



The Exile

C.T. Adams

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A shocking magical assault on her home reveals to Brianna that her father, High King Liu of the Fae, is under attack. With the help of her gargoyle, Pug, her friend David, and Angelo, a police detective who doesn't believe in magic, Brianna recovers what was stolen from her and becomes an unwilling potential heir to the throne.

A suspenseful urban fantasy with a hint of romance, *The Exile* is the first solo novel by C. T. Adams, who is half of *USA Today* bestselling author Cat Adams. Like the Cat Adams Blood Singer novels, *The Exile* is set in a world where magic is real and contains Adams's trademark blend of suspense, action, humor, and strongly emotional writing.

The Exile Details

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Author : C.T. Adams

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From Reader Review The Exile for online ebook

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I have a major weakness when it comes to faes so when I saw the novel, I was immediately intrigued. All this was confirmed as soon as I started reading it and when I was completely swept away by the story.

I was a little surprised at first because the format is a little different from what is usually found in urban fantasy. Indeed, we follow here the POV of several characters moving around Brianna, though she remains central and recurring in the history compared to the others. I was a bit scared to see that we were left with a lot of characters without really connecting them, but this is not the case at all in this novel. Even if we follow different persons, especially Nick, Liu, and Brianna, it helps us understanding everything, especially as they advance together in the early chapters.

Brianna is a princess, the daughter of the king of the fae, but her half-human side has always set her slightly back from her siblings, especially when we know that her mother was considered as a criminal in this parallel world. This is also why the young woman lives among humans and avoids all the political shenanigans. Alas, her world will change when she finds herself attacked in her home by a variety of pixies. Accompanied by her best friend David and his brother Nick (who does not really believe in magic), our three protagonists will go in Faery to realize that troubles are just beginning. Yes, as the veil between the worlds only allows partly human individuals to go through, faes can not kidnap anyone as they used to. But the arrival of Nick and David will raise many desires and it will be very difficult for Brianna to manage all the problems it generates. But in addition to this, our heroine will also have to face the consequences of a big change: it seems that her latest actions have placed her on the list of possible heirs to the throne, something she did not really want. Political intrigues, conspiracies, betrayals, are present here.

I really enjoyed Brianna! This is a girl who really loves her father and she is willing to do anything to help the people she cares of. She is strong and courageous, but she is not really interested in becoming a sovereign. No, she only hopes to live a quiet life away from everything. Alas, it seems that all this seems impossible when on her way home, she finds herself in the midst of a political intrigue. I also loved to discover more about the faes, although eventually we still have a lot to understand as how this world is truly governed. We learn a little bit about Brianna's past and what she had endured to get there. Liu, the king, is an interesting protagonist to discover because of his different facets, the father and the king often compete.

But as I said, we also follow Nick... Ah Nick... We feel that there is an attraction between the two characters and at the same time there is no time for anything, I'm curious to see if we feel something more present in the next volumes. The only things that disturbed me a little are all the stories with the police in the human world. I admit that I had trouble seeing why Brianna was the suspect, and why everyone was interested in her that way, but this is ultimately a detail.

In any case, I had a great time with this novel. We have a good introduction to the series. It takes us from the first chapter and we're pleased until the end. I am now very curious to read more to find out the next Brianna's actions, especially after such a purpose. A very good story to discover!

Dianne says

If you love reading about the Fae that you find in the Merry Gentry series by Laurell Hamilton but would prefer no sex...at least so far - you are in for a treat with this book. The worlds are quite similar. So is some of the story-line. The exception is that there is no Dark Court and no Light Court – there is only one Sidhe High court and High King, but there are the other types of Fae that we've come to understand from other books. The romance is very much lacking in this first book, but there is plenty of action to take your mind off of that aspect.

There are also vast differences in the two series also; besides the lack of sex. I'm thinking that with this first book, this series is going to be just a tad better also. Then again, you never know just how something will turn out.

This book deals with several story lines at one time and it is told through several points of view. This is a little different than I am used to, but I really liked hearing about the different situations right from the 'horse's mouth' shall we say! It is interesting to hear what Nick, a human who has come to Faerie sort of by accident has to say about what is going on around him.

Speaking of Nick, a human policeman – he is probably the shakiest aspect of this story and his character isn't as fleshed out as some of the others. It is clear though, that as he gets a bigger part in this series, we will be learning more about him and his brother David.

I had no problems immersing myself into this book once I got past the prologue and first chapter...as a matter of fact, I just could not put it down; to use a horrid old cliché!

