



Born of Hatred

Steve McHugh

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There are some things even a centuries-old sorcerer hesitates to challenge...

When Nathan Garret's friend seeks his help investigating a bloody serial killer, the pattern of horrific crimes leads to a creature of pure malevolence, born of hatred and dark magic. Even with all his powers, Nate fears he may be overmatched. But when evil targets those he cares about and he is confronted by dire threats both old and new, Nate must reveal a secret from his recently remembered past to remind his enemies why they should fear him once more.

Born of Hatred, set in modern London with historical flashbacks to America's Old West, continues the dark urban fantasy of *Crimes Against Magic*, the acclaimed first book in the gritty and action-packed Hellequin Chronicles.

Born of Hatred Details

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From Reader Review Born of Hatred for online ebook

Keri says

4 STARS - I REALLY LIKED IT
AUDIOBOOK

I'm digging this series. I'm so glad whenever I find a fantasy series that is really good and is adult. I enjoy the YA fantasy genre but I get tired of the teenage angst that always goes along with it. This series is good... the writing, the characters, the world... it's all enjoyable to me AND the subject matter and conversations are mature.

This time around, Nate has his memory back and has reconnected with people from his past. He's joining back in to what his life was before the memory loss. He's soon involved in helping his best friend with a murder investigation and things quickly get dangerous. It's a good thing he's a powerful sorcerer and has some other powerful friends. I like that Nathan is strong, but he isn't perfect and he isn't the strongest thing out there. He's smart and loyal to his friends and he's a bit of a ladies man. *grins*

The story moves back and forth between current times and 1870's Montana (I think it was Montana). The back story helps us learn more about Nate's past and helps us to better understand what is happening in the current situation.

I had only one issue, and it's a minor thing, but when we left off on book 1 Nate had just gotten his memory back. This story picks up 3 months later and Nate is back with his friends. We just jump into the story but don't know what happened to get Nate back in contact with his friends and colleagues. What did his friends think when he contacted them, they probably thought he was dead. Those issues do eventually get addressed as the story moves along, but it was kind of weird to jump in with new characters and not know how it all came about. Like I said, it's minor and not a deterrent to the story.

If you enjoy fantasy without teen angst, if you enjoy reading about sorcerer's and werewolves and The Olympians and necromancers... you should check out this series. You really need to start with the first book Crimes Against Magic because it sets the stage for the series. I've already downloaded the 3rd book and look forward to starting it soon!!

Jennifer Lanak says

Nate is recruited to help his old friend, Thomas, on a case he is working on involving a released prisoner. Together the two figure out that a string of murders is related, but their suspect isn't the one actually doing the killings. While following the clues, Nate is introduced to Tommy's lover, Olivia, and their daughter. Turns out Olivia is the director of a part of Avalon. While Nate would rather avoid involving himself with them, he can't turn away from the crimes especially when they figure out that a lich is behind it all. A lich is the one creature that Nathan is afraid of because he can't defeat with magic or a weapon. This particular lich has a history with Nathan's friends and is seeking revenge.

I am really enjoying this series. I should mention that I'm listening to the audio version and am very

entertained by it. The narrator does a great job bringing Nate to life and it sounds like I'm listening to a supernatural version of a spy thriller.

Mandapanda says

2.5 stars. Had all the same issues as with book 1. It just feels like there is a huge void where Nate's personality should be.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Born of Hatred

The Hellequin Chronicles, Book 2

By: Steve McHugh

Narrated by: James Langton

This continues the great series. Boy, it is really getting wild! He is getting his memories back and the shit is hitting the fan! Again, the author has two stories going at the same time and again it is for a reason. Both stories are awesome. So much creativity in these stories! I am so enthralled! Love these characters! The narrator is great, the emotions and voices are totally awesome!

Jules (Never enough time to read) says

Definitely miles better than the first book and I'm looking forward to continuing on with the series.

Liz Barnsley says

Hellequin Chronicles 2. Thank you to the author and publisher for the updated review copy.

