



Summoner

Éric Vall

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Gryff never knew he was the most powerful summoner in the world until a rogue monster attacked his village.

Now he's been recruited into the top magical academy, beautiful women are breaking down his dorm room door, and the headmaster has big, big plans for him. Instead of summoners being maligned by society, Gryff is in a position to make them revered and honored.

There's just one problem: The most powerful fire mage in the academy wants to protect the status quo and will do anything to stop him.

This novel has harem elements.

Summoner Details

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Jordan says

Overall pretty good. The magic system is descent and the author is pretty good in his descriptions of places and creatures and is very visual, pacing and grammar is pretty damn up there for these harem style books that are flooding amazon the last couple of years.

Would have been rated much higher but my two main sticking points are that the MC is very arrogant despite accusing every other character of being the same, its not as negative as I make it sound because I think he's supposed to come off as charming but it doesn't read that way at all. My biggest problem though is the dialogue, its cringe-worthy in places and can really pull the reader from the story.

Justin says

3.5. Summoner focuses on a 20 year old young man with the power to summon monsters. Typically viewed as a "labor" magic, only good for building and lumbering, Gryff (MC, a summoner) wants to change peoples minds about how summoners can be viewed as fighters. The magic concept is really interesting and I found myself intrigued throughout the book. The story is unfortunately a little slow and doesn't really have a traditional plot (ie not overarching villain, crusade, or arcs). It seems like the author wanted to just write the one book but left the option open just in case. He uses a 'harem' element which I am not a big fan of , mainly because it takes the depth away from the MC as well as any female supporting character that may be around him. They really do just seems like 'friends with benefits' which is something that doesn't click with me. I will say though that he was probably writing towards that kind of audience so I cant knock the fact to hard. Overall I did enjoy the read and will most likely read a sequel if one is ever written but if it is never meant to be I wont be up in arms either.

Rob Enderle says

This was a fun read and could easily be a series though it closes off reasonably enough, no cliff hanger. It says it has harem elements but they are slight, the hero basically has two girl friends and a third girl he'll likely end up with but never really even kisses. So less harem, more no steady girl friend which I was fine with (the harem crap gets old for me quick). Easy and quick read, be a good travel book. Under estimated Bugs Bunny type hero who regularly kicks butt but doesn't struggle with a lot of angst or drama, in short, my kind of book. Loved it!

Shu Viole says

Great read but the relationship part needs fixing.

It looks like everyone that the protagonist sleeps with a friend with benefits. There is literally no romantic connection between the protagonist the girls he sleeps with, making the relationships seem empty. If this book is supposed to have romance then it failed miserably, all I see are part-time whores who will sleep with anyone as long as they have an itch. Are you going to do the same with Kenefick? Is she just piece of meat? This isn't harem, just a gathering of horny girls.

John says

Excellent start

Interesting realm. Magic users have specific talents and abilities. The MC is a summoner. Considered the weakest and non battle worthy magic form..... That is until he shows a new way to handle summoning and how powerful it can be. Loved how he handles himself as new kid on the block being not only a summoner but an outlier(country boy). Should be good fun going forward and I can't wait.

Jacob says

This book has major plot and pacing issues. The MC has no depth other than his small backstory, his impossible magic skills, and the ability of any female around him to instantly want him within one or two encounters.

His summoning abilities and combinations are interesting. I wish the author would have taken the time to build out the foundations for the big events and side characters by planning a story arc for 3 or 4 books. The book ends with a lot of questions and a plea to rate this book well in order to get a second one.

Gary Roberts says

This is a fun book with a different take on magic. It also has a very modern take on sexuality. The hero has a couple of friends with benefits and the female characters are, for the most part, quite liberated.

It is obviously the first of a series, but ended nicely as a work until itself.

My only complaint is that the hero is a bit too perfect, I'd like to see him fail a bit in further adventures, and I do look forward to further adventures in this interesting world.

Dave Stone says

An Adequate fish out of water in a magic school story

Not bad and fairly standard magical academy book. very little new here.

wile the Main Character does have sexual relations with classmates and one staff member there are no actual sex scenes. The sexual element feels shoehorned in and adds nothing to the plot wile providing little in the way of titillation.

wile this is mostly a retread of Harry Potter, there is a flavor of Looking for Alaska (John Green) also a story about boarding school.

If you just can't get enough of magical academy books, and you've read all the rest, and you think the MC should get a little nookie now and then I suppose you could do worse.

Isaac says

It was not bad, but also nowhere near good. There are so many things I dislike about this book but I am amazed at the author. He was able to write a book from a really stupid idea. Summoners are useless except for being an unstable big gun that can only be used once per battle. Otherwise, Summoners are simply used for menial labour. And here comes our protagonist with *amazing* instincts on how to use many small weak monsters to provide amazing results.

