



Scorched Shadows

Steve McHugh

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In the final chapter of the Hellequin Chronicles, secrets will be revealed, friendships will be tested, and destinies will be fulfilled.

Avalon is under siege. A shadowy cabal, headed by a mysterious figure known only as “My Liege”, has launched a series of deadly attacks across the globe, catching innocent human bystanders in the crossfire.

Emerging from the debris of battle, Nate Garrett, the sixteen-hundred-year-old sorcerer also called Hellequin, and his friends must stop My Liege once and for all. But powerful forces stand in their way. To save Avalon, they will need to enlist the help of Mordred, once Nate’s greatest nemesis, now his most formidable ally. But Mordred is grappling with a dark prophecy that could spell Nate’s doom...

The fate of the world hangs in the balance. Even if Nate can halt the war, will there be anything left worth saving?

Scorched Shadows Details

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Author : Steve McHugh

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From Reader Review Scorched Shadows for online ebook

Emma says

I've been wondering over the last few books how the hell McHugh was going to get everything he needed into this last offering- turns out I needn't have worried, it's not the end of everything, merely a new chapter opened.

Of course this had the usual ton of characters that keeps the conversation snappy but the depth light, which usually makes me switch right off, but there's something in this series that keeps me coming back for more. Certainly in this book we had significant time with Mordred and it was great having another perspective, but the move towards more character exploration really needs to go further in the future, I'd rather have fewer big names or introductions, more conversation than witty one liners. The ending gives the perfect opportunity for this to happen so fingers crossed the author makes the most of it. If not, I don't how much longer I'll continue. I like explosions and magic and all that, but what's the point if there's nothing new added? Nate's been blowing shit up since before book 1, unlocking power levels every book so he can do it in different ways of course, but this is the end of Hellequin, so now he needs to be something more....

Marielle says

How I love this series and this book is the best one in it!

All the previous books come together, old friends and foes show up again and all stories are tied up.

Almost every question I had was answered although this book does leave enough open for another few books on Nate! Personally I can't wait!

Scorched shadows has it all; great story, great characters, great plotline and plot twists, this is easily one of my favorite series!

The listened to the audiobook on Audible and the narration is excellent...

Liz Barnsley says

Aaargh the last of the Hellequin Chronicles (a series I've been with since forever. Well the start anyway) – I'm randomly pleased it is not the last we'll see of Nate but I did have a little emotional moment knowing that Book 7 was the last of this particularly themed story.

So things I already know about this series from the previous ones, the plotting is a brilliantly addictive mix of fiction, mythology and real world setting. If you come into Book 7 on its own you'll still have a blinking good reading time because although the characters will be unfamiliar they will also be all too familiar. Read them all though – its all excellent excellent stuff.

Hugely action packed (and who would have thought that Nate and Mordred would ever be a team) Nate and friends set out to save the world – no easy task – not even for a 1600 year old sorcerer. I also really enjoyed the parts that focused on Mordred – a shadowy character who has always been “the bad guy” so that gave the whole thing an added element which was really rewarding.

Pulling together all the elements of the previous stories and giving us a banging good “ending” there was absolutely nothing not to love here – although I would reiterate that whilst you could pick this one up on its own I would like to take the opportunity (again) to highly recommend the series as a whole (and I can’t wait for the next chapters so to speak) – this is adult urban fantasy with mystical elements that have probably, as a whole, been some of the most fun novels in the genre I have ever read.

Big Nate love. That is all.

Gareth Otton says

I was pretty nervous going into this book knowing that it was the last book in the Hellequin Chronicles. I have loved all the previous books in this series, but I didn't think that there had been anywhere near enough story told yet to already be ending. It still feels like things are just winding up. As you can tell from the number of stars in this review though, I was obviously not left wanting. Here's why...

First of all, I am really happy that this novel sees a change up to the formula in 2 ways:

- 1 - This novel took place entirely in the present, with no secondary story taking place in the past.
- 2 - This novel had a second viewpoint character (even though his chapters were told in third-person)

The first of these changes really worked for me. The historical secondary stories that made up part of each of the other books were always a bit hit and miss for me. Though always well written and fun, they sometimes felt like distractions from the story I wanted to read about.

