



Death Magic

Eileen Wilks

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DEATH MAGIC opens with Special Agent Lily Yu in Washington, D.C. with her fiancé--lupi prince Rule Turner—to testify before a Senate subcommittee about her role in the magical collapse of a mountain last month. She is not there to tell them about the strange legacy she carries from that event—or about the arcane bond between her and Rule--or what her boss in Unit Twelve of the FBI's Magical Crimes Division is really up to. She sure won't tell them that the lupi are at war with an Old One who wants to remake humanity in her own image.

Lily is managing the conflict between her duty as an officer of the law and the need for secrecy pretty well . . . until the rabidly anti-magic senator who chairs that committee is murdered. The line between right and wrong, always so clear to her, becomes hopelessly blurred as events catapult them all towards disaster, and prophecies of a cataclysmic end to the country she loves and serves--and to the entire race of lupi--seem well on their way to being fulfilled.

Death Magic Details

Date : Published November 1st 2011 by Berkley

ISBN :

Author : Eileen Wilks

Format : Kindle Edition 377 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Magic, Shapeshifters, Werewolves

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From Reader Review Death Magic for online ebook

Tim Mercer says

4 stars. In this one Cynna is out of the story and it focuses on Lily, Rule and Cullen together with her Unit buddies. The bad guys are Human First and the Great Bitch. I wanted to go 4.5 stars but I really felt it was flat during the 2nd quarter of the book. High points for me was the way the author dovetails in new magic details to build the story and the world. She does this really well without disturbing the overall story arc which stops the story getting repetitive over the series. Additionally the personal relationships continue to develop and grow with no minimal rehashing of old problems. The dialog flows and as mentioned the plot is fresh with some good twists that I think are setting up the next in the series.

Trix says

[I have to say... half the book I thought the ghost Lily was seeing was some future ghost apparition of Ruben. Glad that wasn't the case. (hide spoiler)]

Marsha says

I read or heard once that television producers did not like for characters to fall in love then marry on a show because the marriage would kill the longevity. It seems they believe marriage is mundane and boring and would cause viewers to lose interest. Well, let me tell you that although Lily and Rule (World of the Lupi) have not married yet, they are close and no way is this series losing its' momentum or excitement.

"Death Magic" has managed to do what no book has done for me in a long time. It kept me guessing until the bitter end. Usually within the first 50-100 pages of a book, I have a good guess as to who the bad guy is and what he is up to. Not the case here. Eileen Wilks is a master manipulator of the mind and she had me on the edge of my seat. The possibilities were endless, intriguing and just plain fun. This time Lily and Rule have been called to D.C. so that Lily can testify before a committee. While there, she and Rule get the unusual opportunity to attend a social event (barbecue) at the home of her boss, the ailing Ruben Brooks and interact with his elusive wife, Deborah. Lily is pleasantly surprised to find that Deborah is not stuck up and has a little earth magic which she uses to tend her gardens. The barbecue is just a guise for Ruben to advise Lily about a new group that he wants Lily to join. This group operates outside of the government under the direction and advisement of the Lady. Lily does not like the idea and decides to keep her distance.

In the meanwhile, a murder of a top political official and advocate of the Humans First movement is killed and Lily is called on to investigate. Little does she know that this event will set about the start of a war that has the potential to change her life forever. There wasn't a lot of action or major battle scenes but there were great moments of suspense. The tone of this book felt more serious than the other even though there were bits of humor from the dragons, brownies and Cullen. You truly got the feeling that something truly heavy is going to be coming down soon in the series and it will be epic.

If I had to make a criticism, it would be that I would have loved to have had more of my interaction with more of my favorite characters such as Cynna, Grandmother and Toby although they were mentioned. However, it was nice to have a cameo appearance of Isen that provided a greater sense of the man he truly is. I cannot say enough about this book. I just loved it and hope others will too.

Daisa says

Rating: 4.75

It's been quite a while since I've read a book in this series. To be perfectly honest...I kind of forgot about it. How? I don't know because I love this series, these characters, the adventures they frequently are thrust into and all the love, friendship, turmoil and danger that comes along with it.

The difference in Rule and Lily's relationship is night and day compared to what it was in the first and even second and third books. Lily understands the Lupi world and customs now, embraces it and even RIDES for them when the time comes. Which...if you have ready ANY of these books...the time to Ride for the Lupi and their cause is all the time.

Eight books in and cruising on the same overarching storyline, you would think the plot would have dried up or become repetitive by now. But I forgot just HOW many paranormal creatures there are and how many nefarious ways someone can try and ruin your life...or the world.

