



Dark Days

Caitlin Kittredge

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Jack Winter is back. But his demons are far from behind him...

Jack Winter and his girlfriend Pete Caldecott have encountered a lot of strange creatures in the Black—primordial demons, hungry ghosts, witch hunters, and the Prince of Hell himself, Belial. When Belial asks Jack for one last favor to help him keep his throne, Jack may have finally met his match because Belial's rival is something that no one—human or demon—has ever seen before...

DARK DAYS

There's a revolution brewing in Hell, and Jack might be the only one who can stop Belial's rival from ripping a hole between the Black and the mortal world—a catastrophe that could be worse than Armageddon. But to win, Jack will have to do the one thing he swore he never would: become a servant to the Morrigan, and risk losing everything he knows and loves... including Pete.

Dark Days Details

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From Reader Review Dark Days for online ebook

Juliet says

Good. Not sure if this series is over since they don't tell you what happened to Declan in it. Doesn't really matter since he wasn't a big part of the story but its just one of those little things left forgotten.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

My review ill be featured in the May issue of RT Book Reviews.

Denise says

The end is nigh and all Hell literally about to break loose in the final volume of the *Black London* series. Plagued by apocalyptic visions of the city a playground for demons, his wife dead and his daughter gone, Jack isn't even all that surprised when Belial, the Prince of Hell he once sold his soul to, turns up asking for a favour: A revolution is brewing in hell, masterminded by a jumped-up elemental demon who intends to rip a hole between the Black and the mortal world, resulting in a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions, and Belial wants Jack to do something about this newest villain. To stop him, Jack may finally have no choice but to resort to the one thing he swore he'd never do: Sign on with the Morrigan, who has been after him all his life.

High stakes, lots of action, a refreshing lack of Jack and Pete bitching at each other and the world like a couple of teenage assholes, lots of page time for Belial - a satisfying conclusion and easily the best book in the series IMO. I'm glad I stuck around all the way through despite wanting to chuck every single one of the previous books at the wall at one point or another while reading them.

Kathy Davie says

Sixth in the Black London dark fantasy series revolving around Pete Caldecott and Jack Winter, the Crow Mage.

My Take

Puts a whole new take on *Legion*...and makes it worse! Of course, the start of this story didn't help. Jesus, what a nightmare! Literally. And it doesn't stop, as Jack keeps having visions of what is to come. It was an interesting way to incorporate Jack's flashbacks, providing us with more of Jack's back history, including that initiation Seth puts him through, and then the future flashes. I so do not envy Jack his "gift". Helps you understand why he's so intent on giving Margaret the freedom to choose. And I could just kill Seth. Why? Why did he just walk away? Jack was just a kid; McBride must have known how clueless and unprotected Jack was?

Surprisingly enough, this is also rather funny, in a grim, black, gallows-humor sort of way. Belial is up

against all of Hell and scrambling to save his position. And Jack is snarking it up with the Morrigan. We'll see who has the last laugh.

The Morrigan is gliding up to Jack, and his greeting to her is:

"Just dropping in to ask after the kids, then? They're fine, thanks. Can't chat, love to your mum, see you later."

Liked the reference to *Dr. Who*!

Part of what's so terrifying about this, besides the world coming to an end in ashes and dust, is how confusing it is. It's almost a bridge novel in that all this horror is happening, but we don't understand what parts everyone is playing. Belial is tossed out of Hell and as usual, the Morrigan is making nice, Fae assassins are after him, and Legion wants so much from Jack. The main question is why Jack? Why is it so important to Legion?

I can't help it. I just love Kittredge's Black London series. Yes, it's grim, it's dark, it's so black that black as we see it looks gray. And Kittredge puts the most amazing twist on it all with dark protagonists full of snark, whom nobody likes. Well, except the readers!

The Story

It's a nightmare existence, and Jack is battling so hard, trying to save Pete, Lily, and Margaret. But everything is conspiring against him. Including the Morrigan, who's teasing him with what is to come.

Part of that is Hell is, well, going to hell in a handbasket, and Belial is terrified. Scared enough to beg Jack's help as his fellow rulers on the Triumvirate think they can cut a deal.

Jack won't deal with the Morrigan, the Prometheans are clueless, and Belial refuses; all that's left are the crow brothers. And the *bean sidhe* are after them.

