



Shattered

Kevin Hearne

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Acclaimed author Kevin Hearne makes his hardcover debut with the new novel in his epic urban fantasy series starring the unforgettable Atticus O'Sullivan.

For nearly two thousand years, only one Druid has walked the Earth—Atticus O’Sullivan, the Iron Druid, whose sharp wit and sharp sword have kept him alive as he’s been pursued by a pantheon of hostile deities. Now he’s got company.

Atticus’s apprentice Granuaile is at last a full Druid herself. What’s more, Atticus has defrosted an archdruid long ago frozen in time, a father figure (of sorts) who now goes by the modern equivalent of his old Irish name: Owen Kennedy.

And Owen has some catching up to do.

Atticus takes pleasure in the role reversal, as the student is now the teacher. Between busting Atticus’s chops and trying to fathom a cell phone, Owen must also learn English. For Atticus, the jury’s still out on whether the wily old coot will be an asset in the epic battle with Norse god Loki—or merely a pain in the arse.

But Atticus isn’t the only one with daddy issues. Granuaile faces a great challenge: to exorcise a sorcerer’s spirit that is possessing her father in India. Even with the help of the witch Laksha, Granuaile may be facing a crushing defeat.

As the trio of Druids deals with pestilence-spreading demons, bacon-loving yeti, fierce flying foxes, and frenzied Fae, they’re hoping that this time, three’s a charm.

Shattered Details

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From Reader Review Shattered for online ebook

Ren says

This one of my favorite series by any author ever. The teaser description is great, but ... WHAT ABOUT OBERON??? Oberon, Atticus' faithful Irish Wolfhound, is actually my favorite character. I need to know that he's okay and that he may finally find happiness with a slutty poodle and an endless supply of bacon. This is very important!

Treswoc says

Love this guy. For a while, it was tough to scratch my Dresden itch in between Jim Butcher's novels, then I read my first Iron Druid novel. Now I love Atticus and Oberon every bit as much as Harry and Mouse (and Mister). Kevin Hearne is a goateed master of urban fantasy.

Wanda says

*****2017 Summer Lovin' Reading List*****

Best volume of this series so far!!!

I really liked the alternating chapters between Atticus, Granuaile, and Owen. This structure shows, better than any telling, that Atticus has severely underestimated both his partner Granuaile and his archdruid, Owen.

Granuaile gets to adventure on her own, while Atticus and Owen manage to get each other into trouble. Oberon and Orleith are fabulous hound sidekicks. Owen shows that he's not just a cranky old coot, he's still got good instincts, even if English isn't the ideal language to express them in.

I'm getting a bit tired of the 'dog-pile of gods on Atticus' plot. Sure, he's been annoying, but really has anything that he's done warranted the amount of ill-will that is being expended on him? At least in this book we are back to dealing mostly with the Irish pantheon, which makes sense, but I am really tired of the Loki/Ragnarock plot line which keeps dragging along through so many books now. Says the woman who usually loves the Norse gods in fiction.

Owen steals the show, being completely unfamiliar with 21st century society and providing hilarious perspectives on it, while still showing that human nature hasn't changed a bit! I used to read this series strictly for Oberon, but he has some competition now!

Celeste says

Full review now posted!

This seventh installment in the Iron Druid Chronicles was just as much fun as the previous installments. So far, no book in this series has flopped or been a letdown for me, which is difficult to find in a UF series. However, it's getting harder and harder to review these books without giving spoilers, so I'll keep this brief.

This book was a bit different from the preceding books in that it's not told completely from Atticus's perspective. We now have three Druids, and we have chapters told from the perspective of each. This was present a bit in the previous book, but their were only two points of view and the two parties remained together through the majority of the book. But in *Shattered*, each of the three point of view characters diverge from one another, giving us three fairly distinctive plots. This was a bit jarring at first, because I had gotten so used to Atticus's voice and it was difficult for me to adjust to him not even being present in every scene. However, Hearne really made the diverging plot lines work, and he tied them back together beautifully at the end of the book.

Not only has the world's Druidic population tripled, but there are also twice as many talking Irish wolfhounds on the planet as there were. Oberon has a new friend, and her name is Orla. As I've said before, Oberon is my favorite part of the story, and I loved getting to meet his female counterpart. Obviously she's not as on top of her pop culture game as Oberon, but she was still a joy to read. Oberon still made me giggle on more than one occasion. Man, I love that hound.

