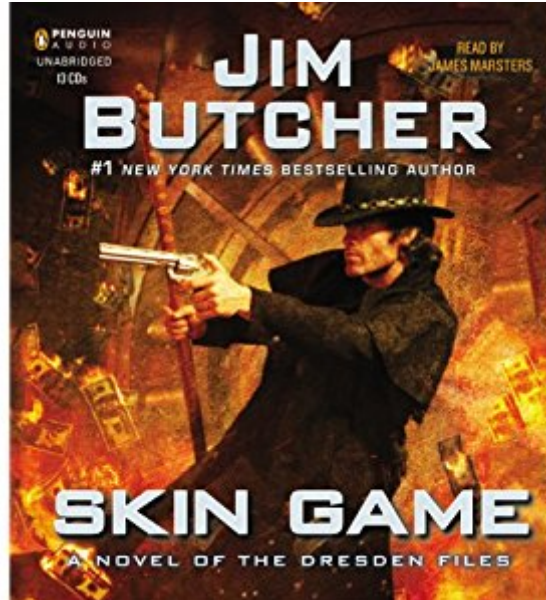


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Skin Game: A Novel Of The Dresden Files, Book 15



Synopsis

Harry Dresden, Chicago's only professional wizard, is about to have a very bad day.... Because as Winter Knight to the Queen of Air and Darkness, Harry never knows what the scheming Mab might want him to do. Usually, it's something awful. He doesn't know the half of it.... Mab has just traded Harry's skills to pay off one of her debts. And now he must help a group of supernatural villains - led by one of Harry's most dreaded and despised enemies, Nicodemus Archleone - to break into the highest-security vault in town, so that they can then access the highest-security vault in the Nevernever. It's a smash-and-grab job to recover the literal Holy Grail from the vaults of the greatest treasure hoard in the supernatural world - which belongs to the one and only Hades, Lord of the freaking Underworld and generally unpleasant character. Worse, Dresden suspects that there is another game afoot that no one is talking about. And he's dead certain that Nicodemus has no intention of allowing any of his crew to survive the experience. Especially Harry. Dresden's always been tricky, but he's going to have to up his backstabbing game to survive this mess - assuming his own allies don't end up killing him before his enemies get the chance....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An ex-cop, a Denarian, a mercenary sorcerer, a wanted warlock, a shapeshifter, and a Warden of the White Council all walk into a slaughterhouse...Alright, that joke isn't really set up to elicit a lot of laughs, but this book does have plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. Skin Game is the fifteenth book in Jim Butcher's fantastic Dresden Files series, and this review is going to assume that you

have already read the first fourteen books. If not, you should get on that. Since this novel is the 15th out of a proposed series of about 20 books, you can expect this number to hold a certain degree of significance in the life of Harry Dresden. Much like in the 10th book, *Small Favor*, Queen Mab wants Harry to do something despicable for her, and he doesn't really have a choice in the matter. In this case, he's robbing the Lord of the Underworld for some of the Church's most powerful artifacts--and he is allied with Nicodemus Archleone, the baddest of the Denarians and Harry's greatest archenemy. Harry Dresden has had a rough time of it so far, and the books thus far have had their ups and downs; lots of fist-in-the-air moments juxtaposed with some cringe-worthy scenes of forced, awkward dialogue. *Skin Game* is a return to some of Butcher's best characters, and it is easily one of the better books in the series. I loved this book for many reasons, but the greatest one is this: Harry is back. While the last few books have been weighed down pretty heavily by the established lore of Dresden's world, *Skin Game* introduces some fresh faces to bring back Harry's dry wit and light-heartedness that have been so notably absent.

I'll kick this off with my favorite quotes: "I can't tell you how many jobs I've done without a hitch since the last time I saw you, Dresden. You walk through the door and everything goes to hell." "That's embroidered on my towels, actually," I said. "What you are telling me," she said, "is that you have never shared your life with another over the long term. The closest you have come to it is providing a home and affection for a being which is entirely your subject and in your control." "Well, not at bath time..." "I know you've been aching to have your hands on my staff," I said to Ascher, as Nicodemus examined the altar for himself. I held out my hand. "But I'd rather be the one fondling my tool. Wizards are weird like that." **PARKOUR!** Because Harry Dresden says so. *Cold Days* was easily one of the best entries of the Dresden series. It's probably my favorite. And it definitely left big shoes to fill for any book that would follow it. Well, *Skin Game* does it wonderfully. I was hanging on to every word. The tension between Harry and Nicodemus was beyond palpable and I kept waiting for the shoe to drop! And boy does it drop. This book was really exciting, gripping, and a true nail biter. I wasn't sure where Butcher planned to go with this one putting Nicodemus front and center. Either we'd finish the book with a better understanding of the character (potentially liking him more) or we'd see Harry do away with him once and for all. He is definitely a character you love to hate. The heist plot was great and we got to see more focus on potential future players in the series. I liked that everyone was out for themselves. It kept things unpredictable.

"*Skin Game*, the fifteenth book in the Dresden Files-series, has all the ingredients a

Dresden-junkie needs: larger-than-life battles, crafty plot twists, Harry perpetually being outmatched and outgunned, and everything spiced up by his trade-marked sardonic humor and the snappy one-liners weâ™ve all come to love from the only professional wizard whoâ™s in the Chicago phone book. Iâ™ll give the bare bones of the story, and try to keep this review as spoiler-free as possible. So hereâ™s Harry, having another bad dayâ | Heâ™s stranded as warden on the island penal colony of Demonreach and oh yeah, Harry has this parasite in his head that is giving him migraines of the killing kind. But no worries. As heâ™s Winter Knight to the Queen of Air and Darkness, his boss Mab is willing to help him get rid of it. Is there a catch to this offer? Of course. Before you know it, Mab has him up â~fecal matterâ™ creek without a paddle because to pay off an old debt, she loans out his services to Nicodemus and his Denarian followers. You remember Nicodemus Archelone, last seen in âœSmall Favorâ•? Well, this time heâ™s out to break into one of Hadesâ™s vaults in the Underworld and grab the most famous chalice in recorded history. And Nicodemus, one of Harryâ™s most dreaded and despised enemies, has assembled an Oceanâ™s Eleven-type group of supernatural villains to bring off this caper. A group that consists of Deirdre, his psychotic daughter; Binder the Summoner, last seen in âœTurn Coat;â• a warlock named Hannah Ascher; a shape-shifter named Goodman Greyâ | and of course, our reluctant Harry. As usual with anything that Harryâ™s involved with, the job is anything but straightforward. But Dresden does a great job trying to stay one step ahead of Nicodemus.

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