The Characters

Petunia "**Pete**" Caldecott is a Weir, able to suck in another's power, probably the only one in the world. Somehow, she and **Jack Winter**, the crow-mage, are still together, and they have a daughter, **Lily**. He has a "gift", one that's tormented him for as long as he can remember, seeing ghosts. One that he has, in the past, tried to mute with heroin. The thirteen-year-old **Margaret Smythe** was one of the children caught up in *Street Magic* , 1, and who escaped the trap in *Soul Trade* , 5, intact with Pete's help, the story in which she learned she's also the Merlin. She chose to live with Jack and Pete.

Lawrence is an old friend of Jack's who has agreed to take care of Lily while they're out of town. **Ida Higgins** is a nurse in the nightmare start and at the end, who heads out into the streets to help. Ollie Heath is Pete's old partern, who helps her out on occasion.

The Prometheus Club

The Prometheus Club is a secret society of prideful magicians based in Manchester who will do anything to get their hands on the Merlin. **Morwenna Morgenstern**, a very powerful human mage, is still as bitchy as every and still leads the Club. **Donovan Winter**, Jack's sociopathic dirt bag of a father is one of them, tried to trick Jack in *Soul Trade* . Victor is her vicious second.

The crow brothers, the Fiach Dubh, in Dublin

Seth McBride was crow-mage before Jack, and he trained him to use his sight, to prepare him to become a crow brother. Jack's suicide caused him to throw up his rare book shop and run away to destroy his liver in

Bangkok. The crow brothers teach each other how to survive, through backstabbing, abandonment, and sheer meanness. **Wallace** runs the pub somewhere near Trinity College. **Moir**, she's with the crazed **Declan**; young **Jimmy Donnelly** (Jimmy Donnelly was his da); and, Roger McAmmon was **Keith's** brother are the only ones left.

Ian Mosswood is Fae and also the Green Knight, aka, the Green Man, and he runs **The Lament**, a supposedly neutral bar in the Black. He's outta here.

Larry Lovecraft is running a retreat for mages, and Fae creatures who can't take it anymore.

The **Morrigan**, the bride of war and death, sees Jack as hers, and she intends him to lead her armies when she crushes the world.

Belial is a Prince of Hell, thanks to Jack, and he's back, begging for favors. **Baal** and **Beelzebub** are the other two Princes in the Triumvirate, and they don't like Belial. The **Fenris** look to Baal and seem to be some sort of demon soldier. **Hrathetoth** is a Named demon, who may help Jack get into the vault.

Legion is a mythic boogeyman, "an elemental demon who has many hearts and minds at once". Seems his "blood is the blood that gave the human race the spark. Azrael saw the wild magic of this world when it was new ... and ... pushed that magic into flesh, when he made me, he panicked. He saw his end in my eyes, and in the eyes of my line, of every human mage to come."

The **Black** is what you find lurking at your peripheral vision---if you care to look. **Merlin** was the first to shape the Black, fated to return when earth is in its darkest hour---and he shows up in Margaret!

The Cover and Title

The cover is a determined and tattooed Jack leading Pete by the hand through a creepy and red-skied desolation. Probably just another nice day in Hell...eek...

The title is what it is, *Dark Days* for Jack and Pete...and mankind.

Katter says

What a great end to an amazing series! For months I have been stuck in that limbo of wanting to read this book and not wanting to read this book. I wanted to know how everything ends but I also didn't want the series to end. It's always so bittersweet when a series you like ends.

As it is the last book in the series I have to say that *Dark Days* is a decent way to finish everything. I think all of us readers knew that no matter what happened things would never be all rainbows, butterflies and white picket fences for Jackie boy and Pete.

It starts off with a bang and the end of the world is nigh. A loony from the pit is raging rampant, gaining fanatics to his cause so he can destroy the walls. Legion is the nasties name, and it wants the land of the dead, Hell, the Black, and the light world all to become one plane of existence.

Being a psychic, Jack has seen the future and things do not look so good for humanity! We're basically snack food on two legs for all the creatures that go bump in the night. Due to the vision, Jack and Pete go on a

mission to try and stop cuckoo captain Legion. Naturally, it does not go off without a hitch!

There are a lot of bumps in the road! Actually scratch that and make it an ever growing sinkhole. Meanwhile the Princes in Hell are having a tizzy. Legion has his followers wreaking havoc on the leaders pitchfork shaped lair. Baal and Beelzebub are willing to make a bargain with him if it means they get to keep their thrones. Belial is against it, and rightfully so. If Hell and the walls fall then everyone is doomed.

