



Hexbreaker

Jordan L. Hawk

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Will a dark history doom their future together?

New York copper Tom Halloran is a man with a past. If anyone finds out he once ran with the notorious O'Connell tunnel gang, he'll spend the rest of his life doing hard time behind bars. But Tom's secret is threatened when a horrible murder on his beat seems to have been caused by the same ancient magic that killed his gang.

Cat shifter Cicero is determined to investigate the disappearance of one friend and the death of another, even though no one else believes the cases are connected. When the trail of his investigation crosses Tom's, the very bohemian Cicero instinctively recognizes the uncultured Irish patrolman as his witch. Though they're completely unsuited to one another, Cicero has no choice but to work alongside Tom...all the while fighting against the passion growing within.

Tom knows that taking Cicero as his familiar would only lead to discovery and disaster. Yet as the heat between them builds, Tom's need for the other man threatens to overcome every rational argument against becoming involved.

But when their investigation uncovers a conspiracy that threatens all of New York, Tom must make the hardest decision of his life: to live a lie and gain his heart's desire, or to confess the truth and sacrifice it all.

Hexbreaker Details

Date : Published May 6th 2016 by Smashwords

ISBN :

Author : Jordan L. Hawk

Format : ebook 240 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Historical, Mystery, Shapeshifters, Magic

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From Reader Review Hexbreaker for online ebook

Kade Boehme says

Effing glorious. Every word.

Barbara? says

Wow... Jordan L. Hawk is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. I love me some Whyborne & Griffin (I totally binged on that series and read the entire thing in 14 days including the novellas) and while this wasn't quite as appealing to me, it was close. She got me out of a reading slump with a book that quickly grabbed my attention and wouldn't let go. I literally could not put this down. I'm not a huge enemies to lovers or pushing away reader. I like for my characters to want to be together almost immediately, but sometimes a slow-burn will work for me and it did here.

I love me some gentle giants and Tom fit the bill. I absolutely loved him from the moment he was introduced. He is kind-hearted and sweet. He just wants to make up for the wrong he thinks he has done in his past. I love how he was determined to make Cicero fall for him.

Cicero took me a while to warm up to. He's definitely a CAT in all sense of the word. (And I'm not a cat person...sorry) I really got tired of his back and forth with Tom. My gentle giant deserves better. But he finally gets his head out of his ass and grew on me. When the other shoe dropped, I wanted to throat punch him again! My poor Tom. But he quickly realizes the error of his ways and while he's not my favorite, I kinda like him.

I love this world Hawk has created. It's a mix of paranormal and historical. She is truly a talented author and I'm looking forward to more in this series as well as her others.

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

*I received this book for free from in exchange for an honest review.
This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.*

Oh My Goodness. This book is everything. Jordan L. Hawk is one of the best authors out here. I haven't read a bad book yet, and don't think I will ever!!! Her world building and character building is so thorough. I love all of her characters and her concepts are some of my favorite for paranormal. It's a subject that I like reading about. This book I felt like the world building was so easily understood and it just flowed easily. I loved the characters, the plot, and the easy feel of it being a Historical Fiction book. I think I was cheesing the entire time reading this. Both characters were fabulous. I enjoyed Tom alot. He did his own thing and his own way. I loved how he thought things through and didn't rush into anything for anyone, including Cicero. I'm not a

cat person at all. Cicero is definitely a cat person. He's finicky, pampered, loyal, and a tad selfish but I really enjoyed him.

From the novella when he was just Rook's partner I knew it was something special about the guy who didn't like water. He needed his outward appearance to stay sharp and always seemed to be spoiled and number #1. I got all of this just off reading about him and hearing what he has to say. Tom and Cicero being thrown together was magical in my eyes. Two completely different guys with different ways but so much in common when it matters. From the very beginning I thought they were attuned with each other. The mystery and clues that popped felt like little snacks to me. I couldn't figure out where we were going with the story. I enjoyed Tom's history and seeing his life come full circle. I can't give away the plot, but we all know Jordan is wonderful with the plot and the coupling because they were hot. On fire almost. I might have needed a fan by these two.

