



Magic Unleashed

Devri Walls

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Six years ago, Grey Malteer was attacked by creatures he thought couldn't possibly exist. They repeated a word, calling him a name he'd never heard before... Venator. Since then, his life has been a hellhole of secrecy—hiding old pain alongside strange new abilities.

Rune Jenkins has an itch, as she calls it, but it's more than that. It's an anger that builds up like the inside of a boiler whenever she's around anything remotely supernatural. The pressure is growing steadily worse and she can't understand why. All she knows is—her control is slipping.

By order of an unknown council Grey and Rune are pulled through a portal in the St. Louis arch, landing them in an alternate dimension where creatures of myth and legend exist. A realm that calls them, Venators.

Made up of centuries old fae, vampires, werewolves, elves and succubi the council's corrupt nature becomes obvious as they seek to wield the newly returned Venators as weapons. Wedged in an impossible position, Grey and Rune must decide their fate—do they go against the council's wishes and help the innocents of this unforgiving land, or face the possibility of execution by the council.

Magic Unleashed Details

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Author : Devri Walls

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From Reader Review Magic Unleashed for online ebook

Jules.Bookverse says

I was one of the lucky people who got this book send and signed by the author to write an honest review. Thank you so much, Devri Walls!

So first of all, I love fantasy and new worlds! This book takes you into a magical new world were all legends come to life. That kind of reminded me of the shadowhunters quote "all legends are true", but trust me there is soo much more in the world of Eon. It's a parallel dimension where every creature you could think of exists and even beyond that.

The two main Characters are called Venators and are part of a species that was evil in the past and now have been brought back to Eon - or rather kidnapped from Earth - to save the planet. I had a good feeling about Grey, the male character, from the beginning. There just had to be more to him. His super trained body, knowledge of the supernatural world and sense of justice was revealed later and made me like him more. Rune, the female character, was keeping everything under control at first and showed how strong she really was. But I always thought the Grey would be the leader of the both of them. Well, guess in some situations Rune can kick more ass than Grey and put on a better show for their keepers, the corrupt council of Eon.

Of course, I thought there would be something going on between Rune and Grey, but then a third party came into the picture: Beltran! He's an adorable, cocky shape-shifter that definitely has an eye for Rune. It seems that she is the only reason he helps the Venators at all. I wonder where this love triangle will go! :)

The end of the first book shocked me a little or rather let me rethink my feelings about Grey. What is he up to and does he really know what he's getting into?

Also, a nice treat was the first chapter of the second book at the end. Finally, you heard something about Ryker Runes brother - the reason why Rune went along to Eon. Hopefully, their sibling bond will not totally be destroyed and Ryker will come to his senses. Can't wait to see how the story continues.

I know it is always hard to create a new world and if the story is supposed to be in a series the first book tends to lack a little bit of more tension. The further I read the more I liked the book and could relate to the story better because of the descriptions of this new world that compared things to our world. This always makes a reader get hooked faster to the story. Although I really like this new world I wished it had more exciting situations and tension which build up in the second half of the book.

Also, just a side note: I had to go on a reading break because of assignments for uni otherwise I would have finished this book much faster! So everybody out there who's in love with all things supernatural definitely check out this new world of Eon!!

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

Check out more reviews @ Perspective of a Writer...

Attacked by creatures that can't possibly exist 6 years ago, Grey hides strange new abilities. Whenever Rune's around anything remotely supernatural, an angry pressure builds and she wants to know why... before she loses control. By order of an unknown council they are pulled through a portal into an alternate dimension where creatures of myth and legend exist. A realm that calls them, Venators.

The review...

I quite enjoyed this book. My brothers loved Dungeons and Dragons so I played that some with them and understand the world. This is like a D&D world but with vampires, werewolves, sirens and a whole host of races you'd find in an urban fantasy. This makes the world familiar but also a new take that is fascinating, especially when you throw in there the human Venators. Time was spent introducing us to the girl and guy who were chose to come represent Venators in this new world. I appreciated that as it helped me to really root for them big time when they took on their first big mission.

We get a glimpse of a kickass villain and her minions with some pretty great battles, plus meet some other badies who are on their own side. It's the mix of allies though that I loved. Beltran, our vampire mentor and our mysterious guide who chose Grey and Rune who has his own agenda! Then we have the council and a whole host of supernatural beings who can swing either way. They all have magic and abilities and our two venators don't have all the knowledge they need... yet. And that translates into fun interactions and political jockeying that made this truly delightful and fun!

