



Curse of the Bane

Joseph Delaney , Patrick Arrasmith (Illustrator)

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Now it's the dark's turn to be afraid

The Spook and his apprentice, Thomas Ward, deal with the dark. Together they rid the county of witches, ghosts, and boggarts. But now there's some unfinished business to attend to in Prieststown. Deep in the catacombs of the cathedral lurks a creature the Spook has never been able to defeat; a force so evil that the whole county is in danger of being corrupted by its powers. The Bane!

As Thomas and the Spook prepare for the battle of their lives, it becomes clear that the Bane isn't their only enemy. The Quisitor has arrived, searching for those who meddle with the dark so he can imprison them—or worse.

Can Thomas defeat the Bane on his own? Is his friend Alice guilty of witchcraft? And will the Spook be able to escape the Quisitor's clutches?

Curse of the Bane Details

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Author : Joseph Delaney , Patrick Arrasmith (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Curse of the Bane for online ebook

Liz Hopps (Elizabetha) says

4.5 porque hubiese querido un final del "problema" más rimbombante (aunque la explicación de por qué no lo fue, me dejó muy satisfecha)

"Se agradece que las brujas coman bebés" o cómo se disfruta una novela de fantasmas, espantos y otras varias edificantes compañías

No sé por qué no se habla más de esta saga de libros, cuando es tan "sabrosa". Intuyo que tal vez es porque sólo están traducidos los tres primeros al español y como sabemos, a muchos les da pereza leer en un idioma que no es el suyo o simplemente, no saben que existe. De cualquiera manera, es una pena, porque son realmente buenos.

Tom es el séptimo hijo del séptimo hijo y como tal, tiene la facilidad de "see dead people" entre otras muchas cosas bucólicas y pastoriles, como los boggarts y amigos varios de ese tipo. Salvo por eso, Tom es como cualquier hijo de vecino quien, al ser el menor de una familia numerosa, debe buscarse un oficio para vivir (es eso o morir de hambre o ser vilipendiado por tu familia) Por esta cualidad y gracias a la diligencia de su peculiar madre, termina de aprendiz de "Espectro", un viejo cascarrabias, a medida camino entre un chamán y un exorcista, quien se dedica a limpiar el condado de alimañas sobrenaturales. A parte de eso, un trabajo honrado algo peculiar, no hay ninguna otra elemento típico de las historias de "elegidos" adolescentes: ni una gran maldición ni una profecía ni haber matado a Valdemort, nada, sólo son las peripecias de un chico aprendiendo un oficio, tratando de no morir en el intento (y de no meter a la niña que le interesa en una fosa y tapparla con una piedra por la eternidad). Por eso amo esta historia, porque es una que ya conocemos, pero a la vez no.

La primera novela va de cómo Tom se acostumbra al Espectro (Spook en inglés), la denominación que se le da al que ejerce el trabajo de lidiar con lo sobrenatural fuera de la iglesia establecida y de cómo traba amistad con Alice, una chica de su edad, sobrina de una bruja, quien le ocasionará más de un problema y mucho interés. El libro cuya reseña leen, trata de sus avances como aprendiz, de cómo vuelve a encontrarse con Alice (en medio de un peligro terrible para el Espectro y para él mismo) y como luchan contra un terrible y malvado ser gargolesco, llamado La Pesadilla. Cómo ven, son tramas sencillas, lo suficientemente interesantes para picar tu curiosidad, ideales para pasear un buen rato y sobre todo, muy bien escritas e hiladas. El autor tiene un oficio excelente y realmente cuenta la historia de una manera entretenida y muchas veces, creepy. Creo podría decir que cada novela es como un capítulo de los X Files, te presenta un "monstruo de la semana" y te invita a ver cómo los personajes se las arreglan con él.

Lo que si me gustaría señalar, es que creo que estás novelas deberían ser más largas, con más desarrollo y finales más complejos. Pero, como dije en la reseña del primer libro, algunas veces menos es más y lo prefiero así que con hojas extras sin sentido. En todo caso, espero que se explaye más en los que siguen. De Verdad, me encantaría que tuvieran 100 o 200 hojas más.

