



It's a Charmed Life

Selene Charles

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Welcome to a world of fantasy, fairy tales, and murder most foul...

My name's Elle. Princess Arielle, for those who know about my past. Cursed by my own father, now I'm banished to Grimm. I'm a siren, killer, and one of the best damned cold-case detectives in all of the bloody realms. I don't stop until I discover the truth, no matter where that truth leads.

My next case sends me to Wonderland, a harrowing place of madness and dark secrets. I'd rather be landlocked than step foot on that tainted soil, but I don't have a choice after discovering Alice's bloodstained ribbon and a bandicoot's claw covered in blood beside two stiff's at the Charming's sprawling castle. My insatiable thirst for truth leads to a conspiracy that will not only rock the Grimm world but also my own.

No one ever walks away from Wonderland unscathed... No one.

Join me on a spell-binding tale that you aren't soon to forget.

It's a Charmed Life Details

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From Reader Review It's a Charmed Life for online ebook

'i Mari 🍷 YAAAAAAS says

Ok. Wow. Just finished this.

I'm here because of Jovee Winters: Truth.

I enjoyed this book: Truth.

This book was a good read. I didn't mind the angst in the beginning but by THAT part...yeah, it bothered me. A lot. I found it to be a bit in the extreme end of the scale. Hatter, to me, was a total delight to read. Elle, I don't know, there was something slightly off with her. I think she's a total badass, don't get me wrong, but it might be the way she was written. Idk. I hated how she was a bit back and forth with her resolves. I mean, yes change your mind ten thousand times, I do not mind. Just please, be totally honest with yourself and said opposite company involved.

I totally felt for Hatter in this. I was rooting that he do the same to her. Unfortunately, this was Elle's world, not his. So, you know, I just hung back and felt sorry for the man. That ending made me angry. So angry. It was such great anger that I'm not even keen to see the next book. She just tipped the scales back in her favour; holding all the damn cards. It was the last straw for me. Girl, you've done this time and time again to that poor man; alienating him when you're stuck inside your itty bitty (that might be a bit unfair but I'm angry damnit!) brain. I'm absolutely open to reading about Hatter and a new love interest. If that happens in Book 2, then I'm IN.

Elle is an amazing woman. We still don't know the full story, aside from the bullet points, yet. But she's a badass with steel for a spine. I just...wish she was a bit more like her cool waters with all that mystery and darkness lurking deep within and less like a ticking bomb. I swear, she keeps going on about the mask she puts on but everydamnbody knows how to push all her buttons. Big or otherwise. Seriously, like come on...give those bastards the same shit they keep giving you. Push back their buttons, girl.

Now that we've got the characters out the way. Everything and everyone else are worth your time. The plot is interesting and all the twists are just fascinating to uncover. Especially the people that come with it. This is Wonderland through the eyes of an adult. Crazy is okay, it's not fun, it's not harmless, it's...crazy. You either deal with it and continue about your life-safely- or you succumb to it and well, no one knows what happens to people like you.

I totally recommend this. Especially to Jovee Winters, and Marie Hall fans (obviously because it's the same person as Selene Charles lol just in case you didn't know...like me a few months ago ?). Warning: there's a bit of sensuality and sex (juss a lil bit ov sex) weaved throughout this book soooo just a little fyi.

Not gonna lie. I'm so tempted to bring my rating down to 3 stars just because I'm so irritated right now. Detailing that whole Elle+Hatter business brought back all the annoyance I felt while reading about their, barely there but full of promise, relationship. I'm not going to downgrade it, though. Because this book is not a 3.00 rating. For me it's more of a 3.82 rating, so might as well round up ? (but really...the book deserves a 4.00 ?).

Anywho, I might revisit this and edit or I might not but I'm definitely not re-reading this book. Too annoyed to do so, I think. Well, I'm off to find the next book to read.

Adios & Happy Reading! ? xx

Oh &

P.s: I fucking (sorry about the swearing but that's my word for really×a million) hate disloyalty, love triangles (because the heroine can't fucking make up her mind), and hypocrisy. That little "scratch me and I scratch you" part...yeah, I nearly DNF'd this book. Because we all know damn well that if that was the other way around, all hell would've broken loose or she would let things (feelings 'nd all) cool and eventually die down. But would she have peacefully let him react like that!? Of fucking course NOT. Because this is Elle's world...not Hatter's (I need the reminder). Hence, my annoyance. Ugh! So tempted to downrate (is that even a word? No, who cares) my rating. But I won't. Cos that beginning for that last chapter was sweet. So 4 stars it is.

Bye for real now ?. Later.