This is a quick wonderful read, one that ends on a bit of a cliff hanger. I certainly cannot wait for the next book in this series.

Derek says

This is so not my usual sort of reading, but I won it from Tor.com, so it cost nothing to try.

It's paranormal romance, but light on the romance. (the blurb says "urban fantasy", but I hate that tag for novels where there's little to nothing "urban" about it).

Brianna Hai is, of course, the daughter of a faerie king. So, fairly predictable but quite entertaining.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy.

Though the beginning is a bit rocky, THE EXILE is a fast-paced race of a book, full of twists and turns and a great new world to explore. From the great cover which drew me in to the last chapter, I delighted in this book and am so thrilled it's a new series I get to follow.

THE EXILE is one of those types of books that takes a little effort to really get into, but once you're in, you're sucked into the world completely. Told from quite a few points of view, it takes a little time to really start to feel the rhythm of the book, but once familiar with the characters, it isn't hard to follow along and really start to experience the story with them. Brianna is a great main character, with her handy gargoyle protector and half-human/half-fae heritage that causes her all sorts of trouble. She's one of those characters that you can't decide if you want to root for what she wants, or for what you think she could become, if she stopped denying her power.

Twisty and turny, THE EXILE has a few moments that felt like a punch to the stomach, but it never felt like anything was being done for pure shock value. The twists still propelled the plot forward and made sense in the story. I loved the intrigue and the mystery of the fae court, and how the reader is given just enough information about certain aspects to leave them wanting more.

All in all, a very well written, fun book, THE EXILE is a great start to a series, one that I hope follows up on the promises made in this first book. I know I am looking forward to see where Adams takes Brianna and all the other characters next in their journey, and can't wait for book two of The Fae to come out!

Sexual content: References to sex

Lynn says

Today's post is on The Exile by C. T. Adams. It is 318 pages long and is publicized by TOR. It is the first in her The Fae series. The cover has the main character in looking at the reader with another character in the background. The intended reader is someone who likes urban fantasy and good writing. There is some language, no sex, and violence in this book. The story is told from third person close of the different characters moving as needed from chapter to chapter. There Be Spoilers Ahead.

From the back of the book- Brianna Hai runs an occult shop that sells useless trinkets to tourists—and real magic supplies to witches and warlocks. The magical painting that hangs in Brianna's apartment is the last portal between the fae and human worlds.

A shocking magical assault on her home reveals to Brianna that her father, High King Liu of the Fae, is under attack. With the help of her gargoyle, Pug, her friend David, and Angelo, a police detective who doesn't believe in magic, Brianna recovers what was stolen from her and becomes an unwilling potential heir to the throne.

A suspenseful urban fantasy with a hint of romance, The Exile is the first solo novel by C. T. Adams, who is half of USA Today bestselling author Cat Adams. Like the Cat Adams Blood Singer novels, The Exile is set in a world where magic is real and contains Adams's trademark blend of suspense, action, humor, and strongly emotional writing.

Review- An interesting and fast-paced urban fantasy. Adams puts her own spin on all things classically

urban fantasy and magic. I liked it a lot. Brianna is a good heroine, she is not dumb, she knows her weaknesses, and she is not afraid to do whatever it takes. I like that in this volume there is no romance. I can see where one could have happened but not in this volume. Everything about the Fae and other urban fantasies, put them out of your head. Adams makes this all her own. The fight scenes are interesting and fast-paced. In fact everything is fast paced with this novel. I cannot wait for the second novel to see where this is going.

I give this book a Five out of Five stars. I get nothing for my review and I borrowed this book from my local library.

Pure Textuality says

I have never read a Cat Adams book, but we used to have a reviewer on the PT team who LOVED the writing duo. So, when I saw that one half of the duo, C.T. Adams, had written her first solo book, I decided to give it a try. And I was not disappointed! I have no frame of reference for comparison, so I can't tell you if *The Exile* was anything like the writing style of Cat Adams, though.

From a technicality front, *The Exile* was very well written. The story line was thought out in great detail and woven together perfectly. The main character is strong while still maintaining femininity. The supporting cast consists of many different characters who all have great personalities. With the exception of a minor hiccup in the beginning (which I will get into in a minute), the pacing is perfect. All around, the writing was tight. I was very impressed!