Una de las cosas que más me gustan de estas historias, es que en esta realidad, el mal es realmente mal, nada de malvados sexys cuya maldad radica principalmente en una "sexualidad oscura y tentadora" (si, te miro a ti Darkling de "Sombra y hueso") Acá, las brujas de comen a los niños, hacen pasteles de sangre y en cualquier momento puede venir un boggart en medio de la noche a chupar el tuetano de tus huesos. Además a los sospechosos de brujería se les clavan agujas y se les arroja al agua para que se ahoguen, a las lamias se les

clavan las manos a rocas para que mueran quemadas por el sol y cualquiera puede morir aplastado por un ser monstruoso. Insisto, en esta trama la maldad no esta estereotipada ni es "romántica" con un aire de oscuridad y condena byroniana (cualidad por la cual estoy un poco harta de que lo único que puedan hacer los malos es tratar de seducir y así atraer a la oscuridad a las pobres doncellas de las novelas, como si no hubiera otras cosas peores que eso), no hay nada de "maldad idealiza" y eso es maravilloso. Está es una de las principales razones de por qué la novela tiene escenas muy creepys y algo repugnantes, cosa que celebro. De hecho, en una de mis actualizaciones, comenté que la lectura me había hecho tener pesadillas con la caza y quema de brujas, así que háganse una idea de las interesantes escenas que nos pinta el autor. Ojo, tampoco es Gore o desagradable tipo peli de terror de serie b, pero para ser una novela "middle grade" es bastante "intensa" (como alguien señaló por ahí, idea que comparto plenamente)

Desde un tiempo a esta parte, me he dado cuenta que disfruto mucho las novelas que tienen como punto de vista principal, el de un protagonista masculino, de ahí mi shelf "Bart Simpson point of view". No quiero parecer sexista, pero estoy aburrida de la heroína kickass, quien anda repartiendo desastres porque "ella lo vale", alegando contra las responsabilidades que las "coharta en su libertad" (insertar "Let it go" de Frozen, en cualquier versión) y enamorándose por ahí, como si no hubiese nada mejor que hacer. Quiero que me entiendan bien, no tengo ningún problema con una de este tipo que sea inteligente/coherente, tampoco con las del tipo "frágil que necesita ser salvada", porque hasta esas chicas pueden ser interesantes, si son bien retradas. Creo que lo problemático, no es el punto de vista femenino, sino como l@s autor@s lo tratan en sus tramas. No es que el POV de un hombre sea más interesante de por sí, sino que últimamente, en los libros que leo, la chica aburre o exaspera. **En términos Disney, ahora hay muchas Elsas dando vueltas y pocas Mulán o Bellas.** Pero acá, aunque la historia está tratada desde la perspectiva de Tom, la protagonista, Alice es un personaje súper interesante. Ella siempre está transitando entre el bien y el mal, a punto de desviarse, recurriendo a malos medios para obtener buenos fines. Es inteligente y muy lista, osada, pero no al punto de armar un lio sólo porque se le ocurrió que algo tenía que ser como a ella le sale de donde sea que tiene el cerebro. Alice es un muy buen personaje y la "enigmática" mamá de Tom, también. Ambas son una muestra de que no es necesario andar pateando culos para ser un buen personaje femenino.

En fin, recomiendo mucho estás novelas. Son livianitas, bien escritas, entretenidas y "sabrosas". No hay grandes sorpresas, pero la trama es lo suficientemente interesantes y bien construida, como para hacerte pasar un excelente momento mientras las lees. También debo mencionar, como punto a favor, que carecen por completo ese humor tipo "gag" de serie gringa que tanto odio y que me hizo desagradable los libros de Rick Riordan. Otra cosa favorable y que facilita mucho la lectura, es que, debido a cómo está narrada la historia, te encariñas fácilmente con los personajes

Personalmente, cuando acabe con el tercer libro, leeré resto de la saga en inglés :)

Faye, la Patata says

This one was so irritating to read. I hated Tom Ward in this one. He was such a wussy who kept refusing to see the bigger picture, who kept disobeying his master, who kept whining about Poor Alice even if she was responsible for so many bad things due to what she did. It pissed me off how he kept justifying her actions, and how he was so willing to risk so many innocent lives due to POOR FUCKING ALICE. arghhhhhhhhh

Mike (the Paladin) says

Let me open this with a caveat or two.

First always be sure that your children/youths are mature enough to read any YA novel, this one included. Be sure that when reading a fantasy novel especially one with a horror context that they have a good reality concept.

