



Scourged

Kevin Hearne

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Kevin Hearne creates the ultimate Atticus O'Sullivan adventure in the grand finale of the New York Times bestselling Iron Druid Chronicles: an epic battle royale against the Norse gods of Asgard.

Unchained from fate, the Norse gods Loki and Hel are ready to unleash Ragnarok, a.k.a. the Apocalypse, upon the earth. They've made allies on the darker side of many pantheons, and there's a globe-spanning battle brewing that ancient Druid Atticus O'Sullivan will be hard-pressed to survive, much less win.

Granuaile MacTiernan must join immortals Sun Wukong and Erlang Shen in a fight against the Yama Kings in Taiwan, but she discovers that the stakes are much higher than she thought.

Meanwhile, Archdruid Owen Kennedy must put out both literal and metaphorical fires from Bavaria to Peru to keep the world safe for his apprentices and the future of Druidry.

And Atticus recruits the aid of a tyromancer, an Indian witch, and a trickster god in hopes that they'll give him just enough leverage to both save Gaia and see another sunrise. There is a hound named Oberon who deserves a snack, after all.

Scourged Details

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Author : Kevin Hearne

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From Reader Review Scourged for online ebook

Brett says

As someone who loves every one of the Iron Druid series. This one was a disappointment. I felt like Kevin Hearne just wanted the series to end and didn't care how he did it. I know he says that 9 is a special number in irish mythology. I know that he wanted to move onto something new. Still give us a decent ending and not a mashup that felt like a first draft.

Jason Fuller says

I loved this series. I usually recommend it to anyone who will listen. Not any more. I cannot adequately describe how frustrated, angry, and *betrayed* I feel over the ending. I. HATE. IT.

HATE!!!

Oh, it's cleverly done. Everything was "fixed" in the end. It's all neat, tidy, and *incredibly* unfair. "But Jason, it's a lesson. The world isn't fair, it's his only way out, and maybe there's hope for peace and happiness... so says Jesus! It was prophesied!" Well, fuck that noise.

They're worth goals, to be sure, but you violated the social contract, Kevin. You give us a scrappy, "just tryin' to make it" -kind of guy who kicks arse but runs away since he's been alone for 2000 years and *massively* outgunned, on every front, and then "teach" him a lesson... at the very end... *after* he's won... for hubris against a bunch of gods no reader likes and *should* have been knocked down a peg or two...?

There's so much wrong there, I don't have the words... just rage for the way it ended.

Kyle Marino says

I am so disappointed by this book. Like, incredibly so. Let me list the disappointments, with minor but minimal spoilers:

Disappointment 1: The size. At the font size I was reading at, it was 248 pages long... including copyright, pronunciation guides, and all that. 250 pages for the epic final book of a 9 book series is incredibly small.

Disappointment 2: The pace. The book is almost entirely composed of brief "and now this is happening over here" chapters. There's very little where all the characters are together doing things; everyone's off doing their own separate thing and only briefly meeting up to deus ex machina for another character.

Disappointment 3: The deaths. (No spoilers). Death is big. Huge, even. The death of an important character is supposed to be a powerful motivating force on other characters--but it wasn't in this book. Several times, a major character dies with minimal impact beyond "oh noes, he was important!" The deaths felt meaningless.

Disappointment 4: Anticlimactic battles. The plot of the book, as has been advertised for several books now,

is the actual, literal Ragnarok. Minor spoilers: multiple big, badass bad guys go down in one page or less each, at multiple points in the story. Spoilers: Two of them go down from getting poked once by one of the good guy's magic macguffins, and several of the big badass good guys go down after getting hit once with one of several of the bad guy's magic mcguffins. Someone's throwing fire so far that it literally shows up halfway across the world at some point, and it's treated like it's no big deal.

Disappointment 5: The forced pop culture humor. I have defended this series to others over the humor quite a bit, but this is just way too much. There's no wit, just an absurd obsession with bubble tea and shoehorned in pop culture references.

Disappointment 6: The cast. Aside from the core group of druids, we basically don't meet anyone we know very well. None of the major characters from the past books show up. Lief isn't scheming. Gunnar and Hal aren't back, even though the rest of the Einherjar show up. Only one of the werewolves are involved, and even then only as a side character. The witches are there for a few pages. There's some minor development with Manannan, Fand, and Brighid, but even that's got a forced-in Fae orgy to ruin it. Laksha's there briefly, but we only get to see the end result of a conversation that happened offscreen, in which it becomes apparent that Atticus is still an obnoxious ass willing to let literally anyone do his dirty work as long as it means he doesn't have to.