Yes, I gave this a 4 star... Right now I haven't seen enough to say this is going to be the best... That familiar feeling can go either way in the second book... it can be blown aside with the introduction of more of the world building or it can sink into stereotypes found around supernatural races. BUT, don't let what could be coming keep you from enjoying this book! Seriously I loved the multiple POVs and I adored Grey from the get go... and Rune is a character to watch with a potential to grow into a kickass venator!

Cover & Title grade -> B+

You know I don't hate this cover. It has some stellar color on it and its got that paranormal vibe from urban fantasy. The thing is I don't exactly know who that is on the cover and I've read the book! It's kind of generic. Walking by I may not have picked it up... even the title is kind of ho-hum. They aren't bad but they don't draw me in. Some like The Venator Arch may have worked better. At least it gives the reader a concrete setting to draw out attention.

As a Writer...

As a writer I am a total fan of mixing genres and taking ideas that readers already know and putting a unique spin on them. Mixing paranormal races into a D&D setting sounds like fun and my first foray into the world was action packed and making me excited and hopeful for the next book!!

The only problem with using old ideas in new ways is that it opens you up to have the new ways compared to the old ways. Yes, all ideas are being revamped these days but with this you are clearly comparing vampires to vampires. It's a bold move and works with how the world works and where folklore on earth came from for supernatural creatures. As a writer I LOVE bold moves and hope it works even better in book #2!!

Magic Unleashed is a pretty fun ride through a new world that is closely aligned with our own. Be prepared for adventures with all manner of supernatural races and creatures. Diplomacy and action will be skills you need to develop, along with the judgement to know when to use which! GAH! Get me the next book STAT!

? ??? Authenticity
? ??? Writing Style
? ??? Plot & Pacing
? ??? World Building

Thanks to Edelweiss and the publisher for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review. It has not influenced my opinions.

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my special perspective at the bottom of my reviews under the typewriter...

April Sarah says

3.5 stars
Video Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuySd...>
*I received a copy of this book for an honest review.

Julieth says

3.5 stars. Thank you Devri Walls for a copy of this book!

I enjoyed this new fantasy book. The story is captivating and has plenty of adventure which is very important! The world building and character development is also really good. Really liked the way the author writes.

The multiple points of view threw me off a little, and there were some slow parts but that is to be expected from the first book in a series when we are getting introduced to this world and the characters.

Will definitely continue this series!

Adam Lottes says

An action-packed pager-turner! Devri Walls is setting up what promises to be an amazing series with Magic Unleashes, the first part of a Venators series.

What is a Venator you ask? A Venator is quite powerful as it turns out and is immune to vampire bites, fae magic, and werewolf venom - amongst other things. They are the enforcers of the law in another realm and beings to be feared. Except they are all but extinct in this other realm. Grey is beginning to discover his

Venator abilities in the human world. While Rune knows something is boiling deep inside her but doesn't know what exactly.

And then, just like that the explosive action whisks the two into a dark fantasy world where all sorts of creatures dwell. Grey and Rune are ripped from their collegiate lives and taken to a land on the brink of war as different species vie for power.

In a race to get to the ruling council house Grey and Rune discover just how dangerous the place is. And Rune begins to see the shy, timid Grey in a much different light. Both Venators have a strong sense of right and justice and that puts them at odds with some of the ruling Council members.

I am eagerly looking forward to the next installment of this series and I can't wait to try out another of Devri Walls' books. Fantastically paced writing with humor, intrigue and adventure. You'll be asking for more too!

Addison says

To me, Venators kind of felt like a repeat. It was so basic, (not a fan of vampires and werewolves), boring, and I didn't really like any of the characters. But there were parts I enjoyed (such as snarky come-backs and Beltran), and I could tell a lot of effort went into the story. It was pretty hard to get through, and I ended up rushing to finish it so it would be out of the way? not too awful, but not that great either. It was a bit of a disappointment?

Kylie says

This was such an awesome first book to the series. It had me completely hooked from page one until the very end which doesn't usually happen.

It was so easy to get into because it started out in our world so I wasn't thrown into some world full of magic and creatures that was hard to understand. It was so easy to read. I flew through the first half in 2 days. The only reason it took me a week to read is because I got a puppy!

I really liked the characters. Even though at times we were given a whole list of characters to remember, for some reason it was very easy to remember which character was which. I ended up really liking Beltran and Rune. Beltran is one of those characters you can tell is kind of shifty, but has a good heart. Rune was a strong female character who stuck to what she believed and did anything to get her brother back.

