



Warlock in Training

T.J. Nichols

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Angus Donohue doesn't want to be a warlock. He believes draining demons for magic is evil, but it's a dangerous opinion to have—his father is a powerful and well-connected warlock, and Angus is expected to follow the family tradition.

His only way out is to fail the demon summoning class. Failure means expulsion from the Warlock College. Despite Angus's best efforts to fumble the summoning, it works. Although not the way anyone expects.

Angus's demon, Saka, is a powerful mage with his own need for a warlock.

Saka wants to use Angus in a ritual to rebalance the magic that is being stripped from Demonside by warlocks. If Angus survives his demon's desires and the perils of Demonside, he'll have to face the Warlock College and their demands.

Angus must choose: obey the College and forget about Demonside or trust Saka and try to fix the damage before it's too late. Whatever he does, he is in the middle of a war he isn't qualified to fight.

Warlock in Training Details

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From Reader Review Warlock in Training for online ebook

Adrian Fridge says

Nice world-building. Solid characters. And a happy ending that's also realistic for the scale of the problems being dealt with.

I liked both Angus and Saka, as well as their chemistry. If I had any niggle, it'd be the pacing of the chapter-to-chapter POV switches didn't always work for me, but it wasn't *bad*. It never felt like the story was dragging.

Anyway, if there's ever a sequel, I'd be up for reading it.

Evan says

Overview:

I had high hopes going into this book, but it very quickly took a turn that I wasn't expecting. I suppose it's my fault for not reading/heeding the reviews. It's alright, but it has some problems in my opinion.

Characters:

Nothing particularly notable, I thought the characters were rather bland themselves with little personality or life to them. I didn't really get much of a sense of them as people, with some traits thrown on. Angus doesn't really have much of a driving force throughout the book.

Worldbuilding:

Here is where this book shined, I thought the whole concept of the balance between worlds was super cool, the siphoning of demonic magic and the reclaiming of magic was such a neat and unique concept.

Unfortunately, most of it wound up feeling like it was being written as an excuse for sex magic which was... not great.

Plot:

The overlying concept was great, but the actual meat of what we got was lacking, in my opinion. Angus is snatched to rebalance magic and learns so much more about the world than he thought, then there is a lot of sex magic and he decides to help the demons not die because that would kill Earth too.

Meh, made promises it didn't keep.

Other Cons:

-The sex wasn't great, I'm sorry but it just was boring and poorly written.

-Also, unexpected blood play. Not going to kink shame but did not expect that.

-I loathe books that consider a minor resolution to be the point to end their novel on. This just stopped without any real satisfaction for me.

Final Thoughts:

Although I'm interested in where this story is going, I'm not picking up the next book and I wouldn't recommend it.

Serena Yates says

‘Warlock in Training’ is an amazing read, and I loved exploring the rules and background of this story’s universe. Here, wizards and warlocks both use magic but in very different ways – wizards draw magic from nature and pay for its use but warlocks summon demons from a parallel existence and drain their magic. The official version that only warlocks are properly trained and “approved” allows political control by a small group of power-hungry, unscrupulous warlocks (idiots, really) who would rather destroy Demonside (and probably Earth as a consequence since both are linked) than give up control. There is lots to learn about this world as the story unfolds, and the truth only emerges slowly.

Please find my full review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Steph ?? says

Just a FYI: Here are a few things to mention before reading the book:

1. This story is more Mystery/Suspense with a dash of possible romance thrown in.
2. There is an orgy takes place in Chapter 24 (83% mark), where there are two BRIEF mentions of MF interactions.
3. We are left with a cliffhanger.

Wow, just wow! This is my first book from TJ Nichols and she does not disappoint. There is soooooo much awesomeness in this book it is ridiculous. The author spares no expense when it comes to the world building on not just one, but two worlds/dimensions. Yeah you heard me...TWO: Earth (Earthside) and Arlyxia (Demonside)! Not to mention the wonderful way she constructs the characters in the book and the hierarchy in both dimensions.