The only thing I had trouble with was the start of the book felt a little choppy. That being said, I find that with a LOT of series first installments, to the point that I kind of expect it. First installments require a lot of world building for the readers. Once that world building is done, the story is free to just flow. I think in a lot of cases, that takes away from the story a bit, but I don't feel it did in this case. Even with the building of the background, C.T. Adams still managed to move the story forward at the same time. It just has a couple of rough spots at the beginning. Once the story really starts to flow, it takes right off.

Overall, I felt *The Exile* was an excellent start to a new series! I am really looking forward to reading more of Brianna and seeing where the story takes her.

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

3.5 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.com/2015/03/29/b...>

C.T. Adams has written books as Cat Adams, a dual-partnership writing team with Cathy Clamp. I've never read anything by either author before, so I was looking forward to starting out with Ms. Adams' first solo full-length novel *The Exile*, especially since I love stories about the fae.

The protagonist Brianna Hai lives a double life as necessitated by her own very nature. By day the half-human, half-fae young woman runs an occult shop selling innocent knickknacks to tourists, while hanging in her home is a magical painting which acts as a portal between our real world and the world of the faerie. As

the daughter of High King Leu of Fae, Brianna enjoyed a childhood living amongst the wonders and delights of her father's realm until her mother, a powerful human witch, changed the Veil that separated the worlds. All crossings between them are now governed by a new set of strict rules.

One day an unexpected attack by doxies on her apartment lands Brianna and her colleague David and his brother Nick back in Leu's court, where she also discovers that her father may be in trouble. Having spent most of her life living as a human, Brianna is unused to the dangers of Fae politics, but she'll have to deal with them in order to bring herself and her friends safely home.

This was a great book; I loved the story. However, from a technical standpoint, I stumbled a little with the writing.

The Exile will wow readers with a luscious, excitement filled plot. There's very little downtime as we're ushered from scene to scene, and something important happens in every one. The book is also filled with rich, beautiful descriptions of the Fae world, everything from the surroundings of King Leu's palace and the huge variety of different fae that live in his magical domain, right down to the finest details about what the court lords and ladies wear and to the decadent food they eat. I seriously loved this.

I also enjoyed the characters and was impressed with Brianna most of all. The author paints a very unique picture of the fae, but at its heart they are still the conniving tricksters that make their stories such a delight. Being able to survive their world of ruthless politics and backstabbing is no mean feat, but Brianna manages to navigate this quagmire with aplomb. Despite being rusty in her knowledge of the ways and traditions of the fae, she's frequently able to use her quick thinking and resourcefulness to get out of trouble.

The writing itself was what I struggled with most of all, along with the pacing of the story. Simply put, too much happens much too quickly, and not exactly in a way that's desirable. The plot elements and the events in the timeline feel disjointed, particularly because there are so many character perspectives and so many point-of-view changes, all within a relatively short period of time. This gives the book an aura of confused, disorganized energy. Stylistically, there's also something about Adams' prose that I find distracting. I get jarred out of my immersion when I come across passages like:

“Nick didn't consider himself overly modest, but he had never particularly liked being naked in front of strangers...”

Apparently, Nick has had plenty of experience to be naked in front of strangers...or it sounded that way in context, at least. Also, I imagine not too many people do, so I find his musing sort of unnecessary. Another example:

“Ulrich's voice sounded strained and strange.”

Strained AND strange? I imagine the former would already suggest the latter. Little redundancies like this along with other instances of awkward phrasing gave me pause and stalled my reading somewhat.

That said, overall The Exile was a pretty good read. It's entertaining and grabbed my attention right away, which is by far the most important criterion, especially considering that it's the first installment of a series. It's an urban fantasy, but to me it also feels very different from the usual standard UF fare. The way things are going, I believe these books will go above and beyond simply chronicling the main character's life and her immediate interactions and surroundings. Instead, the world-building feels very important too, and the narrative seems just as focused on the bigger picture. To me that means future plot developments will

probably surprise us with large scale repercussions for both the human and fae worlds.

I'm definitely planning on sticking around to see what happens next.

Nafiza says

A scene where a POC kid is killed by an officer and the officer has a monologue about how he is going to be 'pilloried' by the press. Call me too sensitive but I felt that this scene trivializes the very real racial struggle currently going on in America. I wasn't enjoying the book too much beforehand and now I am completely shoved out of the narrative. A DNF for me.

Jessica ✶ ▷ Silverbow ▷ ✶ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

3.5 stars

So. THE EXILE got off to a bit of a rocky start for me.

Actually, that's not true. The very, *very* beginning was excellent. There was a truly spectacular prologue involving the High King of the Fae and this really cool Fates/triple-faced goddess mashup person . . .