For all of you Belial fans out there, I am happy to report there is a lot of Bel action! I do love the sassy old demon. He's one of my favorite characters! This last book is told from Jack's PoV (which is the best PoV) so we get a lot of interactions between the two of them and it's awesome!

Since the world is pretty much screwed the boys form a tenuous truce and work together to try and stop things from going badly. Pete helps along the way as much as she can, and yet it's still not enough. Things are far more grim than anyone expected. Especially with the Morrigan still breathing down Jack's neck.

I had wondered how Kittredge would tie everything together at the end because there is a lot at stake here. Some issues do get solved and others remain in the air because some things are a lot bigger than what Jack and Pete are capable of handling. They are just two people after all!

Even with there being some loose ends I am still happy with the way the tale stops. As I said earlier, it was never in the cards to have a rainbows, butterflies and white picket fence finale. I think it ended the way that it should. I liked this novel quite a bit and was entertained the whole way through. I just wish the big showdown had been more exciting. Personally I felt it was a bit muted, considering the awesome action in the last book.

I had expected more of an epic moment! Now I may have found the big dustup to be lackluster but the rest of the story was aces. It's hard to go wrong some good Jack and Belial action! He may be a demon, but I think down in that scaly black heart of his he actually likes Jack and vice versa. Bel is the friend you never wanted but got anyway. ♥

Kudos to the author and her writing ability! She ended this series while it was still good instead of dragging it on and on like tons of other authors do. She is a rarity! As a reader it's sad to think it's over, but at the same time I'm glad that it is because it ended the way that it should. On top and in great condition. It's been one hell of a ride! Ashes, ashes, we all fall down.

Tammy says

This is a different Jack Winter. It's one we've been seeing form throughout the books, and it's possibly the best Jack Winter he can be. Because this Jack will do anything protect his family. This Jack *has* a family. He has Pete, their daughter, and their adopted daughter. He even has people he thinks of as friends. So when the apocalypse comes to him through the visions he can't ever escape, he's willing to make the ultimate sacrifice--the one he's avoided all his life--to stop it and save them all.

Cheryl says

Jack and Pete have welcomed their daughter, Lily into the world. Jack is called upon by Belial. He has a job for Jack. Someone is trying to take over and Belial wants him stopped. Belial's nemesis is not going down without a huge battle.

Dark Days is the latest book in the Black London series. I can not get enough of Pete and Jack. Pete and Jack are one of my favorite couples. They are both sarcastic and bullheaded but yet they just belong together like salt and pepper. I thought that after pregnancy that Pete would have calmed down some but she is still not going down without a fight. This is a good thing as she and Jack had to fight a new demon that even Belial would not get near. Speaking of Belial. He is growing on me as much as any demon can. Belial and Jack's banter with each other has me smiling every moment of it.

The ending kind of hinted at the end of this series but than again the world is in shambles so I don't think I have seen the last of Pete and Jack. Which I will miss them when the time does come to an end. Dark Days is a kicking butt good time of a read!

Piseog says

I love this series and am sad it's ended. But it ended really well. Pete and Jack are such likeable and complicated characters. Their relationship has come so far and I love reading about their marriage and family life. These are not the easiest books to read. I found myself zoning out or skipping the odd paragraph because the writing is so involved, but the characters and excitement make this series. Definitely one to recommend.

Joy says

I have to wonder WHEN fantasy writers (including script writers for movies/TV) will let go of Dante's coattails? I am so sick of Demons from Hell being the antagonists in fantasy. At least the greats like Lovecraft created their own vision of Great Evil and didn't rely on concepts made popular by a 13th century poet. I will give this to the writer, her writing craft is sound.

As to this series, well it's a good light read but hardly worth spending money...Support Your Public Library! You can enjoy mediocre stories for free.

Jackie says

OK, this one was so not my favorite book of the series as it really lived up to its name. I am however relieved that Jack and Pete made it through the worst experiences of their lives and came out still together at the end.

Took 4 days to read as took 2 days off to relieve the negative vibes reading this very darkly depressing tale gave me.

Lisa says

Freaking great book. I hope this is not the last we see of them. I've read its the last book and I've also read its the end of the story arch. I so hope its just the end of the arch. This book opens up the story line for a lot of new things. Although if is the end of the series it did end on a good note and I'm satisfied with it. But I would love to see Jack get out from under the Morrigan.

BTW at the beginning I was so lost and confused. Just read past it and it will even out. Its not what it seems.