Humans First is an 'organization' that detests anyone who isn't of 'pure blood' meaning not only can they not be a Lupi, but they also cannot be an abomination that is born with a Gift. But these aren't just your run of the mill idiots who march outside of Planned Parenthood with picket signs. These are people who have connections in high places. People who are willing to use the very power and magic they hate against the people they believe are abominations. And as we all know...when a group of people have a righteous cause, it doesn't matter who gets in the way, innocent or not, anyone is disposable in the name of that cause.

And of course...The Lupi, Gifted, Lily Yu and all of her friends who are the targets of this bigotry and hatred are the very ones that come to the rescue every single time. Even when their backs are against the wall and they're being set up for crimes they didn't commit. Even when it seems like everything they do is a result of manipulation by some unknown and unseen power. Even when they know they are going up against opponents who cannot possibly be quelled or defeated. They show up and show out every time and that is why I love these books!

I think it's the bravery. I like reading these books and seeing these characters tackle insurmountable challenges and win because it makes me feel like if the very same situation were thrown at me, I'd not only be able to overcome them, but also willing and eager to. Reading about Lily, Rule, Cullen, Scott, Chris, the Brownies, EVERYONE, be so brave, for whatever reason is the most exciting thing to me. It's like no matter what you throw at them, all they need is a minute to assess the situation and then its GO time.

"Death Magic" even gave me a little bit of Isen out of his element too which I loved! Isen to me is like Bran in the Mercy Thompson series. They're these strong and dangerous yet honorable powerhouses who demand respect with just their presence and instill fear with just a look...But these authors know what they're doing because you only ever get JUST a little bit of them every few books. Well dammit I want more! I wouldn't mind a whole book about JUST Bran or Isen at this point because they're that intriguing and fun to read

about.

I feel like I'm rambling now so bottom line is book number eight in this series was a hit. Not my favorite! The climax was a little dry and I missed a few characters here and there but we all know...after book five, most times a series will start to fizzle out. The World of Lupi and Eileen Wilks show no signs of doing that and I'm excited about reading the rest of this series.

Recommendation: *I will yell it from the bottom of a canyon or from the top of the highest mountain. READ THIS SERIES! Yes it's long but, I am in a space where if a series is no longer cutting it for me, I don't care if there is only one book left in the series, I will not read it. I wouldn't recommend this series if I thought it would be a waste of anyone's time. By no means is it a series that will be for everyone but I certainly think it is a series that is worth giving a shot.*

AH says

Eileen Wilks' *World of the Lupi* series is one of those hidden gems of the urban fantasy genre. So many people have not heard of this fantastic little series and it's kind of sad that they haven't. If you enjoy urban fantasy and love your werewolves, dragons, and other paranormal creatures, this series should be on your to-read list right away. Don't start with this book - the first book is called **Tempting Danger** and this is a series that MUST be read in order.

This is a wonderful series, well written, and it has an amazing diversity of characters. Our lead character Lily Yu is of Chinese descent, which gives the story an interesting back story, especially when her grandmother gets involved. Lily is a touch sensitive. She has the ability to sense others' magical gifts. Her love interest Rule Turner is a werewolf, second in command to his father. These two are wonderful together and it has been quite the trip watching their relationship develop from "Chosen" to lovers.

There is also a diversity of magical creatures. The dragons who are stationed in large metropolitan areas siphon off excess magic and communicate telepathically with Lily and others who can mind speak. In this installment of the series, there was a very cute little troop of Brownies (not the kind that sell cookies). There were also some pretty imposing earth elementals.

I'm enjoying this series immensely and can't wait to read the next book!

Jilly says

Not quite as good as the previous book, but still really solid. The characters are what make this series. Yes, there is plenty of bloodshed, mystery, dark magic, and war, but it is still a character-driven series.

A new favorite of mine is Fagin, an older, intellectual, eccentric teacher who has the same magic gift as Lily. He was a nice source of amusement in an otherwise dark storyline.

(After completely handing a cop-guard his ass for not allowing Lily into the room):

Fagin had enjoyed himself.

"You must be feeling better", she said.

"Pain makes me grumpy. Abusing some hapless mote of the bureaucracy is a pleasant distraction."

See? He's fun! If you can use "hapless mote of the bureaucracy" in a sentence, you are golden in my book. But, I do always hate books with strange names for the characters. Fagin isn't that bad because it's his last name, but there is the mention of another guy by the name of Eberhardus Czypsser. Really, book? I have to feel sorry for any audiobook reader on that one because the pronunciation I came up with is Everhard Siss-pisser. How can I take this guy seriously?

The beginning of this book was pretty slow. A lot of thinking about their feelings and crap. But, it picked up pretty good at the middle point and really exploded at the end.

