

Samantha Wiebe

5.0 out of 5 stars

Engaging & Thrilling Story

Reviewed in Canada on December 20, 2023

I am not a big reader in general so it takes a lot to get me engaged in a story, and boy howdy did this book do that! As a female artist who spent a lot of time in the alt scene in my youth, the characters were so relatable. I could so easily picture myself in the world hanging out with Aeres and her crew, which made the story extra engaging once the action/mystery kicked in. If you like female driven fantasy stories, this book is for you.

Ronda Mandry

5.0 out of 5 stars

Fantastic Debut

Reviewed in Canada on August 20, 2022

It has been a long time since I have read a novel that simply tells the story and doesn't try to overstep its intentions. A quick read that doesn't force anything but still places the reader within the world developed. The strongest points are its character development, and the use of simple descriptions (like buttering toast) that sound oddly poetic in the context its used, without being overbearing. Though a lot of the first half of the novel is focused on developing characters, I never found myself wondering when the "action" starts. When the murder/mystery story begins to develop further, I was just as much invested in the character's day-to-day as I was the mystery itself. The pop culture references are very specific to the subgenre—the author either lived a similar lifestyle, or did their research, and the sign of a good author is that the reader shouldn't be able to tell which it is. Without giving anything away, if you are into Jack the Ripper retellings, with a witchy twist, this is worth checking out.

Donald P King

5.0 out of 5 stars

Holly Rhiannon's "A Time When Demons" is an enthralling page-turner

Reviewed in Canada on July 22, 2022

Holly Rhiannon's "A Time When Demons" is an enthralling page-turner. As her debut novel, Rhiannon demonstrates a high level of mastery in the horror genre. Treated to the secretive world of the Wiccans, an exclusive group known for its secrecy, power and magic, the reader follows Aeres Cadogan on a terrifying journey. With vivid descriptive writing and unexpected plot turns, "A Time When Demons" would make an excellent film. A huge congratulation to Holly Rhiannon on her successful debut novel! I look eagerly forward to her next literary work!

Anthony Avina

Reviewed August 20, 2022

The Review

This was such a rich and beautiful story. The author did an incredible job of balancing world-building with thoughtful character development. The imagery and rich settings the author brought to life on the page felt alive in the reader's mind and allowed the mythology of the author's story to feel more natural and engaging overall. The balance didn't stop there, however,

as the author found a great harmony between the horror and fantasy elements of the mythos with the YA drama and emotional character growth that made the reader truly care for this story.

As someone who is greatly interested in different cultures, history, and true magick and Wicca society in my personal life, I was in love with the character development and mythos that the author built up in this novel. The way the magical society of Wicca reflected so many things in life, from family expectations to a more patriarchal society and the need to adapt and grow as a people so everyone feels represented, was so refreshing to see in this type of story. Aeres in particular was such a well-rounded protagonist, and the steady evolution of her character over the course of the story kept me entranced as a reader.

The Verdict

Creative, entertaining, and mesmerizing, author Holly Rhiannon's "A Time When Demons" is a must-read occult horror and fantasy drama of 2022. The rich chemistry between these characters, along with the chilling atmosphere and shocking twists and turns in the narrative all lead to an explosive conclusion that will leave readers eager and wanting more from this incredible author.