Disappointment 7: The ending. There's very little I can say here that won't be significant spoilers, so I'll keep it to a minimum: The Morrigan shows up and attempts to get Atticus to kill himself so that she can replace something very spoilery for him (and I don't mean "heal his injuries"), and then Atticus bullies and manipulates her into doing something for him that basically completely undoes all the bad things that just happened as a result of Ragnarok. (I'm editing this review to make a clarification: the bad things that happened *to him* undone. Not all the bad things.)

In short: There's very little good about this book. It doesn't feel like an Iron Druid novel; it feels like the author wrote an outline for a three-book capstone trilogy and then decided to squeeze all of that into a large novella, cutting characters and interaction by the page at a time to make that happen.

Bradley says

I'm amazed, satisfied, filled with humor and equal dismay.

wail This is the end of the Iron Druid. The story of Atticus is done. *wail*

Fortunately, this last book is a wildly good ride, featuring a better Hel and Loki from some movies we've seen, a Ragnarok with full pantheons of the Greek and the Fae on board, as well as a number of great cameos from Jesus, Coyote, and the Monkey King.

This is one hell of a big blowout and it's time for Atticus to account for starting it.

And then there's the Oak Druid's sloth. I can't tell you how much I love her. I think Owen (Atticus's old teacher) is a pretty awesome dude. :) Hopping around the trees with his new friend and talking about bananas as power pills for monkeys is pretty sweet. :) Especially as an aside DURING THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. :)

I can see why the series needs to wrap up but it doesn't stop me from being sad. I am actually very satisfied with how it turned out.

As someone else has already said... "This book deserves all the wags!"

:)

Celeste says

Full review now posted!

Original review can be found at Booknest.

Rating: 4.5/5 stars

Well, that's it. After nine books, we've finally reached the end of the road.

Reading this series has been among the most fun I've ever had reading. Hearne has spun a wonderful tale with an amazing cast of characters. So many of these characters have come to feel like friends and even family. Atticus, our main character, has gotten into some terrible scrapes throughout the series, and everything he's done comes to a head in this book. The time has come to take responsibility for the many things he has done. It's a time of Ragnarok and reckoning for Atticus O'Sullivan, and he's bound and determined to face it alone. He sequesters those he cares about in other corners of the globe with ohterjobs while he faces down the impending end of the world. That decision comes back to bite him, as well.

By this point in the series there are few other names I can mention without even the names themselves being spoilers, but I can mention Oberon. He remains an absolute pleasure to read. I love how Hearne was able to give Oberon such a unique, distinctive voice. Never in any book series have I come across an animal character more vibrant and important to the plot of his story than Oberon. He's just as important a character as any of the human characters in the series, if not more so. Oberon provides much needed comic relief, and is always a comfort to Atticus. Unfortunately, he wasn't as present in this book as he has been in previous installments, and that was one of the few things that kept this from being a perfect conclusion to the series.

Speaking of comic relief, Hearne introduced a new character in this book that I would pay money to get some short stories about. Owen, another Druid (I don't think his name is a spoiler) meets a new friend while in the Amazon. Her name is Slomonobrodolie, or Slomo for short. In case you couldn't guess from the name, she's a sloth. She's also hands down the most delightful creature I've ever come across in literature. She's a treasure, and Owen sees her as such. He wants to travel the world with her, and I dearly hope that Hearne decides to write down a few of those adventures some day.

I thought I was going to be furious at the ending of the book until the final epilogue (yes, there's more than one), but thankfully Hearne ended things in a way I could accept. It's a bittersweet ending. There's pain and joy intermingled, and the hope of beauty arising from ashes. It was an ending that didn't leave me satisfied exactly, but I can get behind it. It was actually an ending, which seems like an uncommon thing for the genre. But also, it was a beginning, and I thought there were whiffs of loveliness in it. I really respect what Hearne created with this series, and I think the finished product has more than earned a spot on my favorites shelf.

One final thing I have to say: I can't recommend the audiobooks for this series enough. Luke Daniels is an auditory treasure, and he more than does these books justice. The variety of voices he utilizes for the characters is amazing, and you can tell as soon as he starts speaking whose perspective we're getting. This wasn't just someone reading a book out loud; it was a performance in every sense of the word. If you've never tried listening to an audiobook before, this series would be a fabulous entry point.

It's with a heavy heart that I come to the end of this series. I've loved every minute of it, and can honestly say that Kevin Hearne is now among my favorite authors. If you're looking for a series that will make you laugh out loud and possibly cry just a little bit, look no further. The Iron Druid Chronicles is incredibly entertaining, and you won't regret picking it up.

