



Balefire

Jordan L. Hawk

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Whyborne's Endicott relatives have returned to collect on the promise he made to help them take back their ancestral manor from an evil cult. In exchange, they'll give him the key to deciphering the Wisborg Codex, which Whyborne needs to learn how to stop the masters.

To that end, Whyborne, his husband Griffin, and their friends Iskander and Christine travel to a small island off the coast of Cornwall. But when they arrive at Balefire Manor, Whyborne must not only face the evil within the ancient mansion, but the painful truth about his own destiny.

Balefire Details

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Author : Jordan L. Hawk

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From Reader Review Balefire for online ebook

? percy ♡ says

excited for the next book because i want to see how everything ends, but i also don't want it to end, and i'm scared some of my faves will die..... y i k e s

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.75 stars

Wow, Jordan L. Hawk has done it again. I am a huge fan of the author's writing, and will read pretty much anything Hawk writes. But the Whyborne & Griffin series is arguably the author's most well-known and beloved work, and Balefire is the perfect example of why. As always, Hawk manages to combine the romance between Whyborne and Griffin with an exciting and thrilling magical suspense, all while tying the story together with the larger series plot. At this, the tenth book in the series, things are all interconnecting from previous books and Hawk masterfully weaves pieces together from the larger story. For that reason, you really need to be familiar with prior books for this one to work well, but given that this is in my top all time handful of favorite book series, trust me, it is no hardship.

Read Jay's review in its entirety here.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

4 Stars

Despite my despair in knowing that this is the second to the last book, it in no way failed on the romance, action, or the horror.

As always, our heroes and their band of loyal friends and family are once again challenged by those that fear and serve the otherworldly Masters and their minions. New terrible revelations and a seemingly unbeatable foe awaits Whyborne and Griffin but never fear! Though there is loss, a new vital piece of knowledge is gained which will be the key to destroying the evil that's inevitably coming.

Deosil is just on the horizon and too soon enough! I don't want to say goodbye to this lovely duo!

Barbara? says

So, anyone who has been following my reviews knows I have been binge reading this series. I have read nothing else for 14 days. This one was bitter-sweet for me because it's the last available one and has only left me wanting more and more. I tried to read it slow but just could not bring myself to put it down.

It is action packed almost from the first page. Our team of amazing characters travels to Balefire Manor to help Whyborne's Endicott relatives take back their island. It is nonstop from there on to the last page.

This series is the first time I have read anything by Jordan Hawk and it won't be the last. The writing is captivating and the characters are created in a way that makes you want to be in their world and be a part of their family. I feel like I have an investment in their lives.

The last sentence in the book from Jordan about brought me to tears. I know there is more to come but I can't help but be sad that at some point the adventure will be over. This series is leaving me with a massive book hangover and I'm sure it will take me some time to get over it.

If you have not read this series, PICK IT UP. It has everything you could ever hope for from romance to adventure. You surely will not be disappointed.

Chris says

Another fabulous installment from Whybourne & Griffin - these poor guys really do have the weight of the world on their shoulders! As darkness looms and evil around the world grows, Whybourne, Griffin and friends face the ultimate challenges to fight the blackness and bring about peace. Things are really hotting up and honestly I can only hope these guys catch a break eventually. Another great read in this paranormal world

~Volha~ says

Wow, what a book! It just keeps getting better and better! Ms Hawk has outdone herself again. I loved every page. If I tried to describe any part of it in this review it would be one huge spoiler. But I can say one thing - amazing! What was different about this one was the fact that it had less downtime for Whyborne and the crew - from about 30% of the book you just pull on your big boy/girl panties, put on your seat belt and hold on! It's a roller coaster of an adventure! So detailed you can picture it all in your mind. Some secrets are revealed, more mysteries uncovered but yet so many new questions you want to know answers to. When the book ends you want to know when the next (and the last book *ugly angry tears*) will come out.

Thrilling, fast-paced, fascinating magical journey! I highly recommend it! Enough said!

P.S. Christine stole part of the show per the norm. :-)

milou ☆ says

*"Well done, Whyborne." Christine ran back to clap me on the arm, then leaned in to peer at my face.
"Oh dear."*

"What?"

"Didn't you used to have eyebrows?"

"Curse it."

