



Demon Rogue

D.N. Erikson

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I'm Kalos Aeon. I've been around for longer than you could know - and most people don't want to know me, being half-demon, and all - but right now I've got a big f'in problem.

A woman just came into my office, and I gotta say, from the photo she slipped me, someone's got a serious issue with the supernatural.

Life expectancy is looking kinda low if I don't figure out who's kidnapping magical creatures, selling their blood and trying to reveal magic's existence to the mortal world. Last time that happened it didn't end well. I'm not optimistic about this time, either.

Joke's on me, anyway, for setting up a magical salvage and retrieval business. 50% of an item's magical essence and a per diem can't cover the damages this job is gonna inflict.

Money and magic aren't of much use to a dead man. And If I didn't have a code (yes, I'm a demon with a code), then I would jet out of Texas faster than a vamp at a sorority party (you don't want to know).

But I agreed to the gig, she paid the cash, so I gotta see it through.

Did I mention the super-powerful wiccan - who I used to have, ahem, relations with - just returned from a long hiatus in a place worse than hell? And she's still obsessed with finding a certain god's spear that I *may or may not have*.

Seriously. This situation is code red. I'm almost willing to accept help from wizards. On second thought, no wizards. I hate you guys. I'd rather die.

So um, if I don't make it through the next three days, anyone want a talking dog that's read too much for his own good? Because the way things are going, Argos is gonna need a new home after the spells stop flying...*

*His only request is that you suck less than Odysseus. Apparently the epic poems got that all wrong, and that guy was a major asshole. Or my dog might just be bitter. Tends to rub off when you live with a demon.

Demon Rogue Details

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From Reader Review Demon Rogue for online ebook

Skye Hegyes says

An interesting urban fantasy to say the least, one I went into with low expectations as it was compared to Jim Butcher's Dresden Files series, and there's few books out there that I think compare to his, but I was pleasantly surprised with this one. It had a similar vibe as the Dresden Files, with a supernatural detective (sorta) with a habit of finding things given a nigh-impossible task of finding something while getting involved with a tangle of other messes that somehow all manage to be tied together in some way. I will be reading more books in the series, and hope that my interest in them continues through each novel.

Annette says

Who would have thought a demon - well half demon - would be the good guy and who would believe vampires could be trusted or that a witch could kill a goddess - you will find that and more in Demon Rogue. Kalos (Kal) witty and liked my some has been around for centuries. Kal calls himself a recovery specialist and seriously lives by a code that leaves him as an embarrassment to those leaders of the dark side. When a young woman comes to him for his help in finding something lost or taken, he unleashes a puzzle that without his solving, could be the end of man's rule... and time is not on his side.

David Zurek says

It was a quick read. It was mostly enjoyable but I don't really care about the main character. The main character is suppose to be hundreds if not thousands of years old but he acts like he is a teenager. For the most part you'd never guess that he has so much experience. This is the first book in a series and I'm hoping that the main character develops over the next books. Overall I enjoyed this book but I give it 3 stars (really 3.5 but you can't do that) and not 4 or 5 because of the main character and the somewhat unoriginal plot/characters. I'm hoping for better in the future books.

Cheryl says

This is one of those novels where you have to suspend belief, buckle up and hold on for the ride! Filled with a cast of characters ranging from human, fantasy and mythological backgrounds, the story is simply that of Kal, a half human/half demon, and how he makes his way in the world by working as a private investigator/recovery agent and all the dangers that are inherent in that line of work. He has spent his very long life wandering the planet, keeping one step ahead of death, all the while confused as to what his purpose is. He battles with the two opposing sides of his personality - his human and his demon - but has learned to live with it by rarely letting his demon side take over and by having a fairly loose code of honour. This was a genuinely entertaining read that pushes the boundary of the genres I normally read. Well written and fast paced, I'd have no hesitation in recommending this book to lovers of pure fantasy.

Jewel Prescott says

Aewsome

I can not wait to read more of this series. The characters are real like your best friend and the plots extraordinary.