So it begins on Earthside. Angus is summoning his first demon, when in fact all he wants is pursue something nonmagical in life; like becoming a vet or possibly a doctor. In fact, he was trying to fail, and fail miserably. However, he didn’t account on Saka, a demon mage, to answer his call. In that moment, everything starts to change for this 19-year-old.

Saka, sees something in that moment with Angus and decides to take him to Demonside. He does so, not only to rebalance the power (sexy times involved), but to open Angus’s eyes to the truth. That truth being that both worlds are suffering due to the magical imbalance on both sides. Earthside is getting colder, where Demonside is getting hotter.

Angus soon realizes that facts are being withheld, and in their place they are given carefully constructed information that is then reinforced by the schools and the media. That is where The Underground comes into play. They consist of rogue wizards and warlocks set on making things right. Seeking out the truth to save their world.

With all of this going on, something starts to form between Angus and Saka, and it wasn’t just from the hot

sex they did to restore a bit of the power in each world. No, it is more than that. Both Angus and Saka have their own thoughts and feelings towards what is happening between them, however, neither one will say it out loud. There is a moment when I thought something was forming between Angus and another warlock, Terrance. Thinking Angus finally deserves some sort of happiness. Someone to love and have that feeling returned without thought. However, shit hits the fan and what could exist between the two of them is put on hold indefinitely.

In the end, I was left with many questions and mixed emotions.

1. I am sad for Angus, and everything he has endured up until the end. If anyone at this point deserves a HEA at the end of this series, it is him.
2. I'm excited to see what happens with the partnership of sorts between Demonside and The Underground.
3. I have this feeling that there is more to Angus's power.
4. Who is really the mastermind(s) behind everything?
5. Are they really storing power and if so why?

So, needless to say I need the next book like now!

I am one of many reviewers at Gay Book Reviews and can be found here:

<http://gaybook.reviews/author/steph/>

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

DeeNeez says

I really love it when an author creates a well, thought out, new world. Excellent world building! My favorite is the Demon side world. The descriptions were so vivid, I could even smell the heat and sand. And I think the real gem of this book is Saka. That is one hot demon. As for Angus, I see a lot of potential for character growth. A good start for a series.

Eugenia says

Fantastic 1st in a new urban fantasy series!

Warlock in Training is the first book in TJ Nichols' Studies in Demonology series. This is the first work of Nichols' that I've read and I must admit that I plowed through it in one day! Nichols created an entrancing binary world where humans and demons interact and work magic. A world which is nearing a tipping point environmental, one which reminded me of where we find ourselves in our current state of global warming.

In the human dimension, here referred to as Vinland, the world is rapidly cooling. Reversely, Demonside, as the land of demons is called, is quickly heating and drying up. These events are triggered by an imbalance of magic, an imbalance wherein the human warlocks are taking more magic from Demonside than they are replenishing. Human warlocks use and summon demons to provide them with magic to cater to individuals able to pay their high fees for services rendered..

Enter Angus. The reluctant hero of the story. He is a first year student at East Vinland Warlock College. He

is desperately trying to fail his courses and abandon the family legacy of becoming a warlock. He simply wants to study medicine. Or maybe become a vet. He just knows he doesn't want magic in his life.

Enter Saka. The demon mage. With horns. And a prehensile tail. While attempting to fail at summoning a demon, Angus rips through the void to Demonside and in comes Saka, who promptly snatches him back to his world.

What ensues is a slow discovery of buried truths and blatant lies perpetrated by the warlocks at the college, by Angus' father, and by the world at large. Saka and Angus end up working together toward the end of restoring magical balance in the world--a balance that can only be restored through blood, soul, and sex magic. Since this is a romance book, take a gander at which type of magic Saka is an expert in? Warning, aside from sex magic, there is a fair bit of blood magic in the book, so if knives and bloodletting are not your thing, even to restore magic and save the world, maybe you should skip those sections.

So, what did I like about the book? I loved the conception of the two co-dependent worlds and how different they were. I also liked how this felt like a metaphor to our current environmental problems: Those in power harvest and consolidate more power with little consequence to the long term effects of their actions be they environmental, social, or political. I also loved Demonside. I wanted to learn more about it--heck, I wanted to visit it and be Saka's apprentice!