Phryynne says

This was a bit of a sad ending for a series which I have previously enjoyed very much. I liked some of it but wish the author had not gone for the three separate story lines. It really did not work and all I could think of was that the three Druids should have been there together for the battle that could end the world. Why were they playing around with fancy tea, Monkey kings and talking sloths (don't ask!) when they should have been out there helping to bring down Loki.

And the ending was really upsetting for anyone who has spent the last eight books with Atticus. I must admit to never liking Granuaile since she first appeared and boy did she prove me right! That really was kicking a man when he was down!

I am giving this three stars even when it should really be only two just because I enjoyed the rest of the series so much, and I am trying to dwell on the positive parts of the last chapter instead of just thinking 'poor Atticus'. This was not a good way to finish a popular series.

Kristine says

WHAT A BITCH.....

That is the main thought that is continually running through my mind as I sit here and think about the ending to this series.

THERE ARE SPOILERS AHEAD.....Do not go on if you have not read the book**

Yes - the series had to end.

Yes- the series might have even gone a book or two passed where it should have ended.

Yes - Atticus screwed up.

Now that those things are out of the way, so the f***what? He is human (well, for the most part). He has lived an EXTRAORDINARILY long life. Of course there are going to be mistakes in that lifetime. And - because of who he is and the power and abilities that he has - those mistakes are going to be a LOT bigger than things that you or I could screw up. Well, in this I am talking about normal people - not psychopaths or serial killers. It only stands to reason that if he dealt with deities, the Fae, the gods from every Pantheon,

Jesus, Coyote (and that's only in this book) on a normal basis.....that when he screwed up - it was going to be a doozy.

Am I excusing things? Not really. One of Atticus' greatest traits is that he has a wonderful heart. He TRIES to do the right thing, He is also self aware and KNOWS when he has screwed up. And he definitely screwed up quite a bit. Those without conscience are those who have no guilt. And we all know that Atticus felt guilt...a whole heaping amount of it.

Okay- so enough about that. He screwed up and he was dealt with....severely. I can almost understand that. (well, even that pissed me off, but I get it...sort of) Does it make me happy - no. But, he didn't complain, he didn't make excuses, he took what he thought was his due.

What pisses me off - more than I can even put down in words is the unbelievable actions of THAT BITCH Granuaile. Atticus did everything for her. He trained her, he took care of her, he LOVED her, he brought her into his life and how does she repay that? On the day that his ENTIRE life falls apart, she leaves him. And because that is not shitty enough, she can not even stay with him until the gods of the Pantheon have left him and he is safe. She leaves him wounded and bleeding and armless in enemy territory with the people who hurt him (and those who allowed it) so that she can go home (to HIS home) and get some of his things to pour salt in the wound. She makes it clear that on this day, the worst day of his life - that he cannot even go back to HIS HOME!!!

He is trying to be tough - he has to be in unspeakable pain - and he is trying his best to not show weakness in front of the asshole Pantheon gods. I'm sure all he wanted at that point was to go home....where he felt the safest.... to be able to lick his wounds and try to figure out what the heck just happened.

What a freaking selfish bitch. She leaves him, without a place to go - without even making sure that he will safely make it to wherever he ends up going. Oh my gosh - it makes me mad just typing this. The freaking nerve of her!!! And why? Because she's pissed off that he cared enough about her to try to keep her safe? Oh the horror. He loved her enough to try to protect her...yep- he definitely should have been shot for that. To be forward thinking enough to try to prepare for the contingency that if he died (which he fully expected to) that his death would not be the end of the Druids. Ugh. I wish she had died in the battle.

The sad thing is that if she didn't love him anymore, well, life happens. If she didn't want to be with him - then she had every right to break up with him. I'm not arguing that at all. She could do whatever she wanted to do regarding the relationship. But my gosh...COMMON DECENCY , geez, even just common courtesy, would entail at least helping him. Getting him somewhere safe and taking care of his wounds. Wouldn't you do that for a friend? She was so freaking self centered that all she thought about was her PETTY issues. Her timing SUCKED. she really must have hated him.

He loved her so much that he thought about a future with her - children with her- but he wasn't selfish enough to think that it was possible because he knew that she still had a lifetime ahead of her. He CARED enough about her to think of HER needs and she didn't even LIKE him enough to make sure he was safe. And then, she has the freaking gall to pop in (while he is STILL in the clothes with blood on them) and give him his things and say "See ya". And then she left to go back to HIS HOUSE. What a bitch. A selfish, spoiled, uncaring horrible person. Unbelievable.

I was trying to think if I ever remembered Atticus crying? We all know that he has had so many things happen to him in his lifetime; he has lost so many people that he loved and cared about and he has had to deal with pain regularly, but she hurt him. Badly. He cried for her, for what she did to him. And then she had

the audacity to say "maybe later things will be different" Who the hell does she think she is? No fuc***g way!

