



Atticus for the Undead

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The next chapter in the struggle for equal rights begins!

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When a young zombie walks into Hunter's office accused of murder (by brain-eating), Hunter's idealism is tested as never before as he struggles to secure the man's freedom. To do so, he must square off against a savvy and ambitious district attorney, contend with a judge who is deeply biased against arcanes, and stand up to a human-supremacist group which will stop at nothing -- not even Hunter's own death -- to see his client convicted.

Atticus for the Undead Details

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From Reader Review Atticus for the Undead for online ebook

Katy says

Book Info: Genre: Urban Fantasy/Horror/Legal Thriller

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: Fans of horror and legal fiction and urban fantasy

Trigger Warnings: violent death

My Thoughts: I've had this book for over a year. Recently I was approached by a friend who runs blog tours to ask if I'd consider reviewing the 2nd book in this series, *Identity Theft* from an ARC copy. Since I already had this and another book by this author, and they sounded like the sort of thing I'd enjoy, I agreed. So, here we go!

This book's ending is a total kick in the teeth and completely unexpected, but wow, what a great story! Hunter is a very interesting character, full of idealism and anger over what he perceives to be injustice. I saw a lot of parallels with any type of civil-rights action you might consider: racial relations, GLBTQ issues, what have you. The book makes no secret that these issues are being addressed via the idea that people are prejudiced against those they perceive as "abnormal". It's a very typical human reaction: if someone is different, that makes people afraid, and what humans fear, they seek to destroy. Age-old idea. As such it is often very uncomfortable to read the book, and that is yet another reason I enjoyed it so much; I like a story that will make me question and think and consider. So, a high recommendation from me, whether you enjoy horror, urban fantasy, or legal thrillers, this combines the best of the lot. Check it out, and watch for my review of the upcoming book *Identity Theft* next.

Disclosure: I picked up this book a bit over a year ago when it was on the Amazon KDP program because it sounded like the kind of thing I'd enjoy. All opinions are my own.

Synopsis: The next chapter in the struggle for equal rights begins!

Hunter Gamble is an idealistic young attorney in a very special area of the practice: arcane defense. Funded by enigmatic billionaire Charles McClain and aided by shy-but-energetic research attorney Kirsten Harper, he's making the world a better place—one vampire, zombie, or werewolf client at a time. After all, they deserve their day in court too, right?

When a young zombie walks into Hunter's office accused of murder (by brain-eating), Hunter's idealism is tested as never before as he struggles to secure the man's freedom. To do so, he must square off against a savvy and ambitious district attorney, contend with a judge who is deeply biased against arcanes, and stand up to a human-supremacist group which will stop at nothing—not even Hunter's own death—to see his client convicted.

Dee says

It wasn't that this book was atrociously written. It just was rather boring and I felt it ended in a way that was unsatisfactory. Perhaps the author is planning to do a sequel? I really couldn't get very interested in the characters, although I did try and I did stick with it to the end.

Rick Gualtieri says

Atticus for the Undead reminded me a lot of M. Night Shyamalan's Signs. No, I don't mean the dopier aspects of the movie. It's because this is a small, personal tale set amidst a much larger backdrop, most of which we're only given hints about.

Abramowitz's story takes place in a world where supernatural beings (known as arcanes) have become known to the world. However, rather than waging war against humanity, they're just trying to fit in...not entirely unlike the beings from Alien Nation or District 9. Unfortunately, also like the creatures from these works, the arcanes in Atticus for the Undead must contend with racism and being treated like second class citizens.

Who will help them? Why Hunter Gamble, that's who! Gamble, the main protagonist of the story, is an idealistic young lawyer who's fighting to do what's right despite the risks (both personal and professional) to him and those around him.

I am normally not a fan of legal dramas, either written or on TV; however, Abramowitz's story never gets bogged down in tedious details. There's enough there to give you the sense that he knows what he's talking about, without making it feel like you're reading a legal brief. It's combined with an interesting take on the various denizens of the supernatural world, of which a few bad seeds ruin it heavily for the rest.