What didn't work for me? For one, the human setting, both spatial and temporal was not well defined for me. I was unclear as to the political structure on the human side, how much power the Warlock College had, and how pervasive around the world/globe the use of magic via demons was. In essence, this is world building in the fantasy and science fiction genre and I felt it could have been more specific. Second, things took a while to get going and Angus was a bit repetitive in his musings. However, the action totally skyrocketed the last quarter of the book.

What important things did I learn? Demons have ritualistic sex orgies to raise water from the buried red sands. Demons are matrilineal. Demons have demon animals just like humans. Rugby players make hot magical tutors. And most importantly, spunk=magic.

I am anxiously awaiting the next book in Studies in Demonology. Well done, TJ Nichols!

Kristen Burns says

3.5 Stars

Full Review:

I received an ecopy of this book from the publisher. This has not influenced my review.

This book didn't really click with me in the beginning, but I ended up getting more into it as it went on. I still have some mixed feelings about it though.

First of all, there was a lot of sex just for the sake of including sex. I mean, it had an explanation in the story (they were using sex magic to rebalance the realms), but, if we're being honest, it was in the book just for the sake of being in the book. And it started so soon, before I even cared about the characters and before they had any feelings for each other. Actually none of the sex was particularly meaningful or full of feeling (other

than lust), so I just kind of didn't care about the sex scenes because I prefer them with emotion.

Then there was the *kind of but not really* blood play. It made me uncomfortable because of the dubious consent. Angus definitely consented to and enjoyed the sex, but he only consented to the cutting because he knew it was needed to balance the realms, not because he wanted to or enjoyed it. And he knew that if he hadn't consented, Saka would've taken his blood anyway. In the author's defense, it wasn't referred to as blood play, but knowing Angus was only letting someone cut him out of obligation still made the scenes uncomfortable for me. The orgy scene, however, was surprisingly well-written. When you think *orgy*, you probably think *extreme*, but this really wasn't. Angus's thoughts and how the magic affected him made it believable, and the sexual stuff wasn't even particularly graphic.

There were also some romantic feelings more near the end of the book. There was a potential maybe love triangle/maybe unique relationship situation, so I'm not sure where that's going to go. The feelings between Angus and both possible love interests seemed too strong too quickly though (no one professed any love, thankfully, but still), unless maybe I didn't quite understand the amount of time that passed, which is a definite possibility. But even if more time did pass, I didn't get to see the characters spending time together, so I didn't feel the connections between them.

That being said, the romance wasn't the focus of the story. The focus was the magic, how Humanside and Demonside were being affected, and the way the humans at the top were abusing magic and killing demons and ultimately destroying both realms. And the Demonside culture, way of life, hierarchy, environment, etc. was unique and interesting.

As for the characters, Saka (the demon) was a pretty serious character since he had an important job that he took seriously and always put his tribe and realm before his own personal desires. And Angus was kind of entitled and petulant in the beginning but grew over the course of the book and was smarter and more mature by the end. The problem was that, even though they were well-written, I just didn't connect to either one.

So overall, even though this book had a lot of sex and I had a hard time connecting to the characters, I still thought the characters were well-written, thought the parts about the balance of magic between the realms and how they're planning to fix things were good, and thought the book had a very unique take on magic and demons!

Recommended For:

M/M paranormal/urban fantasy readers who want a unique take on magic and demons.

Original Review @ Metaphors and Moonlight

Ulysses Dietz says

Warlock in Training

By TJ Nichols

Dreamspinner Press, 2017

Four stars

What a smart, thoughtful book. Fantasy/magic is a genre that can be silly, in a literary culture so altered by JK Rowling (all hail), but Nichols does something really interesting. Dreamspinner was smart to pick up this

book by TJ Nichols, another fine Australian novelist.