Ugh, I could go on, but I am even irritating myself. If my family or my kids saw this post they would be in shock. I do not cuss...at all, ever. But, for some reason I can not even think of words that are strong enough for what I am feeling. I truly am even shocking myself.

In retrospect, Kevin Hearne has done a really great job as a writer if he can invoke such feelings from me with his characters. I guess that in these past few years, that I have developed a great sense of admiration for Atticus and his trials and tribulations. I respect him and love the relationship that he has with those he cares about - especially Oberon. I suppose that my feelings of hurt came out of the blue and I was hurt FOR Atticus. That - when it comes right down to it - is the result of a great writer who has developed an even greater character. I will miss the two of them (Atticus and Oberon) I will also say that if Mr. Hearne ever does decide to write a continuation of their story, or even a novella...DON'T YOU DARE INCLUDE GRANUAILE! I for one, will never forgive those actions and I would hope that if there is any future, it shows how Atticus was able to overcome the atrocities that were done to him and ends up with an even better life than he ever had before. That would be the greatest revenge.

♥Rachel♥ says

[worried things between Atticus and Granuaile weren't going well and then this is what she does? Way to kick a guy when he's down. I know Atticus made a huge mistake with Freya, but people make mistakes! I hope he finds someone who'll be happy to start a family with him and raise little Druids in the future and then Granuaile realizes what she missed out on. She can rot in hell for all I care! (hide spoiler)]

Sanemary says

I thoroughly enjoyed the Druid series but I am afraid Scourged left me cold. The final Ragnarok battle felt totally disjointed and jumbled. Whilst the main character did warrant some payback for some of his decisions in earlier books the various outcomes were at the same time unexpected and overkill.

Overall the entire book felt like the author was running out of steam and was trying to gather up all the loose ends and finalise each one in what turned out a very amateurish fashion.

I think his mind must have been more focused on getting his new book series off the ground rather than bringing the Druid series to a better and more polished conclusion.

Very disappointed both that the series ended and that it ended in such a fashion, the Druid deserved more!

Chris Evans says

[

1. Midgardsormr - Kills 2 sheep and then gets one shotted by Lacksha.
2. Surtur - One shotted by ice

Lyn says

And so it ends.

For now at least.

Kevin Hearne wraps up his very entertaining Iron Druid series nicely, binding together the myriad strands of myth, legend and urban fantasy that made this all so fun. Like all the others, Hearne's underlying humor, some of it corny, was also in good form and for the most part, this was one of the better stories.

Ragnarok has come down on us from the old Norse myths and Atticus and his confederacy of Norse, Celtic, Fae and other pantheons team up to put Loki and Hel back in their place.

Beginning with a summary of the story up to this point, touching on the high points of the earlier books and shorter works, Hearne begins his tale with Atticus, Granuaile and Owen all over the globe handling this international and otherworldly event. Rounding up help for the epic clash was a big part of the first part of the book and in doing so, Hearne revisited many of the series most memorable and intriguing characters. This almost had the feel of the last Seinfeld episode, and there was almost even an allusion to the soup Nazi (but that could also just be me casting my own thoughts on a scene).

I've really enjoyed the series, Hearne's writing and his imagination. He's done a lot for the urban / contemporary fantasy sub-genre and has become one of my favorite authors. Is it really the end?

Say it ain't so!

Peter says

A fun romp, with an ending like a punch in the gut. I miss these books so much already.

Joshua Gluck says

What the heck happened to this series? I've looked at the earlier books, and they're so good... Is Mr. Hearne even writing this? Has the person who's writing this read the earlier books?

Where are the Gun wielding Draugar from book 5? Fand's rebellion, a MAIN hidden plot thread of an entire 2-3 book arc (remember Atticus almost dying to a Manticore?, the issues with Pandamonium?), is fixed by having a chair destroyed. That's it. All she wanted is a chair destroyed. What the hell? And now she's dead, so we don't even deal with that.

Owen's sections were good. The rest was a disturbing mix of complete childishness (Oberon's sections were good comic relief, but now there's entire chapters devoted to trips to the store to make the dogs a special

meal, as opposed to a paragraph or two), and odd SJW preaching (seriously, the hell summoner in Poland is a very angry Pimpled teenager, and it's good he's dead because he'll be happier that way than alive?)

If you told me another author wrote books 6-9, I would believe you.

Tim says

Save for the introduction, this story is not fun and my least favorite to date. 3 of 10 stars

Jessica ? says

[I've read many reviews of people upset at Granuaile for breaking up with Atticus.

A few thoughts:

1) you are always allowed to walk away from the person you are dating, especially when you realize that there is a fundamental, insurmountable difference in the way you see things. Th
