Raven's Peak is a fantasy novel written by Lincoln Cole. The story centers on two characters, both young adults, Abigail Dressler and Haatim Arison. Dressler is sent on a mission by the Council, a group dedicated to monitoring paranormal activity, to eliminate a demon, the same demon who, disguised as a human named Wartman, hired Arison to follow Dressler. After a hellish night where Arison is confronted with the existence of the supernatural, the pair team up to investigate the bizarre events in a town called Raven's Peak. There they face a very powerful demon that has possessed a young boy. They must defeat the demon and save the boy. Do they prevail?

I really enjoyed this book.   First, the theological aspect of the book appealed to me. Cole's story reminded me of some of the best supernatural thrillers on television. The religious details were well researched and well presented through the character of Arison, who had studied theology but had lost his faith.   The story was fast paced, with frequent and enthralling battles against supernatural forces. The characters were strong, well developed, and credible. Dressler and Arison, in particular, grow through the course of the novel, finding strength they didn't even know they had. The descriptions are vivid and attention was paid to details, as the following passage shows:

"They traveled through the black-site prison deep below the earth's surface, past neglected cells and through rough cut stone. A few of the rusty cages held prisoners, but most stood empty and silent. These prisoners were relics of a forgotten time, most of whom couldn't even remember the misdeed that had brought them here."

Raven's Peak had a few defects. There were some problems with the logical flow of the story, unnatural jumps in the setting at times. Also, there were several proofreading errors in the novel. On a personal note, it seemed to me that the author tried to include moments of comic relief, but I found these moments off-putting, diminishing the overall seriousness of the work.   These defects are not grave, simply distracting.

Although Raven's Peak is the first book in the *World on Fire* series, it can be read as a stand-alone novel.   Cole successfully leaves readers wanting more, anxious to get their hands on the next book in the series.

I rate Raven's Peak 3 out of 4 stars. It will appeal to readers interested in fantasy fiction and/or mysteries.