I also love the other main characters in the book. I've tried very hard not to mention any names in my reviews besides Oberon and Atticus, because some of those names could even be spoilers. But Owen isn't a spoiler, as his name hasn't been mentioned in any preceding book. Owen was a hilarious addiction to the Druidic cast. He's so uncouth and irreverent, and Daniels's vocal representation of him was spot on.

I only have one full novel left before I'm finished with the series as it stands. I've enjoyed it so much that I'll more than likely track down all of the shorter side stories and read those, as well. This is without a doubt one of my favorite series in the paranormal or urban fantasy genres. If you're looking for an episodic story that will draw you in and make you smile, I can't recommend the Iron Druid Chronicles highly enough!

Belinda Lewis says

Kevin Hearne gives equal first person perspective in *Shattered* to both Owen and Granuaile, but doesn't capture anything particularly original or interesting in said voices. And this means only a third of the book is in Atticus's voice; his humour and relationship with Oberon is really what makes this series for me. It also reads like three disparate stories sloppily mashed together. Very disappointing, because I've been enjoying the hell out of this mythos.

Casey says

The characters were in fine form, the writing as usual was great. But it felt like it was missing a plot to me. This book felt like two and half story lines that all were smooshed together. Typically each book has had a theme and this was the first that did not. It was greatly missed.

It felt like I started reading in the middle of the book. The ending was good but really unfulfilling as I was simply following events instead of reaching an important ending.

Typically I give Kevin Hearne solid fives. The 3 indicates that I'm glad I read it, but I wouldn't have stopped reading other books before I picked it up.

Hopefully the next book will pick up with a bit more focus, bring the voice of the book back to a single character, and perhaps a good solid theme instead of this constant flow of books that seemlessly move from one to the next.

Karl says

This hardcover is signed twice by Kevin Hearne once on the front end page and once on the title page.

Chantaal says

This is probably my favorite urban fantasy series, period. I love Atticus, I love Hearne's nerdy humor, and I love the weaving of various religions and myths into the world Hearne has created. I'm glad that Granuaile got her own POV chapters in *Hunted*, because she truly shines here. Owen, Atticus' archdruid, is entertaining, but not nearly a strong enough voice to counter Atticus and Granuaile, who have already had six books of character development already.

So, point by point.

The Plot

Shattered takes off shortly after the events of *Hunted*, where Atticus and Granuaile fled for their lives across half of Europe. Figuring out exactly who sent killers after them and why is the mystery in this novel, and the reveal isn't disappointing. It makes sense when it happens, and the climax makes me wish this would eventually become a TV series, just to see it happen.

The plot itself seems to take up a small chunk of the novel, simply because so much of it focuses on Owen's integration into the world, and some of the craziness that happens with Granuaile. I actually liked that, simply because it meant a lot more character insight and growth for all three, which is always a good thing.

The rest of the world building keeps getting crazier and crazier, and I love it. Loki's got some serious shenanigans going on, and I can't wait to see how everything plays out.

Atticus (and Oberon!)

With five and a half books of his own, it made sense for Atticus to sort of take a back seat in *Shattered*, and I'm incredibly okay with that because of what we got with Granuaile's chapters. Atticus is mostly caught up in teaching Owen about modern living, and there are some really nice bits involved. My favorite had to be him stopping Owen and giving him a quick lecture on how to approach women and their POVs when it comes to men. A very nice, refreshing take on a hero's view on women.

Oberon is Oberon, and that is always a good thing.

Owen

I had no idea there would be Owen chapters, and was incredibly surprised when the first one popped up, but it made sense after a while. His voice was clearly different, and made for a nice counterpoint from Atticus. He had his hilarious moments, and a decent amount of character development for a character who was introduced in the last pages of *Hunted*.

I appreciated Owen's chapters all the more when I realized his POV was incredibly important in his and Atticus' interactions (especially the one that truly mattered for Atticus, in the end).

Granuaile (and Orlaith!)

I left Granuaile for last because her journey ended up being my favorite thing about *Shattered*. I find that a majority of novels that feature female characters written by male authors don't get the women quite right. I don't know why, I just know it feels off - but that wasn't the case with Granuaile. It felt like Hearne knew her inside and out, and that made for a fantastically well-rounded character. She has her triumphs and losses, her ups and downs, and she's just as interesting, intelligent, and capable as Atticus.

I'm going to go back to *Hunted* and re-read just her chapters in that one and *Shattered* because I love her a ridiculous amount now.

Orlaith was a really pleasant surprise addition, and it makes absolute sense that Granuaile got her own hound. She's wonderfully sweet, a great counterpart to Oberon's humor.