There are a few downsides I need to point out. For starters, some of the dialogue doesn't feel natural (and no, I don't mean supernatural either). At times the flow of it feels a bit stilted. More problematic, it almost seems as if a chunk of story is missing in the middle. There's a romantic subplot that suddenly goes from A straight to Z with no feeling for how it got there. Because of this, when one character suddenly proclaims their love for another, it kind of ends up feeling creepy and desperate instead of romantic. Finally, there's the ending. I won't spoil it except to say that I thought it was a good ending. However, it also felt a bit too abrupt. I think it could have been fleshed out a bit more so as to leave a better impact.

That being said, I enjoyed Atticus for the Undead. It has made me rethink my normal distaste for legal entertainment. Should Law & Order ever introduce zombies, I might have to give a look. Atticus for the Undead is a fun peek into one of the many microcosms of life that might occur just on the fringes of an epic story.

Kate says

An extremely good legal thriller...about "arcane" creatures and the discrimination they face! The legal points are solid and well-explained, the plot moves along swiftly and tightly, and the characters, while showing a little bit of trope-cipher syndrome, are still engaging. The prose can be a little awkward at times - there's a lot of people hugging and then "releasing" and other slightly stilted phrases - but for the most part, it's smooth and engaging, even when dealing with complex legal points and courtroom speeches.

Oh, and the ending will floor you. There are no punches pulled, and that's all that should be said about that, because it is ENTIRELY worth reading this novel just for the last few pages.

Rjsmommy says

The beginning was kind of slow to get into to but by the time Sabrina (the unsuspecting witch) went through her "Change" and Sam (The good-hearted zombie) was arrested, the book really did hold my attention. I loved all the main characters and their relationships just worked well. The whole idea of "arcanes' rights" in society and prejudice against them was interesting. And I have to commend the author for that totally unexpected ending(s). I mean Sam and Kirsten are all ready to kiss and become a "normal" couple when BAM...everything goes to Hell. I kept waiting for the author's magic pen to swoop in and give everyone their happy ending and it just never happened. Which is just like real life folks...sometimes the innocent don't come out on top singing songs and wearing smiles. Sometimes innocent people die, sometimes innocent people are forced beyond their breaking point, and sometimes idealistic people give up their dreams because they become tainted. Even though I'm sad for all those characters, sometimes it's just refreshing to have a not so happy yet sadly realistic ending.

t.o. Aster says

Atticus for the Undead is a story about the way our legal system and society treat minorities, using a fictional class of minorities (zombies, mages, vampires) to illustrate the author's point (see *X-men*). What is new about this story, and what makes it an engaging read, is Abramowitz's invention of a detailed legal world in which the story takes place. In the 10 years since arcanes were unveiled some new laws have been made and some precedents have been set by previous cases but many of the legal issues pertaining to arcanes are still in flux both in the courts and in the legislature. Abramowitz has created a richly detailed legal environment, and the story is at its most interesting when describing this world.

On the other hand, I found the main character, Hunter Gamble, insufferably self righteous. The first part of the book seems to mirror his black and white moral vision for the world and feels a little preachy. However, I am glad I decided to keep reading because the ending is far more complex and engaging. I look forward to the sequel!

Kristen Romanelli says

Atticus for the Undead is the story of Hunter Gamble, an "arcane" defense attorney, and his associates. In their world, the Unveiling has revealed a culture of supernatural citizens — vampires, mages, werewolves, zombies — that coexists with "normal" society. Since the Unveiling, the arcanes (the preferred nomenclature) have faced hate crimes, bullying, segregation, and open persecution. McClain & Gamble is the only law firm in Austin that will defend arcane citizens in this new era. Courts and legislators are still unsure of how to handle the changing face of the world and how the law operates within it. The highly publicized trial of a zombie accused of succumbing to the Hunger murdering one of his friends forces us to ask the question: Can the law really operate equally for humans and arcanes?

Abramowitz's characters are tightly written individuals who interact with an easy, natural chemistry. I actually became very much attached to Hunter, his associate Kirsten, and their teenage, arcane assistant

Sabrina. Even outside this core group, the characters were drawn with distinct identities and motivations. The dialogue is crisp and the story's pacing is comfortably quick.