I have to say that it hurts me to have to write this review since this is the last book in this series which is currently released. Nothing about the final installment has been made known yet, besides the title which doesn't really give anything away. I don't want to think too much that there is only going to be one book left and then I'll never be able to read about Whyborne and the others again. It is a very painful thought. I wish that this series could go on forever, but I know well enough that's not going to happen. Only a girl can dream right?

This series has become one of my favorites that I've ever read and over the course of these ten books I've enclosed all of its characters into my heart and I will gladly fight battles and monstrous entities with my bare hands if I could protect them, I probably can't.

Justinian turned his back to Whyborne. "I hope you're ready to meet your maker."

Ival returned his stare coolly. "I'm an atheist."

In this book our beloved Widdershins is traded for Cornwall where Whyborne, Griffin, Christine and Iskander travel to a small island near the coast. We get to meet more people from the Endicott family, which raises some doubt since not all of Whyborne's encounters with his cousins had gone well. It makes you wonder who you can trust after all.

Because were at a strange place with creepy surroundings I felt rather anxious, especially since we were constantly surrounded by Endicott's and the Masters are getting closer, which didn't exactly reassure me. I'm still waiting for the moment where one of the characters that I love will die because it's bound to happen with all of these monsters they've faced.

He turned his head and kissed my palm. "I love you, Ival. More than I could have imagined, that long ago night."

The romance between Griffin and Whyborne still waters my plants. After ten books my love for them hasn't diminished and I've only grown to love them even more, which I didn't think would be possible. They've come such a long way since the beginning of this series and seeing everything that they've encountered together makes me proud of them. They're still madly in love with one another and that will remain that way.

At first Griffin was cautious when Whyborne began to develop magic, but over the years he has started to support his husband even more. Griffin is well aware how powerful Whyborne truly is and that he has a part of the Maelstrom inside of him, but that doesn't change how he feels for him. He supports him in the best

way that he can. Their immensely supportive and caring towards an another, it's so healthy. I already miss them.

"I can't believe they didn't have lemons," Christine complained. "What sort of place doesn't have lemons?"

Also just the friendships/sibling bonds between Iskander, Christine, Whyborne and Griffin made my heart jolt every time. They really see each other as *family* . If that doesn't make you want to tear up I don't know what will? This series has managed to weave its way into my world and I've grown to care about everyone as if they are my own family, which they aren't.

Before I started this series I had never read a book by Jordan L. Hawk before, but now I cannot imagine my life without them anymore. I've read these ten books in such a rapid pace, like it was almost impossible for me to put them down I was constantly reading them because I had to know what was going to happen next. Therefore *Jordan* has become one of my favorite authors, and this one of my favorite series, even though it's not finished yet.

So I will dread the release of the next installment of this series because it will be the end. Maybe I need to bribe *Jordan* to make sure everyone will get a happy ending.

"I swore I would be with him in sickness and in health. There was exception for kidnapping by monstrous entities from beyond the bounds of the world."

The Whyborne & Griffin series:

- #1) Widdershins ★★★★★
 - #1.5) Eidolon ★★★★★
 - #2) Treshold ★★★★★
 - #3) Stormhaven ★★★★★
 - #3.4) Carousel ★★★★★
 - #3.5) Remnant ★★★
 - #4) Necropolis ★★★★★
 - #5) Bloodline ★★★★★
 - #6) Hoarfrost ★★★★★
 - #7) Maelstrom ★★★★★
 - #8) Fallow ★★★★★
 - #8.5) Undertow ★★★★★
 - #9) Draakenwood ★★★★★
 - #10) Balefire ★★★★★
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Anne Boleyn's Ghost says

Whyborne & Griffin is one of the few series that I would recommend without hesitation or reservation. **Of course *Balefire* was a 5-star read.**

I've been in a bit of a m/m reading slump lately. Call me Awful Luck Anne, but I keep picking up books that I am unable to finish, books that lack the diversity that I want or deserve an "F" for blatant fetishizing or, most innocuously but also most commonly, feature tropes that simply don't work for me. Like I am 99% sure that I am the only m/m reader who dislikes age gaps and while I have taken my assigned seat in the corner, I have fewer books to keep me occupied here.

