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Every Witch Way But Wicked (Wicked Witches Of The Midwest Book 2)



Synopsis

Where there's a witch, there's a way! Where there's a whole family of them, there's trouble. Bay Winchester, editor of Hemlock Cove's small weekly newspaper, thinks her small hamlet's upcoming murder mystery weekend is going to be all about fun, food and frolicking. Instead, when another dead body is discovered in Hemlock Cove, things turn into murder, mayhem and migraines (the latter is mostly thanks to her family, of course). The body belongs to the town drunk -- and no one can figure out who would want to kill him, or why. Bay's investigation is stymied by her new boss, Brian Kelly, and her old flirtation, FBI agent Landon Michaels, both of whom seem to have more than interviews on their mind. When you couple that with her cousin Thistle's obsession with making their Great-Aunt Tillie pay for the curse she recently put on them (you don't want to know) and her cousin Clove's conviction that she is not -- no matter what the rest of the family says -- a blabbermouth, Bay has her hands full. When the murder investigation takes a turn, though, a long-held Hemlock Cove secret is bound to be exposed. If it is, Bay may find herself in trouble -- again -- and this is the kind of trouble that she may not be able to find a way out of -- even with Aunt Tillie's help. Note: These books are full of sarcasm and are a little bit snarky -- so read only if you like to laugh and you aren't easily offended. This is the second book in the Wicked Witches of the Midwest mystery series.

Book Information

File Size: 952 KB

Print Length: 286 pages

Publisher: WinchesterShaw Publications (December 27, 2013)

Publication Date: December 27, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C2EAGYM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #6,692 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #61 inÂ Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Supernatural > Witches & Wizards #70 inÂ Books >

Customer Reviews

I finished up Amanda Lee's first book in the Witches of the Midwest series and was entertained enough to pick up the second one (wouldn't have bought it, to be clear... it was free on Kindle Unlimited, so why not?). I'm about a third of the way through this second in the series, and I gotta say, I'm giving up. Why, oh why, do women modern/urban fantasy writers think that they can attract women readers by throwing in chapter after chapter about the characters' juvenile obsessions with men like their still in high school? I've read worse examples than Amanda Lee's writing, but the thing about this series is there's absolutely no likable characters in her books. What's worse, every single woman in the Winchester family is EXACTLY THE SAME PERSON. You could pretty much take dialogue from any of the mothers, put it in the mouths of any of the daughters, and it wouldn't be out of character. Likewise, the only character with a modicum of uniqueness, the crotchety Aunt Tillie, only stands out because she says slightly nastier things.... and nothing else. Not a damn nice thing to say to anyone, so rather than being mostly bland and unlikeable like her nieces and grand-nieces she's just entirely unlikeable. Let me give you a picture of what more than half the book is like: Female character one: "You think he's hot." Female character two: "No I don't," blushing. Female character one: "Yes, you do." Female character two: "No, I don't." Female character one: "Well, I invited him to dinner at our moms' house." Female character two: "You didn't! I hate you! You're dead to me." Female character one: "What are you going to wear to dinner?" Female character two: "I don't know."

Well, "wicked" is not the word I would use to describe the witches in this series. This is the second in the series, and as I have read the first two back to back, I can honestly say the second is an improvement over the first. The bickering between the family members is down, and the writing is smoother. There are still problems with the editing though--tense changes with verbs, sometimes some confusing sentence and paragraph structure, but those are fewer than in the first book. Again, the author captures the small town feel pretty well which I think is a good thing. Those people from small towns will appreciate that. The pop culture references which vexed me so have been cut down dramatically from the first book, and are used in more appropriate places, so no problems there. Overall, it's a smoother read, which shows the author gaining experience, yay for experience! The characters though... I just really... really... hate the main characters. The women still

all sound the same to me; individual character voices are impossible to pick out. They are also still very argumentative, although that has been lessened from the first book. (Or perhaps I'm used to it now?) There was also more magic this time around, though still pretty... in the background. Just the characters. It's hard to read a series where you don't like the main characters, and they are downright mean to each other. Maybe because it's in text and not in a visual medium where you can pick up body language clues, but all of the barbs for each other seem meant, not kidding around, but honest-to-gosh meant in a malicious way. I'm sure that's not the intent, but that's how I'm reading it--again, text is not a visual medium, so some clues one would pick up on are just not there.

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