I enjoyed this story a lot. Loved the elements of New York and just seeing the history on page. The last 25% I had some issues with, it got a little disjointed in my mind. I might have been confused but I kept reading. I'm not so sure I know who's responsible, but that could have been me trying to soak it all up so fast. I can't wait to see what happens next in this world. I feel like it's a possible M/M/M pairing, but I don't want to get my hopes up. Read the book people, this author rocks and is consistently great with her work.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

FREE at Smashwords right now! 7/1/18 <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view...>

Guys! How freakin' cool is the premise for this story?! Witches and their familiars, who are people/animal shifters? I'm in love!

This story was another brilliant concept from the mind of Jordan L. Hawk, who is known for her blend of historical and paranormal, with a dash of mystery/horror thrown in.

I have a real weakness for historical romance, it turns out, so I really loved that this book was set in long ago New York (my stomping grounds). I also REALLY loved the witch/familiar concept (can you tell?!?!), and the two police forces... really all of it.

This book had SO much going for it, especially with the MCs and their strong character development. I fell hard for Cicero (just sounds like a cat name!) and Tom, and thought that they were really well-conceived, well written characters. I dug them immensely, and I liked their chemistry together. I think I could have used even more sexual tension and build-up between them, but that might just be me and my particular tastes.

What I wish we got a little more of was overall world-building. I had SO many questions about the shifting, the magic, the division between non-magic users and magic users, the structure of the world... everything. I can't help but compare this book to my gold standard of historical-paranormals, K.J. Charles, who I think really knocks it out of the park every time.

While I wanted a little more from the setting, I was very happy with the characters and the diversity among them. I saw POC and Jews (I'm always on the lookout for Jews in historicals in non-tragic settings!), which made me immensely happy.

So much potential here, and I'm beyond excited to see where this series will take me.

~☆~Døni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

I'll tell you a secret:

whispers

I've never read a book by Jordan L. Hawk before.

I know, I know. Everybody calm down.

So many of my friends pushed me to read the *Whyborne & Griffin* series, but I just couldn't commit to eight books; plus, I'm usually not a fan of series that focus on the same couple.

But now I get all the fangirling, because ***Hexbreaker* was AMAZING.**

The narrative paints a fascinating picture of late 19th century New York, brimming with mystery and magic, witches and their familiars, tenements and tunnel gangs, coppers and hexes.

The MCs had me swooning: **Cicero the cat shifter, all attitude, sass, and flirtation, and Tom, a man with a kind heart and secret past who is Cicero's witch, even if he doesn't know it.**

I don't love mysteries, and that's not a secret. **But I was utterly devoted to this book from beginning to end.**

I wanted to know who planted the evil hexes, and I wanted Cicero and Tom to find Isaac! Damn, I was on the edge of my seat during the last half of the story.

This was such a sexy, exciting read! I loved the suspense, the twists & turns, the (rather sweet at times) romance, and the light enemies-to-lovers theme.

Really, it's just Cicero who gets all huffy, because he longs for a bohemian, artistic witch, someone who drinks absinthe and discusses poetry, not a broad, rough man who says "ain't" and wears a blue uniform.

Tom is a goner for Cicero almost immediately, and when he sees Cicero dance, all lithe and breathtaking, he can't imagine anything more beautiful.

I was irritated that Cicero jumped to conclusions about Tom so quickly, but Tom is a good man, a man who does right by his neighbors and doesn't take bribes. And the way Tom gives himself over to Cicero . . . hell, that was hot as fuck.

Did I mention the fabulous secondary characters? I didn't read the prequel, but I loved Dominic and his crow, and I see major gay witch potential in Tom's friend Bill (I hope I'm not wrong). The villains were also properly nasty.

HEA? Why, of course, darlings. Cicero and Tom are bonded and powerful and in love. But while the Hexworld is safe for now, darkness lurks.

I absolutely cannot wait to read the next book in the series (I hope it's Isaac's story!). Ms. Hawk has herself a new fan.

