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Kill It With Magic: An Urban Fantasy Novel (The Lillim Callina Chronicles Book 2)



Synopsis

Lillim Callina was raised to believe she could kill anything. Why wouldn't she? She was brought up by the Dioscuri, a group of supernatural warriors charged with keeping the human world from being overrun by monsters. The only problem is, they don't like it so much when you run away. It all started with a cheap piece of candy. Lillim knew she shouldn't have eaten it, especially since it was sent by her demonic ex-boyfriend. How was she to know that just one lick would have an ancient, unstoppable dragon kicking in her front door and demanding she help him take over the world? Or that it would get her stuck in the middle of a turf war between a werewolf king and a millennia old vampire? So now, there's just one way out of this mess. Kill them all and let God sort them out. Then maybe, just maybe, she'll think about apologizing to her mother. Nah.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kill It With Magic is a paranormal urban fantasy story and book 1 in the Lillim Callina Chronicles

written by J.A. Cipriano. Lillim is a 16-year-old reincarnated girl who draws on magic to fight demons, vampires, werewolves, dragons etc etc. First person narration coupled with Lillim's sarcasm and sense of humor made it quite easy to like her and root for her. It became tricky for me with the huge number of characters the author was introducing. While I can see that this may have been necessary with regard to the next books in the series, it made for difficult reading. What made it even more problematic was the sheer quantity of what was going on. I find this quite difficult to explain. Lillim is initially sent on one quest, but then gets sidetracked on another mission and no sooner do you think you are following what is happening, something else happens. Now, I am all for action-packed fast paced adventures, but this was just a wee bit too much for me. It felt crammed. It was non-stop turmoil but sadly lacking the details to help you understand the world Lillim was living in. I am not criticizing the author's style of writing. That was actually very good. And I enjoyed various aspects of the story. The ghost was a nice little touch. The romance side of the story was quite cute. And there's definitely potential for this to develop into an interesting series with unique characters. But less would have been more here. A slower, more detailed build-up of the action and the entire setting would have left me more satisfied. I was given a complimentary copy of the book in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

I started the series with Ward Breakers and it was decent enough that I decided to keep reading. The potential to be an excellent series was there but fell flat. As an avid reader I will usually see even the most horrible books through to the end. With that being said I'll clue you in to how bad this was for me. I closed it around half way through and even though I would love to have questions answered. I feel like I would need the reincarnation abilities of the main character having died of old age by the time I make it through the endless battles.

Here's the thing. I don't normally like YA books. Hey, been there, done that, didn't even want the flipping YA "I lived through being a teenager" T-shirt. But I was looking for a Whispersync book, I had downloaded this book from a "freebie" email, and though there was no description on the "About this book" on my Kindle, the first couple of paragraphs grabbed my attention and made me laugh. "What kind of a tip do you give someone you've just blown up? That's the thought that ran through my mind as I frantically rummaged through my pockets for something, anything to give the delivery boy

It just blasted into the brick wall outside my tiny apartment. It wasn't my fault, I swear. It's not like my day planner reads: brush teeth, shower, get dressed, blow up delivery boys. Lillim Callina You have to admit, that is pretty darn humorous, right? So, I paid my \$1.99 for Whispersync, popped on my headphones, and wandered into my studio to work on my art. Let's face it that is a LOT less money than paying for a full Audible Edition! And you can simply stop listening and start reading any time you want. Score. Come to find out, Lillim Callina is actually sixteen but you wouldn't know it from reading her. Well, actually, actually she is something like six years old. Yeah, weird, huh? You see, Lillim is a reincarnation of one ass-kicking, name-taking female with a nasty streak and some deep, dark secrets. Throw in a ton of magic, a spectacularly sped-up growth rate, a mother who thinks that the perfect way to teach her toddler "Vampires Bad!" is to tie her to a tree outside a cave full of blood-suckers right at sundown (OK, I just thought my egg donor was a raving lunatic!) a dragon turf war, and a truly pissed-off werewolf king (Well, OK. She did accidentally get his son kidnapped as a pawn in the aforementioned dragon turf war. Sigh.) Add to that various and sundry other weird, hideous and downright loco monsters, and this was a riot wrapped in a Dresden-esque ass-kicking on steroids. Lillim appears to be sixteen, but her thought process are wildly skewed by the memories from her eight former lives especially the previous one making her a clever mix of teenager and burned-out middle aged woman. This is non-stop action, with plenty of blood and blades to go around. Lillim is quite interesting, though I had a bit of a problem with just how often, and just how severely, she got herself beaten to a pulp and still walked away. The author goes to great pains to write her as a mortal creature in a world filled with immortal monsters but it stretches belief when every time she turns around she is being slammed into brick walls by dragons, set on fire, and basically subjected to brutality that should have killed her. Over, and over, and over again. Still, the book was amusing, the story itself is unusual and not as formulaic as is so common these days and Lillim is an interesting character with a striking backstory. Overall, I don't regret the time I spent with the book. If you are a fan of YA, I recommend it. If you aren't a fan, you still might enjoy it as I did.

I purchased the first Lillim Callina novel after reading the series' prequel Wardbreaker. I really enjoyed the pace and story of Wardbreaker and bought Kill it with Magic hoping the same style

would continue. Unfortunately this book fell short of the prequel. I ended up skimming the pages from the middle to the end. The main character just wasn't enough to hold my interest.

I rarely post reviews of books. I feel compelled to do so in this case because the book was unfocused, rambling and difficult to understand. It was a library download for me, but if I'd paid for this book I would be very unhappy. Characters jump in and out of scenes for no apparent reason, situations don't seem to add grow toward any real conclusion, and there seems to be some back stories on characters the reader is not privy. I suppose there was a story in there somewhere but it feels like the author forgot from page to page what was written.

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