The author literally stupefied the whole world to make that idea work. It's literally worse than zombies worlds oblivious about zombies. In those worlds, the idea of zombies was literally removed as if there are undeads, like vampires, skeleton warriors, or jiangshi, but no zombies. This book, literally, tossed out the idea of teamwork, pulling strengths together and covering each other's weaknesses.

Talk about Plot-Induced Stupidity (PIS), it's like the author cursed the whole world and stupefied everyone but the protagonist.

Harem seems to be the trend now, replacing polyamorous relationships. If you don't have harem, you're not targeting the *guy* audiences. And you need to couple it with sex scenes. This one mainly uses titillation, not to the point of explicit description of every act. I don't really understand why, or maybe the author is inexperienced. But titillation doesn't satisfy those who prefer the overt sex scenes and titillation already pushed those who don't like it over the edge.

To top it off, the core elements of this book is actually targeting children or young adults. Does going to a magic academy to learn magic sound familiar? Does throwing *crystals* to summon monsters that can't be killed and can be recalled at any moment sound familiar? Well, they can appeal to adults and definitely do. But it'll have a broader audience by throwing those *adult* elements out.

Depending on what the author's end goals are, it can be slow or just the way the story progress. There are no antagonists in this book. There are a couple major fights/battles in this book. But there's no climax, or a climatic finale fight/battle.

Lastly, I listened this as an audio book, so I did not read this book. I cannot comment on the grammar, spelling or proofreading. The narration was done well though.

DJay says

I can say that I'm at odds with the MC. He seems to have a bit of arrogance to him, but the one thing I did like about him was that he did realize that he can't judge people with the same filter he's use to. So there was definitely some character growth in the book. This is a SLOW book, but I feel that it's setting up for the rest

of the series. This will be something that I eventually come back around to once the series gets a couple of more books under it. The book IMO literally stops once it finally starts to get its legs.

Sequoyah Tonihka says

I love these kind of books

Books of where the MC is OP with insane powers or just creative with his somewhat weak power to overcome a naturally powerful foe. I love these kind of books because there is a lot of drama with having to beat the bully and earn the respect of everyone around. I've read books where the MC is not op or creative and I find them somewhat boring because there is no drama that make me lose myself in reading. This book has it all, it's similar to anime and anyone who loves that type of anime. This is the book for you.

Ben says

Surprised and enjoyed!

I didn't expect the interesting story out what I thought was going to be a typical gameboy harem tale. Shouldn't have been, because I had finished his other one, "Planet Broker" the other day which I also found impressive for a new author. I only gave him 3 stars as, well done as both were, he has some work to do on consistency of dialog and characterization. If he develops as he should we should end up with another strong author to enjoy.

Eric Farkas says

This may be a bit of a review of the series in general rather than just the first book as I read through all of them then sat down to write this.

Summoner is decently written and despite it's problems managed to keep me engaged throughout the book and through the second and halfway through the third. Unfortunately after that point the downsides to the series just reached a tipping point.

Reading the summary you are given the impression that there is something special about Gryff as the description calls him the most powerful summoner. This is not the case. Or at the very least it is never said in the book or the series. I would perhaps describe him as the only competent summoner. He uses a collection of lower tier monsters and combines their abilities to take on various threats. Numerous people react with absolute shock at this, but it is never really presented impressively. And what exactly it is that is so impressive is never actually said. I suspect because it would make everyone involved look like an idiot.

The main special quality Gryff has is an apparent ability to instantly woo most women he is put in front of. The primary romantic interest is only slightly resistant to this. I don't know if there is a female besides her that reacts negatively to Gryff in the book. I can only really think of one in the series. Anyway, this results in numerous sex scenes. They're not terribly explicit, but still enough to push it out of the young adult range.

The main thing this book has going for it is that it's not really bad. It's just bland. A lot of the fighting is fairly straightforward. Looking at the series as a whole there are numerous fights that we are told were impressive, but didn't really evoke any sense of awe. Plus Gryff sticks with the low tier monsters for the most part, despite having several crystals of more impressive creatures. I really would have liked to see him actually summon something impressive, or do something with his monsters that actually sounded impressive rather than hear about how impressive it was after the fact.

Jeff R Hawkins says

Promising author

This book has overt sex scenes - not for children.

I enjoyed this book, but was also frustrated with it. If it wasn't for the sex, it would be a good book for seven to ten year olds. World building gets a C plus. Character motivation and development also gets a C plus.

Interesting situations and story line gets an A minus. On the one hand, there's too much description in some places, but on the other hand we are often just told -rather than shown- about important plot elements.

The author has a good vocabulary, but at times writes some colloquial turns of phrase that would never make it past an editor. Very few proofreading errors, though, which I appreciate. About halfway through the book, I decided that the author is probably about 15 years old. This would explain much of the above, and also the rather shallow-seeming actions and words of some of the adult characters at times.

The story is engaging, has a nice amount of action and some surprising and interesting developments.

Pat says

Surprising

Admittedly I was not expecting much with the word harem in the description but the story is well done and the magic interesting