Myriam says

This is the first book of the trilogy, but the third book in which we follow the story of Kalos Aeon. In this book we fast forward to present day and the gritty reality of Kalos. There is so much happening in this book that, at the same time, I had to take a break and continue to see what happens next. It is an amazing roller coaster of unexpected events, and Kalos trying to catch a breath and get ahead of things.

He is not a standard hero, he is full of flaws but at the same time oh so lovable. And he always pulls through, which is quite an accomplishment because he has to deal with several opponents at any given time. His nemeses return with vengeance, as well.

His faithful companion Argos, Homer's former dog, who is also an intellectually supreme being, is a walking talking contradiction, and one of the best characters ever created. There are several interesting side characters that I would like to see more of in future books.

The prequels are not available for purchase, but the author offers them if you subscribe to his newsletter. The story of Kalos Aeon starts in Storm Pale and continues through the beginning of Bone Realm. In Bone Realm he meets Ruby Callaway and I expect that they will meet again somewhere in this trilogy of Ruby Callaway Trilogy.

Teri Southerland says

High hopes low return

I had high hopes for the book. It sounded good but didn't live up to the blurb about it. For a first book there was a whole story left out. There's no way I would pay money to read a second book. Very disappointing.

Katy M says

OK book...I guess.

I never put spoilers in my reviews.

Maybe if I hadn't read so many well written paranormal books I'd have enjoyed this one...then again, maybe not. This book simply requires too much belief suspension. I couldn't relate to the characters, the world building wasn't believable, the dialogue stilted and so on, not even a little humor to help save the day. I skimmed through the last 1/2 of the book to find out the end (which says a lot as I can read very fast,) which was unsatisfactory.

2 stars because, hey, it takes a lot of effort to write any book; even an unsatisfactory read.

Aimee says

If you have not yet read *Storm Pale*, the back story novella for *Aeon*, I suggest reading that story first. I enjoyed this story. It is slightly different from other supernatural and fantasy stories that I have read and I appreciate that. I liked the main character Kalos Aeon, not all the time mind you. I liked that he was not larger than life. He relies heavily on his human side and I think that makes him more relatable. I love Argos! I can picture him in my mind and it causes me to chuckle every time. My favourite quote is "Some people would be intimidated if they owned a dog smarter than them."

If you like fantasy and enjoy rooting for the underdog, I suggest you pick this book up and give it a try. I'm going to go start reading *Blood Frost* now...

Krystyna says

Who is trying to disrupt the order and how far will they go?

Terrific! This is Kal's story which takes place before the *Calloway* books. Being a demon can be difficult but working as a PI of sorts has its own challenges. What is happening in the city? Why is everyone trying to stop him working his latest case? Who is behind it all? Can he survive? Can he keep the ones he cares about safe? Argos the dog is a masterstroke. The essence of Socrates within the body of a talking dog. Much as I liked the other characters I must admit that I have a soft spot for him.

Jennifer Broenner says

The story was entertaining and intriguing. I rather enjoyed the character Argos and still would like to hear his story separately about how he became a dog and who he was before all that - maybe in a novella. The story did a good job at introducing all the rules and non-rules for magic use as it progressed explaining the consequences and rewards. The author created a world not quite like other supernatural novels I have read but relatable in some ways while remaining unique. I look forward to reading the next book in the series.

Jess Bourque says

I started this book with no problem. I liked the concept, and I love snarky characters. However, I couldn't wait for this book to end. I would have quit reading but I hate starting and not finishing books. With all the plot holes and character development issues, I'm not sure where everyone's super high ratings are coming from. I even tried the second book just giving the series the benefit of the doubt. I never made it to the third.

Rosemary Hughes says

This is very reminiscent of early editions of Dresden, in the language and attitude. I found it interesting, with the many facets in play, Demons, Crimson Concave Goddess killer, talking dogs, friendly vampires, and the Sol Council representative for the good magic. Then off course was the wizard, the disgruntled police detective, and Charon the ferryman. All in all a diverse cast of characters in any essential "Who Dunnit". An enjoyable experience.

