



Widdershins

Alex Alexander

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Logicide! Heretic!

Everyone knows cats can't talk. Everyone except Niclas, a halfwit slum boy who's just landed a new job as a talking cat's man servant.

But this is Laburnum and the age of Rationalism. Here, the Academy's Inquisition takes illogical happenings very seriously. Locking people up, throwing away keys, that sort of thing.

And it's not just the Crimson Men Niclas and his new master have to worry about. A man with no name has come to the capital in search of the Black Science – They call him Witchhunter.

Widdershins Details

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From Reader Review Widdershins for online ebook

The Dwarf Did It... says

I love this book but I also hate this book. I really liked the story, structure and the way it was told. I just can't get past the dialogue. It wasn't bad, I just couldn't get past two characters. Niclas, one of the main characters, is dumber than a box of rocks. Overly so, to the point I didn't like him as a character at all. Even though he is from the slums and uneducated I just can't deal with 15 going on 6 mentality. Then there was one of the thugs who had a lisp. A lisp is no big deal but the way his dialogue was written was somewhat difficult to read and not very enjoyable. I'm still giving it 3 stars because I did enjoy the story itself but me personally, I will not be continuing on with this series. Unfortunately, those two characters really killed the book for me which sucks because the others were great.

Selena says

Free copy courtesy of Alex Alexander and Goodreads First Reads, which in no way influences this review

Lee A Darrell says

Excellent story telling

This is a long tale but a good one. Well written, but for some editing issues. Definitely read this if you like something very unique. A talking cat due to a spell, the cruel upbringing of a "guttersnipe", and a princess caught up in the dangers and intrigue in a kingdom in trouble. Lots of adventure, danger, and chaos. A page turner.

Shelby Kollin says

"The trees were the same shade of grey as the headstones. They were the kind of trees that moved their arms when they weren't being watched."

"Her song was melodic and innocuous, the kind of innocent tune that sounds just like pure evil."

Thank you to the publisher for the e-book giveaway in exchange for an honest review.

This story is filled with witty quotes and descriptions as I've shared above. Balthazar, the talking cat, had me laughing left and right with his wonderfully sarcastic ways of speaking. Niclas, a poor uneducated boy, is surprisingly likeable despite what Balthazar refers to as his stupidity. Cassandra, the royal princess, is that girl we all know way too well who feels superior, talks too much, is demanding, and oblivious to the moments that she's not in control of the situation. I swear I could hear the voices of each character. I could see what each of them looked like and I could imagine every description even when it was not of this world.

This was a fantastical story that I could find myself rereading and recommending to anyone looking for a fantasy story with wit and humor in it. Plus, who doesn't enjoy a talking cat?

The only reason I give this story 4 stars instead of 5 is because I felt like at times it moved way too quickly. There are scenes that could have been even more fantastic had there been more substance to them. I also did not appreciate the cliffhanger at the end. I read plenty of series, and not only was there no indication of this being the first book of a series, but that ending was borderline mean. There's no need for the first book of a series to end in the middle of an important scene in the way this one did. However, I do want to read the next one. I enjoyed this magical story quite a bit and honestly didn't want it to end. I'm glad there will be at least one more book. I'm hoping the plan is to have many books of adventures with Niclas and Balthazar.

Elizabeth says

Spoilers So I won an advanced copy of this one thinking it would be a fluffy YA flavored distopian novel with a cat. I underestimated it. It definitely had an Orwellian flair because The Academy had set itself in charge of the flow of information using its power to control education, religion, and even the monarchy in the name of "logic." Though the villains in this novel were plentiful, the faceless intuition of the Academy did a great job infusing a constant level of vigilant fear through the novel because the Academy had no problem crushing its opposition in a manner worth of Revolutionary France. Balthazar, a man trapped in the body of the cat, seems to be the chief trouble magnet in the empire. He is a man turned into a cat waiting for one day a year when his curse can be reversed assisted by a guttersnipe named Niclas who has more heart than brains, the crown princess Casandra who has made herself an enemy of the Academy by thinking too much just like her murdered father, and a Witchhunter who spends half the book wanting to kill everyone he meets. While I'm taken with Niclas and his simpler outlook on life, I think the most interesting character in this book is the Witchhunter. Alex Alexander has managed to make the tension of this complicated world boil down to one man. The Academy made magic illegal, and when you meet the Academy inquisitors you realize that they are evil monsters. So I was inclined to like witches because at least they were going against the Academy. NOPE! The witch we meet is totally deserving of anything the Academy dishes out because she preys on the weakest and most vulnerable members of the slums to fuel her sick necromancy. So by the end of the book, the Witchhunter looks like the sane one because he is willing to kill who ever gets in his way. So yeah. Not a fluffy book. Very icky sections. But I really want to know what happens next because of the dreadfully cliff-hanged ending!