YES. That *does* sound awesome, doesn't it?

BUT. Between the awesome prologue and the first 7 chapters, there were 7 POV changes, and 6 different POVs.

That's a lot. Even for me, and I'm used to the multiple and frequent changes in perspective that come with reading high fantasy.

Then there was this weird altercation with the High King (Leu) and some pixies . . .

We come in after it's over and a multitude of pixy corpses and one dead guard are on the ground. Leu's friend (a DRAGON) shows up, and almost immediately, Leu is attacked *again*, this time by High Fae, with the pixies fighting on his behalf.

So the pixies attack Leu, he kills them, then he's attacked AGAIN, but this time they're all on the same team?

Ummm . . .?

To be fair, some kind of discussion transpired between Leu and the surviving pixies between battles, but it took place so quickly that the transference of allegiances was unclear, and then, "Oh no, more assassins!" so we're forced to just roll with the punches.

I don't like rolling with the punches.

I like to have a clear understanding of what is going on and why.

Not confusing but still aggravating were the numerous asinine detailings of random and ordinary car-type things:

He hit the button to unlock it and climbed behind the wheel, shivering a little. The temperature had dropped with the sunset, Starting the engine, he turned the defroster all the way to high so that it would clear the fog from the windows as it heated the cabin.

There were several other drawn-out, worthless car-thing descriptions, as well as numerous throwaway comments about car alarms beeping in time with flashing brake lights and the like, AND WHO THE HELL BLOODY CARES?!

Stranger still were the awkward metaphors like, "Shaking herself like a dog shedding water," and the use of dated jargon like, "She was one tough customer." The love interest restrains himself from "giggling" b/c it would be "very unmanly." *rolls eyes*

BUT.

It wasn't all bad. It wasn't even mostly bad, and once Adams found her groove, the distracting and unnecessary details, the inelegant turns of phrase, and jarring changes in perspective became fewer and further between.

One of the things I like most about new series is trying to figure out who the bad guy is. Only this is a Fae-based series, so they're pretty much ALL bad guys, and you have to figure out who the WORST guy is.
throws head back and laughs maniacally

LOVE it.

There were several especially interesting characters, my favorite being one of Brianna's many half-sisters, a full-blooded Fae who lets her other brothers and sisters believe she's as dimwitted as her lovely, but less-than-clever mother had been, and for once that type of behavior is okay, b/c it's about survival.

The various types of trolls and other lesser Fae have a lot of potential too, and if it strikes you as an unlikely coincidence that Bri, a half human who doesn't look down her nose at them, is the most attractive choice of leader for those scorned and often mistreated Fae, LKH is listed as one of Adams' favorite authors on her blog page.

Overall, THE EXILE by C.T. Adams is a satisfactory start to my FAEvorite type of Urban Fantasy series. Full of plotting and scheming High Fae, a variety of clever, bloodthirsty trolls, and kittens in need of rescue from BBQ-happy doxies, this first installment of THE FAE will ensure that you stick around for the next chapter. Recommended.

Author interview here (if you're interested): <http://rabidreads.ca/2015/03/author-i...>

Henry Herz says

Brianna Hai is a Fae princess, living a relatively normal life on the human side of The Veil to avoid the politics and dangers of Sidhe court intrigue. But Brianna and her human (and gargoyle) friends soon find themselves embroiled in the very power struggles she sought to avoid.

Like Brianna, readers will find themselves sucked in to Faerie - but in a good way. You won't be able to put this book down. Author C.T. Adams does a fine job taking the creatures and tropes of urban fantasy, and putting her own enjoyable spin on them. Readers will want to cross the veil to meet Sidhe, gargoyles, pixies, doxies, and the other creatures. Who wouldn't want a loyal gargoyle friend?

There were a couple of plot choices that seemed unsupported (Why does her dryad friend betray her? Why do the doxies choose to steal cats from a Fae princess?). But these were minor, and did not stop me from enjoying the nuanced, likeable characters and the hold-onto-your-hat adventure. "The Exile" is a fully textured and fast-paced urban fantasy that can proudly stand on bookshelves right next to *The Iron Druid*, *Weather Warden*, and *The Dresden Files* series.

Stacy says

Brianna is half fae, half human and lives in the human world away from the politics of court. She isn't on the list of potential heirs to the thrown, but has had a few run ins with people trying to kill her anyways and she really doesn't get along with most fae, so she stays away from the Fae world. That is until someone decides to attack her home, which sends her into Fae to recover what was stolen from her. Even though she is careful not to break any rules, it draws her back into the politics she doesn't want to deal with and also puts her on the list of potential heirs even though she wants nothing to do with it.