Sue says

I do love stories like this, a host of different supernaturals, mysterious going ons, good against evil but the lines are blurred on exactly who's good and who's not.

Kalos Aeon is an interesting character and I'm looking forward to his next confrontation with Isabella Kronos and Marrack.

A great absorbing read and I'll certainly be checking out more by this author.

Damian Southam says

Kalos Aeon (Kal) describes himself as a recovery specialist, but most of his eventual clientele arrives with the goal of finding the private investigator registered at the same address. Of course there's only one operator there, it's just that his clientele doesn't seem to know the difference and his patience for clarifying it has long since passed. So much for the 'cool' angle he'd been going for, as nothing's ever very cool if you're mostly the only one to work it out. The politicians of the Crimson Conclave didn't care much for his distinction either, and the Sol Council can be included therein as well. They heard his name and began talking about black sheep, embarrassments to the dark arts, and a half-demon rogue whom owed allegiance for being permitted to walk in the light.

I'll let you work out which of the two aforementioned groups that each of those conclusions respectively pertains to. Given the thousands of years he's had to develop a code, it came down to three simple but contradictory principles that were in complete contrast to his forebears, and which made him unpopular with the brass of either ruling group. If for no other reason it was for how his scruples showed up many in both groups, regardless of whether they stood for the so-called right or wrong. Kal gave as good as he got: which meant doing the job he was paid to do, without making promises his ass couldn't keep, whilst concurrently not screwing over anyone who hadn't earnt it.

Kal uses the word 'eventual' in his above statement because out of the many of those arriving at his door, most get turned away. Of the human contractors he helps many doubt their own sanity, as much as his. That is, once they admit to the need of having to locate their missing 'magical' artifact. The words "this is silly" and "I shouldn't have come" being among the first things that are dropped. Those conclusions began before they ever made it to his front door. Once they started thinking something strange, a.k.a. something magical, was capable of existing in this modern age and time then the first hurdle was convincing them that he's both good at his job and takes it seriously too. Most of the remaining possibles fit the description of crackpots hoping that he was secretly operating some academy of spells, instead of a magical lost-and-found.

Whichever way you looked at it though, his employ was hardly something you could go bragging about. This suited him just fine as history had taught him one thing if nothing else well, that the tall poppy and those at the top tend to be cut down most often. So although his business was sporadic, which explains why his Texas office has no air conditioning, he could still justify a stipend of two-hundred-and-fifty dollars a day plus fifty

percent of the remaining essence of the thing if found.

Generally speaking that never included missing objects of the person or magical kind, since his code didn't permit extracting the essence within them, unless of course they'd earnt it (see rule number three). So when his latest client, Diana, an extremely accomplished actress laying it on thick, hands him a glossy photo he soon realises that despite being born before Athens was built, that he hadn't actually seen it all. The medallion clue she hands him when asked if she had any ideas on where to look, wasn't totally necessary to prove his predictions about the cause of the savagery intoned by the picture, but it did nonetheless confirm his fears that a certain duo he'd banished was finally back. Kidnapping and cutting up magical creatures into smaller pieces to harvest their magic isn't just a heinous way for them to lose their lives, it added a further layer of fear found in realising just how powerful the culprits might've become. Had the supposedly distraught Diana not played the "we-give-you-permission-that-can-quite-easily-be-withdrawn" card, then Kal wouldn't have touched this particular contract with a twelve-foot poll. As it happens he'd slowly come to like where he presently was at, which had nothing to do with the sensually hot neighbour irrespective of what his talking dog housemate would claim (on at least a daily basis).