Oh wait - I need to tell you about another problem I have with the series: the sex scenes in these books are terrible. If you can't write a sex scene, just don't. Sometimes the fade to black is much better than some awkward and not-sexy scene going on. And, considering how much of a wolfman-whore Rule was before Lily, I'm not impressed. I would think he could make things a bit more...interesting. *sigh* Maybe I've just read too much smut. My expectations are too high.

Oh well. It's not like I'm going to stop reading smut. That would be ridiculous and way too reactionary. Maybe I'll just have to write some fan-fic to get some satisfactory sexy times for these people. I'm sure I'd be great at it.

Oh yeah. That's more like it...

Mei says

OMG!!! Here everything happens! And Ms. Wilks makes it all work! Incredible!
On to the next!!!

Sophia says

In installment eight, Lily and Rule are back in DC giving testimony for a Senate Committee hearing regarding their roles in the situation from the end of last book. Things are escalating with the Humans First crowd and their engagement. But of course, things are not that simple.

Lily learns of a shadowy group that are in place to protect the world against the Lady's enemies and Rule is part. Lily refuses. Then Lily is assigned to a murder investigation and the lead agent doesn't care for gifted kind or magic, but the murder was done with death magic. And whoever did it is using the death of a high profile senator to work their own ends by framing Ruben and involving the Lupi.

Lily has much to ponder including why she is suddenly seeing ghosts. But time is running out. She must figure out what Friar and the Humans First group have planned and stop it before the secret war escalates and many innocents along with many friends are killed in the crossfire.

With each book, a little more of the World of the Lupi is revealed and a new case or mission is presented. Lily usually has some ethical or important decision to make. And this book is no exception.

Lily has always been a curious heroine for me because she takes analytical thought to whole new heights. As the reader, I can appreciate this even while sometimes I feel like she gets mentally constipated and I'm waiting for her to arrive at the obvious conclusion. This is why I had to laugh when someone else took matters in hand and forced Lily along much quicker than she ordinarily would have gone. Lily didn't like it, but I was relieved that she didn't make as big a stink about it as I thought she would.

I enjoyed that the series continues with allowing Rule to take the narration a few times. I like Lily, but I like breaks from her occasionally, too. And what's not to like about getting Rule's thoughts. They are a wonderful pair who appreciate each other and weld together neatly.

The slow build of tension and escalation of danger has been exciting. I enjoyed that Cullen, Fagin, and Ruben had large roles in this one. I also liked the intro of the Brownie race and Ruben's wife Deborah.

Oh, that twist and new reveal about the Wythe mantle was a shocker and make things interesting in the future, I think.

All in all, another great installment in the series.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

4/5; 4 stars; A-

This one was non stop action. I have to say that a few things were a bit beyond belief, even for a fantasy story, but the author made it work. With slimy death magic oozing everywhere, a recalcitrant mantle, plots and subplots from within and without, Lily and Rule and the rest of the gang have their hands full.

Jen Davis says

I struggled a little with this installment. It's not bad. There is a lot happening to advance the main story arc. The problem I had was with a noticeable lack of feels. The last few books really struck a fantastic balance between action and its character focus. This time around, I really missed the character and emotional elements. I missed the romance. And I felt the pacing was uneven. But the ending is big, so no way you can skip it.

As the story begins, Lily and Rule are back in Washington DC to testify in front of a senate committee about the events of the last book. Lily knows it's a witch hunt and it becomes even more apparent, after one of the most vocal senators ends up dead and Ruben is fingered as the killer. Lily is assigned to the case, but it's clear that her team doesn't trust her. She has to figure out who set up Ruben –who really killed the senator–

and how they may target her next.

To make matters more complicated, that mantle she is carrying is messing with her health –AND she learns that Ruben and Rule have launched a secret shadow organization they want her to join. There are secrets and mysteries and murders... and yet, the first half moved like molasses. I was bored.

In the second half, things begin to move. There is at least one really interesting surprise and obviously, Eileen Wilks has set the stage for the next arc in the series. But Benedict and his new mate are absent. Cullen's baby: absent. Toby: nope. You see where I am going with this? It felt like one of the purely procedural episodes of an ongoing tv show that takes no time to focus on the characters' personal lives. It felt ...detached. The biggest internal conflict was whether Lily could betray her sense of duty to the law to serve with the "ghost" agents. (*snooze*)

I know I sound like I am bashing this book to the moon and back, which isn't fair. It's absolutely not bad; it's just nowhere near as good as I know it can be. This series, this author, and these characters are capable of reeling me in and giving me real emotional engagement. Hopefully, we'll return to that with book 9. And while we're at it, someone can explain WTF happened to launch that missile.

