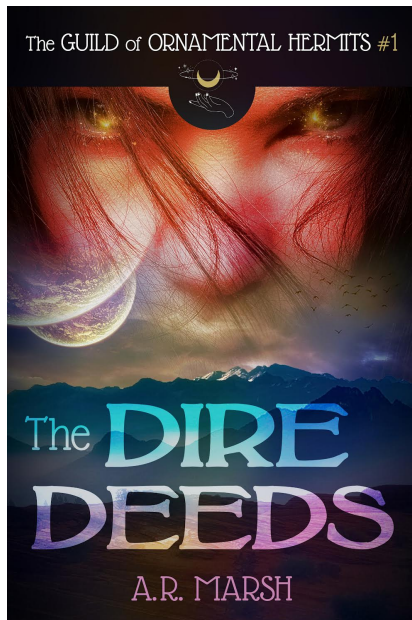


THE DIRE DEEDS



The Dire Deeds

Guild of Ornamental Hermits, #1

Author: A.R. Marsh

Epic Fantasy, Paranormal Romance, Adult

ISBN: 979-8841673798

Format: Paperback, 6 x 0.86 x 9 inches

Publication Date: 8/11/22

Pages: 379

List Price: \$18.25

Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble,
Bookshop.org., Alibris.

Strange Particle Press

via Amazon Digital Services LLC - Kdp

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Queer, arty misfits and quirky Elves use magic to outwit forces of evil on Hawai'i Island.

Even with the help of ten Elven mentors and a crash course in magic, will Oyster, Babe, Tomma, and the rest of Hermitville's "Hermits" be able to transform themselves into magicians powerful enough to join the Elves in halting impending chaos and destruction? Or will they go down in defeat, dooming the Hawaiian islands and beyond? The adventure continues in The Witching Work.

Reviewers Say:

I've never read a queer-friendly urban fantasy before but I thoroughly enjoyed this one. It's smart, inventive and fun. And it's full of wonders.

The humor, characters and insights into popular and non-mainstream cultures not only held my attention, but richly rewarded it. Sexuality is handled with a light touch and playfulness abounds. The characters, except for the malevolent ones, are likeable and often lovable. Marsh is such a good writer that I found myself reading just to find out zir take on the unfolding action. Danger and evil exist, but as in an English cozy, the mayhem occurs offstage.

Marsh has described the book as a "coming of aging" tale, and the mostly middle-aged and beyond characters are lively, game and caring. They know themselves and enjoy the lives they've invented, and they're ready to defend their community. It's a pleasure being among them, if only for the length of a book. And more books are coming! —Gwynn O'Gara, Poet Laureate of Sonoma County 2010-2011, Author, *We Who Dream*, 2023. (5-star Amazon review.)

Filled with whimsical imagination, more than once I found myself wondering, “Where do they come up with all these ideas?” Dimension-portaling sentient peach pits? A giant amorous salamander? Elves obsessed with Burning Man clown culture? This book runs the gamut of the strange and marvelous. Part love-story, part critical gender theory, I highly recommend getting swept up in the Guild of Ornamental Hermits. Who knows, maybe you’ll find your way into another dimension! —Megan Rose, Ph.D., Author, *Spirit Marriage: Intimate Relationships with Otherworldly Beings*, 2022. (5-star Amazon review.)

The Dire Deeds is an amazing fantasy and I thoroughly enjoyed it--that's a huge compliment coming from someone who has never been a fantasy fan. The author is a talented writer and understands how to keep the reader engaged. The characters are intelligently conceived and diverse, to say the least. The story is well-constructed and never drags. I loved the Hawaiian backdrop, both the culture and the scenery. The vivid descriptions made me feel as if I was there in person, witnessing some very odd happenings in paradise...This book exposed me to some unfamiliar terms and concepts, primarily concerning gender, yet it wasn't offensive or 'in your face.' I appreciate that the author doesn't use incessant sex and excessive profanity in lieu of telling a good tale. The book definitely stands on its own merits and needs no props or excuses. It is genuinely a good read. Of course, as good stories do, it left me hanging at the end. I look forward to finding out what happens next in the next book in the series. —Sandy Benson, Author, *My Mother’s Keeper: One family’s journey through dementia*, 2021. (5-star Amazon review.)

14 reviews on Amazon, 5-star average (4/10/23)

About THE DIRE DEEDS

Amazon ranking: #13,060 Epic Fantasy; #19,119 Paranormal Romance (4/10/23).

About A. R. Marsh

In the Guild of Ornamental Hermits fantasy series, A.R. Marsh blends humor, magical realism, whimsy, satire, and queer and paranormal relationships. The first two books, *The Dire Deeds* and *The Witching Work*, are published. The third book, *The Queerest Quest*, is with the publisher, and a fourth book, *The Perilous Past*, is in progress.

A clinical sexologist and hypnotist, Marsh is also the author of three non-fiction books on human sexuality and/or hypnosis. As a sexologist, Marsh has appeared on Tyra Banks, National Geographic Taboo, Good Morning America, and NPR (*Audacious*, with Chion Wolf). Marsh lives in Oregon with seven cats.