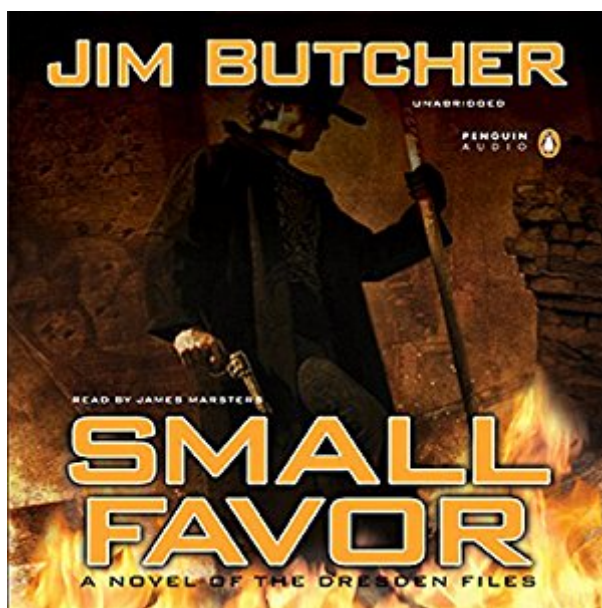


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Small Favor: The Dresden Files, Book 10



Synopsis

In this novel in Jim Butcher's #1 New York Times bestselling series, an old debt puts Chicago wizard Harry Dresden in harms way...Harry's life finally seems to be calming down. The White Council's war with the vampiric Red Court is easing up, no one's tried to kill him lately, and his eager apprentice is starting to learn real magic. For once, the future looks fairly bright. But the past casts one hell of a long shadow. Mab, monarch of the Sidhe Winter Court, calls in an old favor from Harry. Just one small favor he can't refuse...one that will trap Harry Dresden between a nightmarish foe and an equally deadly ally, and one that will strain his skills and loyalties to their very limits. And everything was going so well for once... --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I so wanted to give TURN COAT, the 11th installment of the highly acclaimed Dresden Files series, four stars. Why? For one thing, Harry is back on the deserted island in Lake Michigan where we found him in the last volume, forcing me to ask: Can't we find another setting? For another, Harry is given some serious motivation following the death of a character that we never got to know in the previous ten installments. (Who is this guy?) And finally, we spin in a new Senior Council character we've never met before--only to have him vetted out as the traitor Harry has been looking for in countless previous volumes; this was a tactical cheap device that to me, rang hollow. But in the end, TURN COAT still gets an enthusiastic five stars, because nobody can face insurmountable odds--all while keeping his razor-sharp quips at the ready--than gum shoe wizard Harry Dresden. The

Dresden Files is a study in irony, and here, in TURN COAT, irony abounds. Morgan, the White Council Warden who has been Harry's nemesis in several previous volumes, arrives at Harry's doorstep, near death, pleading for Harry to conceal him. Morgan is a wanted man; he's been accused of murdering a member of the Senior Council in cold blood--literally caught standing over the corpse with the murder weapon--but Morgan maintains his innocence, and claims he was framed by the White Council traitor, whoever that may be. Inexplicably, Harry believes Morgan, and with the aid of Molly, his apprentice, conceals Morgan, and utilizes his investigative abilities to search for the traitor. Meanwhile, the traitor has unleashed a skinwalker on Chicago, a demon with almost godlike powers. This leads to the ultimate showdown on the island referenced above, between the skinwalker and countless minions summoned from the Nevernever by Binder, another shady character, vs Harry and a handful of Senior Council members. Needless to say, it's a showdown for the ages, allowing us to learn that Indian Joe, a Senior Council member we've met only slightly in previous installments, is one very special magical presence. And following this battle, back at Senior Council headquarters, the traitor is finally revealed. Like all the other installments, TURN COAT is action-packed, from the first page until the last. And Harry, although he's matured greatly since the first volume, is never going to take dire situations seriously. He may be facing an onrushing pack of ghouls, but he's never going to lose his sense of humor. Other characters we've come to know in other volumes make appearances here, including Thomas, Karrin Murphy, Ebenezar, Luccio, and Lara Wraith. We're even left with somewhat of a cliffhanger between brothers Thomas and Harry. Yes, I had a few issues with this installment, but TURN COAT was just too action-packed to to knock off a star. At this point, there are only a handful of Dresden Files volumes left in this series; after reading TURN COAT, I can't wait to devour them. ~D. Mikels, Esq.

Wizard Harry Dresden has a major problem: He owes Mab, the manipulative fairy Queen of the Winter Court, a couple of favors. And in the dead of winter during a brutal snowstorm, Mab comes calling to cash in on a favor: Rescue mobster kingpin Johnny Marcone from his unknown kidnappers--kidnappers with enough supernatural powers to destroy Marcone's near-impenetrable safe house. Enlisting the aid of his brother, Thomas, Karrin Murphy of the Chicago PD, Michael and Sanya, the remaining two Knights of the Cross, Molly, his eager apprentice, Anastasia Luccio, the Dean of the White Council Wardens, the Archive, the human retainer of all knowledge, and Kincaid, a deadly mercenary, Harry embarks on a remarkable series of adventures--against some very nasty bad guys--to rescue Marcone. His exploits fill the pages of SMALL FAVOR, the tenth installment of Jim Butcher's fun-filled Dresden Files fantasy series. To fully appreciate SMALL FAVOR, it is vital

the reader has read *Death Masks*, the 5th volume of this series. It is in this novel the reader is introduced to Nicodemus and his lethal gang of Denarians--demons who possess some of the thirty ounces of silver once given to Judas for his betrayal. Nicodemus and his ilk wield enormous power; they're the most difficult adversaries Harry does battle with. And when the Denarians' ultimate plans are revealed (they want to kidnap the Archive and make her take a silver coin), Harry and his allies wage some serious battles--from Chicago's train station, to the Windy City's Oceanarium, to a remote island in the vast expanse of frigid Lake Michigan. All the while, Harry must deal with some agents from the Summer Court of Fairies sent to interfere with his task--primarily a series of Gruffs (supernatural Billy Goats). At more than 500 pages, *SMALL FAVOR* is a lightning fast read--and one of the best volumes in this remarkable franchise. Why? Because of the whirling vortex of subplots, including a budding romance with Luccio, sexual tension with Karrin, a life-threatening injury, and Harry's ongoing suspicion that some of the members of the White Council are in an unholy alliance with evil. Yet through it all, Harry never loses his self-deprecating humor ("Oh, look," he quips to Karrin upon observing a sleeping Kincaid, "he's got a teddy Glock."). Harry may be facing a snarling pack of Denarians, but he's never going to take matters seriously. There's always an off-the-cuff quip at the ready. The action starts from the first page and never lets up; Butcher has a knack for telling a fast-paced tale that never takes its foot off the gas. *SMALL FAVOR* will reward fans of the Dresden Files series with a grand, exciting read, and entice them to be looking forward to the next installment. ~D. Mikels, Esq.

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