In our own world, in my nation, we love to demonize the “other,” whether they be gay people, people of color, or Muslims. In Angus Donohue’s world they demonize, um, demons. The human world is linked to the demon world, called Demonside, by magic. Magic is the source of energy for humans. It is power, and humans who can handle magic (wizards) are hungry for it. Angus is in training to be a warlock, which is a wizard who can call a demon and use that demon’s magic to increase his own power.

This all seems very straightforward, until we realize that humans bonded to demons draw on their demon’s magic until the demons is drained and dies. Then they simply dispose of it and call a new one from Demonside. Human students in training to be Warlocks are taught a very clear history: demons are monsters, and will destroy humans if not controlled. This is why warlocks have such cultural power, because they can control demons.

Angus Donohue doesn’t want to be a warlock. He wants to be a doctor and is trying to fail his demon-calling exam. When the demon he calls grabs him and takes him through the void to Demonside, Angus’s whole life changes. He learns the truth about demons, and learns the extent of the misinformation being taught at the Warlock College. He learns that magic the drain of magic by greedy warlocks is rapidly destroying Demonside.

There is a double parallel that gives Nichols’ narrative a shivery relevance. On the one hand, the demons and their magic are like the oil-rich Muslim nations, whom the West both depends on and vilifies. On the other hand, the relationship between human and demon is uncomfortably like that of master and slave in the good old days in the USA, when slaves were seen as sub-human, to be used and discarded without a thought. There are other parallels, too, and Nichols makes her story more powerful by sticking to the world she has created and letting the readers draw their own conclusions.

Nichols gives us very beautiful world-building here, and Saka, Angus’ demon, becomes the mirror-image to Angus himself. Saka is the embodiment of all of the truth about which Angus’ father and the other warlocks have been lying for generations. He becomes the lens through which we see Demonside in all its dark beauty and complexity.

I would say that this is not a romance. Saka and Angus’ relationship is critical, and emotionally powerful, but it is simply a piece of the larger story. The narrative is quite erotic, in a way that is essential to the plot. Strangely enough, another parallel that came to mind as I read was in the animated film “Monsters, Inc.,” when Sully and Wazowski realize that the power in a child’s laughter is far greater than the power of a child’s terrified scream.

The book ends neatly, but I looked somewhat desperately for a sequel in the works, and found no sign of one on Nichols’ website. However, the title online is subtitled “Studies in Demonology #1” which is a good sign. I felt satisfied at the end of “Warlock in Training,” but was hungry for the next chapter.

Chris, the Dalek King says

Angus Donohue never wanted to be a warlock—a magic user who gets most of his power by using a demon—but his father has *ideas* about how Angus’ life should be lived and let’s just say self-determination is

not involved in any way. That's how Angus finds himself in college training to be a warlock and failing miserably at failing to be said warlock. When his purposefully botched summoning actually results in him summoning a demon from the other side he is confused a more than a little disappointed. But things go from bad to worse when instead of having the demon under his command, Angus is instead pulled thru the veil to the Demonside by the demon he summoned.

Once a reluctant warlock in training, now Angus is a warlock trapped on the other side and unable to get home. He also has little say in what happens to him on the Demonside, and the demons are not shy in asking for his blood, his soul, or his body to help rebalance the terrible effects of the warlocks' use of demons and their magic. Angus also has a DemonMaster who challenges his every preconceived notion about how both their worlds work. Something that could get Angus killed if he ever did find a way back to his home.

As much as I was looking forward to this story, I'm a bit unsure how I feel about it in the end. There was definitely a lot of things going for it, but I must admit to a lack of connection to both the characters and the story. On paper, and taken on their own, the characters and the world built up here was really good. Angus and Saka—the demon that Angus ends up summoning—are interesting and nicely crafted. I also really liked the way the morality in this book is heavy on the shades of gray. Demons and humans alike rarely ever come across as “good guys.” Probably all that human sacrificing going on. Hard to be a typical good guy when you either participate in or supply the means of human sacrifices.