There were definitely so many plot lines that didn't get resolved in this book that I know will be coming in later books. I'm really excited to find out what happens next!

Kim says

Venators is going down as my favorite Devri Walls novel so far! When I talked to Devri last fall, she said her next book would have a little bit of everything in it... and she wasn't kidding! Vampires, dangerous werewolves (not like the kind I see in so many other novels lately), fairies, goblins, dragons.... you name it, it's there! But, it's not "too much" either. Devri creates the world in a way that it all fits together, so it's not just a pile of mish-mash thrown together hoping to reach a variety of readers. It really does work well together, and the world feels real to me. It's intriguing, intimidating and honestly a little frightening!

Venators is well written, was easy to get pulled into (and hard to put down!), and full of twists and mystery. It sets the stage nicely for the series and makes me want more right away. The story is a fast paced ride full of adventure, mystery, and danger. The whole story takes place over a short span of time, but the characters personalities shine enough that you can "see" them, quirks and all, by the end of the story. It's easy to like Rune and Grey when they are the stars of the story, but Tate, Verida and Beltrain helped bring the story to life in their own way, too. Actually, I think Beltran was my favorite character... he's a prank-loving trouble-maker who thinks rules don't apply to him. He's also a shapeshifter, with a touch of softness somewhere deep within him. Enough to help strangers, and care... really care. I look forward to seeing him develop in the series. There are secrets with Tate and Verida's lives that I think will come out later in the story, too, and add depth to who they are. The mystery of those two kept drawing me in, begging me to pay closer attention, just in case I could pick up on more of them.

The story moved very fast, and there were scenes that definitely had my heart pumping. It was not your traditional girl-runs-into-danger-boy-goes-to-save-her and everything ends light and happy. There is manipulation, deep wounds that need cleaned out to heal, and bartering that may cost lives. I probably sound like nerd-fan girl but I can't wait for book two already. Thanks for taking me on another great journey, Devri! I love your style!

Amy Stahl says

A new fantasy novel to love!

Anyone that enjoys a great fantasy novel will love Venators! Walls creates a lush and sometimes frightening alternate world. Her characters are well developed, Rune was my favorite. I gave this novel 5 stars because it was wonderful to read.

Walls sucks you into the story and holds your attention to the last page. Each character had their own mysterious past and I really enjoyed learning their history as the story progressed. Walls is able to hold on to mystery and intrigue without becoming boring. I can't wait to read more from Devri Wells.

Faith The Assassin says

Once again, I am blown away by Devri Wall's writing style and how she weaves these amazing stories with such creative and unique worlds and such interesting characters. First The Solus Series, then The Wizard's Heir and now this- Venators: Through the Arch- all which I have enjoyed immensely.

Venators was such a fun and captivating read. Such a unique take on the paranormal/fantasy genre. I really enjoyed every thing this story had to offer- the unique world building, the characters that continue to develop in such a beautiful way, and just how fast paced it is.

Venators follows the stories of two characters; Grey and Rune. Where in the beginning, they are living the usual college life but then are called to jump through an arch into a different world. A world that has every kind of mythical creature you can imagine - vampires, werewolves, faeries, elves, Wizards, dragons, goblins and even Giants. And they are called to be what is known as the Venators, which is Latin for hunter. And

they are called to be basically the Warriors and law of the land.

This was such a fast paced and thrilling story I didn't want to put it down.

Now let's talk about how awesome the characters are. Because the way Devri creates such awesome characters is something to be discussed.

Rune- Rune is our female protagonist. For a while, it took me while to connect or really enjoy her character because she kind of starts out as a weak character. The whole reason , she agreed to enter this strange world is because her twin brother Ryker has been taken. And she's always been the one to look after and take of him and she's got to get him back. But she constantly freaked out in most situations. I don't think it was until more towards end of the book that I began to like her because she's slowly shedding that weak and scared girl she was in the beginning and she's starting to become really badass and I love it.

Grey- Aw Grey. Where do I begin? Grey is an amazing character. Very handsome too. Six years ago, he was already introduced to this new world by an attack from some of the creatures that came through to his side. And he's always been curious to go to this other world. And no matter what the situation is, he really knows how to handle it. He's sweet and compassionate and a fast learner. And he handles everything in such a calmly matter. He really thinks things through instead of caving into pressure. He's just an all around amazing guy and I can't wait to see how he continues to develop throughout.

