



Guards of Haven

Simon R. Green

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He's Hawk. She's Fisher. They're cops, patrolling the mean streets of the ancient city misnamed Haven, a sinister place where demons, thieves, sorcerers, and murderers own the night and anything can be bought-except justice.

Guards of Haven Details

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Author : Simon R. Green

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Sarah says

As always, Simon R Green delivers a strong fantasy book, tightly written, continuing the adventures of Hawk and Fisher. A recommended read for any fan of action series; or of his *Nightside* series - its clear that Haven, esp. the Northside, was inspiration for many settings and characters of the Nightside.

Catherine says

Although somewhat gory in parts, I like these books for their sarcastic humour and the love shown one another by the two main characters, Hawk and Fisher. All the stories are also murder mysteries, and quite twisty ones which were difficult to figure out before the answers were provided.

So, I would recommend these only to people who enjoy supernatural mysteries, with plenty of gore, and a leavening of humour.

Niels says

This is really three novels rolled into one book. This book covers the adventures of Hawk and Fisher, a husband and wife team of City Guard captains in the City of Haven. Together they are the two toughest and the most honest guards in the city. Since this was originally published as three separate books, you will find the same descriptions of the characters early on in the book (Hawk is dark and no longer handsome and Fisher is tall and more handsome than beautiful), that is my only real complaint about the book. Other than that, this is fun, fast-paced fantasy in a pseudo medieval city.

Karen Desmond says

4

Brian Turner says

I'd forgotten about this book until I was digging deeper through my bookshelf the other day.

Hawk & Fisher are guards in the city of Haven, patrolling the North Side, which happens to be the nastiest and dirtiest part of an already nasty and dirty town.

I'm not sure if these were originally stand alone novels, but there are three in this book. They all follow on nicely from one another (and likewise from the first collection in this series).

Simon Green has a good eye for characters, and there are plenty in this book. There is also a good sense of humour running through them, without being as in your face as Terry Pratchett (more the throwaway kind of lines that James Bond comes out with sometimes).

Plenty of action, with Hawk & Fisher throwing themselves in the way in the line of duty, not always willingly.

Would appeal to someone who wants a low/mid level fantasy with interesting people, places and ideas.

Julie says

These are basically police procedurals with magic involved. I really like the characters of Hawk and Fisher and the stories keep your attention (despite the fact that I had this book on hiatus for many moons, that first book in the collection was actually my favorite).

I just ordered the previous collection (books 1-3) and I'm looking forward to those.

Mj says

Hawk & Fisher are fun characters. I really want to read their earlier stories.

Proditor says

Simon R. Green has never done me wrong

I discovered Green at Coliseum books in NYC (Now sadly closed) when I just wanted something similar to mental popcorn to pour through on the odd quiet night. Boy was I in for a shock. I'm now a slavish devotee of his work in any setting, but it was Hawk and Fisher that laid the bait. An effortless wordsmith, Green blends humor and turn of phrase in a way that just delights. The plots may not always be convoluted or hard to decipher, but I have never ever cared. It's always been about how we got there. Do yourself a favor and pick up Green.

Collin says

This is good popcorn stuff. The stories are short, the characters are simple and the setting is rich with possibilities. I'm naturally inclined to like books like this because of the swords-and-sorcery themes but what drew me in particular was the parallel to the old "Fafhrd and the Grey Mouser" stories. The Hawk and Fisher books are basically a medieval, cop, buddy movie in which Fritz Leiber's characters work for the law instead of against it. It lends these stories an old school feel and the short story format suits Green well, allowing him to throw lots of ideas out there without exceeding their freshness date.

Do the usual Simon Green tendencies of thin characters with oft-repeated catch phrases emerge? Yes, of course they do, but when Hawk and Fisher utter their "I knew you were going to say that" tag-lines it's a little like Murtagh and Riggs in "Lethal Weapon" -- the setting allows for it.

These are good for a quick skim and won't burden you with any heavy ideas but I like reading these on vacation in my cloak and tunic.

Jennifer says

I made it through about 50% of this book. Through story 1, and half of story 2, and I couldn't get into it.

