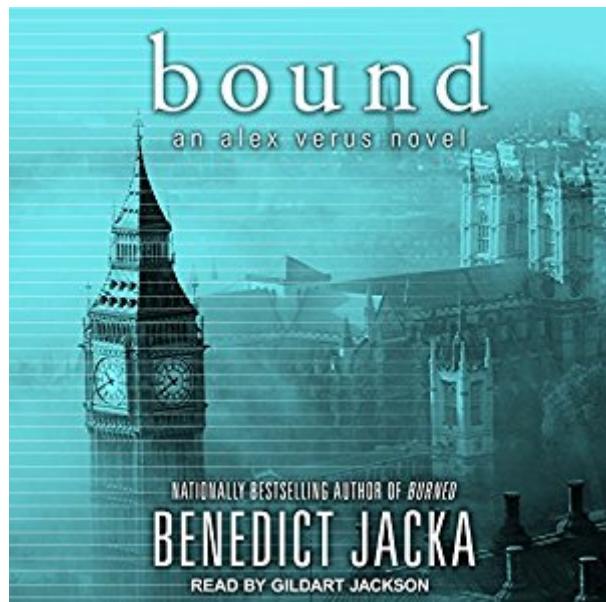


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Bound: Alex Verus Series, Book 8



Synopsis

Right now I wasn't seeing Richard as the teacher out of my nightmares; he was just another Dark mage, and I looked into the future to see what would happen if I turned that knife on him instead.... Alex Verus is still haunted by his time apprenticed to Richard Drakh. He's been free of him for many years, but now the only way to keep his friends from being harmed is to again work for Richard and his deadly ally. Even worse, he's forced to bring the Light mage Anne into this servitude as well. After weeks of being hunted and finally cornered into what he thought was his last stand, Alex never thought his life would be spared - and never anticipated at what price. This time, the diviner can see no way out.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Many, but not all chickens come home to roost. I don't do plot summaries or spoilers, so don't worry, and don't hate. If you like plot summaries in reviews, everyone else does it. This is an artfully crafted series, developed, obviously, with a long-range vision. The last book was great, but this one was a non-stop nail-biter. The Verus series appeals to me because there is a lot of intrigue, scheming and a dash of battles. This series ups the battle quotient, but also ups the intrigue, scheming, and suspense. As most readers know by now, Alex Verus isn't powerful like Harry Dresden, he has to plot and use trickery to win. This makes the series very entertaining for people who like the intrigue that naturally develops in response to conflicts. I recommend reading this series in order. If you've been playing with the urban fantasy genre, but haven't discovered this series yet, get ready

for one heck of a ride! The only sad thing is that all the other books in the genre are second best. Many of the plot developments crafted carefully over the course of seven books come full circle, yet much is left hanging, so we're already eager for the next book. This book continues to display the strong sense of continuity that the entire series displays.

Benedict Jacka is an absolute genius. I think I've said this before. I'll just say it again though. I've enjoyed each and every one of his books. I wish I knew how he thought up his novels. I must read or listen (Audiobook) to at least one substantial (300pg+) novel a day; I'm a literature junkie I suppose and at some point I thought I had some preconceptions about authors who write long series. However, Benedict Jacka shatters those notions every single time he publishes another one of his Verus novels and I respect him so much more for it. I put Jacka up with Sanderson, Jordon, Douglas Adams, Joe Haldeman, Piers Anthony, and many more of my favorites! As for this novel in general, it's just as action packed and dark as the previous seven. I find myself not being able to say much as it the plot (much as it always is though with Jacka's writing style) seems to be leading to a final culmination of sorts. However, just know, when you're looking left, you should be looking right, and even if you're looking right, you'll still never see half of the stuff coming! I had to pop both of my eyeballs back in their sockets at the end and stop myself from sending embarrassing fan mail begging for the next book to HURRY!!! (P.S. Mr. Jacka, if you're reading this, I'm cute, and just because I'm married.... er.... see!!!!) :P

After having spent the last book on the run, and ultimately being run-to-ground Alex (and his posse) have to make hard choices in this book. With the death sentence over his head only held in abeyance due to his posting as chief aide to the Council's only Dark mage, Alex finds himself working for the "bad guys" while he is starting to see that the "good guys" have done nothing but work against him and try to kill him for years. It's an uncomfortable realization, and he finally takes some steps towards following Arachne's advice to either pick a side or be a side. In the meantime, he continues to mishandle his relationship with the woman he won't say he loves and finds himself serving as cannon fodder in an attack on the second most secure location in the world. We've had two books of Alex at bay now, and I'm ready for the return of the deadly diviner of the first couple of books. Alex has been taking names, now it's time to kick some butt.

Really, I would give this book 3.5 stars but I rounded up because overall, the series is excellent. This book, however, is not the best in the series because none of the characters progress

anywhere. Frankly, Alex is a bit of a downer and just bides his time and often just pinballs from crisis to crisis. Usually, the team (Alex, Anne, Luna and Variam) manage to scheme a way to victory. In this book, they are scattered, living different lives and Alex in particular is caught off guard quite often. As another reviewer notes, for a diviner Alex was quite ill-prepared and paralyzed with indecision. As a filler, it's fine but that assumes that Jacko resolves some threads in the next book. If all he does is leave Alex as a clever but still out-matched mage, then this series will grow tedious.

After book 7's cliffhanger, this one started grindingly tense, then settled down to calm, soothing progression. Which is the entire point. (It's quiet - Yeah, it's TOO quiet.) I love the politics and machinations in Jacka's books. There always ends up being a third or fourth or fifth option. I love watching the situations develop and manifest. Richard is devious. Verus is devious. This is going to be good. Waiting for book 9.

In addition to all the ever present threats and dangers, we are being slowly, inexorably, drawn towards something universe altering, something Alex could have prevented. Benedict Jacka is a master of foreshadowing, and nowhere more so than here. I wanted to shout at Alex, and that measure of involvement by the reader is the hallmark of a great read. This is a tightly plotted, edge-of-your-seat, masterfully paced fantasy masterpiece. For fans of the series, this installment won't disappoint. For those who haven't read Benedict Jacka, what are you waiting for?

Author Benedict Jacka has kept the momentum going in the Alex Verus series through this book 8 continuation. The action and intrigue is non stop with Alex and Anne in the middle of it. They have been coerced into serving Alex's old master Richard Drakh and they, with the help from friends Luna, Variam and Arachne, are trying to survive whatever the dark mages and light mages throw at them. The plot continues to thicken with complications and dangers known and unknown to Alex and friends so the next book can't come too soon!

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