Romance

I'm adding this here because while the romance in the novels has always been understated, I absolutely loved the little bits of it that were mentioned. It's the little things that both Atticus and Granuaile say and do that remind me that they've known each other for over a decade, that they've been in love with each other for that long, that they're together and best friends in a very comfortable, lived-in way. Their romance feels real, and I love that there is not a single second of romantic drama between them.

Overall

Shattered is a fantastic addition to the series, and the perfect blend of action, contemplation, and humor. Hearne hits the right beats at the right times, and while Owen's POV chapters left a bit to be desired, everything came together wonderfully in the end. This is, arguably, Granuaile's book. She absolutely shines.

AND NOW BEGINS THE AGONIZING WAIT FOR BOOK 8.

Pre-review reaction:

SO MANY THOUGHTS.

And I didn't think it was possible to love Granuaile even more, but it happened.

Full review to come.

Pre-Read rambling:

A. CANNOT WAIT.

B. This is one of the few times I would happily imagine the cover model as Atticus instead of Richard Madden.

C. AAAAAAAHHHHHHHH

Phrynne says

I listened to this one on audiobook and it gave me a whole new view of things! I very much enjoyed the narrator's Irish accent, applied in differing degrees for different characters. His interpretation of Atticus was superb. However I did not care for Oberon's speech at all. That was a very small issue though:) Overall I enjoyed the whole book enormously. The author took a risk in writing from three alternating POVs especially as one of them was running a totally separate story for most of the time. However it worked for me because each story was equally interesting and it never seemed to take long to get back to each one. There was a marvellous finale featuring almost every fae creature you have ever heard of and a few you have not. And then there was an epilogue setting us up for the next disaster Atticus will have to face . I seriously hope that at the end of this series the author leaves Atticus and Granuaile and their hounds some place really nice where they can live out their long, long lives happily and in peace. They deserve it!

Lyn says

Kevin Hearne's genius seems to not just be that he has created Atticus O'Sullivan and the Iron Druid universe, but that he continues to surround Atticus with even more interesting characters.

First, of course, is Oberon, his Irish wolfhound who is bound to Atticus through druidic binding and thus the two can converse telepathically. Next was Granuaile, his apprentice / love interest / fierce fellow druid and then all of the various gods and goddesses who Hearne draws with an experienced brush, deftly mixing myth and legend into his sharp urban fantasy.

In Shattered, his 2014 Iron Druid novel (and 7th book in the series) Hearne has outdone himself and introduced us to Atticus' old arch druid Owen Kennedy. Readers discovered Owen at the end of the previous book, 2013's Hunted, but we really get to know Owen in Shattered. Best of all, Hearne has continued shifting narrative perspectives from Atticus, to Granuaile, to Owen.

Owen would have grown up in what is now Ireland before the time of Christ (who also makes another cameo in the series) and before the Gaels arrived in Ireland. He speaks Old Irish (or what may be Primitive Irish, the earliest variant of Celtic languages). He is brought back into the storyline abruptly, so unlike Atticus who has been alive and kicking (and drinking Imortali-Tea) the whole time, Owen was an old man in Pre-Gaelic, Pre-Roman, Pre-Christian Ireland one minute and in 2014 the next. His transition into our time and culture, and his wry observances, are hilarious and easily steal the show.

The rest of the book, the plot so to speak, is Hearne's continuation on what has become an evolving series that resembles a comic book in ongoing storyline fashion. Still very interesting and entertaining, however. Hearne spends more time with the Tuatha de Danann, some Indian mythos, a sprinkle of Japanese mythology, the aforementioned visit with Jesus and more trouble from Loki.

And Owen, foul mouthed, hard drinking, brawling Iron Age curmudgeon that he is.

Finally, most of the titles of the series have made me think of a certain scattered, covered and smothered hash brown order. Shattered makes me think of a certain Rolling Stones song – Huh! Shadooby!

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Omg! I was in love with ole what's his head. God! I forgot. That old Druid. He was hilarious! He was trying to get acclimated to life now and he was having a time. He was asking Hal if he had to get one of those fecking phones because he would shat coin if he had too. ?

Michael says

Kevin Hearne's Iron Druid Chronicles is one of the best things happening not just in the the universe of urban fantasy but in the publishing world today. With the seventh installment, Hearne graduates to hardcover where hopefully he'll find an even larger audience to appreciate the exploits of Atticus, Granuaile and Oberon.