That said, my slump made me appreciate *Balefire* all the more. **The penultimate (I'm not crying, I'm NOT) installment of *Whyborne & Griffin* is masterfully crafted, a thrilling, amusing, and poignant magical mystery tour.** A *Whyborne & Griffin* novel can offer the comfort of a hot cup of tea on a cold day. It can induce cackles of laughter rivaling our witch friends' as they currently hunt Jabba the Trump and his cult (let's hope they succeed, and soon). It can incite such terror that when you are home alone and hear a noise upstairs, you feel compelled to grab a knife before you go investigate. Not that I've done that or anything...

To me, **that is the beauty of the series - that it can be so many things, that it can make you FEEL so many things.** Good fiction books do that. Good fiction books also reflect our world. The queer and POC representation in both *Whyborne & Griffin* and Hawk's *Restless Spirits* series is ample and thoughtful. I appreciate that Hawk, unlike some historical romance authors (I'm really, really, really biting my tongue here), recognizes the importance of showing that POC and queer people lived and loved, that they deserve to have their stories told, that they can have happily-ever-afters.

I'll go now, mainly to prevent this from becoming one of the more fangirliest fangirl reviews (although it's probably too late for that). But before I go, I want to reassert that **Whyborne and Griffin are one of my favorite married couples** to read about, that **Christine and Heliabel have utterly delightful moments** here, that I love that world of Widdershins and beyond.

Fans of the series will enjoy *Balefire*. And if you're not yet a fan of the series, I suggest you get on that - and soon.

Read for SBTB July - September 2018 Quarterly Challenge: A book with a married couple.

Lyra says

Who loves this series?! I love this series! I'm going to be so sad when it ends, although I'm also going to be happy that it doesn't turn into one of those series that never official ends and thus runs out of steam.

This is, without a doubt, one of my absolute favorite series of all time. I love the MCs, I love the supporting cast, I just love everything. So wonderful! I want to write all manner of things, but I don't even know what to do other than gush. We're encountering more characters that are new or relatively new, and I'm loving them to, which is frustrating on a certain level because I know we won't get to spend much time with them. There's only one book left!

K.J. Charles says

Penultimate W&G book, and the plot has thickened intensely as our heroes head off to Cornwall to help Whyborne's family and have to save the world on the way. If you like paranormal historical weird, you're probably already reading this series, and if not start at book 1 for heaven's sake.

Very much focused on the horror/adventure rather than the romance, which is hardly surprising at book 10 in a series, and can I just say props to this author for *not* whipping up a romantic conflict or putting the love affair in jeopardy every time. If they nearly break up every book, I'm going to think they don't belong together by like #4 let alone #10. So this is very much focused on the intense Widdershins mythos and world, and makes for a lovely exciting horrifying read if you've followed along. As ever the supporting cast is a joy and there are plenty of laugh out loud lines. Happy sigh.

Meags says

4 Stars

Those god damn Endicotts! Seriously, I can't stand the lot of them. And considering how heavily this tenth book revolved around those sanctimonious bastards, I must admit, my enjoyment was noticeably impacted.

In truth, *Balefire* might actually be my least favourite novel in the series. But never fear, it was still a solid 4 star read in and of itself - which just goes to show how brilliant the other books are.

But I digress...

Because they're awesome and good and heroes to their last breaths, Whyborne, Griffin, and their closest companions, answer a call for help from the Endicotts. Their mission is to travel to England and assist the Endicotts in reclaiming their stronghold, Balefire manor, presumably from the Fideles who have magically cut off Balefire's island home from the rest of the world.

It seems like a risky mission, undoubtedly, especially when you factor in the disdain the Endicotts have always shown Whyborne (the "abomination"), but when Whyborne and his friends learn that there are Endicotts trapped in Balefire, including many children, they dive in to help however they can.

The rescue gets dicey and the situation is not what it first appears, but that doesn't stop these beloved characters from risking their lives to do what's right.

If I'm being honest, I found a lot of the histories and mythology stuff a little confusing at times. Yet, that's the least of my problems, considering that I legitimately still have trouble wrapping my little head around all the magic lore we've already been over a million times. Truthfully, I still don't fully get who the masters are and what the maelstrom is or how the arcane power works or what purpose Whyborne and Persephone serve in the larger scheme of things... but my confusion surely lies in my own addled mind.

What I do get and absolutely love are the characters and their relationships. Whyborne and Griffin will

always be a favourite book couple of mine and I'm still convinced that Christine is the best female character to ever grace the pages of an M/M series. I adore all the characters who matter to Whyborne and I'm certainly invested in the outcome of their story.

Now only one more book to go and the adventure is over forever! Gah!