I really enjoyed getting to know the world of The Fae series. I enjoyed the characters and I enjoyed the storyline. There was a wide array of different types of fae introduced and I liked learning about the political implications behind everything Brianna said and did. I am not a huge fan of switching POV's, so the constant switching between a lot of different people kinda bugged me and there were a few small scenes I didn't really 'get'. Those were not deal breakers though.

There is a LOT of hinting and romantic vibes going on between Brianna and Angelo, but nothing comes of it. Granted a LOT is going on, but I have a feeling that future books might have them together. Not sure why else the hints would have been included. Fingers crossed it isn't a dead end there. I think they would go well together.

Although *THE EXILE*'s ending is a bit cliffhanger-ish, it definitely has me excited to read more from this series. I want to know how Brianna manages to pull everything together, I want to know how the Fae majority reacts, I just want to read more. *THE EXILE* is a great start to a new series from C.T. Adams.

* This book was provided free of charge from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Kristen says

I loved absolutely everything about this book, and can't wait for future installments in this series!

The first and best thing about this book is Brianna. Not only is she a strong, smart female lead character, she is a good person too. When you are a member of the royal family of Faerie, that is no small feat, and it upped Bri several notches for me as a character I can connect to and love.

I also liked the take of the author on the version of the Fae world she created. It is well in line with much of other representations of Faerie, but it has some unique aspects that I found quite intriguing and compelling. I won't give too much detail to avoid any unwitting spoilers, but suffice it to say if you read a lot about Faerie, you will find a nice combination of the familiar, and some new aspects - a nice approach that makes for an entertaining read.

I liked that there are some Fae species that we don't often see included as major characters, and they have plenty of opportunity to kick ass. This book is filled with action and suspense, also some violence [but nothing that should bother you or be out of line if you read much in the urban fantasy/suspense genre].

The book has a nice combination of action and character development and emotional situations. Since I like both in a paranormal story, this was an easy five-star rating for me. I loved the way the characters all had greys - very little black and white in this - and have to make hard choices in which there are no easy outs, or perfect outcomes. It makes the characters feel more multi-faceted and real, and therefore more relatable.

My only complaint - but it's a small one - is the fact that we're sort of left with a cliffhanger at the end. The plot in this book *kind of* wraps up, but it's obvious there's some big-ass shit coming in book two. All I have to do is wait for it to come out to find out what that will be.

Super read. Highly recommended for those who like the Fae, paranormals in general, and urban fantasy with lots of action and tough women as characters.

Suzanne Johnson says

Loved this book's portrayal of Faerie and the different kinds of allies (and enemies) of the fae. Great characters and storyline. My only downside was that the ending felt rushed. A LOT left dangling to resolve in the next book. Hope we don't have a long wait--it'll definitely go to the top of my TBR pile.

Ezinwanyi says

I was pleasantly surprised because I normally don't care for Fae stories. This was interesting and a good start to a series.

Brianna Hai is the half human half fae princess of King Liu but she lived in the human realm as her fae siblings were constantly trying to eliminate her as a possible heir to their father's throne. Brianna's mother escaped to the human realm and they opened up a store selling antiques and other various trinkets. All of sudden Brianna starts getting attacked by pixies and then a powerful fae comes and tries to glamour her.

Brianna's time on the sidelines of fae politics came to a screeching halt. Brianna proceeded to show her half siblings and the fae world that she wasn't wallflower they thought she was.

Brianna enlisted the aid of her best friend David and her trusted gargoyle Pug go to Faery to figure out what's going on with her father's court and how she could help King Liu with the civil war. Meanwhile David's brother, Nick, has been approached by the FBI to investigate Brianna and find out what's going on in her story as the law enforcement officials think the store is a front for an illegal enterprise.

This is a new author for me and I enjoyed Marguerite Gavin's narration. She is one of my favorites so the audiobook was a treat. Her tone and delivery gave just the right touch of femininity and strength. I will admit there was a lot of alternating POVs. It was a bit excessive, but I was able to follow the story despite that. It was a good foundation book, because it wasn't an information dump as many authors often do with book 1 of a new series. There was enough information given to satisfy my curiosity and enough left over so that I am interested in continuing on to book 2. If you enjoy political intrigue, betrayals and a tiny hint of romance, then you will enjoy this one.

Denisa says

Too many POV (6, 7 at one point); Confusing plot.