The book reads like a tough guy crime drama, only set in a semi-medieval world where the paranormal occurs. But it read really flat to me, the two main characters are married, and they rarely had any personal interactions. There was hardly any mention made of their personal lives at all.

I like books that are a little more introspective, that delve into the characters and how they are the way they are.

Also parts were a little too...inner city cop, roughing people up, their reputation proceeds them, it seemed so rote, so taken out of every TV show I've ever watched. I lost interest and decided to cut my losses.

Vicky says

This book includes Three stories in one book: Wolf in the Fold, Guard Against Dishonor, The Bones of Haven. It is my understanding that all three have been previously published under a different title (Fear and Loathing in Haven) so if you've read that, you've already read this.

Though I'm not usually a sword and sorcery/cop story type of reader, this book surprised me with its wry wit and offbeat humor. I was drawn in from the first line and enjoyed the stories immensely. They are set in a modern medieval world where magic is acceptable, fighting is done with swords (or in the case of Hawk, an axe), and corruption rules the land – or at least, the city of Haven. Hawk and Fisher, husband and wife Guards, are the two best crime fighters in the city. The worst area, the Northeast Corridor, is their beat and nobody crosses them. In a city where crime is the norm, they can't be bought. Together, they attempt to bring order to chaos.

With a plot that is straightforward with just enough of a small twist to keep you interested, characters that are slightly stereotypical, but still fun, this is a lighthearted book that doesn't take much thought. It's pure entertainment. The only caveat I offer is one of copyediting. There are enough areas where a good grammarian would have been an asset, but it's not enough of a problem to completely detract from the enjoyment of the story. If you like sword and sorcery, cops, wizards, and good vs. evil stories, but don't want to have to work at the story, definitely pick this one up.

Heidi says

"Swords of Haven and Guards of Haven are a collection of six related mystery novels written by Simon Green. Each has three of the novels in it, and I'm going to write one review for the entire collection. This series follows up on two characters that were introduced in his earlier novel, "Blue Moon," though they've

come a long way in their lives. Guards Hawk and Fisher are husband and wife, as well as partners, and attempt to patrol the most crime-ridden area of the most crime-ridden city in the lower kingdoms. Each novel in the collection contains a standalone mystery these characters tackle.[return][return]Hawk and Fisher are great characters, and the town of Haven is squarely in the tradition of Green's other settings: widely imaginative, gritty, violent, and often gruesome. I enjoyed the traditional mystery-novel stereotypes set in a fantasy/horror world with the added twist of magical rules that the Guards must deal with when solving crimes. As for the stories, Green attempts a couple of locked-house mysteries that are below par for him. The situations stretch credibility and the characters do stupid things to move the plot along that I found very annoying. The other stories, however, are quite good, especially the final entry in the series.[return][return]I think the main interest in these books is as antecedent to Green's later, greater "Nightside" and "Deathstalker" series. You can see him trying out some of the ideas that will make those other works so unique and entertaining. I recommend reading Green's other series first and then reading these books to explore his development as an author."

Bryant Durrell says

Ah, that's the Simon Green I remember liking when I was younger. Not great but not as overwrought as his other stuff. Fewer Beings spelled with Capital Letters and all.

Alexandra says

The set of next 3 novels about Hawk and Fisher that continue from where "Swords of Haven" ended. They are:

- Wolf in the Fold (or Vengeance for a Lonely Man)
- Guard Against Dishonour
- The Bones of Haven (or Two Kings in Haven)

IMHO there is a bit stronger emphasis on social and moral issues in these books comparing to Swords of Haven set. There are also a bit more relations between Hawk and Fisher too. By these I mean they have dialogues that extend the usual search for clues discussions. The other things are just the same: lots of adventures, humor and plot twists. Can't say the plots are really complicated because the reader usually guesses the killer/traitor/other bad guy before the protagonists do. But it is nonetheless nice reading especially after a tiring day.

Marylou Sevilla says

Love'em, read an old paperback given to me, and was hooked. found this 1999 set; Simon Green had a good thing going with them, then stopped writing about them. Would make a great fantasy movie series, why it's not been done before, don't know. Maybe the use of axe weapon might be too gory or could encourage wanna-be's in real life. Otherwise, enjoyed ea story.