So a little while ago, I was browsing some Kindle titles and having just finished a great Urban Fantasy story I came across "Crimes against Magic", the first of the Hellequin Chronicles. I decided to give it a go and I loved it.

I was very pleased therefore to receive the updated copy of Born of Hatred...and I dived in pretty much immediately and didn't really stop reading (well I DID pop out and get chips!) until I was done. Once again I was immersed into the world of Nathan Garrett and co and what a world it is.

This instalment finds Nathan investigating a string of crimes as a favour for a friend, that leads him to a killer like no other...Born of Hatred indeed. Nathan may not be as feared as he once was but you don't mess with him and his without consequences...As you learn more about Nathan through the intriguing use of flashback (as in Book 1) one wonders if it is really sensible to challenge him at all...

The reason I enjoy these so much I think is that they really are for adults...Steve Mchugh does not pull any punches and Nathan has a side to him that is less than pure – terrific fun to read and enthralling to imagine, the world he occupies bears a strong resemblance to our own but with a supernatural and magical underbelly. As with book 1 the supporting characters all add ambience to the tale, and there are plenty of new people to meet. More backstory means more grounding in the mythology of the series and as a sequel it works particularly well.

The plot is complex enough to keep your interest throughout – some twists and turns and once again Mr McHugh has used legends we are all aware of to flesh out the tale. Very enjoyable and I am looking forward to the next.

A quick comment – Comparisons to novels such as the Dresden Files and other Urban Fantasy tales are unavoidable for the author I imagine, but I would say that, as usual, I don't like to compare and contrast too much. However I think this bears saying: Dresden is terrific. As are Felix Castor and Alex Verus – Nathan Garrett is his own man with his own mythology. I can't put him in a box any more than I could the previously mentioned. I have enjoyed all on their own merits....and I will continue to do so. There is no "best" only what you enjoy. And you will enjoy this if you like Urban Fantasy, don't mind adult content and simply love a book adventure.

Look out for an interview with Steve McHugh coming soon!

Happy Reading Folks!

Kitvaria Sarene says

I liked the first of this series, and compared it to Harry Dresden.

Now let me say, this book is a step up! In all things... In quality of writing, in suspense, in character development and in blood and gore!

Wow - brutal, horrific, sick, twisted and gruesome murders - described in quite some detail, so it is not for the faint of heart. But for those who have no problem with that this is an amazing read, that had me hold my breath at quite some moments! I love the werewolves who play a part, and the main characters clicked perfectly with me.

For me it is now very different to Harry, as it is more gruesome and again has some flashbacks to history, but I enjoyed it just as much! And the flashbacks were way more interesting for me this time - I couldn't decide which part I wanted to read more!

Ami says

4.2 stars

Few months after the events in book #1 -- when Nate Garrett regained his memory after 10 years and was able to kill one of his longtime enemies -- Nate now joins his best friend, Tommy, training Tommy's staffs. He reluctantly agrees to help the private detective to investigate whether a vicious rapist and murderer, who has recently been released, is back on the game. It turns out that an evil that Nate once faced is now back -- threatening those who are dear to Nate. Nate must join forces with some old friends and new ones (including Law of Avalon Director and an Alpha werewolf) to beat the villain once for all...

This book is just WOW. Personally, I think it is better than book #1 despite some personal niggles. It is fast-paced, highly entertaining with some humors, wonderful characters, as well as crazy insane villain. And I thought the gargoyle in book #1 was scary!!

Just like in book #1, the story has historical flashbacks -- this time it sets to Montana in 1878, where Nate first encountered the same evil. I truly enjoy the storytelling because it is smartly connects what happened in the past with what Nate and his friends are dealing at present time.

There are practically no characters from book #1 that return here -- except for Tommy, whom readers will know as Thomas in book #1, an English archer turned werewolf in early fifteen century France, who also became Nate's good friend. I admit that I miss Francis, the vampire... but at the same time, this book also introduced some new kick-ass characters. One that steals my heart is Hades -- uhm, yes, THAT Hades. He's such a fun guy :).