Peggy says

[Cassandra gets taken off b

Jennifer says

The cover is beautiful and clean. The frame is gorgeous, as are the lovely details that are represented in the novel. Plus, it has a cat on it.

The characters are interesting and very consistent. Sick of characters with mood swings? I was too, and I found the unwavering nature of each character a great relief. The characters were a tad flat, but just how

diverse (in terms of traits and skills) the cast was made the piece very entertaining.

It says the story is about Niclas, who is a charming lackey, but Niclas doesn't seem to do much for himself and on his own. While this can be entertaining to watch and read, I can't picture him as the protagonist more than I can picture Balthazar as the protagonist. Cassandra is the princess, and she is slightly snobbish, but she is intelligent, is headstrong, and can think for herself. The Witchhunter is probably my favorite character. He is the outcast with two fancy guns and some insane skill.

The story is a 302-page story about Balthazar, a human who is a cat but wants to return to being a human (or so the cat says). A lot happens in the story. The cast of cat, foolish boy, princess, and Witchhunter is incredibly entertaining especially with their banter. I am excited to see how their journey continues. My only concern is the story is a little slow throughout the "rising action" part. The ending and the second half of the story, though, was worth it.

(This review is also posted on my blog.)

Char says

I won this book as part of a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

A talking cat, a misfit boy, a princess and a witch hunter. What could be better than that? Not much honestly. Although I admit this is not my typical go-to genre, I really enjoyed it. Well written with an engaging story and fascinating characters, this is a book I would recommend to anyone.....especially people who like talking cats. Can't wait for the sequel.

Toby says

Loved the book immensely and loved the characters too. Niclas was a great character and an enjoyable protagonist and he's just the right amount of innocence and ignorance (that of which typically go hand in hand) to make the reader want to hug the poor boy and drag him away from all the many people who want him dead. Niclas is also a sharp contrast to all the negativity of the world around him and great for lighting up the mood in an otherwise dreary situation. God, I could go on for hours about how I love each character but I'll spare everyone by just saying the rest of the characters and the world building itself makes me want to binge on the rest of the Widdershins series. I searched for the second book all over but I've only seen the title and cover for that here and can't access it though the amazon link so I would have to assume it isn't out yet? Waiting as patiently as I can for the next installment of this fantastic series.

Jessica says

First of all, the scenes with the thug that speaks with a lisp was a pain to read. But other than that, and perhaps a few odd narrative moments, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. It's a fun, imaginative story with bits of magic, humor, and suspense. The cast is unique and their banter with each other is entertaining. And even though Niclas is as dumb as a stump, he was endearing and I enjoyed all of his page time. ... I look forward to the next book.

C.J. Milbrandt says

Niklas is a guttersnipe from the slums who hopes to rise in the world by proving his worth as a thief. But his first time out, he's nicked and sent to the tower where he'll either be branded, mutilated, or executed. When a talking cat offers to rescue him if he'll do him some unspecified favors, Niklas gives his word.

The boy is eager to please, the cat is not telling everything he knows, and the princess isn't as smart as she thinks she is. Lots of political maneuvering as the foundations of a society are called into question. Creepy witches, loaded guns, scheming rats, prison breaks, bowler hats, black candles, and a whisperer. Action-packed, societally challenging, gruesomely messy, and occasionally violent ... but certainly more adventure than horror.

Very much a part one (thanks, wretched cliffhanger). I would like the next book, please and thank you.

Linda says

Review to come.

Samantha says

I was excited to receive a kindle copy of this book as a Goodreads giveaway. It fits my niche of favorite books, humorous and magical. While I enjoyed the premise of the book, I felt that the characters lacked depth and development.

April Rogers says

I received this in a Goodreads giveaway. I'm torn between 3 and 4 stars. For the most part, I really enjoyed the world created but Niclas drove me nuts. His dialogue was terrible and two of the main characters were 15/16 but were so innocent/sheltered/ignorant that it felt more middle grade. It's a good start to a series.

Lauren says

I really enjoyed the book once I got into it. It started slow, but gained speed once the characters were explained in more depth. I love books that are supernatural and this one had some elements I had never read before. Really looking forward to the next book.