Beltran- my personal favorite. I love Grey, but the minute this character was introduced, I knew he was a keeper. He's kind of your troublemaker , bad boy not entirely certain you can trust him kind of character which I absolutely love those kind of characters. He's witty, and fun but he's also really smart and kind. And I call dibs on this guy so nobody else gets to have him .

This story is also told from other point of views aside from the main two which I really enjoy because I love seeing the different thoughts and getting to know all the characters .

I would really recommend it to those who love fantasy and looking for something that's a little different then your usual story.

I really enjoyed this book so much and I can't wait for more!!!! Thanks Devri again for yet another exciting story and such amazing characters. Can't wait to see how this story progresses! Beltran forever!!!

Alyssa Indira says

Hey guys, so I just finished Venators:Magic Unleashed(used to be Through The Arch) (#1) by Devri Walls. I have no idea why it took me so long to read this amazing novel. Seriously, I loved her other series, why did I have any doubt that I wouldn't enjoy this one? Silly me. So obviously, I loved this novel. It was descriptive, but I liked how...causal it was. It wasn't too fancy or hard to read. The description added essential background information to the characters that I grew to love. Oy, let me tell ya, this book had no shortage of surprises and shocks embedded in the cream pages. In addition, it had lots of action, mostly battles, which were wonderfully written and not boring at all. I didn't get lost in the battle scenes, I felt like I was battling alongside them. Basically, I was sucked into this novel from the very beginning. I just, couldn't put this book down. I probably would have read it in a day if I didn't have other duties to attend to. Okay, that felt like I went off in a tangent..oh well. Anyway. This book also had traces of romance. Not sure if the romance is

coming from me, or the characters though, lol! Speaking of the characters, I just can't wait to ask the author how she developed these adorable and scarred babies. Grey. Oh baby Grey. My heart aches for you...and then Beltran! Gah! My heart beats for your cocky and witty attitude that probably hides a horror filled past as well. And then Tate, poor little guy, already g0ne through so much, I just want the author to give you a happy ending. Sighs. Alright..I should probably stop typing before I spoiler something for you guys. I just can't wait to read the second book.. I need me some BeltranXRune. Rune is fiery, I think she and Beltran...ahhh... okay, bye.

Lauren says

First of all, thank you Devri Walls for yanking me out of my reading slump. I was initially cautious to read this, simply because I know Devri's husband "in real life". I'd met Devri once before, but I've always been worried about reading the work of friends or acquaintances because a) what if I hated it and b) what if I read the narrative IN THEIR VOICE?

I did notice that it occasionally took me a few minutes to "get into" the story and stop overthinking the fact that the author was indeed a "real person" and not some mysterious author behind the novel. So dumb, but true.

Once I got over it, though, I sincerely enjoyed the story and premise of the storyline. The worldbuilding was good and I enjoyed the overall writing style of the book. I like the main characters (more on them in a moment) and the supporting characters. I appreciated the mix of magical creatures and the introduction of new ideas and concepts (a Venator, for example).

Rune is a strong female lead. For some reason, the only thing that bugged me about Rune was her name -- if her parents are such stand-up, normal people...why the hell are they naming their kid Rune? Ryker makes sense, Rune does not. Rune is the type of name your hippie Wiccan mother names you...not Sally Soccermom who wants you to make the Dean's List. Stereotypical of me, yes...but something I was hung up on nonetheless.

Grey is a strong male lead, though it took me quite a few chapters to stop picturing him wearing his (in my mind, creepy af) trenchcoat. The trenchcoat thing is explained later on, so don't let that turn you away or think Grey is creepy...he's not.

Overall, if you're looking for a breathe of fresh air in the new adult fantasy genre, check this one out. It won't disappoint!

Caitlin Whetten says

I rather enjoyed this first book in the Venators series. It's a dark, YA portal fantasy featuring vampires, werewolves, Fae, succubi, incubi, dragons, goblins and a new race of genetically modified humans called Venators.

TW: gore, violence, beheadings, some language and trauma, including sexual abuse

Stuff I Liked:

1. The idea of there being a portal to an alternate dimension located in the St. Louis arch is pretty brilliant.
2. I really loved the character of Gray and the fact that this story is tackling the issues of past trauma, including sexual abuse in men, which is not a topic often broached in YA, particularly YA fantasy. And I think it's done wonderfully and poignantly in Gray's character. I have a soft spot for outcast loners and he reminds me so much of Simon from *The Mortal Instruments*. He's just my little cinnamon bun!
3. I also enjoyed Beltran (filling the Rhysand-sized hole in my heart), Verida and Tate and look forward to seeing them get more depth in the next books. Since this first one primarily focused on Gray and Rune's development, we don't get much of the side character's motivations or backstory, so I hope we get more of that later in the next installment.
4. The pacing was pretty good here as well. There were lots of fun, action-packed scenes interspersed with some character development and info-dumps. The majority of this novel is set-up and introduction into this world, so not a lot is accomplished by the characters plot-wise. However, we get a feel for this world's history, villains and alliances through a good mix of action and dialogue.
5. (view spoiler)
6. Easy-to-read writing style. I flew through this book and enjoyed Devri Walls' writing style.