Second and for this novel be aware of the attitude in these books (The Wardstone Chronicles in the UK or The Spook's Apprentice books in the US) toward "the church". I'm not Roman Catholic, but am a Christian. Were my kids small, I'd have let them read these books (they were both able to read young plus I read to them from a very early age). While the author never says "Catholic" here, we have priests, brothers, "making the sign of the cross", and (later) it's mentioned that the only thing "Spooks" and "Priests" have in common is celibacy. There is a...somewhat negative view of "the church" while the main character expresses a view that he believes in God, he apparently has little use for the church.

I kept remembering a line from the movie Men in Black, when Tommy Lee Jones was explaining how bad it was that the alien was "a bug". Will Smith's character answers "you were stung as a child weren't you?" I wonder if maybe the writer had a bad experience with someone in the Catholic church...

Well whatever, this will be a non-issue for some and big issue for others. I'd say read the books first then use your judgement... you do something that's extremely unusual in this day and age, act like a parent.

Okay, all that aside, these are (so far) well written books and I (as an over the hill old curmudgeon) enjoy them/this one. Again we are with Tom Ward the apprentice Spook who seems constitutionally unable to do what he's told by his master or be honest with him for that matter and therefore ends up in the soup.

Of course, the Spook himself isn't perfect and sets up his own "fall into the soup pot" situations. Here we must deal with a threat from the Spook's younger days. He has to go "back" to the "Priest town" and face a threat that almost killed him before...a threat of terrible proportions. Of course he must also face...The Quisitor (read Inquisitor).

It's bound to get sticky.

While there are flaws this is a good book, the second in what looks like it might be a pretty good YA series. I plan to follow it up. I've run across a lot of youth books I felt weren't...all that great, lately. It's good to find one that's fairly well told and based on an interesting idea. I'd say, try it. See what you think.

***** Some spoilers below *****

Tom also has to go on dealing with Alice (whom we met in the first volume). She just can't seem to keep out trouble and is apparently never going to be able to stay away from "the dark". The Spook has a sure remedy for that however...the witch pit, and Tom just can't bear the thought. He uses something from the Spook's past however, something he's not supposed to know about to keep her from it.

But is that for the best? I find myself wondering about the Spook's witch remedy (is being trapped and starved in a pit better than burning? It's a tricky question and one reason I advise parents to be aware.)

I also wonder if "in the end" Alice may not be Tom's weakness. Oh well, like I said a pretty good series, so far.

Jeff says

"Curse of the Bane" is another installment in the Last Apprentice chronicles that relates the adventures of Tom Ward and his mentor the Spook who travels around and rids people of supernatural monsters.

I have been enjoying this series even though some of the scenes depicted are rather dark in atmosphere for a young adult book. As a middle schooler I would have really enjoyed this series had it been available then.

Heck, as an adult I really enjoy this series!

The writing is smart and the stories are very engaging. I especially appreciate the on-going relationship that young Tom Ward has with a young witch named Alice. Not everyone is evil through and through and it may be that their circumstances are harder to deal with than what others are dealing with. Mr. Delaney has given his characters a sense of compassion that is in tension with the job they are tasked to do.

All in all, a very enjoyable read even though there are hints of more darkness to come.

"Curse of the Bane" is a very good adventure story with memorable characters. Recommended.

Hanzel says

Well, It is starting to get interesting, this feels like Harry Potter only the horror version, unlike Mr. Potter, who had so many many friends, Thomas doesn't have that much, only his mother and the Spook, but what a mother!!!!

Good things about the book, expansion of the Delaney world, earlier ghosts, witches and boggarts, now we have the Bane, a tougher, more malevolent entity, more glimpses of Mr. Gregory's bygone days and yesteryears, origin of Mister and Missus Ward and of course, we see how Thomas begins to grow!!!!

More Alice!!!! Began she is to the Dark Side!!!

Maythavee says

This book wastes no time with the boring introduction and plunges us straight into the bidding of Tom's first boggart. Just like the first book, Joseph Delaney manages to evoke feelings of fear and dread on almost every page. I was really creeped out by the Bane and his whispers and description. I can still picture it in my mind...