As for the second change... If I'm honest, I'd have rathered a straight-up first-person narrative from Nate's point of view. I think that the chance for more story could have been covered that way which would have made the ending of the book have more impact. That being said, I thoroughly enjoyed Mordred as a secondary protagonist and his story was interesting. It has really helped complete his transformation in my eyes and has made him a character I would happily read about again. Basically, his chapters took the place of historical substory, so it was a welcome changeup.

By staying in the present in this book, Mr McHugh manages to have a lot more happen in the present day and seriously ups the stakes. The story really picks up pace here and the events that have been slowly unfolding over the course of the previous books suddenly take off at speed, and the stakes have never been higher.

This kept the pages turning faster and faster as I really got into this book, but as I approached the end of the book, I started to find a problem. By the time the percentage mark on my kindle was reading 60%, I started to worry that there was no way the author could bring this series to a close and wrap everything up in so short a space. That worry only grew stronger as I hit 70%, then 80%, then 90% and still nothing resembling a finishing point. I was mentally groaning and preparing myself for a rushed, unsatisfying ending...

I needn't have worried.

I will say this where normally I might have put it in spoiler territory because I genuinely think that it isn't really a spoiler and I think I would have enjoyed this book more if I knew this going in. This isn't the last

book in this series. This is the last book in the Hellequin Chronicles maybe, but it is by no means an end to this series. If anything I would say that this might be the ending to part one of the series, ending in a way that doesn't wrap everything up, but instead, sets up the next part in the series.

All that worrying and tension that I had done thinking that this was going to be a rushed ending was for nothing. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed the book anyway, but I think that if I hadn't been confused about this before going in, then I would have been less tense and would have just let myself relax and enjoy what was happening rather than worry about where things were going.

Overall this is an excellent addition to this series that finally has the overarching story moving at full speed, and I have never been more excited to see what happens next. An easy 5-stars and I can't wait for the next one.

Richard Webster says

Great end to the Hellequin series. Cant wait for the new adventures of nate and friends

A well rounded out story that promises a lot more in the universe that the author has created. The story is full of highs and lows, secrets revealed, power and death everywhere

booksofallkinds says

I made two stupid mistakes when it came to this series - not discovering it sooner and starting off with the final instalment!!!! Now don't get me wrong, the author makes it perfectly possible to catch up on what has happened and I easily became obsessed with the characters and the story, but it is so good that I really wish I had started with the first book - a wrong I plan to rectify by treating myself to the other books for Christmas.

With mythical characters, new and old, action, magic, danger, and turbulent times, **SCORCHED SHADOWS** by Steve McHugh will transport you to another world where beneath the facade of human society, a magical world exists unknown to us, and as the battle rages the fate of the world will depend on the strength of a few.

The characters, setting, and fantasy elements are excellently handled and I easily lost myself in the pages of this book. I enjoy fantasy novels but I don't tend to read them as often as other genres, and **SCORCHED SHADOWS** reminded me of how absorbing and all-consuming this exquisite genre can be. If you love your stories brimming with action, tension, emotions, magic, and danger, then **SCORCHED SHADOWS** (and The Hellequin Chronicles Series) are a must for you!!

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from the Blog Tour Organiser

Jeremiah says

"Don't worry, " I was told, "the series is done, you won't get stuck waiting for new ones." Well, you will actually. The main meta plot is not really solved. The character plot, about Nate finding out who he really is,

well, that gets solved...mostly, but still by the time I realized that the plot wasn't going to finish up, I cared a lot less about that aspect of it.

I don't mean to pile on, but as some other reviewers pointed out, the copy-editing was very shoddy on this book, and some of the botched character names were a bit jarring. I also had the luxury of reading them all in a short space of time, so that means all of the incorrect names were fresh in my mind. If I had waited a year between books, I may not have caught some of them.