T.L. Callahan says

Elle is called on to solve a cold case file that has her teaming up with the Mad Hatter and chasing clues throughout Wonderland but will they find the answers in time to save an innocent from being framed for the murders that are stacking up. This is the first book I've read by this author but it will certainly not be my last. This book is a fast-paced adventure down the rabbit hole with a new spin on all your favorite fairytale characters. The Little Mermaid is a man-eating siren, the Mad Hatter is a hot constable, Alice runs a brothel, Bo Peep is a police chief, etc. This is a wild ride that kept me guessing until the very end. I'll be not so patiently waiting for the next book in the series.

Ashley Martinez (ilovebooksandstuffblog) says

Grimm Files

It was crazy, it was emotional and it was entertaining. I absolutely loved this. Taking fairy tales and twisting things into a new and exciting world is genius! The characters were awesome lol I really enjoyed their stories and definitely can't wait to discover more!

Katie says

Spoilers

It was well written. I enjoyed the beautifully depicted scenes. The story is of the little mermaid only she's been exiled by her father for apparently having gone nuts (we get a very short and not at all detailed possible reason for this). She teams up with the mad hatter in this first book and he's got secrets that I hope the author delves into soon. There's definitely something more to hatter; I found him more interesting tbh. I did enjoy the depiction of our mc; she isn't just a mermaid, she is a siren. It bothered me that so much emphasis was put on her only having so much time before she had to return to her own waters AND it was never explained why she had such an aversion to rain. Pretty good book; it's a detective story to be sure, albeit unconventional.

There's talk of sex and even visits to sex clubs but there's no real erotica; they're attracted to each other and there's some steamy scenes.

Angela James says

Elle and Hatter

Eep! This author NEVER let's me down and continues to amaze me with her imagination. This new series is going to be amazing if book one is anything to go on. Her storytelling and magic weaving skills are on point. Elle and Hatter have murders and mysteries to solve and the attraction is intense between them but their pasts make a future impossible with both unwilling to open themselves up to the potential. This book was an absolutely thrilling who done it with lots of angst and drama. I loved it and highly recommend it.

Christina Smurawa says

A new twist on fairy tale character.

This story is about a siren named Arielle who works for Grimm PD. She must travel to Wonderland to solve her case. While there she meets Maddox Hatter. He serves as her escorts to Wonderland as we all know it can be easy to get lost there.

The author does a wonderful job of world building. You can picture yourself alongside the characters. The characters are fascinating. The author hints at troubled pasts for both Elle and Maddox. She draws out the answers slowly. I did feel at times that maybe I had missed a prequel with Elle's back story. This book was very hard to put down and I only stopped reading because I have a job to go to. I loved it.

Renee says

I really enjoyed this story. You can tell it is based off the Grimm fairy tales but it takes it in an entirely different direction than what I am used to. It was an awesome way to hear about the fairy tales and the intensity of the book kind of reminded me of a detective novel but with all the perks of a fantasy/ romance. In some instances it reminded me of the show Once Upon a Time but only in how all the worlds are intertwined with one another.

I was a little dissatisfied with the background of the world building and with the characters themselves. You can tell when reading about the characters that they lived through some rough events but I felt that too much emphasis was put on their past and not enough on their present. In some scenes it was good but in others I felt it was too much? That may just be me but I wanted more on the interactions in the present tense than the ones alluding to the past. That is probably why I felt dissatisfied with the world building because it depended really heavily on the characters themselves and their pasts then on the actual world they were living in.

Otherwise I really loved the characters and how much the pain in their pasts really shaped them into who they are now. I really hate the cliffhanger and want to get my hands on the next book because I really NEED to KNOW!

Kylie says

Wow what a fantastic escape & a fabulous read. I had this book on my kindle for weeks before I read it & now I'm thinking why did I wait? I really enjoyed this book & cant wait for the next instalment, what an imagination the author has, I'll never look at Disney films the same again lol! It ends on a tiny cliffhanger that made me want to throw my kindle across the room. The characters are fab & thoroughly entertaining, Maddox sounded hot ?. My only criticism if I had to make one was that I'd estimate that 90% of the book is written from Elle's POV (first person) which is how I like to read so when I read the small amount of Maddox's perspective it was written in third person, which is a major pet hate of mine, it definitely would have been more to my personal liking to have both POV written first person, but as u can see I still gave it 5* so not a major problem. Would definitely recommend ???

Megan Schiffour says

I started read this and immediately knew it was not going to be long enough for me. I am a sucker for all things fairy tale; I never quite grew up from dreaming about becoming a Disney princess.

Elle (Arielle) is NOT your Disney princess though, she is a true siren with a past of leading men to their deaths. The love of her life ... and his death force her into a life that she would not have chosen on her own. One of the best cold case detectives in Grimm, she is onto a new case featuring the Charmings, who are not as Charming as we'd believed, and take her into Wonderland. A land different from all else and nothing is as it seems, especially the very tasty and uptight Mad Hatter (Maddox). Together they piece together their two cases and discover a little more than they bargained for!

