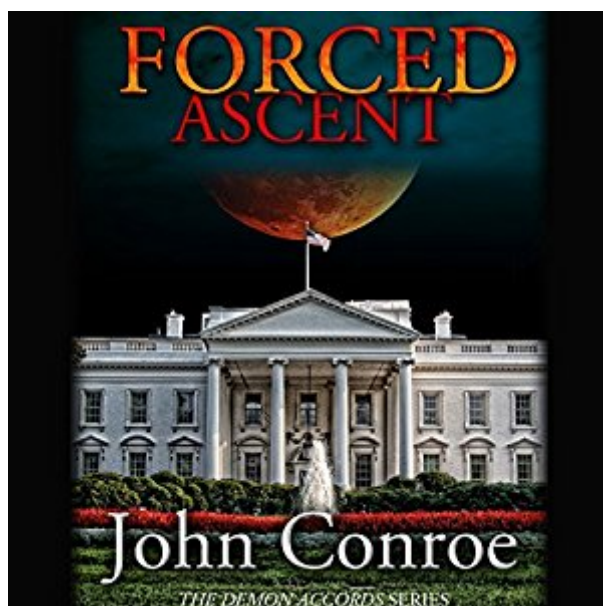


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Forced Ascent: The Demon Accords, Book 7



Synopsis

Book Seven of the Demon Accords. Chris Gordon has never had an easy relationship with the White House. Now, after rescuing his goddaughter from a secret base in New Hampshire, it's reached a new low. You drop one little asteroid onto the continental United States and the entire government goes crazy. On top of that Halloween is fast approaching and demons are popping through into our world every which way. Forced into the world of high-level politics, Chris and Tanya and their merry crew will have to stay two steps ahead of just about everyone if they're going to have a chance in hell of preventing all Hell from breaking loose.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chris has made an overwhelming statement of his concerns, by pulling down an asteroid. This hasn't gone over all that well with the U.S. government, and their attempts to threaten and control him increase. Mix governmental concerns with the approach of Halloween and its "thinning of the veils", and the stage is set for an action-packed adventure for Chris & crew...I've enjoyed this series from the first book, and thoroughly enjoyed this latest addition, though I agree with several commentators that mentioned that something is missing. From the beginning, we've enjoyed being deeply involved in viewing from Chris's perspective. This perspective what somewhat lost midway through "Falling Stars" with Chris's memory loss, when the "feel" of the story changed to "continuous action". (We) regained the perspective somewhat, at least from Declan's point-of-view within "Executable", but have fallen back into "observing action" within "Forced Ascent". There were

areas of increased interaction, such as Lydia's reaction to Stacia's comments concerning Tanya after the "farm scene", but the emphasis on action has left internal interactions between individuals a bit empty. There's also the "scope growth" component, especially within "Forced Ascent". Chris has grown from an often overlooked character to an international sensation almost too quickly -- a growth in scope and action that blurs the audience's identity with Chris...No doubt somewhat of a slowdown is in order, as is the regaining of some of his memories from (both) of his pasts. I'm sure that "Chris" would feel much more comfortable with less notoriety! I've also heard comments mention "too much conspiracy theory". In truth, perhaps a bit too much of the "legacy black groups", though there are plenty of similar things within our current government. There are plenty of little empires that have been built along with multi-year money legislation -- continuous "continuing resolution" government doesn't help... Then, there's the degree of overlap between the "alphabet agencies", brought to light during 9/11 investigations (somewhat), but still there -- no one wants to give up their "empire". The "events" near the book ending are less conspiracy than extrapolation -- "fear" is a very strong driving force, and the fear of a "force beyond governmental control" by those within governments will drive them to take any action to control that force (and their fears)...I'm sure that Grim has continued learning, and won't be caught in a similar situation again. I'm also thinking that the armor that Barbiel displayed along with his sword is probably DU-proof, and that threats & hostages go two-ways...All-in-all, an enjoyable continuation of the series -- I'm looking forward to Declan's next adventure, along with where Chris & Tanya go from here...

Fair warning, this review is going to be for pretty much all the books up to and including this one. I have long considered writing this review as I both love and hate this series. So many things done right, and then the author caves to his critics and it's frustrating to see him sell out. Overall BEFORE this book I will give the series a 4 star review. I am going to throw out a recommendation to all readers who have loved this series to NOT buy this book. Read Book 6, be happy for what ending it has and move on. From this point forward Mr. Conroe chooses to destroy much of what he has built to this point. I am going to assume you have read the books up until this one so nothing about the previous books should be spoilers for you and only minor spoilers for this book. I'll address those at the end and note them before hand so you can stop reading. The critics of Mr. Conroe have contended that Chris is "too powerful" and "nothing can stop him". They have contended that there is no fear of Chris losing. Huh, I'm pretty sure when you go to a Superman movie you are sure Superman isn't gonna die. So this is a pointless contention. Mr. Conroe caved to this though when he decided to have Chris shot in the head in a previous book and lose his memory. Mr. Conroe

decided to justify this by saying he had previous experience with family and a friend who lost their memory. So what? I had a mother who lost her memory. For those of us who have dealt with this; the inclusion was a painful reminder of what it was like, there was no enjoyment to it; and to people who haven't had this happen, they won't understand it anyway. So it was nothing more than caving to his critics in order to have Chris hurt. Sadly my major enjoyment in these books was the new relationships forged by Chris through the series as well as the development of the persistent relationships already established. I was more engrossed by the characters and how they handled the situations as people, a dynamic that was done wonderfully up until this book. Mr. Conroe did an outstanding job of character development through this series with only a few mistakes. By taking away his memory all those relationships were gone. So everything I had enjoyed was now reset. Not much fun. I loved Tanya and Stacia and the relationship they both have with Chris and could live with not knowing any more than I did at the end of Book 6. The relationship between Chris and secondary characters was fun to observe as well. I also loved the relationship budding between Declan and Caeco. If you enjoy those relationships, then don't read PAST this book.

MINOR SPOILER FROM THIS BOOK: Two things happen in this book which frustrated me more than all others. The first is a rather hostile fight between Chris and Tanya. Now understand, up until now we have been repeatedly told about how they can both feel each other. In one instance in a previous book a couple similar to them said that there was no way they could even hurt each other. Given that, when those emotions hit the boiling point we know from previous books that both Chris and Tanya SHOULD be hurting badly inside, feeling the others pain and immediately stopped. The scene made NO sense from a historical perspective. The second issue is where Mr. Conroe really sells out to his critics. Chris is actually captured and maintained capture by the U.S. Government. Yes friends, the power of God (whether you are religious or not it's part of the book) is nothing in the face of the mighty depraved U.S. Government. Our indestructible hero had to be captured to appease the critics of Mr. Conroe. It was a sell out to all his faithful followers. The rest of the books go downhill from there if you are truly a fan of the characters rather than just another story line. Sometimes a series should end, and this book should have been written better with a glorious ending, instead it starts the descent into 2 and 3 star books not worth the time or money to read.

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