Ms. Smartarse says

What do you do when the entire world is telling you to stay put? When your *own misgivings* are screaming bloody murder at the mere *thought* of another journey? Percival Endicott Whyborne for one, will heroically throw himself in danger. If said danger-throwing will piss off his father, so much the better. **#thuglife**

So dear reader, pack your bags for Cornwall, monsters, evil sorcerers, unexpected developments, and a whole lot of world building. For bonus points, your get to take mummy dearest, and steal some much deserved sexy times with your husband. Once you get there however, all bets are off...

Oooh this was so much fun! There was plenty of comic relief to be had, a bit of sensual interlude, and several action sequences to keep you on the edge of your seat. But most importantly: *something to eat!*

I'm not sure if my enjoyment had anything to do with the break I took from the series and the genre in general, or maybe I was just in the right mindset to enjoy a fast-paced action-packed novella. Things are found out, alliances are forged, and the inevitable bad guy is looming just beyond the horizon.

Score: 4/5 stars

To all those of you gloating about reading it all in one sitting: I was savoring it, OK?! That said, my body is now ready for the final installment.

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Review of book 1: Widdershins
Review of book 1.5: Eidolon
Review of book 2: Threshold
Review of book 3: Stormhaven
Review of book 4: Necropolis
Review of book 5: Bloodline
Review of book 6: Hoarfrost
Review of book 7: Maelstrom
Review of book 8: Fallow
Review of book 8.5: Undertow
Review of book 9: Draakenwood

Skirmish says

Book Reaction: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagge...>

Soundtrack: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagge...>

Rating: 5 Stars - absolutely perfect

Richard Derus says

Real Rating: 4.75* of five

That, my chick-a-biddies, was a hellacious ride! More after I have knit the ravel'd sleeve of care with some z's. Be sure to read my 14 notes & highlights. I don't plan to cover these things in my review.

The next-to-last entry in this long-running series. The idea makes me a bit sad, but really when I think about it, this is a great time to go out: The ultimate threat to the humanity of Terra is about to rip its way through the veil of ignorance that traps us cattle in this vale of tears and kick ass.

Not if Dr. Percival Endicott Whyborne, tall geeky sorcerer, and his dearly beloved husband the ex-Pinkerton Griffin Flaherty, have a tiny tiny thread of the hope of a chance, they aren't.

This is something I treasure about reading these books: The superhero who's saving the world for the Great Unwashed is a gay goofus with the social skills of a teenager and no reason whatsoever to do the job he's doing. The world of Widdershins, Gilded Age America, hates fags. He's never been anything resembling straight. And *still* he saves the world the ungrateful jackasses infest with their seething rage at his audacity to claim love and happiness with another wounded survivor of straight people's hate.

You can have all those lushly muscled Captain What's-its and bounteously bosomed -womans and -girls. I'll take lanky, cranky, and awkward Whyborne every damn time. It matters to see yourself, the best part of yourself hopefully but yourself, in the tropes that dominate the age you live in. When Whyborne is done making the world safe for the people who want to make his world unsafe, he goes to his beloved Griffin for comfort and joy. And yes, that means sex. Usually two or three steamy scenes. I feel like y'all heterosexuals should be made to read some of our sex scenes since yours are flippin' EVERYWHERE and we should just belt the eff up and watch/read/encounter them because they're normal.

Common, perhaps; not normal. Normal is an individual calibration to the world.

If this book held a disappointment for me, it was the one-and-only intimate scene between Whyborne and Griffin. I get it; this is a hectic book with multiple battles being fought; but damn. One little bitty round of easy-to-clean spoodging smacks of adolescent exploration, not two men in their 30s expressing their established and ongoing desire for each other.

And then I remember the stakes looming over the men....

Yeah, pretty much the only thing you could squeeze in, eh what, Author Hawk? Book 11 can't come soon enough and I don't ever want to see it because it's the last and how dare you not keep writing these delicious stories and yeah, it's time to let these poor bastards rest.

No, I'm not conflicted at all. Why do you ask?

Sofia says

Where we have:

A woman who needs sustenance

A family with no proper sense of normality

A love which keeps growing

And oh, monsters who need dealing with

in other words another Hawk par excellence.

Talk about onion and layers, Hawk is so able to do that, keep peeling away exposing this bit, than that bit and making sense while doing so, a feat in this world. A master weaver at work.