Rating: B-

Rebecca says

You can also read this review at [Reflections on Reading Romance](#)

Rating: 4.5 out of 5

Eileen Wilks' World of the Lupi is one of my favorite series, and I believe that it's seriously underappreciated among fans of urban fantasy and paranormal romance. The heroine, Lily Yu, is the only female protagonist of Asian descent that I can think of in urban fantasy (if you know of any others, I'd love to hear about it!), and she is one tough chick. I love her relationship with werewolf Rule Turner, and if you're a fan of J.D. Robb's In Death series and its longstanding couple Eve Dallas and Roarke, I think you will enjoy Ms. Wilks' series as well. With the exception of Night Season (book 4), which focuses on another couple, the series is devoted to Lily and Rule.

If you are new to the series, I highly recommend that you not begin with Death Magic. While you could probably follow along easily enough, you would be missing so much of the back story that I think it worthwhile to recommend that you start with book 1, Tempting Danger. (This review will contain spoilers for earlier books in the series, so consider yourself forewarned.) Watching Rule and Lily meet and fall in love is too much fun to miss, and Tempting Danger is one that I find myself re-reading frequently. Another favorite is book 5, Mortal Sins, because we get to see Rule interact with his charming 9 year old son, Toby, but my absolute favorite in the series was Book 7 – Blood Challenge. That said, Death Magic was an outstanding addition to the series, and I highly recommend it.

Death Magic deals with the beginning of the Lupi's war against their enemy, the female goddess referred to

only as the Great Bitch, and as such the novel is darker in tone than many of the others. Rule and Lily are back in Washington D.C., because they are testifying at Senate hearings. Lily is conflicted about her job, because Ruben Brooks, her superior at the FBI, informs her that he's heading up an extra governmental organization to fight their enemy and invites her to join. Lily's torn, because this organization violates all her beliefs about rule of law, but Ruben's precognition has sent him visions of an apocalyptic future if they don't manage to stop their enemy. Lily and Rule have had previous run-ins with this enemy, since she tends to operate through the anti-magic group Humans First. When the Senator questioning Rule and Lily at the hearings is discovered murdered and a witness places Ruben Brooks at the scene, Lily joins the official investigation. But just as the case becomes more involved, Lily begins to experience mysterious migraines and stroke-like symptoms. Can she continue the investigation while fighting a more formidable enemy?

Ms. Wilks' novels are always complex and feature tight writing, and *Death Magic* is no exception. The world building in her books blows me away, particularly this one, since we learn more about the rules governing magic. How she manages to keep track of them all, much less invent said rules, never fails to astonish me. The secondary character of Cullen Seabourne, sorcerer and lupus, serves as our main source for this information, but I like that we learn about the world gradually through give and take with Cullen and other characters so there's never an infodump.

The pacing of the novel is also well done. We have several plotlines running simultaneously with no confusion on the reader's part. The threat hanging over all the characters of a possible apocalypse maintains the tension throughout the novel, but the last fourth of the novel really takes off with a white-knuckled race to the finish. While I was able to identify the traitor Lily and the others were looking for fairly early, I was surprised by the plot twist concerning Ruben. I did NOT expect that at all, and kudos to Ms. Wilks for a clever resolution to that situation.

My main complaint about *Death Magic* has more to do with my affection for certain secondary characters in the series than any flaws in the writing, which is stellar as usual. Cullen is one of my favorite characters, but because of the darker tone of this novel, we see less of his charm than usual. Also, neither Toby nor Benedict makes an appearance, and the absence of Lily's Grandmother is very much felt. I'm not sure that their presence is necessary to advance the story, but as a fan of the series I missed them.

Overall this is an outstanding addition to the series. I enjoyed the deepening relationship between Lily and Rule, and I thought that the anger and resentment Rule felt towards the lupi's Lady because of Lily's health was an interesting development in his character. If you're a fan of werewolves in any form, I highly recommend *Death Magic* and the *World of the Lupi*.

Angela James says

I have such mad love for this series, and for Lily and Rule. Things happen in this particular book that fans of the series won't anticipate, but are quite interesting.

Choko says

*** 3.44 ***

The war has began and sides have to organize and establish their forces. The one side is the side of the Great Bitch and the other is trying to get organized under a Shadow or Ghost Unit, lead by Ruben. Things are not going well for Lily, since she wants to stay on the side of the law, and in this situation even the good guys cannot afford to play by the rules. I love lily, but darn it, she is such a cop! Don't get me wrong, this is usually a very good thing, with her pedantic following the rule of the law and her desire to always get the bad guys and save the innocent. However, the war of supernatural powers has nothing to do with the rules of our society and can actually use them against the good side. Lily had to go through a ton of very nasty stuff in order to understand that. I wish she could be a bit more flexible, but I guess her moral fortitude is what has endeared her to us so far, so she can't change overnight or it would be to out of character to be real.

