



Strange Fascination

Syd Moore

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It's summer in Adders Fork. The sun is out, the sky is blue and things are going swimmingly for Rosie Strange, thank you very much. The Essex Witch Museum has been relaunched with a new Ursula Cadence wing and picnic grounds.

Then developers roll into the sleepy village to widen the road. When the centuries-old Blackly Be boulder, said to mark the grave of a notorious witch but now in the car park of the Seven Stars, is moved, all hell breaks out. Within hours a slew of peculiar phenomena descends and, when a severed head is discovered atop the boulder, the locals can take no more and storm the Museum to demand someone take action.

Can Rosie and Sam unravel the mystery? And what of the ancient treasure that could drastically change someone's fortunes and offer a motive for murder?

Strange Fascination Details

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Author : Syd Moore

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From Reader Review Strange Fascination for online ebook

Fiona Morgan says

This is the first of the series, The Essex Witch Museum Mysteries, that I have read and I have to say I really enjoyed it. I loved the humour the main character brought to the narrative. The rest of the character's personalities stood out and I could see them as individuals. I did get slightly confused trying to remember dates and facts, but got there, and I appreciate the amount of research that must have been put into the book. All in all a great read.

Sarah Conkerton says

The longest of the three 'Essex Witch Museum Mystery' books, the plot is more to do with Rosie's family background than it really is to do with the Blackly Be boulder and the treasure hoard, but I liked that. Normally I'm bored when I'm expecting a book to have a quickly paced plot and it doesn't, but this book pulled it off for me - and some of the twists and turns still caught me by surprise.

The third in the series, with the fourth coming out in October, 'Strange Fascination' seems to me to be the one in which the characters and background are really allowed to be fleshed out and developed. More for Rosie than Sam, but Sam's own background will undoubtedly be fleshed out later in the series - and in this book, we finally meet Rosie's friend Cerise, an entertaining character who was worth the wait. The book also relocates the series to Adder's Fork, which was a strong move; the local charm comes through far more strongly in the writing than the intrigue of London did in the second book.

Overall, 'Strange Fascination' gives itself the time to really delve into a local drama, both past and present, and the extra time spent pays off. The characters are as funny and endearing as always, and I finished the book liking Rosie more than I had for the other two. If you're reading the books for Sam, you'll probably be disappointed, but if you enjoyed the Witch Museum itself and all its mysteries, 'Strange Fascination' is a fantastic addition to the series.

Joseph says

3.5*

Strange Fascination brings to a close Syd Moore's "Essex Witch Museum" trilogy. The overarching story which links the three novels features as protagonist Rosie Strange, a sceptical, feisty benefit fraud inspector who unexpectedly inherits from her grandfather Septimus the eponymous witch museum in the small village of Adders Fork. This strange (ahem) legacy will lead Rosie to discover long-buried secrets related to her family and to rethink her ideas about the supernatural. Each of the instalments in the trilogy also sees Rosie and the museum's curator Sam Stone ending up embroiled in a criminal investigation with occult overtones. In "Strange Fascination", the 'mystery' revolves around the Blackly Be boulder, said to mark the final resting place of a notorious witch. Against the villagers' better judgment, developers try to move the boulder, leading to a flurry of otherworldly phenomena. And a very real murder.

I had enjoyed reading *Strange Sight* - the trilogy's second volume - and had particularly liked the well-judged balance between ingredients of supernatural fiction and the "whodunnit". In comparison, I found this instalment rather disappointing. I felt that the action took rather longer to take off, and whilst Rosie's narrative voice is as witty and endearing as ever, the constant attempt at humour drains the tension out of what could have been genuinely scary episodes. This was less evident in the previous novel, whose emphasis was more on the "crime" than on the "supernatural" element.

On the other hand, this novel cannot be fairly considered on its own, but is best assessed in the light of its predecessors. In this regard, *Strange Fascination* is undoubtedly effective. It teases out the secrets and enigmas of Rosie's ancestors and, thanks to some imaginative plotting, ties up all the loose ends and red herrings planted in the previous novels. Lovers of history and folklore will also enjoy the references to history of witchcraft and folk beliefs, subtly woven into plot.

Claire says

Recap: Rosie Strange & Essex Witch Museum curator Sam are embroiled in another local mystery, this time with connections to Rosie's own past.

Review: 3.5 stars I enjoyed reading the character of Rosie and I loved the inner monologue she had when she was trying to be clever etc but I was dismayed to discover she has got no further in her will they won't they relationship with Sam. I've read book one but hadn't got round to book two before book three fell into my lap and I should've because I was definitely missing some key information. That said, the twists and turns in this book kept me guessing up until the end. The thing is, I want to visit the Essex Witch Museum, despite the fact it doesn't exist so I shall definitely be going back for book two and checking out book four! They'd better kiss by then!!!

Susan Angela Wallace says

Strange fascination by Syd Moore.

It's summer in Adders Fork. The sun is out, the sky is blue and things are going swimmingly for Rosie Strange, thank you very much. The Essex Witch Museum has been relaunched with a new Ursula Cadence wing and picnic grounds.

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Omg this was an absolutely fantastic read. I loved Rosie and Sam. Brilliant. I really hope there will be more to come. 5*. I would give more if I could. Highly recommended.