Anyway, in this book, we learn more about the characters including the Spook's involvement with two

women, one being a witch! No wonder, he warns Tom to be careful of girl with pointy shoes. And Tom's mom, I knew there was something different about her but I didn't expect her to be a... (I'm not going to spoil you) but how she and Tom's dad met reminds me of the Greek myth of Andromeda and Perseus.

Also, Alice is back and she is closer to the Dark than ever. It is interesting to see her work with Tom and the Spook. I like how Tom has a soft spot for her so he would try and defend her against the Spook.

Overall, a really great sequel! I take back what I said about reading it at night not being a good idea. It gives you the perfect atmosphere which makes the book even more effective so I suggest to read it at night :P

Βάλ'ντης Δοξ'κιερ says

?πως το περ?μενα ?τσι λοιπ?ν ?ταν !! Πολ? ΚΑΤΑΠΛΗΚΤΙΚΟ βιβλ?ο και 2ο μ?ρος της σειρ?ς και πολ? καλ?τερο απ? το 1ο βιβλ?ο Ο Μαθητευ?μενος του Σπουκ !!! Πολ? πιο τρομακτικ? απ? το 1ο βιβλ?ο και ε?μαι σ?γουρος ?τι και τα επ?μενα βιβλ?α της σειρ?ς ?τσι ακριβ?ς ε?ναι !!!Με λ?γο περισσ?τερη δρ?ση και ανατριχ?λες αυτ? το βιβλ?ο ?ντως ξεπερν?ει το 1ο βιβλ?ο και οπωσδ?ποτε θα διαβ?σω και τα υπ?λοιπα 7 βιβλ?α της σειρ?ς Τα Χρονικ? του Ευλογημ?νου Λιθαριο? που ?χουν βγ? μ?χρι τ?ρα και ?χω αποκτ?σει μ?χρι στιγμ?ς και τα 7 !!

Με περισσ?τερη σκοτειν? ατμ?σφαιρα και εφιαλτικ?ς σκην?ς και περιγραφ?ς η πολ? τρομερ? καταπληκτικ? ιστορ?α με τις σκοτειν?ς και ανατριχιαστικ?ς και επικ?νδυνες περιπ?τειες και μπελ?δες του Τ?μ, της ?λινς και του Σπουκ συνεχ?ζεται καλ?τερη απ? πρ?ν αυτ? την φορ? λ?γο πιο μακρι? απ? το Τσ?πντεν την ?δρα επιχειρ?σεων των αποστολ?ν του Σπουκ και βασικ? κ?ριο κομμ?τι και τ?πος ολ?κλήρης της πλοκ?ς, της σειρ?ς και των περιπετει?ν του Σπουκ προς την Παπαδο?πολη μια ιερ? π?λη που φυλ?ει ?να επικ?νδυνο, σατανικ? και θαν?σιμο παν?σχυρο πλ?σμα με το ?νομα Φαρμ?κι: Μια σχεδ?ν παν?σχυρη οντ?τητα με σκοτειν?ς δυν?μεις που την κ?νουν να ε?ναι σαν θε?ς προκαλε? μεγ?λο κακ? με τις σκοτειν?ς δυν?μεις της στους κατο?κους και τους ιερε?ς της Παπαδο?πολης αναγκ?ζοντας τους να προκαλ?σουν τρομερ? και φρικτ? πρ?γματα μ?σα στην π?λη !!

Για αυτ? λοιπ?ν ο Σπουκ μαζ? με τον Τ?μ και την ?λινς ταξιδε?ουν προς την π?λη αυτ? για να σταματ?σουν το Φαρμ?κι, να ανακαλ?ψουν κ?ποια θαν?σιμα μυστικ? ο ?νας για το παρελθ?ν του αλλουνο? και να τελει?σουν κ?ποιες ?λλες δουλει?ς επ?σης !!

Στην πορε?α τους θα ?ρθουν αντιμ?τωποι με τ?σες δοκιμασ?ες, φ?λους και εχθρο?ς απ? το παρελθ?ν, το παρ?ν και το μ?λλον τους, στην οπο?α πορε?α και κυρ?ως για τις αν?γκες της ιστορ?ας και των περιπετει?ν τους θα συμμετ?χουν πολλο? μα δι?φοροι χαρακτ?ρες που θα πα?ξουν ο καθ?νας τον ρ?λο του, αλλ? επ?σης και ο ?νας με τον ?λλο !!! Σας προτε?νω αυτ? το βιβλ?ο μαζ? με ?λα τα ?λλα βιβλ?α του Σπουκ !!!!!!! Μην χ?σετε τις τρομερ?ς και ανατριχιαστικ?ς περιπ?τειες του Τ?μ !!!