All that said, the final book doesn't ruin the whole rest of the series. They are still an enjoyable Urban Fantasy with a lot of history-wank included.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

To start with this book, seven in the Hellequin Chronicles, without having read the previous six books may have been a bit daring (even foolish) especially since this is also the last book in the series. It's like seeing the last 20 min of a movie. It's interesting, but you feel like you have missed a lot of things that are mentioned. However, I must say, despite that I did find the book surprisingly easy to get into and even more surprisingly easy to keep a check on all the characters. And, trust me they are many. I think that the reason for the easiness is the fact that most of the characters are mythological ones. Both familiar names and new ones for me. But, the names stuck and I never felt a bit lost, instead was I intrigued by this absolutely fascinating mix of mythological beings in a modern setting. Also, this good vs bad story always works for me.

It's a thick book. And, yes there were moments I felt like, not necessary the story dragged out, but rather it was a lot of things to take in with Nate Garrett and Mordred hunt after the mysterious "My Liege". There were a lot of fights all through the books as they fought enemies, searched after missing friends and tried to find out the truth about the person behind the "My Liege" alias.

I definitely think this a book worth reading. However, you should probably start with book one. And, I know that this is the last book in this chronicle. However, I did get a feeling that this is not really the end...

Gary says

epic book and a great read all round 5 stars all the way I would recommend this book and series to anyone

Marviette says

I love the Hellequin series. I mean I LOVE this series. I love it almost as much as I love my husband! It has been sooo goood. When this book showed up in my kindle app. I was pleased as punch. I blocked off reading time for three days so I could read uninterrupted---well as uninterrupted as you can be with two kids under 5 years--but you get the point. I was PREPARED!!! I got around 80% in and I kept thinking why haven't the good guys banded together yet to kick the bad guys asses???? why is it moving slow???? I had visions of Modred and Nate kicking everyone's ass together. When I realized that that was not going to happen in this particular book. I was pissed. I could not believe I fell for the okey doke. I drank the kool-aid and was not rewarded!!! WTF!!!

I am not happy. I don't want to have to read six more books to get to where this one should have taken me.

Not sure how I will proceed.

LC says

Really annoying cliffhanger and false advertisement. Unsatisfying conclusion to a promising series.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Scorched Shadows

Hellequin Chronicles, Book 7

By: Steve McHugh

Narrated by: Simon Mattacks

This book had a lot more of Mordred in it. So much was revealed in this book but this is to be the last but I still have questions....Ugh! Oh well, I guess I will have to use my imagination. I have really enjoyed this series! Recommend this to any fantasy lover out there, so good! You must read in order.

The narrator was great, very good with the multitude of voices and emotions. Well done!

Lelouch says

author said this ends the hellequin series, so i was hoping for a resolution. but unfortunately the novel ends with a cliffhanger. I also dislike the whodunnit stories where the author keeps pointing the finger at different people. I got a little annoyed how every book seemed to revolve around betrayal. It switches between nate and mordred, and they both seem overpowered in this novel. In the earlier novels, nate would struggle against the gargoyle and dragon kin, but in this book he just rips everyone apart. mordred does the same, and it's not as entertaining as it could have been. I think this is the last book i'll read in the series.

Cheryl Necessary says

I feel like the author lied to us. This book claimed to be the final book in the Hellequin Chronicles. That being said, I expected to wrap up the story that we had been faithfully following through 6 previous books. I even tried (not very successfully) to overlook the fact that the author apparently couldn't be bothered to consistency check and insure that a basic fact such as the name of Nate's murdered wife was correct. Unfortunately I found that very grating every time her name was mentioned. The book not only didn't wrap up anything, it barely progressed the story. We find out nothing new about Nate's history, we killed off a lot of good and bad guys, and still don't have a winner or clear picture of an outcome. The book just ended, I turned the page expecting more and got nothing. Then the author throws out an epilogue that although the Hellequin Chronicles has ended, there will be more adventures with Nate and friends. I just find this an unacceptable approach and as much as I liked the characters and the story up till now, I'm not sure I'll read any more of this author's works.

Mike says

[the *%\$ bait and switch advertising. "Oh, btw, it's the last HELLEQUIN book, but not the last NATE GARRETT book." F. U. I feel like I just read a seven book PROLOGUE. (hide spoiler)]