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

The Apocalypse is Nigh...again. Jack Winter's visions shows London in ashes, the ones he loves dead or taken and the wall between the worlds crashing down; mingling the hosts of Hell and all the vile creatures of the Black in with the daylight world. To stop the coming apocalypse Jack may have to sacrifice more than his life and finally join the Morrigan leaving all he loves behind.

I love the Black London series, it is dark and gritty, filled with difficult situations and has one of the most interesting leading couples, Jack Winter and Pete Caldecott. Dark Days continues the tradition set in the previous books in this series; setting up seemingly hopeless situations that never have an easy answer and a victory clinched at the maw of defeat through cleverness, luck and sheer ballsiness.

And, although I love Ms Kittredge's plots and the ideas she puts in her books, what I really like and come back for more of is Jack and Pete, they aren't your typical hero and heroine, in general the couple are foul mouthed, rude and aren't afraid to play dirty to win. But I like them, they are interesting and the dark side of each of them makes the more so. They are also a perfect match for one another and I love how their relationship has grown through out the series creating a marriage so strong that sometimes the weight of the apocalypse rests on it.

What I also love about these books is the writing, everything is brought to vivid life and sucks you deeper into the book. For example the dialogue is excellent, the way Jack and Pete speak, especially Jack, he manages to be both crude but also poetic and clever at the same time, like below:

There was no higher power. There were the beings older and hungrier than you, and there was avoiding being stepped in when they got a hair up their bum cracks

This was another fantastic installment in the series, although it did end on a little bit of a cliff hanger, which means I now can not wait to get my hands on the next book!

Paris says

I can't tell if this is the last in the series or not, but if it is, I can say that I'm satisfied with the way things ended. This was a wild ride from beginning to end, typical and true Pete and Jack. I loved going on this last ride with them. It was great getting to know more about Jack, seeing more of his past. He led us through this book and at first I was a little sad we were missing Pete so much, but after a while, I didn't care. I liked Jack on his one. He's such a smarta\$\$\$. I love his snarkiness and his witty comebacks.

My one big complaint was that things tended to get a little confusing with the flashbacks, the real time and the visions that Jack was having. Sometimes I didn't know what end was up, but that opening chapter was crazy and I'm glad that the book started like that. I didn't know what the heck was going on, but my heart was racing and I couldn't stop turning pages.

I have read a lot of books by Caitlin Kittredge and I've enjoyed all of them. This series was probably my favorite of hers because of how different it was and how crazy Jack is. He definitely made the series and if this is the end, I'm sad to see him go, but I loved the way this ended.

Edrillan (vampire junkie) says

Well obviously I was one of the few who gave this book a 2 star rating. It's not that I don't like it, I loved the first three books in the series and was caught up in it like everybody else. It's just that somewhere down the road I got tired of them facing the same problems over and over again, And there's a lot going on that I just get confused sometimes. But there were a few points that I like about this entire series. For one thing I like the main char. Especially Jack, I look forward to his PoV more than I did with Pete. The relationship between them was like a breath of fresh air for me from all those months of reading YA series all those love at first sight, high school crush, love triangle things that seems to plague the YA genre was thankfully as I hoped absent from this paranormal/adult genre. So all in all this wasn't a bad ending to the series considering all the shite they went through.

Sean Goh says

A little confusing because it's the 6th in the series, but the first I've read. It's a believable world though, like it was inspired by hellgate:London.

The pacing has issues though.

Rashika (is tired) says

It's a real pity that I finished reading another one of my favorite series but hey I couldn't put off reading *Dark Days* for much longer.

5 Reasons to read the Black London series

1. English cuss words (and the general setting)

I don't know whether some of the cuss words actually line up with reality but I'll tell you, this series taught me a whole lot more about English cuss words. Plus Jack cussing is one of my favorite things. I also LOVED the setting and I loved how the author built up this dark atmosphere. I could imagine myself in the dark alleyways of London. I could FEEL the black (which is a hard concept to explain so I won't bother).

2. Jack

Ahhh Jack. He is one of my favorite male leads. The books are told in alternating points.. so books 2, 4 and 6 are told from his POV. I ADORED being inside his head and I just loved his character in general. He is kind of an asshole and the author doesn't really sugar coat it. He is what he is. But he's also a sweetheart since he's usually only an asshole to other assholes. They totally had it coming. Seriously though, he is a realistic character. He isn't a hero. He is afraid. He is afraid of dying and has a tendency to lose his temper at times. He does have a shit load of power and sometimes it goes to his head too but at the same time, it doesn't take away from the fact that he is human(???). He has the same fears and insecurities as the rest of us.