The first chapter of this book was good. It totally pulled me in and Angus' failed attempts at failing (and the consequences thereof) seemed like a really good set up to this story. But after that part I struggled with connection to Saka, and as a result Angus (since their actions were so tied up in each other). I liked them, yeah, but I never got any deeper than that. There was just no need to know how everything turned out. No deeper connection, no driving force. And I'm not entirely sure that it is the book's fault. I think this might be the result of several things that happen in the book that I just didn't feel comfortable with personally even though I feel they were very well done.

Mostly the human sacrifices. Like, I get it. I really do. And I even like the whole idea. Just some part of me kinda withdrew every time the topic came up. In my head I can totally rationalize it as different cultures and social norms. That this was a necessary part of keeping their whole world alive. I just can't care all that much about characters and people that are willing to slaughter a bunch of people. Even if they are demons and *that's what demons do*.

Also, the orgy in the last quarter of the book so wasn't my thing. I felt uncomfortable for that whole scene.

So even though I liked this book a whole lot, I never really felt the connection to it that I was really hoping for. I would definitely recommend it if you like characters of dubious morality and well-written paranormal/fantasy, though. There was a lot here that I can tell other people will really love, but just didn't work quite as well with me for whatever reason.

3.5 stars

This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.

Ali says

A Scattered Thoughts and Rogue Words Review An Alisa Review:

Rating: 4.5 stars out of 5

This is wonderful and thought out story. Angus has been struggling with himself since his father placed him in Warlock College and has been trying to figure out how to get out without just quitting like he wants to. When Saka takes him back to Demonside most of his beliefs and research about the use of demons in his world are confirmed.

Both Angus's and Saka's worlds were well developed and I wasn't questioning the actions of the characters throughout the story as can often happen with little things seem to be missing. While the "relationship" between Angus and Saka is not the main focus of the story it is important for this story for the future in this series. They both have a deep connection to the other, but are unable to actually voice this to others or really themselves.

We see the views of both Angus and Saka in this story. Angus is trying to figure out how to help Saka while also not being a rogue on his side; unfortunately he has more confrontation than he planned on. I couldn't help, but feel his desperation and how hopeless his situation felt at many points throughout the story. Saka has never fully agreed with what many on his side deem the proper solution for bring the worlds back into balance, but as long as he is able he will work to do what he thinks is the best solution. This is a great start to this series and I look forward to more of these stories.

Cover art by Catt Ford is wonderful and shows both of the worlds Angus is trying to live in.

?♥? Michaelle &♥? says

[
I didn't mind Terrence

SheReadsALot says

4.5 HEARTS--I knew this author's first novel would be great. It was magical.

This isn't my first T.J. Nichols; all previous works were urban fantasy/ paranormal short stories: *The Vampire's Dinner* and *A Wolf's Resistance*. Both works had great world building and paranormal ideas. The same can be said for Warlock in Training. But what I wanted to see is what the author could do with something novel length.

Not disappointed.

Earth has changed, new countries have formed and magic is known. Well I should say warlocks and wizards are real on Earth, or Humanside. The Earth is continuing to change, forget global warming, it's approaching an ice age. Most of the population doesn't know what the cause is for it. Warlocks are believed to be the saviors to stop it, But what they don't want people to know is they're the culprits. Magic exists in Humanside and Demonside, a second world where demons and other paranormal beings live. Demonside is experiencing extreme global warming, the world turning into a desert, water is scarce. Do these changes share something in common?

Wizards practice magic without using demons. Warlocks on the other hand drain demons for their magic to be more power, have stronger magic. Wizards are looked down on in the magical society. Warlocks are the upper echelon, the 1% if you will.

Nineteen year old ginger Angus Donohue doesn't want to be a warlock, despite his prestigious warlock family history. His father is forced him to attend warlock college and threatened him not embarrass the family name or him. Angus doesn't even want to summon a demon during a requisite class and tries to fail.

And that's where the magic begins.

Enter demon Saka (I am 1000% for him). He chooses Angus despite Angus trying to fail and takes him to Demonside across the void (the bridge between the two worlds). Points to the story being dual POV. Both worlds are too interesting not to immerse yourself in.

The cover is so fitting! Because I think Angus has the potential to be the bridge.

