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Magical Probi (The Federal Witch Book 2)



Synopsis

Probationary FBI Agent Agatha Blackmore has just finished three grueling years at the FBI Academy at Quantico. She mastered every skill and task they laid before her. She now begins an Internship of sorts working for the Magical Crimes Division. Assassination, Murder, and Betrayal await her. How will she do in the real world? Will her Magick be enough to save her?

Book Information

File Size: 7020 KB

Print Length: 330 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: November 14, 2016

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N1EV3HC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #9,160 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #81 inÂ Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Magical Realism #536 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal & Urban #642 inÂ Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal & Urban

Customer Reviews

Magical Probi is a fun read. I have enjoyed all three of author T. S. Paul's Federal Witch books. With this book the author navigates one of the most difficult transitions for a series: graduation. Agatha finishes three years of FBI training at Quantico and heads out for a fourth year as a probationary agent--an apprentice with unrelenting on-the-job training. Why is this hard? Because the structure of a school goes away along with the social interactions with peers. It's a different world. Harry Dresden, for example, has flashbacks to his apprenticeship but we are never immersed for long in that period of his life. Much the same is true for Kevin Hearne's Iron Druid. The Harry Potter series was structured as seven books for seven years of schooling at Hogwarts. When Potter & Company

graduated, that series ended. Early in this book it seemed there might be lots of fireworks in connection with the graduation at Quantico. Instead it was mostly sparklers with a few firecrackers for fun. That turned out to be a boon for the story. It got Agatha out the door quickly for new adventures. I also appreciated the series of FBI cases that ensued, rather than one long mega-thriller. We're just getting to know Agatha's new boss, Jack. We get character development in this book, with plenty of room for growth. The series of adventures in this book could actually be the basis for a TV mini-series. Two suggestions that might improve the next book to five stars for me: * Most ebooks need better copy editing. This book is better than many, with still some room to improve. * More complex federal agents and local cops. I've worked a bit with such folks. They are not one-dimensional, trigger-happy clowns like the SWAT cop with the bomb squad who tries to shoot Agatha right after she handles a nicely-imagined explosive problem. Perhaps a touch of "cop eyes" like Anita Blake in her U.S. Marshall mode? But cop eyes don't develop in one book and Agatha has her own life view already. "Don't touch the witch" is both lifestyle and philosophy, and it's working. Magical Probi is actually the third book in this series because the original concept novella was designated Book 0. I'm looking forward to the fourth book, Book 3. Also mentioned: Storm Front (Dresden Files) Hounded (Iron Druid Chronicles) Harry Potter Paperback Box Set (Books 1-7) Guilty Pleasures (Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: Book 1) I hope this review is a bit helpful.

The story continues to have humorous moments and have a good premise. I would have liked to have known what she learned in the last 3 years as she still seems lopsided in her knowledge. I would also like to have the nonparanormal (mundane and isn't the use of that word getting to be mundane?) characters be less one-sided, thin-skinned, incompetent, clue-less, bumbler. She continues to create as many problems as she solves, it would be nice to have her less of a walking disaster area. Editing errors and grammatical errors -- the author seems unable to comprehend the use of the first-person objective pronoun in a prepositional phrase.

Gone downhill from the previous book. Horrible copyediting interfered with story elements even when the story worked. Fun concept but a waste of my time.

Mr. Paul's imagination shows promise, and I was amused to read at the end of the book that he had three people editing the book: Diane Velasquez, Dorene Johnson, and David Brims. Sadly, even adding Mr. Brims to the editing team used on the last book wasn't enough to rescue Mr. Paul's poor

writing. Granted, there were few instances of his using the wrong word than in the first two books, but the number of ambiguous, dangling, or misplaced modifiers went up, Mr. Paul's insistence on improperly capitalizing certain words continues unabated, and gratingly improper use of apostrophes on words that don't rate them is worse than I remember from the other books. The writing errors (because they're that first, before they can slip past the editors) distracted enough from an otherwise-entertaining story that I've had to downgrade my rating from 3 to 2 stars. I took the time to highlight errors, though I intentionally skipped most of the improper capitalizations; my total for this 374-page book was 117 errors, and I'm sure I missed some. The blame lies with Mr. Paul, in any event; I don't know how rough a manuscript he submitted for editing, but the final product is his responsibility, and I'm disappointed. Having already purchased the next book, I'll force myself to read it; but I don't recommend this series, at least not before you see that it's been rewritten, reedited, and republished. Sorry, Mr. Paul.

But I won't give the story its five-star due until the author gets a real editor/proofreader. Preferably someone who knows how to use apostrophes, and the difference between 'to' and 'too' (which was sadly needed often in this book).

I liked the first book in the series despite its problems, but this second book just falls flat. The writing is so uneven that it reads like a first draft and there are many editing errors. And while the world it is set in (an alternate world just slightly out of step historically from ours and where magick, shifters, vampires and more are part of society) is an interesting one, the characters are one dimensional. The protagonist is the first which to enroll in the FBI and in this second book she has graduated from their academy and is assigned as a probi to the tiny (one man) magical crimes unit. The FBI agents are depicted as buffoonish morons, time after time. And even though she is a probi the girl is ordering her boss around within a few days. I don't know that I will bother to read the third book whenever it appears if the preview chapter isn't a whole lot better than this attempt.

This is not a complicated book, but it's a lot of fun. Agatha, first full-blown Witch to join the FBI, has completed her training. Now she heads out as a probationary agent. She is still having to deal with other government agencies who want to spy on her, and a lot of people who dismiss her as too young, but she takes her job seriously. Good thing, too, because she gets involved in a serious problem. The one part I'm getting a bit tired of is her familiar - a miniature unicorn. He's starting to get simply annoying, rather than funny. Recommended, nonetheless. This series is lightweight, but

entertaining - I'm keeping reading.

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