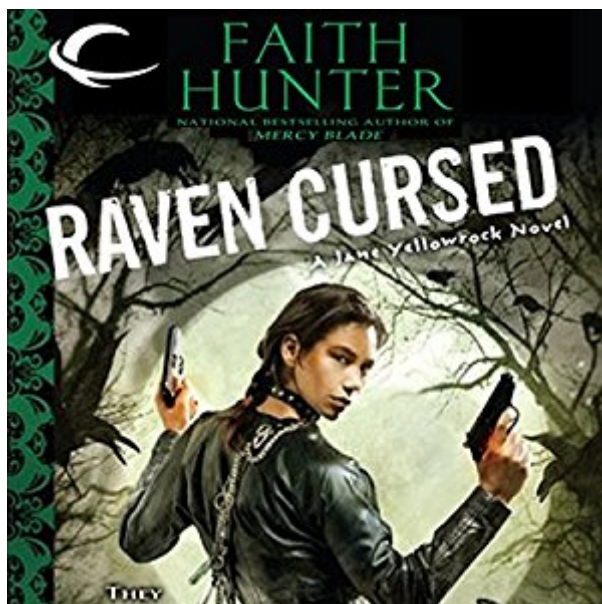


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Raven Cursed: Jane Yellowrock, Book 4



Synopsis

The vampires of Asheville, North Carolina, want to establish their own clan, but since they owe loyalty to the Master Vampire of New Orleans, they must work out the terms with him. To come up with an equitable solution, he sends an envoy with the best bodyguard blood money can buy: skinwalker Jane Yellowrock. But when a group of local campers are attacked by something fanged, Jane goes from escort to investigator. Is it a rogue-vampire, shapechanger, or witch? Or something else magical? Unless she wants to face a very angry master vampire, she will have to work overtime to find the killer. It's a good thing she's worth every penny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Whew, what a letdown. I'd enjoyed the first three books in the series, although found book 3 a bit stale, so when I saw the start in Asheville, I was happy for the change of scenery. Well I sure got my hopes up for nothing.[SPOILERS] To begin with, I have no idea why the author bothered moving the setting. Every single plot point in the book revolves around the characters from New Orleans and the earlier books. Heck, most of them show up in Asheville! It became ridiculous. For example, Jane is supposed to have been a kick-ass vampire hunter in Asheville for years before going to NO. Then, in the first books she ends up meeting and working for the Vampire Lord of NO. Then, somehow, we discover he's actually in charge of most of the SE United States, including her home town, and yet this top-notch Vampire Hunter had been unaware of it? How could that be? On top of this coincidence we find out that one of the big bads is her best friend's sister, which still, having

read the book, makes absolutely no sense. There is nothing in the way that the character had ever been presented or described that makes her behavior make sense. Oh wait, apparently she was personally violated by Jane's boss years ago, which no one, including her family knew about, and for which horrible wrong she was willing to wait years before being willing to summon a demon for revenge. Oh yes, the demon, which, out of all the denizens of hell, happens to be a demon specific to Jane's mysterious ancestry. What are the odds? And, then, of course, we have an almighty demon free to wreak havoc, so it's a good thing we have a Kindegartener-ex-machina, who simply fixes things because she has a pet angel. Oh yes, that's the second book that's happened.

Raven Cursed takes Cherokee shapeshifter Jane Yellowrock out of New Orleans and back to her native North Carolina. She's still working for the Vampire master of New Orleans though, in this case running security for a parley between his scion and an up-and-coming NC vampire who wants New Orleans blessing to be master of Asheville. Of course a straight-forward parley would be too mundane for anything Jane is involved in, and the situation is almost immediately complicated by rogue werewolves, and renegade witches. Jane's private life continues to be complicated as well, with her one-time boyfriend now struggling to adjust to life as a were-panther. Can Jane keep everyone alive who matters, bring the parley to a successful conclusion *and* avoid falling out with her friends and lover? Not to mention the "raven". In general, finding out the answers makes for a very entertaining book, with some frustrating caveats noted below. **SPOILERS START HERE** First of all, let me tie back to the subject line for this review: Jane is kick-ass, but really she often seems not up to the security and other tasks she takes on. In the last book, she was responsible for security at a meeting which she totally failed to keep from being trashed by werewolves. In this one, though the meetings proper never devolved into a bloodbath, Jane seems to have hired a second in command who may well try to kill her. While this is a change from *working* for people who try to kill her, it's not a change in the right direction. Neither is making self-admitted "rookie mistakes" in situations where she has plenty of time to plan.

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