"... "You don't know who you are if you aren't first a cop. I knew that, but I didn't"

I love this series and I absolutely loved this book, but I had a lot of expectations, particularly since the ending of the book before this one. I needed all the WOW that came with those revelations, but I got a lot of action, blood and gore, when less could have been more if more information toward the overall arc had been given... Again, the book is good, it has its nice sense of levity just in the right places, it has a ton of stuff happening and we get the first real major battle of the new war between Good and Evil. But something was missing, and I am not sure how to explain it. Maybe to many things happened and not all of them were satisfactory flushed out, as we have grown accustomed to with the series so far. I don't know, but I am hoping it gets fixed in the next book, in which I will dive as soon as possible:):):)

"... "Fear and bigotry don't need explaining. They simply are, like traffic jams and taxes." . . ."

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and many more wonderful books to come!!!

edge of bubble says

Shit hits the fan. Plot was nicely done as always. It got even more complicated. That's all I'm saying about the plot. Oh, and after that ending of the last book, we sure are left high and dry!

Let's get to the characters. Lily was the rock *mostly, somewhat* in this installment if you can believe! And Rule was yelling at God or Lady whatever "why meeet". While trying to create a love beyond anything, Wilks actually fucked up Rule's character. I can understand the need to show us how much Lily matters , but doing this in a way completely opposite to who Rule is? Nope. I'm annoyed with this *turning his/her back on fundamental values of his/hers* thingie to prove their love for another when it is done in the cheesiest romance books, here it was maddening.

But I will exercise some self control, because I really love this series. I know, I'm so sane and benevolent.

And again, where the fuck is Cullen's baby?! I don't want to be told about pictures *alough it was so very cute of Cullen to be one of those parents who are like; *see, this is my baby sleeping, this is sleeping on her back and eating and eating while drooling and look, look, she's taking a shit! oh wait, lemme show you a*

*pic where she takes a shit and sleeps at the same time **, I want to know about her!

I knew it! It's all baby's fault. They are cute little buggers who controls the soul sucking cats

I stopped making sense to even myself *lies* so I'll just stop with my yammering. My rating would be 4.5 stars which would be rounded into 5 if not for the yappy Rule moments. But thanks to his weak furry arse it's 3.5 stars which should be rounded into 3 because I am being a class A bitch right now. But again since I know this is all about me being a bitch I should make it 4 to be fair. So 3 stars it is.

Bookmom says

Lily, a former homicide cop now working in the Magical Crimes Division of the FBI, struggles with the idea of a Shadow Unit created to work outside the law in order to prevent the worldwide disasters her pre-cog boss, Ruben, has been seeing. She understands that it's necessary and will keep her mouth shut, but she can't be part of it even when finding out that her lupi fiancé, Rule is already involved.

But she changes her mind after Ruben is accused of killing a senator, a vocal member of Human's First who would like to shut down the MCD and wipe out all non-humans and everyone with a Gift. Lily also still carries the Wythe mantle and they've yet to meet someone The Lady wants to pass it along to. It's healing Lily's arm but causing her other serious problems. And they still haven't identified the FBI insider who tried to kill Ruben.

The war has started and the opposing side has a plan to turn the tide with one fell swoop using very dark and devious means to prove to the growing tide of Humans First followers that their thoughts and fears are warranted.

Something happens to a character that shocked me, but I like the idea of it and can't wait to see how it's used in the future. A few questions from prior books get answers and by the end of the story Lily picks up a different type of ally. We also get to meet a troop of brownies—not the Girl Scout type. I hope we get to see more of them as they add a level of lightness to the story.

I've enjoyed each of the books in this series, but it really hit me in the middle of this one just how good the author is at world building. That's not something I think about when reading; things either seem to make sense or they don't. But the detail given in regards to how magic works seems so believable that it's just easy to accept as something real. If you're more interested in seeing the story move along without understanding why something will or won't work or how some conclusions are arrived at, there are a few parts that might drag for you.

It's still five months away from Rule and Lily's wedding. There's barely any time for them to sleep much less make love, so that's not, and hasn't been a big part of the story. Yet their love is evident by their words, looks and touches and that aspect leaves me somewhat with the feel of a Happily Ever After even though his isn't a romance book, nor (thankfully) is it the end.

I give it 4.5 stars.