Ε?ναι η απ?λυτη σειρ? σκοτειν?ς εφηβικ?ς φαντασ?ας τρ?μου οπο? και μεγ?λοι ?νθρωποι ακ?μη και παιδι? των 9 χρον?ν μπορο?ν να απολα?σουν αλλ? επ?σης η συγκεκριμ?νη σειρ? ε?ναι ?τι πρ?πει για τις Απ?κριες και μπορε? να αντικαταστ?σει πολλ? απ? τα βρ?δια σας που θ?λετε να δε?τε ταιν?ες τρ?μου αλλ? ?χετε βαρεθε? τις ταιν?ες τρ?μου, ?τσι λοιπ?ν μπορε?τε αντ? για ταιν?α τρ?μου να διαβ?σετε τα βιβλ?α του Σπουκ !!!!!!!

Καλ?ς σκοτειν?ς και στοιχειωμ?νες απολα?σεις και ευχαρ?στηση να ?χετε φ?λοι μου με αυτ? την καταπληκτικ? σκοτειν? εφηβικ? σειρ? φαντασ?ας !!!!!!!

Amir Arman says

3/5

not perfect also not bad

around average

[Name Redacted] says

A disappointing follow-up to Delaney's excellent first novel. The heavy-handed anti-clericalism and anti-ecclesiasticism certainly didn't help, but the overall narrative also felt remarkably flat (despite a gripping opening), the characters seemed unengaging and unengaged in one another, and the "big bad" felt like an inappropriate villain for the second story in a long-running series. The Bane would have been a better fit for a later -- perhaps even final -- volume, or as a recurring villain. Instead we hear how horrifying and powerful he is, but rarely get more than a glimpse of that power, and he appears startlingly easy to defeat.

The "horror" of this volume is also lacking. We see a couple creepy things and two genuinely gruesome deaths (a cat and an old man, though the latter is fairly lackluster), but the overall sense of menace and terror is missing. The story is flat, the characters are flat, and the Bane is actually a rather pathetic villain. I suspect this is, in part, because the author really just wanted to use this volume as a platform to rail against his vision of medieval priests and British churches; far more text and time is spent dwelling on how eeeeeeeeeevil those two elements are than on the Bane itself.

Whereas the first volume took me about 2 days, this one took me well over a month. I found myself drifting and slogging through this book, forcing myself to keep reading simply so i could put it back on the shelf. And once I'd finished, I felt little more than relief that I didn't have to keep reading it. Not a good sign.

I'll read the next book, but this volume makes me glad I only bought the first three. If things don't pick up in the next entry, I won't be continuing with the series.

EDIT: Also, the author asserts that Christians believed women did not have souls, which is A) not true, and B) anachronistic. This book is set in what appears to be the Dark Ages, but the aforementioned claim was an urban legend invented during the Reformation period due to a misunderstanding. A young scholar in the 1500s published what he thought was a hilarious satirical pamphlet in which he pretended to make that claim based on the ambiguity of the word "homo" (it means both "human" and "adult male") in the Latin Vulgate of the Bible; unfortunately for him, a Lutheran preacher didn't get the joke and begin an angry campaign against the preacher. So not only was this never a claim actually made by any Christians, but it was intended to be self-evidently preposterous. Delaney's antipathy towards medieval Catholicism wound up turning him into a modern day version of that Lutheran preacher.

Tatjana says

Nešto dinami?niji nastavak, ne automatski i bolji. Zadržana je delimi?no ona prijatna atmosfera.

Evgeny says

Tom Ward is a Spook's apprentice. The Spooks are the people who deal with malevolent supernatural forces using mundane means: their physical strength, their wits, and their knowledge. This profession is somewhat similar to this:

The book starts with Tom's first independent assignment of containing a highly dangerous boggart. He succeeded, but not before the local priest was killed. The priest happens to be a brother of Tom's mentor who wants to give the last respect to his late brother.

