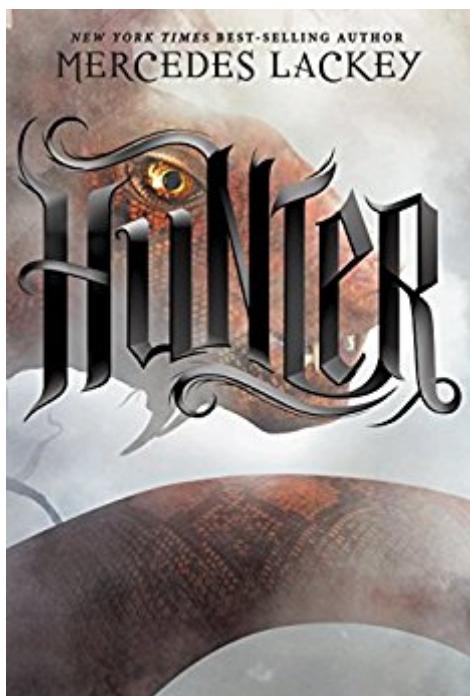


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# Hunter



## Synopsis

Centuries ago, the barriers between our world and the Otherworld were slashed open allowing hideous fantastical monsters to wreak havoc; destroying entire cities in their wake. Now, people must live in enclosed communities, behind walls that keep them safe from the evil creatures constantly trying to break in. Only the corps of teen Hunters with lightning reflexes and magical abilities can protect the populace from the daily attacks. Joyeaux Charmand is a mountain girl from a close knit village who comes to the big city to join the Hunters. Joy thinks she is only there to perform her civic duty and protect the capitol Cits, or civilians, but as cameras follow her every move, she soon learns that the more successful she is in her hunts, the more famous she becomes. With millions of fans watching her on reality TV, Joy begins to realize that Apex is not all it seems. She is forced to question everything she grew up believing about the legendary Hunters and the very world she lives in. Soon she finds that her fame may be part of a deep conspiracy that threatens to upend the protective structure built to keep dark magic out. The monsters are getting in and it is up to Joy to find out why. Now updated to include an excerpt from the second book in the series, Elite!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read Hunter immediately after it was released, and at first I was vaguely dissatisfied. As others pointed out, there was a large amount of info-dumping, and Joy being excellent at everything whilst also being super modest. I also noticed the anti-Christian slant..However, after giving it a rest, I have come back to Hunter three or more times and each time the characters have grown on me. Yesterday, I again began the book and while really taking it slow, finished today. My take after reading this time, was that while starting slow, this is a nice addition to Lackey's worlds. I got it during the tender moments or heart wrenching ones, when I actually cried this time. \*That\*, meaning tears, is the sign of a winner from Misty. Every one of her first trilogy of Valdemar (Arrows of the Queen, Arrows Flight, Arrows Fall), all of The Last Herald-Mage trilogy, the Oath Books, and especially By The Sword - Kerowyn's Tale, \*AND\* the books about Skif and Alberich; they all touched me deeply at one point or another. That being said, I have been somewhat disappointed with Lackey in recent years and that is sad to me. I thought the Fairy Godmother very well written and have enjoyed the 500 Kingdom stories but in most of the recent Valdemar stories there has been a repetition and lack of character depth..Now having read Hunter again, I've got it in "the feels" and am eagerly waiting for "Elite" to come out in a month. I've already pre-ordered long ago, and will be happy to hear more of Joyeaux, her Uncle Josh, Mark Knight, and her Masters, and of course, her Pack! Maybe there will be more glimpse of the curious Folk Mage that was Joy's first protagonist from the very beginning of the book? Who knows.

This series is Mercedes Lackey at her best! Wow! What a pleasure to read Hunter and Elite. The writing is smooth and tight. The world building--with a combination of futuristic and ancient fantasy--is superb. The characters are likable--especially Joy. The plot is mysterious and compelling. I sped right through the two books and want the next one NOW! Lol. Misty Lackey's Heralds of Valdemar is one of my all time favorite fantasy series, and I'm an avid reader, so that's saying a lot. It's SO good to see her put out a strong series again. If I had the audacity of choosing Misty's writing schedule, I wouldn't have her waste time on the House of the Four Winds series (which I stopped reading after a few chapters into book one) and focus on THIS series. The Herald Spy series has become much better than the first part of the series, so it's okay to continue those as well. I find the Elemental books so-so. I'll read them, but I won't reread and reread them, like I do her Heralds of

Valdemar series. But the Elemental books are better than the 100 Kingdom series, which, again, I'll read, but not reread. Hunter and Elite will be reread and probably enjoyed even more the second and third time around. I can't wait for book three...and four...and.... :)

It's a really interesting cross between Hunger Games and Legend with every fairy tail monster you can imagine. I found it riveting but I am a huge fan of Mercedes Lackey's writing style. It had a similar world building feel to Robin McKinley, in my opinion. Joy was a decently fleshed out character, but her hounds were what kept me coming back.

This is the Misty Lackey I love. The book has all her hallmarks. The young hero, a female as is often her wont, thrust into unfamiliar surroundings with unknown enemies. Her hero character is, as usual, well drawn and likable. Her other main characters are also well developed. This is Lackey's main strength. Her stories are sometimes a bit obvious, although she often throws you some curves. But the thing that draws you in are her characters. You actually care what happens to them. I won't bother describing the story, you can get that here easily enough. I will however say that this promises to be a series I will love as much as the early Valdemar books. I am already anxious to get the next one. You'll note I only gave it four stars, even though I said nothing negative. That is because I am always reluctant to give anything a perfect score. I'll just say this. As someone who has been reading fantasy for forty years, and reading Lackey ever since she teamed with Anne McCaffrey for a "Ship Who Sang" book, I have no trouble recommending this to other fantasy and/or Lackey fans.

I really enjoyed this book. I have been a fan of hers since she was writing short stories for Bradley's Anthologies. I especially love the Valdemar series. This might be my favorite since those. It reminded me slightly of Hunger Games. But it is by no means a copycat of those. It is completely original. It does take place in a future, grim world. The heroine is a teenage girl, and there are political forces at play. There are also loyal supernatural beasts, vampires, creatures of folk lore and magic. I was quickly drawn into the world Lackey created. I just bought and read it yesterday and am already impatient for the next book.

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