Ami says

Confession, I did not remember anything from The 13th Hex, which is the prequel of this new series :p. However, I had no problem immersing myself with this novel at all!! Definitely a new series to follow from Jordan L. Hawk.

I thought it was very interesting world-built -- witches and their familiars, New York City in the end of 1890's, magic and hexes ... oh yes, I loved it!! I tend to have good record with urban fantasy series that involved witches so I was really excited with this one.

I loved that Tom blew away all of Cicero's initial perceptions -- it was very entertaining to read. That Tom was nothing like what Cicero has in mind, that he was noble and kind. Cicero was flamboyant enough for the two of them (hey, he was a cat after all!). I enjoyed reading their relationship bloomed and how they worked together to find who was responsible behind the hex that made people murderous.

I heard that each book in this series will have different couples (Owen Yates, the forensic hexman, is next!!) and it made me really excited. All those other familiars and their animal shapes are just too good not to take center stage :)

Heidi Cullinan says

I should be an adult and leave an adult view where I point out the values of this book and give Hawk a quotable bite if she wanted to use it. I'll get to that part eventually, but first, I'm going to be totally not an adult and just squee about how much I loved the book. And I'm going to use GIFs. I know a ton of people roll their eyes at GIFs in reviews, but I love them so I'm going to use them, and nobody can stop me.

I think Cicero is rubbing off on me.

So a lot of us have come to love Hawk for her Widdershins series, and I'll admit, it's a great series. I'll also cop to being a huge fan of everything she's written, from Spectr (I am HERE for Gray) to Spirits to whatever else she cooks up. I was prepared to enjoy this no matter what. I didn't simply enjoy it, though.

I am TEAM WITCH POLICE. FOR LIFE. I WANT A BADGE. I AM A BADGE, GODDAMNIT.

This world was SO FUN. Familiars and bonded mates and witches and turn-of-the-(twentieth) century politics...I knew the world setup because of The 13th Hex, but we really got to dive in deep in Hexbreaker. I looked up frequently surprised to see my living room instead of Hexworld, and I was a little disappointed, to be honest.

And the characters. I am firmly #TeamRook and will lament forever that I don't have a full Rook/Dominic novel, but they're fully present here. AND Cicero/Tom are most excellent as well. I loved sassy Cicero and coy Cicero and French Cicero and then there's the sex...

Yeah. I really liked this book.

Okay, adulting. Jordan L. Hawk's Hexbreaker is a brilliant, breathless step into a new story universe, full of rich, quirky characters, meticulous world building and delightful sensuality. You should absolutely read this book and every other one of Ms. Hawk's wonderful stories.

#TeamRook AND #TeamCicero

WITCH FUCKING POLICE!

Vivian says

NYC circa 1895, AU.

This was fun and since I snatched it up on sale for 99 cents, I'm pretty happy. Hawk is a smooth writer and does paranormal and action equally well. The history in Widdershins was so seamless that it almost disappeared, but here it plays a bigger role and shines bright. From the tenements to Tammany Hall to Commissioner Roosevelt to fairy clubs, it weaves the threads of history into a new tapestry of witchcraft.

Hawk excels at expanding characters that on first blush appear simple, one dimensional, into complex individuals. Taking the motif of a brawny, has no trouble using his fists and an effete intellectual and spinning their lives out to illuminate the multitude of facets which actually comprise that singular pane the reader first sees.

The device of hexes is pretty clever and an interesting take on witchcraft. Throw in the soulmate aspect of the witch and their familiar, and it's rather romantic. Not that all things can't be perverted, and it is all the little twists where Hawk takes something and keeps turning it to show all the aspects that enrich the story.

Overall, a story of opposites attract on the less glitzy side of The Gilded Age.

Sophia Triad says

The year is 1897, the days before January 1, 1898.

That was the day that New York, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the East Bronx will be merged in the Great New York City.

The city is protected by the ordinary police force, but also by Metropolitan Witch Police, MWP, which deals with magic related crimes. Because New York is full of magic and hexes. A hex can be used as a lock, as an alarm, as protection etc.