Stopping this monster, though, wouldn't be about just recovering what the Sol Council, through the puppet they'd sent, had alleged to have lost. It was about protecting the whole realm from a nefarious group possessing stolen power, the same people looking of unleash chaos by enacting everyone's greatest fears. This sort of being didn't ever stop, they could only ever be stopped. You'd think on any normal given day that help would be forthcoming. Whether he is even capable of just retrieving the missing person in the photo leads to the first and hardest thing to do in a case such as this, not that he'd profess to have ever had another like it, which is to convince yourself that you couldn't just up-and-run. No sooner had Kal reserved himself to sticking to his code then he found the first of many occasions to follow that had him regretting that decision. The first presented itself in the form of a semi-demolished front office space, splintering under the wake of a jealous wiccan's wrath.

Whoever thought a little over a thousand years would be sufficient time for an ex to get over betrayal was a liar, or just sadly mistaken, much as he is now. Given his code, Kal's betrayal only followed those of the respective insane witch and mad demon king who'd gotten his penance eight-hundred years late. He had a defensive magic amulet for just this very sort of attack. Becoming complacent was what often caused his clients' need to contract him, so you'd be forgiven for thinking that he of all people should know better. In his shoes you'd come to be wondering if it was National Blast-from-the-Past Week, which none had thought to mention it to him yet. Being the one to have banished her to possibly the worst section of Hell, despite her not being a demon, was something he'd have to pray could happen again; the irony in that wasn't missed either. Kal could only guess that being permanently condemned wasn't what it used to be.

As stuff continued to go from bad to worst, Kal stacked up more than his three things to come at once. The difficulty lies in finding out which are the actual three, and which are superfluous, if he hoped to be able to deal with them in time. The appearance of the detective who'd been trying to tie some form of crime to him since he'd arrived in Innargo around three years ago seemed like excess baggage following the departure of Isabella, who'd left a pool of her blood in her wake. Conversation with her had inevitably led to using his emergency backup, his trustee .45 pistol; the Police's timely, or untimely depending on your perspective, arrival might actually provide him with what he'd sought for the past several years. Having an office door that, had it still been attached to its hinges, was busier in just one day than it otherwise had been in the past month. Such things aren't explained by coincidence, its something altogether different, and Kal planned on getting to the bottom of it. The latest party who'd shortly walk through his door would find all the evidence needed to make a certain detective very happy.

Just as when Marrack and Isabella were last around, late in the tenth century, chaos followed in their wake. Just as it was beginning to do again. Lucky in some ways, the Police had stairs to ascend first, hopefully giving Kal the time he needs to put a whole in the detectives wishes. Being in a cell wouldn't help Diana or anyone else for that matter. But Kal avoided the magical solutions in his true magic at all cost. It wasn't like any other forms of magic, demon or black magic draws on a very specific fuel to enact the wielder's purpose. In order to perform the necessary spells to enact given tasks he had to prey on pieces of people's soul. Hence the main reason for his trustee .45 and retrieving lost magical items, of which his contracts permit him to syphon half of whatever magical essence they still held. Kal had gone to great lengths to ensure he never preyed on souls. Syphon too much and a very specific outcome occurred, something those of his kind worked as hard at doing as he did not.

For the immensely rare unwilling wielders of demon magic, something perhaps attributable to his half-blood mortal soul, they took only the smallest bites; spread it out over multiple souls (including his own) whenever possible. So many half-bloods eventually become soulless like their brethren, the full demons, over the span of their lives. Demons covet mortal souls in order to cast their magic, and storing up too much can create a bloodlust making them mindless devourers capable of infecting others through their bite. As things presently stood at that moment though, there'd be a greater overall cost to humanity if he were to be imprisoned; preventing him from stopping whatever madness Marrack and Isabella had planned.

Thus, Kal took his bites, even whilst loathing himself for doing so, in order to remove enough of the evidence to be able to turn away the fast approaching team of officers. They must be responding to a disturbance call, the only possible scenario he could assume. There are young male residents living on the floor beneath his office that must have put in a nine-one-one call when Isabella blew open the front of his office on arrival. She'd be off licking her wounds from the two .45 slugs he'd buried in her leg, somewhere she'd be safe for the short overall time it took for her to heal. The idea of her limping around for a few days made him smile, but there wasn't a chance in hell (pun intended) that she wouldn't return.

