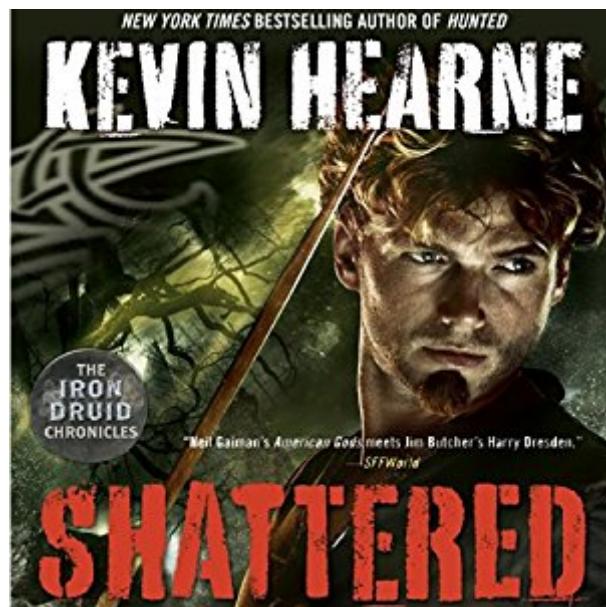


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Shattered: The Iron Druid Chronicles, Book 7



Synopsis

Acclaimed author Kevin Hearne spins a new novel in his epic urban fantasy series starring the unforgettable Atticus O'Sullivan. For nearly 2,000 years, only one Druid has walked the Earth - Atticus O'Sullivan, the Iron Druid, whose sharp wit and sharp sword have kept him alive as he's been pursued by a pantheon of hostile deities. Now he's got company. Atticus' apprentice, Granuaile, is at last a full Druid herself. What's more, Atticus has defrosted an archdruid long ago frozen in time, a father figure (of sorts) who now goes by the modern equivalent of his old Irish name: Owen Kennedy. And Owen has some catching up to do. Atticus takes pleasure in the role reversal, as the student is now the teacher. Between busting Atticus's chops and trying to fathom a cell phone, Owen must also learn English. For Atticus, the jury's still out on whether the wily old coot will be an asset in the epic battle with Norse god Loki - or merely a pain in the arse. But Atticus isn't the only one with daddy issues. Granuaile faces a great challenge: to exorcise a sorcerer's spirit that is possessing her father in India. Even with the help of the witch Laksha, Granuaile may be facing a crushing defeat. As the trio of Druids deals with pestilence-spreading demons, bacon-loving yeti, fierce flying foxes, and frenzied Fae, they're hoping that this time, three's a charm.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found out about the Iron Druid Chronicles last year and dove in deeply. I worked my way through the first few books in as many days and then polished off the rest of the available novels and short stories within a month. As Atticus might warn Oberon after a particularly glutinous meal of sausages

and ham just before a trip to a mostly vegan Indian village - you're going to wish you saved some of that meat for a rainy day. Kevin Hearne has added a new POV character - Atticus' teacher - an archdruid who has spent 2000 years frozen (well, more like time dilated) on an island. If you thought that Oberon's humor was a gift from a pagan god you are going to LOVE what passed for humor in Ireland in 10 BC. I was always (wrongly) accused of being overly sarcastic having grown up in Brooklyn. Just wait until you get a load of the new guy, "Owen". My ribs still hurt from some of the more graphic - and I mean graphic - humor that he lays on us. Atticus certainly doesn't appreciate some of the stories but it's about time that Atticus' ego is presented as something less than untouchable. For the first time Hearne has presented us with an Atticus that is something other than supremely confident, and is vulnerable on a personal level to someone else's opinion of him. The series is better for this change. The beauty of this story is found in the small moments between the characters. This makes it hard to explain what I love so much about this book without revealing details that other readers should have the pleasure of discovering themselves. A couple of points though merit discussion: 1 - Although this book begins with a brief series recap, if you are new to the series please start from the beginning. My wife is doing that now.

If you and I were talking wishes I'd probably get my politically correct face on and say that my first wish would be for world peace. But if you were to press a shank against my carotid artery I'd confess that my first wish would be for my favorite authors to churn stuff out faster, badass wordsmiths like Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Terry Pratchett, Steven Gould, and, yep, Kevin Hearne. Kevin Hearne once served as my tide-over while I awaited the next Dresden book by Jim Butcher. But I think Hearne and Butcher are neck and neck now on my list. Shattered is the 7th book in the Iron Druid Chronicles, and yay for Hearne it's his first hardcover. It's another stay-up-fake-sickness-the-next-day riveter. The guy should consider running a tab at the Gap because he keeps writing his pants off. As Shattered opens, the dust has settled for our favorite 2000-year-old druid, Atticus O'Sullivan. He's worked out an accord with those in the Greek pantheon who's been chasing him and Granuaile across the breadth of modern-day Europe. Now Atticus can focus on acclimating his foul-tempered, foul-mouthed mentor, the archdruid EÁ ghan Á“ CinnÁ©ide - whom he'd just yanked out of a two millennia stasis in TÁ- r na nÁ“g - to the 21st century. EÁ ghan Á“ CinnÁ©ide - or "Owen Kennedy" - is a welcome addition to Atticus' supporting cast, and he's relevant enough as Atticus' default father figure that Hearne dedicates chapters narrated from his P.O.V. (Brace yourself for some hilarious fish-out-of-water reactions as "Owen" tries his best to catch up.) Throw in those other chapters told from Granuaile's perspective and what

we have is less time spent with Atticus.

I'm kind of sad that my Iron Druid binge-read is over until the next book comes out. I liked a lot of things about this book. (That being said, don't start here. Start with volume 1. You'll need the background by the time you get to this point.) Please be advised that some spoilers from past volumes may be included here; you can't get around that and adequately talk about this story. First of all, the pace is toned down a bit from the previous book (which was a nonstop run-for-your-life kind of novel). There was still action and there were a lot of good fights in this one, but there were some of the scenes of everyday life that I've come to enjoy in this series, as well. We have a new character in this book, Owen Kennedy, who was Atticus's (the "Iron Druid" of the title) archdruid many (many) years ago. His introduction to the modern age is a highlight of the book for me (well, it's more a series of smaller events). Owen is one of the three viewpoint characters and one of his chapters has one of the funniest paragraphs I've read in a book in a long time (it's the one about getting a pet monkey instead of a dog and I'll say no more -- except that someone who had not read any of these books, when shown only that paragraph, also laughed). Atticus gets Owen settled (kind of) and then goes off on a quest to find who is sending various divinities after him and why. He does get his answer, and it ties back into something that happened in the very early books of the series. I like his interactions with various deities; we are introduced to some belief systems (including Shinto) that haven't appeared in previous volumes. And Granuaile is off to solve a mystery of her own: the disappearance of her father on an archaeological dig in India.

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