Like I said, the book is fast-paced -- and the battle in the end is awesome. What I especially love the most is that Nate doesn't go all solo-action-hero -- he knows that he can sure use some help. I think it's particularly great that (view spoiler). I am intrigued with this new power that Nate is showing as well.

When it comes to complains ... well, I do feel robbed with the reunion of Nate and Tommy. Considering that they have been good buddies, and Nate has lost his memory for 10 years, I want to know how that goes. Also, I seriously wonder about this character Sara -- what is her role?? It seems like she is set to flirt with Nate, but turns out that she has a boyfriend already. There are already some good female characters here, who are more significant: Olivia (the LOA director), Sky (the necromancer), and Kasey (Tommy's daughter). Seems pointless, that's all.

Anyway, a great sequel to ... and I can't wait for book #3 (which unfortunately, I have to wait for it *sigh*). I wonder what kind of enemy that Nate will face next. I also wonder what the consequences will happen now that Hellequin has returned...

Dave Ricchiazzi says

The first book in this series had some things going for it, but this book took it in the wrong direction. The first book was a bit of a rogue caper but this installment was a straight up procedural which made it seem a bit too Dresden-like. I enjoy Dresden novels, but would've rather this series find its own voice.

The Nate Garrett of this book resembles the Nate of the previous book only a little. The author attempts to make the character interesting by simply making him more badass than everyone around him. He's more powerful than everyone he meets, he's met about one woman who wasn't throwing themselves at him, and

even though he was an assassin for over a thousand years, he's apparently never killed anyone who didn't deserve it. Whereas in book one the moral ambiguity of his being a thief and the company he kept worked to establish him as an anti-hero, this book does away with most of that to set Nate up as the defender of justice. Somehow the Nate of Born of Hatred doesn't see any problem with passing judgment on thugs and murderers despite his past. The fact that this doesn't seem to trouble him is the book's worst feature. That and the passages I mention below really ruined it for me.

Worst scenes in the book in order of their appearance:
(view spoiler)

If the book had kept on with the tone of the first book, I might've maintained interest, but I can't recommend this.

Choko says

*** 3.75 ***

"...“Sorcerers have a tendency to think only in terms of magic and how it can be applied in life; it makes some of us appear cold towards others.” “Especially werewolves.” “Oh, not just werewolves, all weres, vampires, trolls—basically anything that isn’t a sorcerer. We’re not picky; we’re just better than everyone else.” I grinned, ensuring that Ellie knew I was only teasing. Ellie laughed. “Humble, too.” “Yeah, sorcerers are basically perfect.”...”

Yep, we are back with the very old, chronologically, and very trouble prone sorcerer Nathan Garrett, aka Hellequin. We finally get the story of why he has been called by that name, despite his current persona to kind of abhorre it. See, Nate is a decent dude, mostly, but there is a mean streak in him a mile long and you hope you are on the side he considers friendly, because if you are from the other guys, his stint as an apprentice to a very peculiar Chinese baker with the skill to always extract the information he needs, has made him into a person you might want to avoid being alone with... He also knows a thousand ways to kill and usually is not much broken-up about it after leaving a trail of bodies behind. He used to be employed by Avalon, the agency which rules and enforces the laws for the various supernatural creatures and living deities of multiple pantheons. However, their cooperative relationship has fallen apart some time ago and now they try to stay out of each other's way.

"...“Distrust is hard to overcome when it’s ingrained.”...”

This series is an adult size Urban Fantasy with a morally ambiguous main character and not all goes the way we might think it should. Nate is a womanizer, he is not honorable, and he is a cheat. There is flirting with

unavailable women, killing with no remorse, and torture, so if those are not in your comfort zone, this is not for you.