The ordinary police force is highly corrupted and not really accepted by most civilians. MWP is honorable and treats equally women and men, witches and familiars of any form.

The MWP headquarters are full of witches and familiars. Familiars are basically shifters who mostly prefer their animal form and they can enhance the magic of witches. Especially, when the right familiar is bonded with his/her witch; the magic they will produce will be off the charts.

Tom Halloran is a cop in the ordinary police force. He is man with many secrets:

- a few years ago used to be an outlaw,
- his name was Liam,
- he was a member of the O' Connell tunnel gang,
- he is a witch and a hexbreaker.

But Tom is really a good, decent man. He has reinvented himself and now he just wants to be an ordinary, boring, unnoticeable policeman.

Cicero is a cultured, bohemian familiar who works for MWP. Deep down, he is truly a cute black cat.

When Tom and Cicero are brought together for a common investigation, Cicero is shocked. The rough, not very bright Irishman is his witch.

I love the fact that the writer mixes real events with paranormal fiction. It made me curious about the historical events of that particular period in New York.

The atmosphere of the book reminded me of the film "Gangs of New York", while the paranormal side of the book was different from the shifters' books I normally read.

Unexpected...and unique...

Ingie says

Review written October 19, 2016

4 Stars - Terrific historical cat-PRN mystery fun

I never finished when (buddy-) reading this *Hexbreaker* book back in May. Real life interrupted and time went...

...Then when I saw it was possible to add the audiobook for a nice WSfV price I couldn't but download the 8:36 hrs audiobook. — A week later and I'm convinced, this was another pretty good and adventurous M/M story from JLH.

...Also a very well performed audiobook narration by the as always delivering Mr. Tristan James.

I'm happy. I'll continue.

'Hexworld' is Ms. Hawk's newest HR-para M/M series. It started with the short teaser novella #0.5-The 13th Hex. This one, *Hexbreaker* is the first full lenght novel. There is another part, #2-Hexmaker with a new love couple, already published to continue with afterwards.

New York December 1897

The patrolman (copper) **Tom Halloran** has a "past". Ten years ago was he a young wild gang guy named *Liam O'Connell*. Nowadays a policeman with secrets and powerful very well hidden witch-abilities as well.

The flamboyant cat shifter **Cicero**, and his friends from the *Metropolitan Witch Police (MWP)* from book #0.5 arrives once again. This time Cicero is determined to investigate the disappearance of one friend and the death of another. — The cat-investigation crosses Tom's...

"Fur and feathers!"

Ha ha, so much fun with fab characters

In *Hexbreaker* we're visiting a new, fresh and interesting "PNR-world" (set in a historical *New York City*).

I'm curious about more about this witch and familiar (shifter) bounding.

Doubtless great writing, fast pace, good enough explanations and already after a couple of minutes I started to fancy these main characters (as always when reading a JLH book). JLH is a master in this genre and delivers once again nasty spooky villains and a well thoughtout crine case. Nothing wrong with the love and smex either. Sincerely looking forward to more (with a new pair of lovebirds).

All in all; a short teaser novella and this first full-length gives a good f.e.e.l.i.n.g for future books. I'm grateful I once again picked up *Hexbreaker* and finished.

I LIKE - all those 'Fur and feathers!' outbursts ...

Nice terrific fitting covers as often when from Jordan L. Hawk.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

4.5

This book pushed all my romance reading buttons. Great character, great world-building, genuine issues that pop up that aren't easily resolved, fated-to-be-mated but with choice and reluctance at first, steamy build-up and even steamier result, some humor tossed in, a little darkness tossed in, paranormal, check.

Cicero is fun and hilarious. A controversial and daring dresser who only likes hanging out with art types. He's flamboyant and contrary. Add in that he's a cat and it enters pure adorable territory. The scene of carrying on the neck - sigh. Tom is stiff and uncertain but I love his vulnerability, outlook and dedication. The past interferes with the present but the author avoid angst with all this - thank you!