As I read *Atticus*, I was reminded of other works that have appealed to me in the past, the most obvious being Harper Lee's classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Perry Mason*. Perhaps less obvious are David Guterson's 1994 novel *Snow Falling on Cedars* and Joss Whedon's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* spin-off series, *Angel*, which featured the evil, supernatural law firm Wolfram & Hart. Although I was reminded of these other works of fiction, I never doubted for a moment that this was Abramowitz's story and his characters. He has created a unique world, and I would be eager to read more cases from the desk of Hunter Gamble.

Jane says

Supernaturals (Arcanes) have 'come out' and the whole world is concerned. There has to be some control, but with an outdated legal system that doesn't cover zombies and vampires, the politicians are under pressure to make changes. Sam Pollard, a zombie, has been arrested for murder, he seeks the help of the Hunter Gamble a lawyer who defends only Arcanes, but with emotions running high in both humans and Arcanes this is not a good time to be on trial especially as the prosecutor is running for office and will do anything to get votes.

So I will start with what I didn't like, well I didn't like the title, 'Atticus for the undead' it just didn't do anything for me. I also wasn't keen on the cover art, it didn't scream 'read me'. This was definitely a case of don't judge a book by its cover! I read the kindle version and by page three, or there about I was grabbed, by the end of chapter 1 I didn't want to put it down.....this has happened before many times but more often than not stories seem to lose their edge in the last quarter. That did not happen here, if anything the pace and excitement picked up in the latter part of the book and I 'could' not put it down.

OMG, flipping 'ek, wow!! I cant remember reading a book that had an ending that I DID NOT see coming, not even a little bit, no hints, no red herrings, absolutely nothing to suggest it would end like that!!! I think I'm in shock!!

This was an excellently written novel, I didn't give a second thought to writing style, punctuation or grammar etc because it flowed so well I forgot I was reading. I was so engrossed in the book that I just didn't think about anything except what was happening in the story. I connected with the characters and felt like I knew them, I felt their pain, their happiness, their humour and their frustration. I enjoyed the read from start to finish and am so glad I got the chance to review it.

Copy supplied for review. Thank you.

Michelle says

Atticus for the undead is a totally different book than I am used to reading, so I didn't really know what to expect out of it. I was intrigued because I wanted to see how the paranormal elements would blend with the law elements. The result was pretty cool! I thought it was really interesting to read about legal concepts and

things that I'm learning in school, and it still has zombies and witches and other cool creatures. (I wouldn't dare call them supernaturals after reading the book) Sign me up please!

I thought Atticus for the Undead is a really cool concept. It's about a lawyer that represents vampires, zombies and witches to name a few. The characters were all well developed and likable. Hunter, the main character, is representing a Zombie and naturally most people are not comfortable with zombies walking around. So Hunter has his work cut out for him. It doesn't help that the charge was murder by brain-eating, I'm sure. I loved him! He was funny, and so relatable. That might have been what made the ending such a blow for me.

I breezed through this book really quickly. It just flies along, and it kept my interest for every page! I was so absorbed in the book that I didn't even realize the end was coming up. Then the ending exploded and I was shocked! It made me so sad- really sad! It was fitting for the book, but it just wasn't what I wanted to happen or what I was expecting at all. Even so, Atticus for the Undead is a really interesting, and funny read. I enjoyed it a lot.

Let me know what you think of it!

Miranda Wheeler says

This isn't my typical "type" of book. I don't usually read much outside of YA, unless it is some acclaimed literary fiction. Or, in this case, the work of an author I have previously read and reviewed. Despite my hesitation to read something so different, I was intrigued by the unique premise, and eventually, impressed with what I had read.

With that said, there's a few things that really struck me about this book. This is a tightly woven mystery that isn't a "mystery". I flew through each page, dying to know the immediate fate of each character, all of which were entertaining and likeable (even the "bad guys" were amusing... as in, frogs and politics...) consistently.

Main character: Hunter Gamble. He doesn't take himself seriously, but he takes his clients and their fate's seriously - and personally. Casually dressed and legally armed with Kirsten Harper, he's an ardent protector of "arcane" civil rights at a firm that specializes with supernaturals, referred to "arcanes" in the way of being politically correct.