Matt_E says

I am really really enjoying this series. Haven't read a book in a while but when it came through my emails

that it was being released I bought it straight away.

If you enjoyed the first couple of books then you will enjoy this just as much. Got to admit when I heard it was only going to be a trilogy after reading the second book I was a little bit gutted as the characters have been written well and it seemed the witch museum could have many more secrets to spill. So when I read there was another one due this year it was awesome.

Please continue to write these.

Diane says

Mostly fun, although I probably didn't enjoy it as much as the previous one in the series: it was a bit 'messy' in the middle with a few too many strands. I like the main plot line and the characters and the endings are always quite satisfying. It was good to see some resolution to a couple of issues which had come up in the previous book (although some things remain unexplained). I am never a fan of main characters who don't share information with each other (leading to confusion and misdirection). Had the main characters communicated a bit more it would have been less messy and for me, more fun.

Emma says

Having read the first two in the Essex Witch Museum series, I was really looking forward to this third instalment. It didn't disappoint! I've said in previous reviews of the series that I'm not a fan of the main character, but now that I'm getting to know a bit more about her, she's growing on me. Sure, there are still plenty of euphemisms and she's still pretty shallow, but there's also a caring Rosie coming through who is more 'human' and much more likeable.

This story sees Rosie and museum creator Sam deal with some bizarre goings on in the village of Adders Fork after developers attempt to move the Blackly Be - a large stone said to mark the grave of a notorious witch, Black Anne. I'm not revealing any more because 'spoilers'! But what I loved about this book was the introduction of some new characters, some endearing and some kooky, which was much needed in the series. I also enjoyed getting to know more about Rosie's family history, with its own mysteries. Book three hasn't let me down!

Vanessa Wild says

Strange Fascination is the third in the quirky Essex Witch Museum mystery series but it can also be read as a stand alone. When developers move a boulder known as the 'Blackly Be' which supposedly lies over the grave of a witch, strange things start to happen. Stir in a couple of bodies and a murder and the cauldron is bubbling nicely.

This series of books is fun to read with Strange Fascination being no exception. There are some zany characters and they are written with a sense of humour. The mystery side in this particular book is very intriguing, although it takes a little time to get going. I like that there are one or two true facts contained within the fiction. The 'will they, won't they' relationship between the two main characters, Rosie and Sam, continues. If I was Sam, I'd run a mile - Rosie is like some sort of man eater, she makes me cringe and roll

my eyes at times with her euphemisms and metaphors. Just get on with it, guys! ?. There is also progress with another thread running through the series - an old family mystery, the disappearance of Rosie's grandmother, Ethel Rose.

All in all an entertaining, enchanting and enjoyable read. I look forward to more of Rosie and Sam's witchy adventures.

Olivia says

Again, another decent read.

However, I was somewhat deflated by the resolution to the Ethel-Rose quandary. Good grief.

Also, please Ms Moore, quit "dissing" vegetarians. It's old, out-dated and quite frankly, offensive. If you're happy to suggest that people who care about animal welfare, the environment and their health are nuts, then you really should get your own head checked. This just adds to my continued discomfort with Rosie's character. She's rather unpleasant and condescending and I loathe that.

I have noted down the next instalment in my to reads despite my complaints as I do enjoy these quirky cosys.

Janet Still FNP says

Best yet! I have fallen for Rosie Strange and her curator. Syd Moore, again, had me in stitches! laughing at her play on words. For me, reading her Strange books are like hanging out with one of my best galpals. Soooo, dear Ms Syd Moore, could you possibly keep us satiated with MORE Rosie Strange books? pretty please.

PS: The mystery is also nicely spun with no detail left out. There Are some mysteries unsolved too. This is the third in the series.

Karen Peterman says

If you liked the others in this series you will love this one!! Rosie Strange solves another mystery whilst she runs the Essex Witch Museum. A new development in the village means that builders move a stone said to mark the grave of Black Anne - a notorious witch - and things start to go very badly wrong. There are unexplained happenings and lots of mysteries...

This book covers Rosie's family history, the village history and lots of historical facts about witches. It's a good tale but I was lost trying to keep up with the numerous members of Rosie's family and the many characters who are mentioned historically. I also found that because I had not read the early novels too much was unexplained. 3 stars from me but probably 5 if you have read her other books.

Ruth Dryden says

Great read!

Thoroughly enjoyed this book. Love Syd Moore's Witch Museum mysteries.

If you like your reading light, funny and very well written with a touch of the supernatural then this is for you.

Have enjoyed her previous books and am looking forward already to the next instalment.

Lacer says

The Essex Witch Museum is a series that's quite fun to read but it's not my most favourite. This one, Strange Fascination, felt a bit too long and it felt like it only really properly got going about half way through. This one looks more into the disappearance of Rosie's grandmother, as well as a series of events that occurs when a rock covering a witch's grave is moved.

Katie says

Another entertaining outing for Sam and Rosie. This one definitely felt like it worked better than book 2, and was more engaging.

I still feel as though the narrator's voice for Rosie prematurely ages her, but overall the performance is good.

It feels like a long wait for the next book, expected in Spring 2019.