Side characters work superbly too - Rook is hilarious, especially in the office with the motions that caused Cicero to slap him. I even liked the captain. Villains are layered with some surprises thrown in, non-cheesy situations, and an epic ending that relies on brains over luck or coincidence. Lovely.

I do wish we could have seen the captain offering a certain promotion, and that Cicero would have been more understanding at first - but not everything about a book can be perfect. Some of the writing during a few sex scenes wasn't my thing either but the scenes themselves were genuine and pretty epic.

World-building wise it's a winner as well - different breeds of magic talent, familiars who are on a time limit on finding someone suitable to prove their use, different classes of system warring for fairness - plus toss in a paranormal police division who is at small odds with a regular police division.

Everything works but it's the two mains who really hook you. Their bonding is convincing, charming and ultra sweet. The sarcastic personality of Cicero kept me on the edge to see what he'd do next. Tom was a surprise for both him and the reader (in good ways). I'm definitely bespelled.

Kaje Harper says

This is the first complete novel in a new series by Jordan Hawk. You don't have to read the short prequel first, but I think it adds some world-building that would make this story clearer, and it adds to the pleasure of meeting the first couple again here, as we follow a new pair of MCs.

Tom Halloran is one of the few truly honest beat cops, in a quasi-historical New York where hex-magic is commonplace, sold on corners and in shops, used by everyone including the police. Tom's stellar ethics are a bit ironic, because he's hiding a secret illegal past life. But he was young at the time, and pulled in by family ties, and cut loose by disaster. In the aftermath, he's fashioned himself into the man he's always wanted to be. He's also hidden a rare magic talent, because he can't see any good use of it that wouldn't expose him.

Cicero is a cat-shifter familiar, who so far has not met the witch he was destined to bond with. As an unclaimed familiar, he's a tempting property for any witch looking to augment their powers. So far, the police department has protected him as one of their own, but his time to stay unbonded is running short. He'd have been thrilled, in his realization that Tom is *his* witch, if the man wasn't large, rough-hewn, ignorant, unlettered, probably bigoted, and everything a cat disdains. He's not sure whether being linked with Tom, as instinct demands, wouldn't be worse than some other random witch who would at least know what poetry was.

Two similar murder cases force these two men to work together. Cicero has to make a life-changing decision soon. Tom's past may be catching up with him, his safety may depend on a vain and oddly hostile familiar. And there's not much time for either of them to figure it out.

I enjoyed this story with imaginative world-building, some fun animal-shifter moments, and an exciting plot. I didn't connect with Cicero on an emotional level as much as I have other main characters by this author (including Tom) but he was very amusing to watch. I had a few issues with the magical worldbuilding and plot. When I set those aside, it was a fun, light-weight story with a lot of action, that made a fast, entertaining read.

Rhys Ford says

Okay. Finished up Hexbreaker by Jordan L. Hawk.

Motherfucking hell. Dude. Dudes. Fucking hell.

Such a damned good book.

This is seriously hands-down the tightest, well-written novels ever to slap itself awake and crawl out of Jordan L. Hawk's complicated and wonderful mind. The range of characters, the world building... the goddamned worldbuilding... the weave into historical events and the laying down of the simplest of details enrich every damned pica this book is made out of.

Do yourself a favour and pre-order this book, mix up a pot of tea or coffee...whatever the hell that will let you mainline some oxygen and jangling nerves... and wait for the download button to bring this wonderment into your life.

Take the day off. Read it. I'll write you a note. Okay, maybe the note won't do you any good but this book will.

DAYUM, Jordan.

Ariana says

Sometimes great things happen when you do not expect it!

I was not sure whether this would really tickle my fancy, I mean - cat shifters, witches and the lot?

But YES, it certainly appealed to me, no ... more than that, Hexbreaker really swept me away.

A chapter in and I was hooked.

Fascinating world building, an immediate jump into the plot and excellent characters just sucked me in! I really enjoyed how Ms Hawk just drops us into this world and lets us find our way round slowly, as we untangle what's what along the way!