"Atticus for the Undead" is narrated in third-person, and switches focus mainly between Hunter (the main character, a fierce arcane defense lawyer) and Kirsten, while occasionally including characters like Sam (a zombie faced with a prejudicial court case). It's an extremely quick read - I finally (finally!) got an opportunity to sit down with it on Saturday, and I devoured this book in a single sitting, overnight. On my Kindle app it was about 105 pages - single spaced. If you're looking for something quick, funny (but dark too!), and creative, I definitely suggest picking it up.

Who, exactly, is this recommended for? If you are a fan of the author's YA debut, Weaver, you are definitely going to love this one too! Fans of the Sookie Stackhouse Series: if you love the concept of "Coming Out of the Coffin" - you'll love reading all about "The Unveiling" in Atticus for the Undead! Fans of the movie Dylan Dog: Dead of Night - if you are interested in Dylan Dog's line of work - you'll be fascinated with Hunter! If you have ever sat through a marathon of SVU, or NCIS, you'll definitely love the tensity and process of justice here, too!

Oh, and the ending is going to just kill you! You might be bummed, but it's still definitely worth the read!

Recommended! So go get yourself a copy! :)

View the original review here: <http://ricochetreviews.blogspot.com/2011/09/atticus-for-undead.html>

Lindsey says

I have to admit I was a little dubious when I received a tweet from someone asking me to review their book.

“Who is this person?” I thought, having never even spoken to him before and at that point, was not even following him (in a twitter sense, not in a stalking sense).

But on checking out John Abramowitz’s bio, I quickly saw he was a writer like me and I thought “maybe I should give this some credence, after all, maybe one day I will also be asking for reviews and needing people’s support in the same way?”

But I was still dubious none-the-less, and even more so when John sent me the book to read.

Oh dear. Legal Fiction Series? My heart dropped a little. I had already told John that I don’t have much spare time to read and review and already had concerns that I wouldn’t get round to completing the task this century, but to find out it was legal fiction? Now I was worried I wouldn’t want to complete the task this century.

But thankfully the word paranormal popped up so I rolled up my imaginary sleeves and bedded myself down with my Kindle and prepared myself to struggle my way through.

Now I wouldn’t like to say that I am usually happy when someone proves me wrong, but in this case, I can

honestly say that I am!

The opening chapter is always a decider for me. If you can't catch me during the first few pages, then you're likely to find me wandering the abyss of boredom very quickly and that usually means your book will do nothing but languish in dust-covered Hell on my bookcase, or worse...be deleted from my Kindle, nevermore to grace its hallowed library.

John caught me from the opener:

Sam Pollard took no notice of the crumpled up newspaper report of his death even as he stepped on it.

One line, which might not captivate some but the paranormal writer in me sat up straight away and was thinking "Is he dead? Is he a ghost? How can he be walking around if he is supposed to be dead?"

Soon we find out that since The Unveiling, some years before, the world is a very different place to the one we knew. Zombies, vampires, mages and other arcanes live amongst humans but it's a world filled with mistrust, prejudice and hate and Hunter Gamble, defence attorney for arcane rights, has his work cut out for him. Police with their hands-tied, politicians intent on inflaming people's prejudices for their own cause and the brutish methods of the Salvation Alliance are all in a day's work for Hunter, his assistant Kirsten and newly-turned-witch Sabrina (and yes she is a teenage witch).

They take on the cases no one else wants. They fight for those who can't help being what they are. And soon they are thrust into the spotlight of a very high profile murder case involving zombie Sam Pollard.

I found the concept really interesting, captivating, fresh and the book was an easy, enjoyable, page-turner from start to finish. I was rooting for Hunter (and Sam) every step of the way as he battled petty power games, rage-filled prejudice and a world of frustration in his efforts to win a case that looks doomed from the start.

If you want to read a paranormal story that is refreshingly...well.....human.....then this could just be the one for you.

Four out of five, John.....and it would have gotten a five if it wasn't for the fact I would have preferred a slightly different ending, but that's the idealist in me.