Sometimes it's the warriors for good, evil's fiercest opponents, who are the best suited and most capable to fight against the power, destruction, and chaos evil desires. Warriors who live to combat the true menace that hides in the shadows. Soldiers for whom years of physical training and theoretical lore have honed them into dangerous weapons. Pieces of them are whittled to make wood and stone carvings, sculpted by a mason or carpenter armed with razor edged chisels. But on rare and very effective occasions, the best suited are those created by evil itself. For example, those who through the treatment at the hands of those like them, have instead been fashioned into the weapon most suited, and best placed to reap the havoc embedded in their vengeance.

Kal was little more than a petty thief who'd fallen in with the wrong crowd. Making the wrong life choices, but hardly the big and nasty fiend typically associated with what the world substantively defines as evil. Fortunately for Kal, he'd been noticed by another underworld figure who'd been given a message of someone who would come and at which time, choices would be needed which could affect the balance between light and dark. Neither of these forces can function in exclusion of the other, for balance is necessary to maintain life. With a breed of magic all its own, Demon Rogue introduces some new concepts to magical lore, with exemplary offshoots such as the rather aptly named the Vanished.

The black magic is also well delineated in comparison to other types of magical fuel. I say fuel quite purposefully and once you've read this first in a new series you'll understand quite quickly why that referent applies best. By no means does Demon Rogue use a fallen angel or straight up hero typically associated with such plots as that herein. If required, then you'd be more accurate in using the antihero concepts when describing Kal. He has a code that fits in with the standard sorts of heroes and heroines, but a fundamental

and inescapable aspect of his nature requires the anti- to be used, even if the anti- feels out of place after seeing his actions herein.

Kal fights his nature in the best way he knows and in times of need he is sometimes forced to embrace the aspect of himself that condemns him in the eyes of the so-called good guys and girls. His sense of right and wrong, his loyalties, and his thirst for vengeance where its due, matches any of the characters that might typically be considered good. He also operates in ways that set him above the automatically considered forces for good. Kal is very much a poster boy for the motto that good and bad aren't so clearly defined by what they are, but are more accurately defined by what they do. Its in the 'do' and not the 'are' where actions define more accurately the sorts of people they seek to plop into categories such as good and evil.

On a less than positive note, Kal's lackadaisical approach to combat and getting his ass delivered to him bruised and swollen, tends to get the reader wondering how much luck was involved in permitting his multiple millennia lifespan. Guns and talismans left behind, guns not fully loaded, and even guns becoming a projectile once thrown away because they're empty, leaves much to be desired in the scope of typical. For a guy willing to stare death in the face and still tell them he's still going to do what he must, and stuff the consequences, Kal really could do with being much better prepared when committing to his words. But irrespective of the aforementioned observations, it works well to bring down the pedestal anyone might put him up on. At least then its no more than a painful drop, should he fall or be cut down. This works really well at making him a down to earth and an everyday guy who does the right thing by others. Instead of the usual titan magicians that lead urban fantasy series, not to suggest either aren't appealing, Kal manages to create a nice image of a guy fighting for tomorrow.

This is my first novel by D.N. Erikson and there'll definitely be more that I'll read and review. With an upcoming box set of the full trilogy plus the link to free prequels for both this saga and his other series of Ruby Callaway, there's the potential to obtain five excellent reads for a small outlay. Kal led the charge but there're other smaller characters that promise to enrich the storylines; Argos the talking Immortal Labrador rescued with him from the underworld is one for sure. The immediate risk to humanity is put on hold, but the future promises some big holes for Kal to fill. The story is fast paced and has no superfluous aspects which work well together to provide intrigue, making it captivating in the way where you don't want to put it down. Its also a very comfortable length, which improves the later aspects mentioned above.