In the first book of the series Nate started getting his lost memories back. Now, more aware of who and what he used to be, he has reconnected with one of his best friends, the independent werewolf and private investigator Tony. Tony has asked him for assist on a serial killer case and it leads them to some magical perversions and enemies they might not be able to defeat. Tony's girlfriend and their child are among the threatened and the stakes get even bigger when it is discovered that a Leach, an almost indestructible entity with avaricious hunger for death, is unleashed on the city of London. The wolf clan gets involved as well and it comes with its own politics, so there is quite a bit of bloodshed and violence. Overall, I am enjoying the series exactly for those reasons - it is adrenaline and action packed mystery and no claim to be anything else. I am continuing with the series for the fun of it:):)

"...“Olivia forced a smile. “You really are not what I’d expected.” “I’m an enigma wrapped inside a riddle, all bundled in something quite wonderful.”...”

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and may you always find what you Need in the pages of a Good Book!!!

Scott Hitchcock says

Book 1: 3.0*

Book 2: 3.0*

These books are pure cheese like an 80's action movie but an enjoyable distraction to more serious reads. I do like them more than Dresden which I quit after two books.

Mike (the Paladin) says

This one comes very close to getting the full 5 star rating. I say this up front so you know, I really like it.

I do want to mention that it takes a little while to get rolling. Our "hero" Nathan Garrett "woke up" in the last book of this series (the first book of the series...I know the first book is the last book I read before this book. Getting a bit confusing). Anyway Nathan woke up...not knowing who he is...or was...or has been, so to speak.

Anyway he had amnesia. So he's still putting clues together about himself here. Among other things he's trying to find out who was behind the attempt on his life...well other than the old enemy we found in the last book.

The odd thing, scary thing(?) seems to be that his old...employers(?) seem to be tied in to the, plot.

So anyway, we launch off into another story where the world is at stake.

Doesn't it seem that the world is at stake sort of constantly? And we're all dependent on the wizards, sorcerers, knights and other heroes to pull our bacon out of the fire, without all us...err, Muggles, mundanes,

mortals(?) well, whatever...finding out?

The world here is basically the one we live in except of course it's populated by things other than humans. There are sorcerers, necromancers, werewolves, werelions, vampires..and other "stuff". Each of these creatures and or people gets it's, his or her makeover for this book series and doesn't necessarily conform to the creatures with the same name (names?) you've seen elsewhere.

All that clear as milk, chocolate milk?

Yes, well anyway this is a good read. There's lots of action some good character building and growth. The back story is developing well and promises to be a good one.

Recommended, enjoy.

Alaina Meserole says

I have missed Nate so much!

Born of Hatred is about Nate being recruited by his friend Thomas and asked to work on a case about releasing a certain prisoner. Their team dynamic is amazing and I love they work together to solve problems. We do get to meet Olivia, who is Thomas's lover, and their daughter. I kind of liked Olivia but I honestly just wanted to read all about Nate.

Then the whole mystery part of this book. The Lich, which is a creature that Nate is afraid of. I can see why he was because it's really hard to defeat. Then of course there's this whole revenge thing that the lich is on which definitely made this book more interesting.

This series has been a whirlwind adventure. I've loved every book so far and I can't wait to dive into the next one. I love Nate so much. I also really like the world that he lives in and what he goes through every day. It's a never ending paranormal adventure.

Anindita, at A Bohemian Mind at Work says

Another fun book in the series. New characters, entertaining scenes. Going to continue with the series. The dude is getting stronger. Wonder where ends his progress. The villains could be a wee smarter and kill him when they had ample chances instead of fooling around.

Marielle says

I enjoyed the first book but this one was a big step up! The story, the characters, the writing, just everything was of a higher level. There is the story in the book and there is an overall bigger storyline and plot and I find them both very entertaining!

The book itself has the storyline in the present with flashbacks to a storyline in the past, which I really enjoy. I like getting to know Nate, and some of the other characters, better in different time settings (and seperate

stories).

There is quite a lot of blood and body parts flying around but I like that, also enjoy the smartass remarks Nate makes.

I found it remarkably cool that the author has put in a gay character who is badass and tough, I've come across very little gay characters in my books so I thought it worth mentioning. This character is included in the story not because he is gay, but he is in the story and he happens to be gay, which is the way it should be. :)

I have already purchased book 3 and will start listening to it soon! :)