Well done and thank you for letting me read Atticus For The Undead.

Emma says

This review originally appeared here at Easy Reading and Damn Hard Writing.

Hunter Gamble is not your typical attorney. He doesn't wear a suit, cares more about the opinion of his research assistant than the opinion of his successful father, and specializes in a very obscure branch of law—arcane defense. His stance is a humanitarian one: why should we fail to provide adequate legal representation for folks like Sam Pollard?

There's the small matter of Sam being a zombie, but Hunter's pretty sure that he can work around that with

the help of the previously aforementioned awesome assistant, Kirsten, and a teenage wannabe-actress/legal assistant who just so happens to also be a witch.

I enjoyed this book quite a bit despite the fact that the ending kind of jumped out at me. The Austin setting, the clever mixing of society after an influx of supernatural beings, and the law aspect were all right up my alley. However, I'm not really fond of surprises, and when I started this book, I was fairly sure it was not going to be a sad!book. It also seemed like it could have been set-up for a series, which seems pretty impossible right now.

Overall, this is a fairly solid offering—technically speaking, it seems like the editing/copyediting could have been better, but that's more a nitpick than anything else—and if you're fond of supernatural creatures, lawyers, or the realistic nothing-is-all-right ending, than this is the book for you.

Frederick Brooke says

This novel grabbed me by the originality of its premise. There are now zombies living among us, they are the victims of discrimination and hate crimes, and there are lawyers who specialize in defending them when they happen to be accused of a crime. Wow! That's original.

Sam is accused of murder, and the zombie-specialist lawyer Hunter Gamble, together with his crack team including assistant Kirsten and assistant-to-the-assistant Sabrina have to launch a Perry Mason-style courtroom defense. Or better yet, an Atticus Finch style defense, since *To Kill a Mockingbird* is Hunter's favorite book.

I like the homey atmosphere of Hunter's law office. Everybody's sort of got a crush on everybody else, but they're too shy to say it. Hunter's Dad is a famous lawyer of the more traditional variety. There's a lot of father-and-son stuff going on here, too.

I found myself wishing the dialogue were sharper. It's very neurotic and full of verbal tics, but too often fails to reveal what's really going on in the characters' heads. This leaves me wondering how they have really developed by the end of the book. The ending is jarring, not necessarily in a negative way, and certainly not in a predictable way, but also in a way that left me unsatisfied.

I know others have raved about Atticus for the Undead, and I am really glad I read it. The author has taken a hackneyed motif and made something totally unique which is meant to be part of a series. It will be very interesting to see where he takes us next!

Abigail says

I started this on a Sunday evening figuring I at least could get a taste of what it was about. Wondering if I was going to be mildly interested and have to force myself to read through it. (Yes I know that sounds awful but when it comes reading because you promise to read it almost is like reading for school. I can read *The Decameron* over and over again when I want to but make me read it in class? I struggle through each of the 100 day tales). But I had promised John so I clicked on the Kindle and settled down with my ice tea and

began to read... and read.. and squeel and tell Geoff "OHHH this is awesome", and read and fall asleep reading only to wake up to finish reading! This book was SO much fun!

The review:

Atticus for the Undead is both a parody on the legal eagle hero of old, Atticus Finch from To Kill a Mockingbird and a statement on how the legal system has treated racism and treats the uprising of new minorities and developing racism. Except for our book the racism is against The Arcane races. The Arcane are straight out of the myths, the movies and the pages of books. Around 15 years ago "The Unveiling" happened and the vampires, witches and zombies came "out" and our protagonist Hunter has set out to defend them. I found the author's comedic take on what happens in today's court systems with some of the over the top and ridiculous accusations made due to hysteria brought about and still holding steady because of 9/11 was refreshing.

Like Atticus Finch, our protagonist Hunter Gamble leads the way in protecting the rights of the newly recognized races, The Arcane. Hunter takes on the legal struggle for the Arcane with that wonderful and passionate "brand new lawyer attitude". Breaking away from his father's old school law firm and striking out for the little man (or zombie in this case). Even with Hunter's self-righteousness a little unnerving at times, made the the tale and character even more believable for me.