The problem is all the priests are buried in the city called Priesttown. Think local Vatican. Priests hate Spooks and their Quisitor - think Grand Inquisitor - burns them in a bonfire without any trial most of the time. Unfortunately our heroes have no choice but to go as they have another even more important business in Priesttown: something very big and very bad lurking in the local catacombs, something which almost killed the Spook when he was younger and at his physical prime.

This book is as fast and easy read as the first one; it is also as spooky. I complained about some of the characters being undeveloped before, now we finally have some development happening. We learn more about the background of the Spook and Tom's parents with some very unexpected facts coming out.

The story also raises a very difficult question: can you fight evil with greater evil? If you do, what does it make you? If you managed to achieve highly noble goals, does it make the means were justifiable? I was really pondering about these while reading.

In conclusion this rates with 4 very solid stars. If you liked the first book, you will like this one. If you are looking for a horror series written with young adults in mind but which can be read by anybody even past that age, look no further than this.

?????? ?????? says

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Allie says

Third time through with this audiobook. I can't believe I originally gave it 5 stars. Hmm. I had recently given birth when I first rated it, so maybe I was on some kind of high? I don't know. The second time through was because my audiobook options were really limited. This time around it was to listen to it with my boys. My 10 year old gave it 5 stars, my 16 year old gave it 4. I'd say 3.5, rounded down because the narrator was *not* easy to listen to. Most of his voices were purposefully shaky, and it was really annoying.

The plot on this one just didn't interest me as much as the other books.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I started this series years ago, and I was impressed that this is genuinely scary horror fiction for younger readers. Finally, I was able to pick this series up with the second book. I actually own this in Kindle and Paperback, but I wanted a scary book to listen to on audio for Halloween. Needless to say, I didn't finish it until November.

So I guess I should talk about my thoughts on the book. Frankly, I didn't like this as much as Book One. I guess I liked the evil witch villain more than I liked the Bane (and the weak humans he manipulated and used to do his evil).

The storyline touches in uncomfortable ways how the church may have done more harm than good in the fight against evil. Witches are being persecuted and burned (and many aren't even witches) in the name of God. Yeah, that can definitely lead to trouble when you use God as an excuse to hurt others or to manipulate things to your advantage over others. That doesn't speak to God's character at all, but many who don't know God can sometimes believe in the evil acts of people more than they believe in who God really is. The truth is that God is represented through a believer's actions than anything else.

The book shows that sometimes the worse evil is human evil. That's not to say that there is not an obvious supernatural component to this book. But frankly, if the Bane was not able to find humans to use and manipulate, he probably wouldn't have done as much harm in this book as he did.

One thing I can say about Delaney is that he taps into the complexity of human nature. Alice is a young woman who is on the edge. She tiptoes into the dark in the name of doing what is right, and young Thomas feels sympathy and loyalty for her that conflicts with his loyalty to his master, the Spook, John Gregory. Even though he knows and fears the worst about Alice, he can't abandon her without trying to help her. Ultimately, it turns out that his instincts are right in many ways, and he has to stand by them even when things look most dire.

I really liked the backstory on Thomas' parents. That was very, very cool. Another look at the complexity of good and evil in this context of this story. But Delaney also stresses that it involves the choices that we make. If you're going to be a good person, you have to choose to do what is right, and if you take the step in the other direction, it's because of choices you make. Even in the context of Christian belief, while we

believe in salvation through faith, a person still has to choose to believe and to live a life that reflects that belief with the help of God's spirit living in them.

The Bane was a scary bad guy, and the story has some genuine chills and thrills. However, I didn't find it as magnetic as the first book. I think the Bane was too one-dimensional as a villain. Having said that, I still enjoy this series and I'm eager to see what the next book has to offer this reader.

I definitely wouldn't recommend this to any readers younger than a mature twelve. It's scary and it shows some really dark aspects of human nature. As far as parental oversight, reading this book would have some very important discussion points about what faith really represents and how the church has a responsibility to the community and others. This book does not show the church in a positive light at all.

Overall rating: **3.5/5.0 stars.**

Jenifer says

Four very solid stars! I'm loving this series because I think its so well written for the age group it targets. Pretty scary, but not super evil or disturbing; characters who make mistakes and admit it, who grow and evolve; and a plot that moves along in an interesting and engaging way, building on the past and for the future of this series.