Stuff I Didn't Like:

1. In my opinion, this cover doesn't accurately reflect what the book is about. If I were to see this cover, I would think it was a straight urban fantasy in the vein of Clare's *Shadowhunter* series, Seanan McGuire's *October Daye* series or Jim Butcher's *The Dresden Files*. But the majority of this book takes place in a high fantasy D&D-type world that's more reminiscent of medieval Europe with castles, horses, and villages with no plumbing or electricity. So if I went into this hoping for an urban fantasy, I would be pretty disappointed 1/3 into the novel. And if I was a fan of high fantasies, I wouldn't even pick up this book because the cover doesn't say "high fantasy" at all.
2. I hate to say it, but I didn't enjoy Rune for most of the novel. I really liked her at the end, but it was a hard road getting there. It seemed like most of the time, characters were just yelling at her to "Stop doing this, stop asking questions, just do what you're told!" At one point, another character even mentions how she's not very bright and that is not a good sign. Gray just seemed to handle the transition to being a Venator so much better than Rune and it was very frustrating because she's just so stubborn and I just wanted her to let go and embrace everything and be the badass I know she can be.

Conclusion

Overall, I did enjoy this dark fantasy and I'm looking forward to what will happen in the next books and what Devri Walls comes up with next. It's a strong start for a debut series and a debut author. Highly recommend for fans of the *Shadowhunters* and Brandon Sanderson novels.

Haley ~ YA-Aholic says

Omg...Devri has done it again! I LOVED this! Can't wait for book 2, full review coming soon!

Felicia Thorusen says

I got this book at Comic Con in Boise on July 15th 2018. Devri Walls was at her own booth promoting her work and it immediately caught my attention. I talked to her and she was as kind as could be! I asked her what book of hers I should start out with and why, and she was so kind as to explain all of the books she had written. She then told me that Venators: Magic Unleashed was her most recent work that she was the most proud of, and that her writing style is completely different than her other novels. That intrigued me enough to get it. I broke into the book and was cast into the world of Eon!

I really liked this book! It was fun to read and I really enjoyed the world that we have so far. It left mystery through the book, so we know that books to follow will answer lots of the questions we have.

Grey is my favorite character. He is like a weeb who had a dream of going to Japan, feeling like he was finally among his people, only to discover that Japan ain't full of cute anime girls and fights with energy blasts coming out his hands. When he goes to Eon only to discover that magic, mythical creatures, and monsters aren't what he imagined, he feels let down. He had been training for years to discipline his body and mind to take on anything supernatural that would cross his path. While he is talented, he may be too emotional to be what the big wigs of him. He is genuine and has a sense of justice.

Rune is a flaw of the story, in my opinion. She isn't that interesting. She starts out well enough though. She has a pull to the supernatural, and doesn't know why. The only time she feels at ease is when she is around Grey, because of his fascination with "mythology." I like that aspect of her. She has an itch and she wants to scratch it. She also starts to see Grey as a PERSON, not a crutch. However, that is quickly lost once she goes to Eon. When she isn't scared, she is angry. When she isn't angry, she is stiff and is quick to have a snippy response to anyone. Near the end of the book there is a love triangle hinted at with a secondary character. I don't see why. She is just kind of bland. The book definitely fleshed Grey out way more. She does prove to be more political in mind near the end of the book though, so I hope that is explored more in the follow ups.

The fight scenes in here are really good! This book isn't very long, but had quite a bit of action. There was a part with werewolves in particular that I loved. We hate the werewolves for the monsters they are but also feel for them because there are children involved. The last action part involved a chase sequence with a dragon and it's really awesome to read.

The politics in here are shown but not to an abundant amount. Sometimes the politics in fantasy novels can be too drawn out, but this book gives just the right amount. You get the idea, and now we can move back onto our main characters.

All in all, I'm very happy I took a chance and grabbed this book. I'm really looking forward to the next one!
