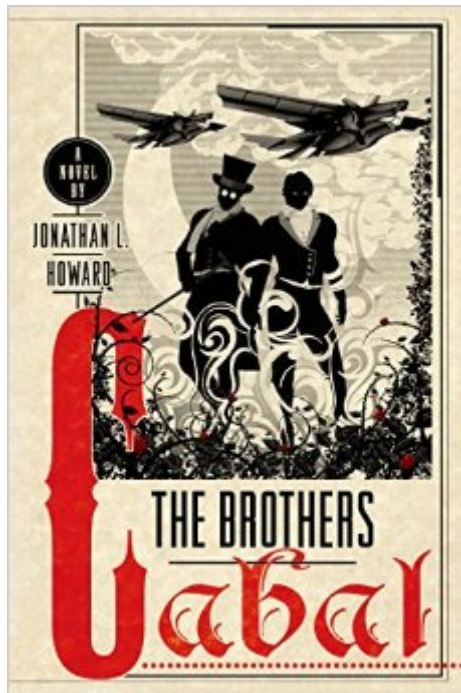


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The Brothers Cabal (Johannes Cabal Novels)



Synopsis

"The Brothers Cabal is smart, funny, and dark in all the right places. Imagine Mycroft and Sherlock-if one were a polite vampire and the other were a surly necromancer-up against an army of monsters and magicians. Like Pratchett and Fforde, Jonathan L. Howard puts it all together and makes it look effortless."-Christopher Farnsworth, author of Blood Oath

Horst Cabal has risen from the dead. Again. Horst, the most affable vampire one is ever likely to meet, is resurrected by an occult conspiracy that wants him as a general in a monstrous army. Their plan: to create a country of horrors, a supernatural homeland. As Horst sees the lengths to which they are prepared to go and the evil they cultivate, he realizes that he cannot fight them alone. What he really needs on his side is a sarcastic, amoral, heavily armed necromancer. As luck would have it, this exactly describes his brother. Join the brothers Cabal as they fearlessly lie quietly in bed, fight dreadful monsters from beyond reality, make soup, feel slightly sorry for zombies, banter lightly with secret societies that wish to destroy them, and-in passing-set out to save the world.

Book Information

Series: Johannes Cabal Novels (Book 4)

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Customer Reviews

A very entertaining read. A very different book with respect to the earlier Johannes Cabal books since it is actually from the perspective of two characters. Johannes and his brother Horst. They could not be more different in their outlook towards the world. While Horst is a thorough gentleman with moral qualms and even worries about propriety !! The most polite vampire possible. While Johannes is well... Johannes... cold, rational, able to transmute anything as a means to the ultimate

end he wants to achieve. It is a very nice chemistry between Horst and Johannes and the tale does entwine both of them together in a very very impressive way. Horst is a hero, willing to lay down his life for good people.. Johannes knows himself extremely well and shows unexpected and extremely profound levels of empathy (heaven forbid !!) in the book. This book has less humor in it than the previous ones, but then again most of the humor is generated by the point of view of Johannes looking at the world and Horst, well.. he is just not like Johannes. Of course that does not mean it is less enjoyable, but I would have preferred a little more of Howard's special and fantastic humor in the narrative. The plot is also simpler than the Fear Institute but with very sharp twists and turns and Howard's seamless and brilliant writing style that makes both the unpredictable and the predictable facets a joy to read. I thought that the part with Horst could have been faster paced but that is just me liking Johannes over Horst anyway. If I had a brother I would love for him to be like Horst (since I am a lot like Johannes). I would recommend everyone to read it. Especially those who are already fans of the series...

Why do I love the Johannes Cabal books so much? Is it the wildly imaginative characters and plots? The astoundingly well-developed writing style? The perversely joyous bending of the rules of life, the universe and everything? All of the above... and, at heart, our beloved curmudgeonly necromancer, Johannes. Twice the fun this time with the addition of suave, conscience-burdened vampire brother Horst. Throw in zombies, were-beasts, secret societies (of course), mysterious clouds and creatures, a flying circus and so much more -- and you have a delightful read that leaves you begging for more. If you like fantastic, steampunky-sci-fi -- this is for you!

I love wicked, twisted humor and the Cabal books are full of it. I recommend you read the first book, Johannes Cabal the Necromancer first so that you know exactly where Horst is returning from. What I really loved about the Brother Cabal was the cast of strong, intelligent women. Whether they were the good guys, or evil, all the women in the book had brains.

The snarky, tongue-in-cheek tone that made the original Johannes Cabal book such a delight to read returns in force with "The Brothers Cabal." This time the focus is on the exploits of Johannes' debonair vampire brother Horst, who is more concerned with keeping his fashionable trousers free of grass stains than proper undead pursuits. Resurrected by a shadowy organization bent on domination, the polite pacifist Horst is not exactly the "Lord of the Dead" they were hoping for. When the otherwise amiable kidnapping goes awry, the pragmatically-violent Johannes steps in to save

the day. While the original novel in the series is still my favorite, "The Brothers Cabal" holds a charming second-place. Much of the pithy supernatural problem-solving that is the best part of any Johannes Cabal story is replaced with too many action scenes for my taste. However, the amusingly derisive banter between the brothers will be familiar to anyone with experience in sibling rivalry and the cast of characters is the best J L Howard has created yet.

Love ALL the Cabal books, but Necromancer & Brothers are the best (in that order). Lead character is so brilliant, hilarious, wry, and sardonic that you'll love him even if he didn't have the added boon of being an evil wizard. His vampire bro is cool, too, but a bit too svelte & well-adjusted ;)

This is the fourth in the series and brings back all the fun that has kept me reading since book one. In fact, I would say this latest installment is the best of all of them. It has both Cabal brothers back in action, an old nemesis from Book II, and the otherworldly weirdness of Book III. In addition, it brings in some new characters, each of them solid and interesting. Perhaps my favorite aspect of Mr. Howard's writing is his penchant for witty banter, and sarcastic musings. He has a real gift for humorous writing without hitting the reader over the head with a rubber mallet. It's done through understatement and a refreshing vocabulary that is all-too rare in modern literature. I feel that I could read the book a second time simply for the enjoyment of his use of language. The monsters contained within the books pages are mostly those tired old standbys - vampires, werewolves and zombies. However, Mr. Howard manages to spruce them up and make them fresh again via the PoVs of the our heroes. Add to that the strange, H.P. Lovecraftian creatures that show up a bit later, and there's plenty of variety and fun for even those of us grown jaded by the never ending media smorgasbord of monsters. The entire series is worth reading, and I would definitely suggest starting with Book I. However, if you cannot find the time to read all of them, then Book IV would be my choice for second book to read. It's full of adventure, clever dialogue and appealing characters.

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