



Star Cursed

Jessica Spotswood

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With the Brotherhood persecuting witches like never before, a divided Sisterhood desperately needs Cate to come into her Prophesied powers. And after Cate's friend Sachi is arrested for using magic, a war-thirsty Sister offers to help her find answers—if Cate is willing to endanger everyone she loves.

Cate doesn't want to be a weapon, and she doesn't want to involve her friends and Finn in the Sisterhood's schemes. But when Maura and Tess join the Sisterhood, Maura makes it clear that she'll do whatever it takes to lead the witches to victory. Even if it means sacrifices. Even if it means overthrowing Cate. Even if it means all-out war.

In the highly anticipated sequel to *Born Wicked*, the Cahill Witch Chronicles continue Cate, Maura and Tess's quest to find love, protect family, and explore their magic against all odds in an alternate history of New England.

Star Cursed Details

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From Reader Review Star Cursed for online ebook

Ferdy says

2.5 stars - Spoilers

Meh, the main character and plot were kind of boring... But I did enjoy the little twist at the end and the relationship between the heroine and her sisters.

-Cate was still the same old typical YA heroine, I don't know why I thought she might have gained a decent personality between book 1 and 2. Ugh, she was insufferable, judgmental, hypocritical, self-involved, and whiny... Whilst at the same time being a boring-goody-two-shoes.

In the first book, Cate was blackmailed/forced to leave her family & love interest to join the Sisterhood (a bunch of undercover secret witches). This led to her spending most of this book whining about her life... Heaven forbid a heroine not moaning and instead trying to make the most out of a bad situation.

Cate lived with dozens of other girls/witches who were in the same boat as her but for some bizarre reason she thought no one understood her, and she believed that her plight was worse than everyone else's. Ugh, all the girls were going through the same thing as her... But Cate acted like she was the only one suffering. It irritated me that she made no effort to make friends with her roommates, it was like she thought they weren't worth her time or energy. I bet if she was living with a bunch of guys, she would have gone out of her way to connect with them. Cate obviously thinks girls are worthless.

Even though Cate made zero effort with her fellow witches, she was jealous and surprised that they seemed to like and respect Maura (her sister) more. She acted like it was so unfair that Maura was more popular than her, but she didn't stop to think that they might get on with Maura more because unlike her, Maura actually made an effort with them, hung out with them, and didn't act better than them. Did she not realise that people prefer someone that's friendly over someone that's stuck up?

I hated how depressed Cate was, even when her friends were trying to cheer her up, she was so dismissive of them. But as soon as her love interest talked to her she was suddenly happy. Yea, apparently only guys can make girls feel good about themselves.

Cate was everything I hate in a heroine. She was one of those types of heroines that constantly think of themselves, ignore other people's suffering, and only step up at the very end to play the hero. She did very little for the girls who were accused of witchcraft, she only stepped up when other people started making plans. The only people she really cared for were Finn (the love interest) and Tess (her little sister). She treated Maura like rubbish — she was constantly talking down to her, thinking the worst of her, ignoring her, and making her feel like a failure. Cate knew Maura was mad at her for being a controlling-sanctimonious-selfish cow yet she didn't try to make amends or reach out to her, she made a half-arsed attempt at the beginning but then gave up. It was no wonder that Maura had to look elsewhere for approval... Cate had Tess, Finn, Cora, Mei, Rory, Sophia, and Sachi's support, love and respect... Maura had no-one's. Cate was a terrible sister.

-Maura was an infuriating character, she was so bitter and jealous. I preferred her far more than Cate though. After Ellen seduced and used Maura in the first book, I thought she would have been more wary about who to trust, but she was just as dumb as ever. It was obvious that Sister Inez was using her for her own purposes, but idiot Maura was too daft to notice, all it took was a bit of flattery and she lost her morals and conscious. I was somewhat pissed that she erased Finn's memory of Cate at the end, she didn't erase his memory because she thought it was for the best or because Inez told her to, she did it because she was jealous of Cate having someone that loved her. I kind of understood Maura's feelings though, Cate was a really crappy sister... I don't blame Maura all that much for trying to hurt her.

Even though she was hateful, Maura was a far more interesting character than Cate. I would have liked to have read her POV over Cate's dull and cliched one. I think Maura will probably die in the next book as punishment for messing up Cate/Finn - I hope she doesn't though, that would be too predictable.

-Why were the Sisters so adamant that Cate was the prophesied Cahill witch? Why didn't they consider Cate's younger sisters?