And who on earth could possibly resist Cicero? Sleek, flamboyant and seductive. And yet so hurt and insecure, he won't let anyone come near him. He is just screaming out for someone to feel safe with. And Tom does just that.

Tall, built like a brick, but inherently kind and thoughtful he takes the wind out of Cicero's sarcastic sails and surprises him again and again by being the good man he is. Even if he has a very dark secret. One that threatens to destroy everything the two men have built.

Cicero and Tom are just delightful together, and I really enjoyed the way they related to each other. Tom's firsts also put a misty-eyed smile on my face.

The detective type of plot was really well done and came together dramatically at the end, as is tradition. Some loose ends remain, no doubt for a second book! I'm certainly all in!

Highly recommended!

Richard Derus says

Real Rating: 4.75* of five

Tom the Hexbreaker = Yes. Big, solid, muscular boys are always welcome in my world, fictional or factual.

Cicero the Familiar = ...

...

...he's a C-A-T and I ***HATE*** those creatures. They make me sneeze. They have **TOXIC SPIT** faGawdsake. Their dander, designed by them in conjunction with their lord and master Satan, is so irritating that it causes acute irritation in human mucus membranes.

And I still gave the book almost 5 stars. That, laddies and gentlewomen, is nothing short of astounding. I have lived in or near Manhattan since the 1980s, and visited the city fairly often after my first taste of it in my long-ago childhood (before they started digging the basement of the Twin Towers, that's how long ago it

was). This is my home, this is the place I want to be. So yes, I'm inclined to give stories set here a big head start into my good graces.

I'm also a history buff. In the post-book note left by Author Hawk, I was pleased but unsurprised to see they acknowledged *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890-1940* as one of their sources. I got this book in the 1990s and have read and re-read it a few times as research and as pleasure reading. The gay male culture of New York has always been the gold standard in this country. I was eager to learn about it then, and happy to see it used so very well in this series of books.

Most of my happy croons are reserved for the alternate history of this New York, part of a world where magic is real and imperfectly understood as well as unscrupulously used thus necessitating an entire branch of law enforcement dedicated to detecting and preventing malefactors from taking unfair advantage of its gifts.

The plight of the unbonded familiar is a strong theme in this first novel of the series. It's clear that the familiars, those whose abilities create the magic channeled by witches, are the downtrodden second-class magical citizens. Cicero the cat-shifter is a survivor of an abusive unbonded past. It informs his every waking moment. It's also obvious that most witch/familiar bonds are same-sex; this makes the gayness quotient of the world quite high, an agreeable development from my PoV. That there is still homophobia out there is depressingly inevitable, human beings being what they are.

The events of this book bring the politics of the creation of New York City from the independent cities of Brooklyn, Manhattan, the County of Queens, and the Bronx to bear on the lives of the characters, and in that teaches each of them what it means not to fit into any corner of society. There are competing factions attempting to redress the very real wrongs of the place and time, but in ways that wouldn't lead to a better world only a replacement of those at the top with themselves.

It seems revolutions never do what they are supposed to do.

But Tom and Cicero are there, ably assisted by Dominick and Rook from *The 13th Hex* and joined by the next book's MC Dr. Yates, to make sure the body count is kept to a minimum and the worst excesses of evil are prevented from making the city a shambles. This is what I like about Author Hawk's books: The stakes are high, the issues are drawn from reality, the resolutions are based in the logic of the world created and include the requisite Happily Ever After for the main characters.

In this series, the magical system is wonderfully presented, the alternate timeline is sketched in with intriguing spaces left to be filled by future events' historical roots, and PoV characters from previous books will appear in supporting roles. I very much like this method of world-building as it lets me feel I am discovering something instead of arriving at a destination in time, conclusions in hand, to watch events unfold.

The sexual reality of the setting is probably going to put hetero readers off their feed. If men sexin' up other men makes you squeamish, seek elsewhere for your entertainment reads. If it doesn't, then here's you a terrific new series to enjoy.
