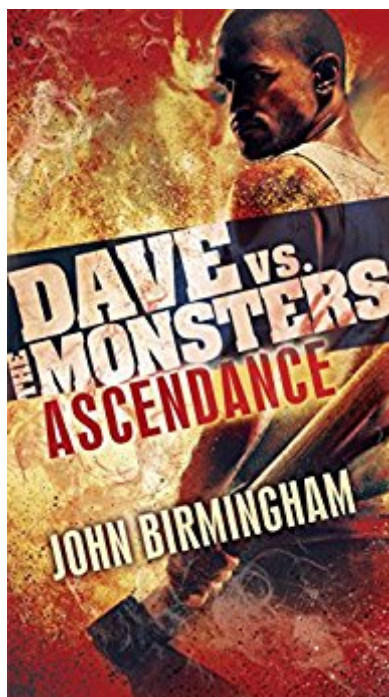


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Ascendance: Dave Vs. The Monsters (David Hooper Trilogy)



Synopsis

For fans of Jim Butcher and Kevin Hearne comes an exhilarating new urban fantasy series featuring monster-slayer Dave Hooper and his magical splitting maul. "Kids, there are no monsters under the bed. They're in the front yard." As a hardworking monster-slayer, Dave Hooper tries not to bring his work home with him. But nowadays it's hard to keep them separate. Email, cellphones, empath daemons, they never let a guy rest. The Horde has been raising hell and leveling cities from New York to Los Angeles, keeping Dave and his fellow monster-killer, Russian spy Karin Varatchevsky, very busy. But when the legions of hell invade the small seaside town his boys call home, Dave has to make a call. Save the world? Or save his family? Not as easy a choice as you'd think, since Dave's ex-wife expects to be saved too. And there's no convincing her that the supersexy Russian spy isn't his girlfriend. She's just his sidekick and an assassin. From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

First Warning: Contrary to the advertising, this is not a trilogy. It is apparently an open ended series since the conclusion of this book does nothing to resolve the problem (monsters attacking all over

the place) and sets up at least one and probably two more books. Consider yourself warned. When the series started it was a rock-em-sock'em unashamed thrill ride with hordes of terrible but dimwitted monsters clashing with Super Dave the only-slightly-smarter hero who is ably assisted by the US military. A regiment of horrible monsters wiped out by a flight of B-52s, dragons splashed by F-16s, Yeah! The author says that he always wanted to write a story about monsters clashing with modern firepower and he did. Nice job. The second book continues along the same lines, having fun with Dave's new celebrity status and more attention to intramural politics among the various groups of monsters. Then it introduces a really annoying character, a female Russian deep-cover agent who has acquired the same (more-or-less) super powers Dave has. She gets a big role in the third book where her major function is to bitch endlessly at Dave. This culminates in a long speech where she shrieks at him about his various failings as a husband and father and what a fine woman his almost-ex wife is. Since this comes in the immediate aftermath of a monster mega-mele in which Dave fights valiantly to protect his family it seems singularly inappropriate and unmotivated. Besides, Dave's lack of familial qualities has been a constant theme in all three books so he and we already have heard it ad infinitum. Since the semi-ex wife in question barely rates a cameo we don't know whether she is a "fine woman" or not.

The series **started** off excellently. Joe Loser (or Dave, as he's known in this series) 'lucks' into a bad situation and manages to survive. More than that, he gets superpowers out of the deal. I venture to say most of us would do exactly as Dave did should we be in his situation. Yeah, we'd take advantage of our situation and to heck with whatever the crisis is, that's someone else's problem...someone who gets **paid** to do it. So, we may not **like** SuperDave, but we can darn sure understand him, and since he's the 'hero' in a work of fiction, we also know that somehow, he's gonna find himself doing the 'right thing'...somehow. And then we get...Katerina. Karin. She **could** have been a partner, someone who **gets** Dave's situation and makes him be a better man, all the things we want to have happen to our 'hero'. Yeah. Once she shows up, Dave may as well head back to Vegas and the Saudi Princess, because he's not the star any more. He's not even the sidekick. The author falls prey to PC Whatever The Heck Trope It Is that makes an author introduce a new character and if she's female, she HAS to be better at everything than the male. Now, I love me some strong female characters...October Daye, Mercy Thompson, Herra Serrano, Honor Harrington, Kris Longknife, the list goes on. Strong, confident, competent characters, no matter what plumbing they're packing. They can meet men on a level playing field and excel...not because they're female, but because they're just that damn good and there's males that give them a run for

their money and sometimes they win, sometimes they lose, but all involved do it graciously and without concern for their reproductive organs. Instead, we get...Karin. She's bloody intelligent. Dave's dumb as a stump. She's a trained killer.

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