3. PETE

The female lead! As you might have guessed, books 1, 3 and 5 are told from her POV and boy is she just as awesome as Jack. As you might have already gathered Jack can be an asshole but Pete never lets it get to her. She's a tough (ex)cop and doesn't have the time to deal with bullshit.

4.Their romance

Which is why, the two are perfect for one another. Their romance throughout the whole series is subtle. It isn't the focus. It doesn't take them 6 books to declare their love because like I said, it isn't the focus but they have had their ups and downs over the course of the books. Jack with his insecurities and even Pete with her own. In the end though, they work well. They aren't afraid to depend on one another and ask for help and will always be willing to back one another up. No matter what. Which is why they are a fantastic couple.

5. THE PLOTS

It's been a while since I've read the other books in this series but from what I remember, the plots in each of the books have never failed to get me worked up and excited. They aren't incredibly detailed but they work. There is an overall plot arc but each of the books have their own mini plot arcs that get solved.

It is a pretty sad that there won't be more of these characters but I bid them adieu with a smile on my face. They will be missed but they won't be gone since I can re-read the books any time I want (or scenes).

Tina says

It was okay. I guess I've just had my fill of Jack and his messed up life. Thankfully this seems to be the last book in the series ... if I got the right feeling from the way the story ended. I'm hoping Kittredge does something totally different in her next series.

Faye says

First read: 2013

Re-read: September 2015

The plot: Jack begins to have visions of an apocalyptic London, a futuristic world where the walls between the Black and the daylight world have crumbled, Pete is dead and his daughter Lily has been taken by demons. Belial, a demon Jack and Pete have dealt with in the past, assures Jack his visions are flashes of a possible future. Jack must work to find out who or what causes this version of the future and stop it before it can ever happen.

Dark Days is a fantastic end to the Black London series. It is epic in scale, with Kittredge showing us such an incredibly vivid, futuristic, apocalyptic London, as well as taking Jack back to hell, then back into the daylight world of the present where Pete, Lily and Margaret are still safe. It is real rollercoaster of a book, and the desperation and the depth and strength of Jack's love for Pete is so powerful here.

And that ending! I was so pleased to get a proper resolution on Jack's future with the Morrigan but I would never have anticipated the ending Kittredge provided for us as a consequence of Jack's dealings with the Goddess. (view spoiler)

In a way I am glad the series ended at this point. While it would have been interesting to see how Jack and Pete (and everyone else!) adapted to this new way of life, it would have also felt a little pointless. The major plot points have all been resolved and while there was a small teaser at the end of the last chapter that hinted at a future adventure it would have turned the series into a more generic UF series if Kittredge had followed through with that idea and written another book in the Black London series.

Dark Days completes a brilliant series and I'm sure this won't be the last time I re-read the Black London books.

Rating: 5/5 stars. One of the best re-reads of 2015.

Nicole says

(Spoiler alert just in case; very mild spoilers.) I got a version of the ending I wanted and didn't get my heart broken, so that's good.

I was surprised Pete's mum or Jack's dad didn't make another appearance.

A lot of the time it felt as if Jack couldn't do anything right. I guess, ultimately, it's all about being willing to make the hard choices; but I wish he wasn't such a pawn.

I still (somewhat inexplicably) love Jack Winter. He's had a character arc throughout the books--he's let go of a lot of the rage, he's gotten the worst of his addictions under control, he's become capable of being in a stable relationship and of being a parent. He hasn't gone all soft and cuddly, though, and still definitely has quite the mouth on him. Pete has changed, as well, and become less angry, especially when dealing with Jack. They work well together as a couple and make their affection for each other clear.

...Ah, hell, the series is over, and it just makes me feel melancholy.

April Hollingworth says

I didn't want to finish this book as it's the last one in the series.

It was fantastic and wonderful and held no barriers. I adore this series so much and will read it again and

again. Caitlin Kittredge is a master at creating worlds and characters that suck you in and explodes in technicolor brilliance that unravels in front of your eyes leaving you begging for more.

The black is entering the world and something new is breaking the barriers between all worlds letting them seep into each other. Jack is having visions of the near future, of the world in turmoil and ash and life as he knows it in ruins. Pete and Jack are in the fight of their lives to stop this new threat before there is no more world to protect.