I knew that Tess would turn out to be the chosen/prophesied one... I'm glad it wasn't Cate, it would have turned her into even more of a Mary Sue.

-The Brotherhood were a bunch of sexist fuckers. Cate was dumb to think that the Sisterhood should work with the Brotherhood when it was clear that most of the Brotherhood were evul, and were happy to kill, rape, and imprison young girls... And the rest of the Brotherhood who didn't approve of the way the women were being treated were still evul because they didn't fight for what was right, they just watched as young girls were ripped from their families and abused. They didn't have the strength of character to stop the fucked up things that were go on. So yea, the Brotherhood should all be killed, and the Sisterhood should have complete control over everything.

-Maura and Cate's relationship was the best thing about the book. It was so wonderfully angsty.

All in all, I wasn't overly impressed - Cate's dull POV let the book down. Maura's character and antics were the only that that really kept me hooked.

Hannah says

MORE? MORE! @ P.S. I love that book!

Okay so firstly let me just say that I do not remember the last time book managed to piss me off so much. I mean alright it is true, the subject in this book is very touchy but the way it is written, the characters and everything around them...I have to say, Jessica Spotswood did a great job because she truly managed to get a high amount of emotions from her readers!

THE WORLD: It story is based in New England in times when Witches were hunted and burned. The Brotherhood rules everything and states that women are wicked from birth and should seek guidance from men. Any who is suspected of being a witch or just wicked in general is locked in a madhouse, sent on the prison ship or killed. In this book Brotherhood goes even further and makes a law that women are forbidden to be taught even to read and write. Not everybody is happy, the New England is on the verge of standing up for the Brotherhood, only problem is that they hate witches just as much for them using mind magic on people years ago.

CHARACTERS: The story concentrated on three sisters: Cate, Maura and Tess. Before witches fell years ago there was a prosperity that there will be three sisters one day of which one will be the strongest witch ever and bring witches back to power. Therefore, Cate is thought to be that one witch. However, to know for sure she also need to be an oracle and so far she is not. None of the three sisters are. But as Cate is the oldest she was forced to join the Sisterhood which is really just a bunch of witches. And let me tell you, I feel with Cate. Sisterhood is just another place that uses Cate for their own advantage, they even threatened her loved ones if she said no. So Cate of course hates it and made me hate it as well. I actually love Cate, she is kind

and good and just pure loving. I mean she is not whiny like most heroines who sacrifice everything are, Cate is strong and therefore she deserves my love. The next sister is Maura, and just as I love Cate I hate Maura. OMG! That girl is just so jealous of Cate, I mean they are sisters but I can guarantee that if somebody told Maura she could be popular if she killed Cate she would do it without a blind. I hate Maura and I so hope she is going to die miserable death realizing that everybody hates her! Especially what she does in the end of the book...it might be blood but Maura is an abomination. And then the third sister is Tess who is only 12 years old but wise nevertheless. I love Tess, she is so cute and smart and just a total bookworm! I would really love to have a sister like her!

Then there are a few other characters in the book such as Sister Inez, Alice and Finn. Now, Sister Inez is pure evil. Like let's wipe everybody's minds who does not like us and control them completely evil. She is an evil manipulator, an actual villain of the series. Alice is another annoying character, she is of what you would call a New England bully who hopefully will die miserable lonely death and I will dance on her grave! And then there is Finn...oh boy oh boy I did not realize I love bookish men like him...he loves books, he always smells like books and has these cute things about him that just smile nerdy hot bookworm! I love Finn to the bits, he is perfection!

LOVE: This is one of the rare books which I wish had more of the romance. I mean Cate and Finn...oh my heard, oh the feels! So cute!

PLUS: I think this book is really teaching me patients and to keep my emotions in check. It is so brilliantly written that I love and hate it at the same time!

MINUS: Just like high emotions is a plus it is also a minus. At some points the hate gets so high that I just have to stop and take a deep breath to be able to keep going. I hope all Brotherhood and Sister Inez are going to die. And I hope Maura will be tortured and die a very painful death!

MORE? MORE! @ P.S. I love that book!

Alexis (Lexi Swoons) says

Original review posted on Lexi Swoons

That ending though...THAT ENDING!!!! My emotions are too much right now...READ AT YOUR OWN RISK!!!

The feelings I have right now are too tremendous to properly describe for you...but I'll try my best to give you a good review without my emotional baggage tagging along...

