road trip this week and wanted to say that it's pretty kickass. :)

Fun and exciting - guaranteed to steal your afternoon.

A says

[Disclaimer: I am honestly sorry to do this to self published authors, but they deserve the same feedback I'd give anyone else.]

I may have gotten this for free, but if I didn't I would want to punch myself.

Not finishing things is a cardinal sin in my world so I powered through so you wouldn't have to.

Summary: demon hunter shows up in town, kills things, gets laid, gets saved by an angel, has a kick ass sword and cowboy hat and duster, feels old at 25 and talks like a 40 year old. Nothing is explained. World building is nil.

Police man is tapped to get into the demon hunting business. He is inexplicably amazing instantly, gets laid, seems to resent his wife a lot for reasons we aren't clear on. At least he doesn't have a duster or a cowboy hat.

Their women folk are interested in A) getting laid, B) getting conveniently knocked unconscious.

The silly demon satire was feeble. It's been done so much better and honestly the tone left me confused about what the author was intending to write. All the lampshade hanging on earth can't change the fact that this a parody that used every cliche and then just tried to add a "Isn't that funny?" line afterward. No, it's not funny until you make it funny. Sorry.

Karen ?Mess? says

I don't remember what prompted me to pick up this 3 book box set (free), but I am so glad I did!!

Great, visual characters! What I loved about Robert J. Crane's writing was his fighting scenes. What started off as two fights (Hendrick's fight and Arch's fight) ended up merged together. During the whole time it was broken off into small sections of different POVs. Even though the fighting took several chapters, I wasn't bored or felt it was dragged on. Quick bounces back and forth on different POVs ensured I was kept enthralled.

Oh boy, that ending!! Made me glad that I already have the next book.
