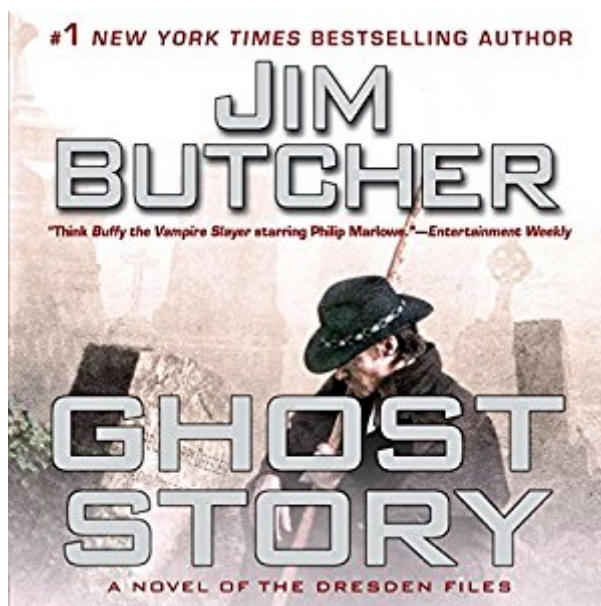


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Ghost Story: A Novel Of The Dresden Files



Synopsis

When an unknown someone shoots him and leaves him to die, Harry Dresden hopes he might be heading to a better place. Unfortunately being dead doesn't make Harry's life any easier. Trapped between life and death, he learns that his friends are in serious trouble. Only by finding his murderer can he save his friends and move on - a feat that would be a lot easier if he had a body and access to his powers. Worse still are the malevolent shadows that roam Chicago, controlled by a dark entity that wants Harry to suffer even in death. Now the late Harry Dresden will have to pull off the ultimate trick without using any magic - or face an eternity as just another lost soul....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a pretty good one. I appreciate that Jim Butcher tore down his whole series and did something completely different. I loved a scene near the beginning of the book, where a non-Dresden character. That was probably the most badass fight in the series so far. However, the book got extremely repetitive at times, especially during the memory sequences. A lot of the book felt like filler, or like it was a series of vignettes cobbled together. I find it hard to remember exactly what was even going on, and I literally just finished reading the book. I liked it enough to give a good rating, but is this the best Dresden Files book so far? No. Really, no.

This book really does read as a sort of intermission between *Changes* and *Cold Days*, which is what I'd heard it described as before I read it. It ties up a lot of loose ends that have been

dangling for a while and elaborates on quite a few pieces of Harry's backstory that have, until this point, been largely glossed over or discussed in implications only. That being said, I didn't think this was a bad installment of the series. Like usual, there was plenty of action and a fairly complex plot line that brought back previous villains in interesting, new ways. And while there were frequent lulls in the plot, unlike some of Butcher's tighter-plotted books, they didn't go on so long that I totally lost interest. There was some great character development, from major and minor characters alike, and it was cool to watch how a number of characters' roles changed in response to major events. I will be honest, though: I was more excited to get to the end of this book so I could read *Changes* than I was to really read this book simply because it did feel like a bit of a breather between two high-impact installments of the series. Not that I think it should be cut or skipped. Not at all. It definitely contains a lot of important information both for wrapping up previous events and for foreshadowing what comes next, and it does have quite a bit of merit as its own story. So, not quite as exciting as the usual Dresden Files novel, but it still makes for a good read.

Alas. Even though the last third (or so) of Jim Butcher's "Ghost Story" is absolutely wonderful (well-written, interesting, nicely paced, emotionally satisfying), the first two thirds is badly marred. All the pacing is entirely disrupted by pages and pages, over and over again, of reflection, introspection, and re-capitis. Given the subject matter of the book, I guess much of the reflection and introspection is understandable. But, the re-capitis is beyond belief. Every time Dresden meets an old, familiar character in the book; every time he visits an old, familiar place; every time he performs an old, familiar action; every time he thinks an old, familiar thought; every time he contemplates an old familiar philosophy; every time he does anything he's been doing for all the previous dozen books, there's a re-cap. And, not just a one- or two-liner. Paragraphs and pages worth. It just cripples the book. So, Jim: this is the 13th book in the series. No one is going to pick up this book and start reading it without having read the earlier books. Even with the re-caps, they'd get nothing out of it. Stop with the re-caps. If you must, put a summary in the Forward and include a list of important characters and places. But, please, for the love of all that's holy, stop hobbling your wonderful stories with these interruptions. If the whole book had been written like the last third, I'd have been heart-broken to only rate it at an Excellent 5 stars out of 5. But, as it is, I'm sorry that I have to actually rate it at merely an OK 3 stars out of 5. A vital book. But, truly a good story, marred. The novels in Jim Butcher's "Dresden Files" are: 1. *Storm Front* (The Dresden Files, Book 1) 2. *Fool Moon* (The Dresden Files, Book 2) 3. *Grave Peril*: Book three of The Dresden

Files4.Â Summer Knight: Book four of The Dresden Files5.Â Death Masks: Book five of The Dresden Files: 56.Â Blood Rites: Book six of The Dresden Files7.Â Dead Beat: A Novel of The Dresden Files8.Â Proven Guilty (The Dresden Files, Book 8)9.Â White Night (The Dresden Files, Book 9)10.Â Small Favor: A Novel of the Dresden Files11. Turn Coat: A Novel of the Dresden Files12. Changes: A Novel of the Dresden Files13. Ghost Story: A Novel of the Dresden Files14. Cold Days: A Novel of the Dresden Files

This is not a bad book and it certainly brings a new and fresh story and angle into the Dresden universe. Harry is, as you can read in the book blurb, dead and now roams around as a ghost. Unfortunately I have to say that I liked the old live version of Harry Dresden better. Harry has none of his magical powers in this book and, to me, this is a real negative point. A lot of the world around him, the real world, have gone down the drain and on the whole the ambiance of this book is much more sad and depressing. There are plenty of action and plenty of new enemies which is what keep the book going but Harry is mostly a spectator while other people are doing the fighting for him. Again something that I have to say I was not too pleased with. The majority of the book is spent on Harry trying to figure out who killed him by trying to persuade the various people who can, if not see so, at least hear him. It got boring fairly quickly though. The biggest positive point with this book (a bit of a spoiler ahead) is the ending which hints that Harry will be back in the saddle again in future stories.

Again, Dresden goes where you really hadn't expected!! The featured characters were a different mix than prior books and the self narrative was a primary tool. This story is darker and a little sad, with less of the urban hero bravado of before. Must have been a real challenge to write such a transitional piece. Looking forward to the next installment.

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