Let me start by saying that I LOVE everything about this book. Which only makes this review even harder to write because I have absolutely nothing bad to say about it...the only "bad" thing that I can say is that the ending of this book left me DEVASTATED!!!! But it was so heartbreakingly good that it was GOOD!!! So you see where my issue is!

Anywho, lets start with the progress of our characters. Particularly our favorite witches, the Cahill sisters.

Cate, the eldest sister, we left off in Born Wicked thinking she was the prophesied witch that everyone was looking for. She has matured so much in this book it amazes me. She went from babying her sisters to actually letting them be themselves and it was such a beautiful thing! She has also learned so many things, magical and otherwise, that it makes me feel a sort of "pride" for her. Especially when she realizes that her magic isn't all bad, something happy for her in a world of sorrow and secrecy.

Maura, on the other hand, was such a disappointment for me (I guess I DO having something negative to say lol) her character seems like she really hasn't learned anything from her experiences. The only real change I see in her is that she is better at being conniving, spiteful and all around sinister! Such horrible (and WICKED) features!!! There are moments in the book when you can see how truly vulnerable she is, and though those moments are far and few in-between, my heart actually breaks for her in those moments. That is until her fits of jealousy emerge and you see how horrible she can be. The things she says and DOES to her sisters is just heartbreaking...HEARTBREAKING!!!

Tess, Ah we learn so much about Tess in this book. She was already a great character in Born Wicked, but we see her in a much more mature role in Star Cursed. She is such a powerful witch and loving sister that it hurts me to see all the drama that unfolds with these three girls.

And lastly, Finn!!! The life of my heart, I CANNOT even speak about him right now. My heart still hurts too much to form anything other than gut wrenching squeals and tears. I know this statement creeps into semi-spoilery waters, but there are no other words right now.

So finally, I hope that after what's been said you can still find as much joy in this book as I did because it really is a great sequel to the Cahill sisters journey and I am just as frightened at what's to come for Cate, Tess and Maura AND Finn as Cate is, but I know that Mrs. Spotswood will give them the ending that they deserve.

Isabel says

Nope. Nope nope nope. I refuse to accept those last three pages. They don't exist. Nope.

I have never liked Maura all that much. Now, it's safe to say that I hate her.

Nope.

Addie R. says

Nooooooooo!

I was scared this cover wouldn't be as pretty as the first. >.< I wish they hadn't changed Born Wicked's cover :[

Devon Ashley says

You. *Effing*. B*tch.

I knew you were capable of it, I just...you...heartless piece of...na-uh! AAAAHHHHHHH!!!!!!
B*tch. B*tch. B*TCH!!!

Everybody! Sing along! Angry voice! I know you know the words!

Claire Legrand says

s;dkljfsl;dkfjs;ldkfjs;lkdfjs;dljkf

(Edited to add: I understand that the gibberish above is not a coherent review, but I typed it in the immediate aftermath of finishing and was experiencing MANY UPSET FEELINGS. Well done, Spotswood. Well done.)

Jessica says

Well, I'm rather fond of it, but also rather biased. I hope it lives up to my goal to be "brutal + awesome, with kissing."

Regan says

The only thing I can say about this book is:

Maura is such a bitch.

Danielle says

Maura how could you!!!!???

La Talpa says

Ein toller zweiter Teil, der für mich jetzt nicht ganz an Teil 1 heranreicht, aber mir dennoch viel Lesefreude bereitet und total Lust auf den dritten Teil gemacht hat ❤?

Cate gefällt mir als Protagonistin immer mehr und auch die anderen verschiedenen Hexencharakteren waren toll ausgearbeitet. Und OMG... der Schluß dieses Teils hat mir quasi das Herz zerrissen... im Dezember ist

auf jeden Fall direkt der letzte Teil dran ?

Rachel says

Oh my goodness! That ending!! I can't believe we have to wait for August 14th for the last book (although I do appreciate that amazing birthday book). Ugg!

Is it possible to be better than the first book? If not, then this middle book was just as good. I read the first book in ARC form about a year/year 1/2 ago approx. It was AMAZING. I have no idea what made Jessica Spotswood imagine this world, but it is vivid, exciting, and feels like it could be real!

This book is for the adventure lovers, the hopeless romantics, and the fantasy geeks worldwide. A novel that has this much to offer should not just simply sit on your shelf gathering dust! If you are age 14+ and the first and/or second book of this series is wasting away on your shelf, pick it up, open it, and prepare to be transported to a world of magic, rebels, and forbidden love. 4 stars out of 5.