Within the world Hunter lives the **supernatural** the Arcane (it is considered a racial slur to call them supernaturals and Hunter continually reminds of this with inner and outer dialogue throughout the book) are persecuted and the struggle to set precedent within the legal system is being fought locally; within the high schools (as one of his clients finds out), in the judicial system (as Sam the undead client finds out with a prejudiced but ethical judge) and all the way to the congressional level. Atticus for the Undead a is a reflection and statement of what many face today and not just a hell of a lot of fun to read.

I fell in love with the characters, they were well developed and rounded out. By the end of it I was frustrated and heartbroken and also left wanting more from Hunter and the world of the Arcanes. It just ENDED with a horrific shock, drizzling out weakly and is the reason behind my 4 out of 5 stars. The book was strong and kept you going from page to turned page RIGHT till it ended with this fizzle. It was sad, which is ok, but disappointingly sad. Though the addition of the brainstormed titles for the book was hilarious. It still left me wanting to read more about Hunter and his trials and tribulations with the Arcane. I will be buying the next one. John is a great new emerging Indie Author. Over all this story is, taking a original strike at a much played at plot.

I think my father is going to get a kick out of it and have made sure that when he turns on his Kindle tomorrow he finds a present from me! (Every lawyer knows how to laugh at themselves). I would reccomend this to anyone who enjoys paranormal crime, humor and parody, to those that like Law and Order marathons and that CSI humor.

Home. Love. Books. says

To see this review and more like it please check out my site www.ufreviews.com

This is one of those books that I get a request to read and review, and then get totally bummed out that I have to wait to read it until it comes up on my list for review. So I have basically been sitting on this book for

months, seeing it on my kindle every time I go to read another book, and trying desperately to resist the urge to take a little sneak peak. There are a lot of things I like about this book, I like that it involves all types of paranormals, but at the same time, it focuses on zombies. I haven't read a lot of books having to do with zombies, I think this is my second one in total. But then it brings my favorite element, it's written about a lawyer who defends the "arcanes" (the political correct name in the book). I love the law, in fact I had such a love affair of the law that I started teaching Supreme Court law to high school students.

Needless to say the book didn't disappoint. I am one of those people who wake up like 8 times a night, so while I started reading this book right before bed, I only got a couple of chapters in, next thing I knew I was waking up at 2am and reading a couple more before going back to sleep. I even got up early to finish reading the book, which if you knew me you would know that is a big accomplishment, I hate getting up early.

The writing is fantastic. It's funny because it doesn't seem like a book that would involve a lot of action like a lot of urban fantasy/paranormal do. There isn't some kind of major life or death battle, the main character Hunter didn't spend his time picking up a battle axe to fight for Arcane rights. But even though Hunter's action has a lot to do with his actions as a lawyer it doesn't make the book any less fun to read. In fact the reason I say the writing is so good is because even without the "action" of most of the books in this genre have, this book is still a page turner.

You can't help but like Hunter. He is an everyday normal guy with the skills to help people who are being persecuted. He fights for civil rights, just on a paranormal level. He cares about his job and he cares about his clients. He is genuinely a good guy. Kristen is such a great character too. She is the research assistant for Hunter, and she is every bit the home body who thrives on research. She also harbors the cutest little crush on Hunter as well.

You meet other characters along the way, including Sabrina and Sam, both people who Hunter represented in cases brought against them. Although Sam is the case of the zombie eating the brains that the synopsis teases about. Those characters are equally as enjoyable to read.

Moreover I enjoyed the trial, there were surprises along the way, moments where you thought you knew how the case was going to turn out, and then moments when you had no idea. And then of course that brings me to the ending, which of course I want to talk about but can't because I don't want to give anything away. What I will say is that the ending is anything but what you would expect. And that if this book ends up having a sequel I would be very interested to see where it goes from here.

Overall, I am going to say this is a great book. I loved reading it. I could easily see how not just people who like all things paranormal could enjoy this book, but also how people who like reading books about crime/law would like it too. Or people who have an interest in civil rights, because you have to admit this is a whole new spin on civil rights. At any rate I recommend this book, and I think you should definitely go out and buy it.