Saka is a demon mage and is trying to help his world. He's smart, calm and wicked with a knife. He shows Angus there is more to life and magic. I couldn't help but imagine Saka something like Hellboy (black horns instead, no hair, the similar skin tone)

I always try to find a Hellboy in demons I read about. LOL

Saka teaches different types of magic: soul, blood and sex. Saka's really great at the last two.

A lot of urban fantasy, tends to have an alpha type as the lead. Not the case in Warlock in Training. Angus is nineteen and reads nineteen - unsure of himself, still learning his place in the world, exploring relationships with potential partners. But he's not the typical teenager. Demonside helps open his eyes.

There is a battle between two magical worlds that felt similar to what the political and global feel is right now. The 1% is ruining both worlds, damn the results as long as they're in power. It's magical politics. People are dying for a cause that does not benefit the greater good. The ones in charge lie to the masses and attacks any form of resistance.

But there is a resistance.

And it's growing.

The book ends with a cliffhanger of sorts. There are loose threads that need to be answered. Such as who really is in charge? Why the harvesting of so much power? The suspense is well written.

Before jumping all over this, I feel I should **warn** potential readers of possible triggers/deal breakers: There are romantic undertones rather than a defined romance. Both main characters have sex with other people (But I feel I should explain demons have different views on 'relationships' - monogamy is not the norm,) There were brief MF moments. (Also, didn't mind. The moments were a blip on the entire scale of things) Cutting is practiced for magical purposes.

How erotic does this get? There is on page sex but don't expect pages of a drawn out sex scene. (Quite happy about that, it can be a chore to read drawn out pages) The relationship between Saka and Angus is still forming, is kinda fluid. There is another character that has a potential of maybe making this a love/lust triangle. It's not romantic. More as a means to an end but there is potential for deeper feelings. Sex on Demonside can be and is used for ritualistic needs. If you are a reader who needs the one and only, I would say to approach with caution. Because the way the sex, relationship and openness is written fits the characters. And they struggle. But it's secondary to the world building, action and suspense.

I want to rate this all the hearts but I have tiny issues, pretty minor. Technically, the story reads well. But I feel some of the chapters ended in odd spots. I like the fact the chapters aren't overly long but some ended with where it could have just combined with half of the next chapter for better impact.

But I see this book as the foundation for more to come. War is approaching. What side are you on? Will the resistance win?

Bonus was that this book stars my favorite paranormal beings: **DEMONS!**

And a ginger warlock! It was like it was written just for me. ;P

Fans of urban fantasy should definitely check this series out because the world building is tops. The author obvious is an urban fantasy fan and it shows in their work. The first third is mostly building. The other two thirds are fast paced and filled with intrigue. My heart started to crumble in the last 5-8% but the author pulled it through.

I am so there for this series! And I'm definitely a fan of this author after this. It's 3 out of 3 for me!

Recommended.

A copy provided for an honest review.

Karen says

4.5 magical stars rounded up to 5 because still 1/2 stars here on GR and dragons!!!

Uuuuummmm...excuse me, but where do I sign up for book #2?

Because I want it...like yesterday...now would be good but yesterday would have been even better because then I could reading it now.

I admit this book probably isn't for everyone but when I saw the blurb I was curious and fairly certain it would work for me...well, that was an understatement. I loved it. It's magic and wizards, warlocks, mages, demons and Oh hell yeah! There's a dragon or two just for good measure.

Let's start with Angus, he's definitely the center of the story. He's a warlock in training and in his world any warlock worth his salt has a demon and Angus manages to get the demon to end all demons because his demon's a mage.

Have I confused you yet? Well let me clarify things a little. Angus is human and he lives on the humanside and he's training to be a warlock, not that he wants to be but daddy thinks he should or at least he does until he doesn't but we're not going to go there right now.

For the purposes of this story a warlock is someone who is trained in the use of magic and draws their magic from his demon who he calls forth from the other side of the void, which is essentially the demonside of this world. Now a wizard is someone who uses magic but it's magic that they gather and they don't use a demon. Which is nice considering that no one asked the demon if he wanted to do this they just use them until they've used up their power and a mage is a demon who can use magic, so basically a combination of a wizard and a warlock in that they're trained but they draw their power from their surroundings more like a wizard and that's all the world building we're going to cover for now.