April says

Who does not love witches? Seriously, I cannot name a single person. Y'all remember the truth bombs Jessica Spotswood dropped on us at the end of Born Wicked with the big OH NO GASP GASP GASP moment? And then all of the swoons that she brought? Well the next book in the Cahill Witch Chronicles, Star Cursed dials all of the emotional reactions up a notch and left me simultaneously cursing Spotswood and praising Spotswood. As a girl who loves talking books with her friends, I honestly cannot wait for you all to read this book so we can discuss the ending and just how out of control it was. I can't wait to talk with you guys about Finn and my love of him, about the Brotherhood and why they are the WORST and about Cate Cahill and how I'm rooting so hard for her. Drop your schedule and read Star Cursed.

[Read the rest of my review here](#)

Erin says

Star Cursed brings us back to the New England world of witches, oppression, and prophecy with a grand new tale of the Cahill sisters. Full of romance, intrigue, and betrayal, Star Cursed was a thrilling sequel that ends on a cliffhanger that will leave you screaming for more.

Cate has given up all her hopes in order to save her sisters and the man she loves. Now a member of the Sisterhood--a secret group of witches masquerading as an order of nuns--she faces the immense burden of being "the prophesied one," because an oracle years before foresaw that one of three sisters, one gifted with mind-magic, would lead the realm out of the tyranny of the Brotherhood and into a new golden era of magic. But when a new prophecy is made by the current oracle--Brenna--that one of the sisters will also be gifted with the Sight, Cate comes to question her role in everything. With her sisters arriving at the convent as well, and Finn's arrival in New London, Cate is surrounded by choices, by friends and enemies, and must choose whether to lead or follow.

Once again Cate was a strong and charismatic heroine to follow. Though at first bogged down by her bruised heart, she flourishes when put to the test. Finn's return and his acceptance of her apology of course help buoy

her spirits, but as before she finds her own strength in the course of her challenges. And as in Born Wicked, many of Cate's decisions rest on who she will trust. Will it be Cora, the leader of the Sisterhood prone to waiting instead of action, or Inez, the second-in-command who would welcome war? Will it be little Tess almost a woman of her own now, or headstrong Maura with grand plans of her own? Will it be Finn the booklover who captured her heart, or steady and loyal Paul?

Though the events of Star Cursed take place over a much smaller timeline--only a month at most--they contain as much drama and action as Born Wicked. Meeting in secret during the night, Cate and Finn find their romance intensifying, fueled only by the fact that they cannot be together in the light of day. From stolen kisses in the moonlit greenhouse, to fevered embraces in dark corners, these two heat up the pages. Meanwhile, tensions between the Brotherhood and the people are growing to a breaking point. When the Brothers crack down harder on women's rights, fueled by the fear of women's growing rights in Europe, tensions break out into riots and violence. Cate and the other girls realize that if the Sisterhood doesn't act soon, innocent lives will be lost. But what path will they choose to take, and will their own actions cause lives to be lost?

Filled with stunning revelations and heart-wrenching turns, Star Cursed was an excellent sequel. And with its cliffhanger ending it's sure to grip you nice and tight before the plunge into book three.

Steffi says

"I cannot imagine a life without books.

Without Father's stories of the ancient Greek gods and goddesses, without pirate stories and fairy tales and poems. Without the hope of another way, of freedom and adventure beyond what we have here and now. How dark life would be."

First impression:

Yep. I hate Maura more.

Review

I have to admit ... I enjoyed Star Cursed more than Born Wicked. While the first book dragged too much for me, the events in Star Cursed all happen within one month! The pace is much faster, and there were quite some very good and exciting scenes!

Further, Jessica Spotswood writing style makes you really emotional. In a very furious kind of way. Woman are not allowed to read.

Woman are not allowed to work outside their houses.

Women are supposed to be obedient to their husbands and fathers and sons.

This books made so angry I thought I was going to throw it against the wall and never pick it up again. It's cruel to read this book, to read how woman are treated. However, I have to praise Spotswood for her amazing writing, capturing the emotions extremely good.

As for the characters ... gosh, Maura is another reason why I wanted to throw this book away. Again, well done Jessica! Maura is definitely on my list of worst characters ever.

I love love love Tess! There are more scenes with her and Cate and their sisterhood is really goals. I loved them together a lot, but Tess alone is such a cute and caring character. As for Cate ... hm, she was still too

whiny at the beginning, but I have a feeling she'll be very different in the next installment

.....

All in all, I'm happy to have continued reading the Cahill Witches. I really hope the last one will be as good (or even better) as this one!

4 stars
