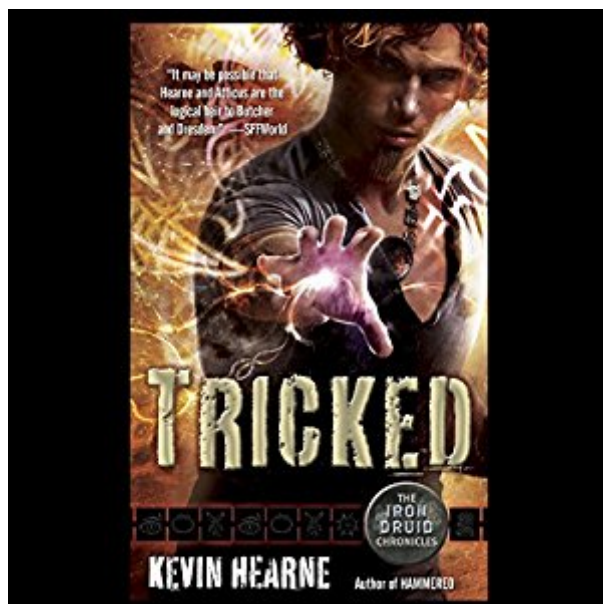


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Tricked: The Iron Druid Chronicles, Book 4



Synopsis

Druid Atticus O'Sullivan hasn't stayed alive for more than two millennia without a fair bit of Celtic cunning. So when vengeful thunder gods come Norse by Southwest looking for payback, Atticus, with a little help from the Navajo trickster god Coyote, lets them think that they've chopped up his body in the Arizona desert. But the mischievous Coyote is not above a little sleight of paw, and Atticus soon finds that he's been duped into battling bloodthirsty desert shape-shifters called skinwalkers. Just when the Druid thinks he's got a handle on all the duplicity, betrayal comes from an unlikely source. If Atticus survives this time, he vows he won't be fooled again. Famous last words.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When it comes to Kevin Hearne, after his fantastic debut last year and the two sequels released in quick succession, it was hard not to be enthralled by his creations. With the epic climax of *Hammered*, fans everywhere were waiting to see what direction Kevin would take Atticus and Oberon next. *Tricked* was written and ready to be released and so when I got the opportunity to get an ARC for it, I was over the moon. *Tricked* is a hard book to review because of two reasons namely, it's the fourth book of the series and secondly because a lot of its plot details are spoilers for the preceding three titles. I must warn readers that I'll be trying to avoid spoilers as much as possible however there will be some minor spoilers and those readers who haven't read the first three books can avoid the review ahead. *Tricked* begins with a short soliloquy similar to the first book however this one is even more outrageous than its predecessor, it begins with the following lines: "The best

trick I ever pulled off was watching myself die. I did a respectable job of it too - the dying, I mean, not the watching!"With such a terrific line begins the fourth entry of the chronicles of Atticus the lone druid who's witty, versatile and now hunted by the thunder gods of various pantheons for his actions across Hammered. He however has a couple of tricks up his sleeve and he turns to one of the ultimate tricksters of yore to help him in his task. This of course works on "scratch my back and I scratch yours" principle and while Atticus thinks he has it under control. Coyote of course manages to one up him with his version of a request. Not to add to his troubles is his past catching up in the form of the widow Mrs.

Both Laurie and I love the Iron Druid series by Kevin Hearne and there's plenty of good reasons for that. The humor that Kevin Hearne delivers is wonderful, the conversations that Atticus and Oberon his dog have together... Oh boy. And nobody can mix up all the different pantheons, the different beliefs as Hearne can. Tricked is no different. Atticus has pissed off just one God too many this time and to get them off his back he made a deal with Coyote in Hammered. The deal was a simple one; Coyote would take Atticus's place, let them kick the crap out of him so the Gods would believe Atticus died, since Coyote can come back from the dead, and the God's would leave Atticus alone in the future. In return Atticus would have to move some earth for Coyote. But keep in mind who Coyote is. The Trickster. So it's safe to assume that the deal might not be so simple as believed. Everything that happens in this book is so Atticus, Granuaile and Oberon can disappear (preferably presumed dead), so Atticus can train Granuaile to become the next Druid. You'd think faking your own death and disappearing would be a little easier for a Druid to pull off than a human but actually it turns out to be much more complicated. Moving "some earth" for Coyote isn't just that. They're invading Skinwalker territory - which they don't take lightly, Colorado (the elemental in the area) will not cooperate with moving earth and metal until the coalmines in the area are shut down, the widow (MacDonagh) has been possessed when she died (by another Goddess) and she's after Atticus, not to mention Leif Helgarson is back. With trouble, LOADS of trouble. I will never regret picking up the first book to read in this series.

This book is a turning point in this series and is definitely not the place to start (to get the most out of this, you'd want to go back to volume 1, Hounded -- it's a little awkward, as first novels are, but it contains a lot of necessary background information). Over the first few books, we've developed relationships with several characters -- Atticus, the POV character (who does appear here, along with his dog Oberon), and his various friends and acquaintances (neighbors, attorneys, a coven of

Polish witches, police officers, gods and goddesses, etc.). Although a few of those characters appear in this volume, many are only mentioned as passing references. (Atticus's apprentice Granuaile has a decent role in this one, though, if you liked her. She gets more of a personality as well, and we learn more about her motivation for starting Druid training.) The mythology in this one is more Native American (Navajo, specifically) as opposed to Celtic. Atticus doesn't always have the strongest tools to deal with the various culture-specific enemies/monsters he comes across and he has to improvise and I like that. Coyote, who has appeared previously in the series, is back. He has made a request of Atticus and it *seems* like his motives here are honest and upstanding, but Atticus is never quite sure, knowing Coyote's trickster history. In addition to helping Coyote, Atticus has to tie up all the loose ends of his old life and establish new identities for himself and Granuaile. So in the midst of his tasks with the Navajo, he is constantly having to leave to do other things. On one of these tasks, something happens (don't want to spoil it) and Oberon gets hurt. It is agony getting through the next chapter or two -- we want to know what happened to Oberon!

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