So we have Angus a warlock in training who just happens to call forth Saka who is a mage and not in training and powerful. Now I'm going to talk about why I want the next book so freakin' bad.

First off while there is a romance in this book it's definitely a secondary part of the story and let's just say it's unusual...there's even a bit of a romantic triangle...potentially and bonus points boys and girls there's a orgy that's right a full on demon ritual orgy and it does involve both boy and girl bits, however, I really didn't find the details to be excessively graphic or offensive and lastly there's also a definite cliffhanger to the ending, so if any of this is an issue for you, than this might not be the book for you.

T. J. Nichols is a new to me author who basically blew me out of the water with this book. I loved the world building and the character development, especially with Angus. He showed a lot of growth from start to finish and given everything he went through I probably would have tanked things if it had been any different.

Saka was more than a little interesting and I'm really not sure how to explain him because...hello? demon here and a really interesting one not to mention pretty hot if we take Angus's word on things and did I mention he's got a tail...I'mma just sayin'.

Saka is a mage and a powerful one even by his people's standards. He's also a teacher, he wants to restore the magical balance to both humanside and demonside but what he also wants is to do it in a way that is beneficial to both races and without war between the two sides, however, time's running out for everyone because the humanside of this world is getting colder and demonside is getting hotter, so while a long term fix is the ultimate objective neither world can ignore the need for stop gap measures as well.

My only little niggle with this book was that the pacing occasionally felt a little slow but at the same time

there's not anything in this story that I'm willing to give up...so little niggle from my perspective.

At the end of it all if fantasy, with some awesome world building, a side of romance and a strong plot is your thing you need to check this one out. Do I wish I had the next book...of course, if it's anywhere near as good as this one it's going to be one helluva good read. Am I sorry I read this one only to be left sitting on the edge of a cliff...nope, not even a little bit...the view from here is very promising.

An ARC of 'Warlock in Training' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Kazza says

Between 2.5 and 3 stars.

This was a conflicting read for me, on one hand it reads as Young Adult but there is sex and blood play, neither are terribly exciting, dark or sexy. There is even an orgy but it's the least orgy seeming of orgies I've ever read - I'm kind of glad in a way because Angus just seemed so young. I really don't mind the lack of stimulating sexual activity, I'm more about fantasy/paranormal world building and storylines at this point, what I do mind, however, is feeling like I'm reading a YA book that is actually marketed as adult. It puts me off a book. I thought Harmony Ink was DSP's YA side, not DSP Publications.

I also must add that Angus didn't try terribly hard to not summon a demon, just putting that out there. I thought he might give failing an actual red hot go but he just lamented having to do it and, bam, he had a demon... and a powerful one.

Readers seem to really like this one but I honestly can't say I feel the same enthusiasm. I found it okay. I liked Saka, Angus' demon, he made the book worth reading. Angus, while sweet, could frustrate the adult me. The writing was simplistic and young and repetitive, I'm not into young people at college, even if it's at Warlock Academy. I honestly expected it to be more mature, both character development wise and stylistically, and with a bit more oomph.

On the positive side, there is a very good message behind the story - balancing out magic and the effects the lack thereof has on the different 'worlds' - human and demon. In reality people take and take from Earth and less and less of us are giving back, we need to leave this world intact for our children and our children's children, the parallels are good.

If you lean toward YA and if you like the sound of (a kind of) Avatar meets Harry Potter in a very easy to read, youngish package then you might be right into Warlock in Training, it was somewhat flat for me and I doubt I'll continue on. Shame, Aussie author. I'd like to find one I love reading.

Em says

4.25 stars

I actually really liked this. I'm not usually a fan of the magic/warlock MM genre, but this turned out to be a pleasant surprise. Loved the worldbuilding and characters. Can't wait for the next book to see what happens with Angus and Saka. :)
