

# HUNTER BY MERCEDES LACKEY



Adventure, yeah. I guess that's what you call it when everybody comes back alive.

— Mercedes Lackey —

AZ QUOTES

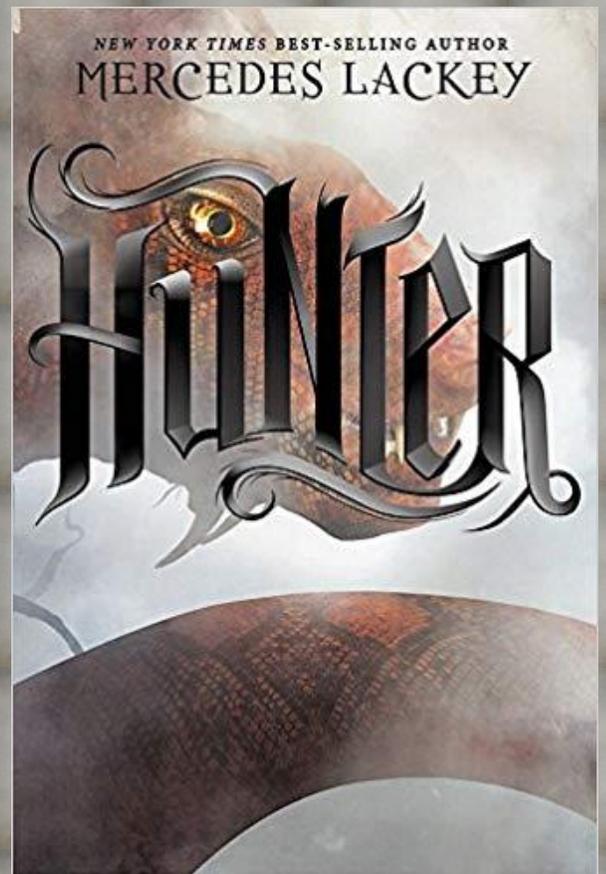
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<https://www.mercedeslackey.com/biography/>

- Lackey was born in Chicago and graduated from Purdue University
- Believes strongly in the creed used in one of her stories, *Burning Water*
  - “There’s no such thing as ‘one, true way’; the only answers worth having are the ones you find for yourself; leave the world better than you found it. Love, freedom, and the chance to do some good — they’re the things worth living and dying for, and if you aren’t willing to die for the things worth living for, you might as well turn in your membership in the human race.”
- She has published over 100 novels in 25 years

Quotes:

- ❖ “You don’t build a bridge by throwing everything you can find at the river.”
  - couldn’t find the page after writing the quote down, relevant to Joy’s process in hunting and how she thinks
- ❖ “Think twice, act once.” (13)
  - Helps you understand Joy’s past, how she was taught and how it affects her character
- ❖ “If you could call anything hope, it’d be the hounds.” (13)
  - Sets up the overall point of the hounds, how they help to emotionally and physically support their hunter



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“I began writing out of boredom; I continue out of addiction.” -Lackey

## SUMMARY

Hunter Joy Charmand is a disciplined member of Apex, perhaps the only one to strive for the purpose of defending others and making them feel protected. With her otherworldly hounds at her side, she has the advantage of a sort of magic to aid her in her fight.

Lackey's style varies on the specific subgenre of the story, *Hunter* speaks directly from the character Joy's perspective on how she's grown and developed her skills as a hunter and what she comes to expect from the world, giving the reader those same expectations. While the general idea of the plot is all too familiar, some saying it's reminiscent of *Hunger Games*, it holds a different charm, making Lackey's take on the trope unique and appealing to young readers.

#### Text Complexity:

- Lexile: HL910L (Ages:11-17)
  - Fairly simplistic to follow and understand the text itself
- ATOS: 4.9-7.03 (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Vocabulary understanding of the book falls under 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade reading levels
- Dale Chall: Raw score- 15.02
  - Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade may find the story easy to read.

#### Exeter Qualities:

- ❖ "Characters who reflect experiences of teen readers, something that is not found in much of the literary canon, especially when it comes to strong female protagonists."
  - The main character being a female out of her comfort zone and struggling to maintain appearance despite her emotional outbreaks in private.
- ❖ "Characters who go beyond typical experiences so that readers can use the fictional experiences to learn and develop in their own lives."
  - Topics in handling fear and high stress situation while still making decisions that help what is happening
- ❖ "Themes that inform truthfully about the wider world so as to allow readers to engage with difficult and challenging issues relating to immediate interests and global concerns."
  - The concept of a government attempting to distract the public from real dangers and problems around them