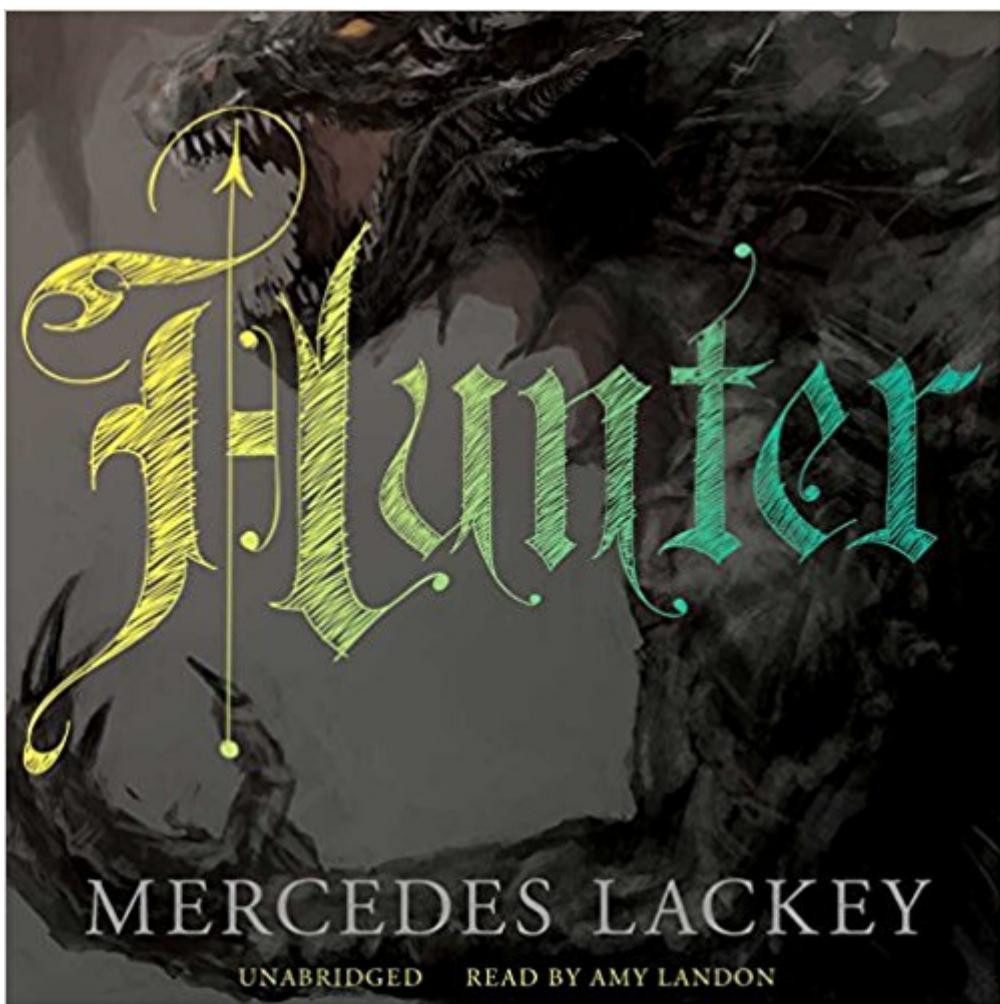


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# Hunter (Hunter Series, Book 1)



## Synopsis

[Young Adult Fiction (Ages 12-17)][Read by Amy Landon] New York Times bestselling fantasy author Mercedes Lackey breaks into the YA genre with a dangerous, utterly original futuristic world in which a fearless teen girl stands between bloodthirsty monsters and the safety of a city. They came after the Diseray. Some were terrors ripped from our collective imaginations, remnants of every mythology across the world. And some were like nothing anyone had ever dreamed up, even in their worst nightmares. . . Monsters. Long ago, the barriers between our world and the Otherworld were ripped open, and it's taken centuries to bring back civilization in the wake. Now, the luckiest Cits live in enclosed communities, behind walls that keep them safe from the hideous monsters fighting to break through. Others are not so lucky. To Joyeaux Charmand, who has been a Hunter in her tight-knit mountain community since she was a child, every Cit without magic deserves her protection from dangerous Othersiders. Then she is called to Apex City, where the best Hunters are kept to protect the most important people. Joy soon realizes that the city's powerful leaders care more about luring Cits into a false sense of security than protecting them. More and more monsters are getting through the barriers, and the close calls are becoming too frequent to ignore. Yet the Cits have no sense of how much danger they're in to them, Joy and her corps of fellow Hunters are just action stars they watch on TV. When an act of sabotage against Joy takes an unbearable toll, Joy uncovers a terrifying conspiracy. There is something much worse than the usual monsters infiltrating Apex. And it may be too late to stop them.

## Book Information

Series: Hunter

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up "Joyeaux Charmand has spent most of her life at the remote Monastery, training and serving as a Hunter. Since a catastrophic event called the Disarray, monsters of all kinds have crossed into the real world from the Otherworld and it's the Hunters' jobs to destroy them. Joy and her supernatural Hounds are summoned to the capital city, Apex, where she learns that Hunters there are regarded as celebrities, with their own television channels and rankings. As Joy adjusts to her flashy new life, gets to know the other Hunters, and starts Hunting, she begins to realize that Apex is not as safe as it seems and that there are secrets the government does not want exposed. This satisfying sci-fi YA novel is set in a fully thought-out future with cultural references woven throughout. Joy's Hounds are Alebrijes, and the monsters she hunts come from a variety of sources: Drakkens, Folk (evil fairies), Vamps, Tommyknockers, Gogs, and Magogs. The protagonist is a principled, smart, strong girl and is easy to root for. The language can be clunky at times, but the incredible world-building more than makes up for it. VERDICT A perfect choice for "Hunger Games" fans and readers looking for stories with strong female heroines." Marian McLeod, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Armed with wit as quick as her reflexes, her magic, and her equally enchanting Hounds, Joyeaux embarks on a journey that sets her questioning the motives of every person she comes in contact with as well as the larger system that was built to keep people protected. Lackey builds this magically post-apocalyptic world briskly Joyeaux's narration is spellbinding, the prose easily balancing the technology of the future with the traditions of the past. Captivating, dynamic, well paced, and thrilling." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review)"Lackey successfully mixes dystopia and fantasy in this series opener|Exciting, entirely entertaining, and sure to please her fans."

--Publishers Weekly

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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