A quick word of warning, however. If you haven't read the first six installments in this series, starting here is probably going to be a confusing experience. While Hearne wisely includes a quick refresher on events up until now, it's no where near as rewarding or as much fun as reading the actual novels themselves. (You will miss out on all the wonderful interaction between Atticus and Oberson, which is among the highlights of the series).

If you're caught up, odds are you've been eagerly awaiting *Shattered*. The good news is that Hearne has made it worth the wait. Picking up right where *Hunted* left off, the seventh installment gives us not one but three first-person narrators. As expected, we get chapters told from the viewpoint of Atticus but we also see events unfolding in the eyes of Granuale and the newly brought back to life Owen Kennedy (at least that's the modern equivalent of his Druid name).

Among the highlights of the latest installment in the series is the introduction of the Yeti and their love of ice hockey, Owen's attempts to integrate himself into our modern world and, of course, lots of great interaction between Atticus and Oberon. There's also some moving forward of various plot elements and call backs to the first couple of novels in this series and some interesting ground world put in place for the final several novels in this wonderful series. Hearne's storytelling assurance continues to grow with each novel and *Shattered* is among the best this on-going series has offered to date.

In the interest of full disclosure, I was given an ARC of this book as part of the Amazon Vine Program. And, yes, I eagerly snapped it up. If you're not reading this series yet, you should be.

Jake says

Why mess with a good thing?

I loved the first six books and actually kind of hated this one.

My first problem was the change in format. The first five books were single first person POV and the sixth had one addition, which I didn't have a problem with because I thought it was a one time thing. But this one had three POVs which, in my opinion, did not work out. Not only did it take away from the story and make it really choppy but it was just weird! There were three first person POVs and two of them were in present tense and one in past tense. And the two that are present tense were supposed to be written down accounts of past events which makes no sense at all! Have you ever heard somebody recount a tale of their past in present tense? Probably not because that would be utterly stupid.

My next problem was that the book was super boring. The first six were filled with action and this one barely had any. The split up POV's just turned the book into three boring short stories that I did not care about.

This series has brought me countless hours of entertainment but it was all I could do to get through this one. If the eighth book continues this format I will not be reading on.

Komal says

I think it's time to start a new shelf. A shelf for series that have run their course. On this yet to be named shelf, there are already two slots reserved; one for Chicagoland Vampires & the other for the Iron Druid Chronicles.

With this series, I can't exactly pinpoint where things started to go wrong. I remember feeling a sense of comfort in the earlier books. Atticus was charming and sweet as was the setting of Tempe, Arizona. Hearne's incorporation of mythology was also a big plus. When all the elements fell into place, the stories Hearne told were funny, entertaining, and clever. Recently, however, Atticus' vast knowledge of the world (once awe inspiring) has turned into a constant onslaught of facts. Sometimes it feels like this series is no longer about Atticus, rather about the author's own brilliance. Every few pages have ramblings on the nature of this or that. How could there be an interesting plot in the midst of constant info dumps you ask? Well there was no plot. Or at least there was no remarkable, memorable plot. It was sort of a mess of three different perspectives each doing their own thing (Owen, Granuaile, and Atticus) all jumbled together.

For me, character development also plays a big part in how much I enjoy a book. I love when a character who I've grown smitten with evolves, reaching higher levels of awesomeness. The opposite has happened with the characters of this book. Atticus and Granuaile, once so full of life, their personalities sometimes quirky, felt almost lifeless in this book. They spent the majority of their time moving from one place to another. They did crack some jokes here and there, yet it just wasn't the same. Owen was a nice addition and I definitely enjoyed his chapters (watching him maneuver the new world around him while still retaining his ornery 2000 year old charm was just too funny). But he alone couldn't helm the ship. I couldn't help but compare other UF series that don't have this problem specifically the Gin Blanco series; if Estep turned the narrative over to any of the other characters, it would be just as entertaining because her characters are well rounded, each fascinating in his or her own right. This is not the case for the Iron Druid Chronicles and we

see how it all plays out as Hearne switches narratives between Atticus and Granuaile.

Many readers seem to still adore Atticus and that makes me happy. The series is seven books in and Hearne doesn't look like he's slowing down. Readers have many more years to enjoy the books. I, however, am relieved to be saying goodbye. Reading shouldn't be a chore, yet picking up each new installment of the Iron Druid Chronicles has started to feel like it. Though I will remember the earlier books fondly, especially Oberon and his love of meat, here is where we part. It was fun while it lasted.

Tim says

Fewer tragic sequences would have made for a better story in this series. 6 of 10 stars