A quote from Tomas Ward's mom;

"You've been Mr. Gregory's apprentice for nearly six months, so you've had long enough to see things for yourself," she said. "And by now the dark has noticed you and will be trying to hunt you down. So you're in danger, son, and for a while that danger will keep on growing. But remember this. You're growing, too. You're growing up fast. Each breath, each beat of your heart makes you stronger, braver, better. John Gregory's been struggling against the dark for years, preparing the way for you. Because, son, when your'e a man, then it'll be the dark's turn to be afraid, because then you'll be the hunter, not the hunted. That's why I gave you life."

Esma Tezgi says

?lk kitaptan hem daha güzel hem daha hareketli bir kitapt?, ilk sayfalarda ba?layan hareket kitab?n geri kalan?na da hakim oldu. Kitap Thomas ve hayaletin, Zehir adl? çok kötü bir dü?manla mücadelesini konu al?yor ve tabii ki olaylar sadece Zehir'le s?n?rl? kalm?yor, ba?ka dü?manlarda var. Okurken hiç s?k?lmad?m, sayfalar h?zla akt? gitti, yazar?nda tempoyu dü?ürmemesi okumay? daha zevkli hale getirdi.

Hayaletin Laneti gerilimi bol güzel bir kitapt?. Türüne göre güzel ve ba?ar?l? bir seri, ben sevdim ve devam etmekte istiyorum. ?lerleyen kitaplar?n daha güzel olaca??n? umuyorum.

<http://yorumatolyesi.blogspot.com/201...>

Kirsten says

4,5

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Curse of the Bane (The Last Apprentice, #2), 2005, Joseph Delaney

Characters: Mr. Gregory, Thomas J. Ward, Alice Deane

Abstract: The Spook and his apprentice, Thomas Ward, deal with the dark. Together they rid the county of witches, ghosts, and boggarts. But now there's some unfinished business to attend to in Prieststown. Deep in the catacombs of the cathedral lurks a creature the Spook has never been able to defeat; a force so evil that the whole county is in danger of being corrupted by its powers. The Bane!

As Thomas and the Spook prepare for the battle of their lives, it becomes clear that the Bane isn't their only enemy. The Quisitor has arrived, searching for those who meddle with the dark so he can imprison them--or worse.

Can Thomas defeat the Bane on his own? Is his friend Alice guilty of witchcraft? And will the Spook be able to escape the Quisitor's clutches?

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Duffy Pratt says

Perhaps the silliest title I've seen. If you don't know what I mean, I suggest you look "bane" up in the dictionary. It comes straight from the Department of Redundancy Department.

Nonetheless, I liked the book and thought it was a very good sequel to *Revenge of the Witch*. In most series I've encountered, the second book will expand the world and the cast of characters. Here, while we do get to see a bit more of the County, the characters remain largely the same -- Tom, the Spook, and Alice are again central. Mam and Tom's family are on the periphery. We do get introduced to the Spook's brother, who may play a role later in the series. But otherwise, the new characters tend to be antagonists, and antagonists who are unlikely to reappear in the series. I don't think that's a bad thing, but the book felt much more like a standalone book as a result, and less like the blossoming of a bigger series.

From what I can see, the main tension in this series will be whether it's OK to use dark magic to accomplish good. As a result, even though Tom and the Spook are the main focus of the stories, I think the most interesting characters are the women -- Alice and Mam. Delaney hasn't actually revealed it yet, but it's pretty clear that Mam has a dark past. Tom hasn't guessed (and it will be interesting to see how he deals with his blindness on the topic), but it seems clear that Mam is a lamia witch with a bad past, and she is a powerful

one at that. I'm surprised that Delaney has managed to hold this in suspense for the first two books.

After two books, I think this series has a lot of promise. The ending here (spoiler coming) share's much with the ending of Harry Potter, but I think Delaney nails the idea of sacrifice much better than Rowling did, and he notably did this a year and a half before Deathly Hollows came out.

R?zvan Timar says

O carte de la care am am avut a?tept?ri foarte mari ?i care nu m-a dezam?git. Delaney se pricepe de minune la pove?tile alerte ?i, pe alocuri, însp?imânt?toare, f?r? s? fac? vreun deserviciu personajelor str?lucite pe care le-am întâlnit în primul volum.
