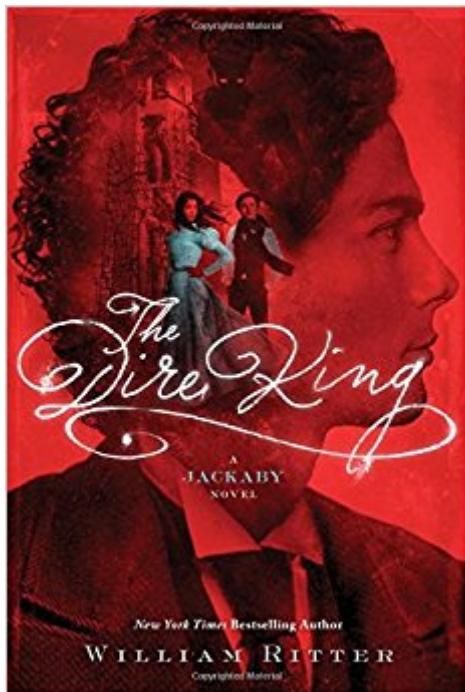


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# The Dire King: A Jackaby Novel



## Synopsis

The thrilling conclusion to the New York Times best-selling series the Chicago Tribune called “Sherlock Holmes crossed with Buffy the Vampire Slayer” sends the eccentric detective and his indispensable assistant into the heart of a war between magical worlds. The fate of the world is in the hands of detective of the supernatural R. F. Jackaby and his intrepid assistant, Abigail Rook. An evil king is turning ancient tensions into modern strife, using a blend of magic and technology to push Earth and the Otherworld into a mortal competition. Jackaby and Abigail are caught in the middle as they continue to solve the daily mysteries of New Fiddleham, New England • like who’s created the rend between the worlds, how to close it, and why zombies are appearing around town. At the same time, the romance between Abigail and the shape-shifting police detective Charlie Cane deepens, and Jackaby’s resistance to his feelings for 926 Augur Lane’s ghostly lady, Jenny, begins to give way. Before the four can think about their own futures, they will have to defeat an evil that wants to destroy the future altogether. The epic conclusion to the New York Times best-selling Jackaby series features sly humor and a quirky cast of unforgettable characters as they face off against their most dangerous, bone-chilling foe ever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

William Ritter is an Oregon author and educator. He is the proud father of the two bravest boys

in the Wild Wood, and husband to the indomitable Queen of the Deep Dark. He is the author of the acclaimed New York Times® best-selling Jackaby series.

This review was originally posted on the Goldilox and the Three Weres blog. I can't believe that this is the last Jackaby book. I'm not ready for it to be over. I've adored each book in this series but this one was darker than its predecessors. It was so action-packed and full of twists that I was all in by page two and it was freaking fantastic! It was also an emotional roller coaster. I legit cried during most of the last 50-60 pages. And honestly, I'm still a bit shell-shocked from that ending. IT WAS AMAZING AND I AM NOT OKAY!! I'm not sure what else to say in this review without being spoilery. This book was kind of a reunion book where we see characters from the previous books. It was kind of awesome seeing so many familiar faces mixed in with the new ones. Throughout this series Jackaby's motley crew has had their fair share of fights, but none have been as gruesome or as large scale as this final battle. All kinds of supernatural creatures pop up on both sides of the fight. There are some impressive weapons that combined with the paranormal add a colorful, kind of steampunk fairy tale vibe to the story and I need more of that in my YA books. The plot is not as light and airy as the previous books, but the characters and charm of the world that define this series are never lost in the mayhem. Jackaby and the gang were just as awesome as always and I'm going to miss them terribly! I loved about this book and this series so much! I'm going to miss the quirky characters, the humor, and the mysteries. This book has several funny moments, often thanks to Jackaby, but it also was an emotional ride. I'm going to miss Abigail and Jackaby interacting where her down-to-earthness balances out his more eccentric ways. Storywise, this book just as good as the previous books and I quite liked the twist at the end of the book even though it almost destroyed me. It felt very fitting like everything had been leading up to it. Overall, The Dire King was an excellent end to an amazing series. It was everything I hoped for and while the ending wrapped a lot of things up, there are still some open ends left. I'm hoping that this means that we'll be getting a spin-off series. I just really, really want to see the characters again some day and I think that ending left it open for it. I'll keep my fingers crossed for more Jackaby and the gang shenanigans. If you haven't read this series, go and get your hands on the first book ASAP! Believe me, you'll thank me later. \*ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley

William Ritter seamlessly weaves the dry humor and mystery of Sherlock Holmes with mystical creatures through his Jackaby series. The Dire King is the final tale in the Jackaby series, which is narrated by Jackaby's assistant Abigail Rook. The novel is set in the Victorian era America where

not only has Abigail sought refuge, but many mystical creatures have as well. Ritter does an excellent job balancing out his description of the world as Abigail and Jackaby see it with delightful dialogue that keeps the book moving quickly ahead. I was excited to see the hint of romance we were shown in the last novel continue with both Charlie and Abigail and Jenny and Jackaby. This novel is my favorite in the series because it speaks to deeper tones of persecution and racism that we are seeing today, showcasing a world at the brink of war due to lack of open mindedness. The parallelism between characters shows hope can conquer all to bring back the light in even the darkest corners, and how love can make us better even when we're ripped apart. The Dire King is the perfect ending to the series, tying all ends together and leaving the reader with a sense of hope for a better world.

I loved the series, so I gave the last book 3 stars. However it wasn't my favorite. It was written similar to the rest, with more of a serious note to it. I wish it had been funny like the others. Also I didn't like the ending. I was hoping for a long series of adventures of Jackaby and instead it had a disappointing ending. I was so disappointed and angry about the ending. Expect the Charlie thing, of course.

That...It...What? Omg. I have no words. Absolutely incredible ending to an incredible series. 10000 times recommended. Very topical, very beautiful.

This is a great series that has magic, the supernatural, the mundane, and the heart. I have enjoyed reading all four books. They are funny and interesting, and well written. I was always surprised at who would be good and who would be bad, who would last through the series and who would be lost. So many fae folk from such varied nationalities are represented. Great job William Ritter looking forward to your next adventure in print.

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