Elaine Carass says

I really wanted to enjoy this book, but, I found the constant focus on Elle and Maddox's sexual tensions to become increasingly annoying. Yes I knew it was a romance story, but I felt that too much time was spent on that rather than the murder part which was very interesting. And just for once can't we have a female lead who doesn't hate herself.

Robbin says

I thought this was such an interesting take on a siren named Arielle, aka Elle. After Elle was banished to Grimm by her father, she works as a cold case detective. When one case sends her to Wonderland chasing down leads she ends up turning to the Mad Hatter, aka Maddox to help her find her way around Wonderland. It was dark and twisted all of the classic stories we know, and I loved that. But I could have done without all of the emotional angst. I understand that's part of the story but they were wallowing in their feelings so much

for one another, it really took away from the story being told about the cold case. That's just me, I would have liked to have read more about their case being solved and their relationship growing and character development. Instead, it kind of felt like every other scene was someone having some kind of emotional outburst. My sister calls that "being all up in your feelings".

Elisa Hordon says

Ok I love a good fantasy story and this one was just good, nothing really stood out and grabbed though, it was like I had read it or seen it before, so while I enjoyed it, it was just ok.

Lya says

Really impressive

I always worry when there are characters mixed from different universes that are known. There is a jarring sense of things wrong, and you lose the story.

I have to admit that this did give me pause at first, reading names and finding they didn't line up to expected roles. But, as the story went on, it was so well written that I barely blinked anymore, too engaged in what was happening to more than be interested in the recreation of the character in the context of the plot.

I highly recommend this book.

Samantha says

Summary from Goodreads:

"Welcome to a world of fantasy, fairy tales, and murder most foul...

My name's Elle. Princess Arielle, for those who know about my past. Cursed by my own father, now I'm banished to Grimm. I'm a siren, killer, and one of the best damned cold-case detectives in all of the bloody realms. I don't stop until I discover the truth, no matter where that truth leads.

My next case sends me to Wonderland, a harrowing place of madness and dark secrets. I'd rather be landlocked than step foot on that tainted soil, but I don't have a choice after discovering Alice's bloodstained ribbon and a bandicoot's claw covered in blood beside two stiff's at the Charming's sprawling castle. My insatiable thirst for truth leads to a conspiracy that will not only rock the Grimm world but also my own.

No one ever walks away from Wonderland unscathed... No one."

My Thoughts:

I am so, so excited to have found this series and to have read this book! I picked this one up thanks to reading another blogger that I trust's thoughts on the second book (I believe), and was just so intrigued by the

sound of it. I instantly downloaded a copy to my kindle and didn't look back. This was such a fun read but it's going to be kind of hard for me to describe. Take all of the fairy tale characters (and even worlds) that you know and love, then twist them into something different, darker, and edgier. That's basically the best way that I can describe this book. Let me just tell you that I loved every minute of it! Our main character is Elle - or Arielle from the Little Mermaid (kinda sorta) if you are keeping track - but in this book she is basically a badass detective who has been banished from her kingdom for unknown reasons. She has to go Wonderland during her current investigation which is a dark and dangerous place. There's even the Mad Hatter and the Hare except the Hatter is a handsome investigator for Wonderland who has visions of the future and past. I could keep going but I'm sure you get the point by now. Nothing is as you expect it might be, and one of the best things about this book was just seeing what this author did with all of the fairy tale characters. She created her own world with some of these well known but albeit very different characters. And I just could not get enough of it!! I plowed through the pages of this book and enjoyed every minute of it! I just had to see how everything was going to turn out! There is quite the chemistry between Elle and Hatter which I'm looking forward to seeing continued on in future books (I hope!). I don't know what else to say besides read this one! It's SO good!

Overall, I obviously enjoyed myself immensely while reading this book. I've actually already started reading the second book in the series because I just needed more time with these characters and this world. The only downside is that I'm going to have to wait for book three (please say there is going to be a book three). Luckily, it does look like this author has other series that I can check out to tide me over. Fair warning that the author ties up the ending of this book perfectly....but....she gives you a hook that makes you instantly want to jump into the next book. Which I obviously did! I would recommend this book to fans of the paranormal, urban fantasy, and fairy tales in general. Half of the fun is just seeing the different characters and aspects that she incorporates into the story! Highly recommended!

Bottom Line: This was honestly such a great beginning to this new series that I couldn't get enough!

Disclosure: I read my copy of this book thanks to my Kindle Unlimited membership. Thoughts are my own!

Jim Guldner says

Enjoyable read

A number of plot twists and turns. Somewhat similar to the premise of tv show Once Upon a Time, you meet characters from fairy tales, with backstroke which don't always nice with the stories we've read. Prime examples are the Grimm PD's No and of course Elle, who is not the Disney variant of Arielle, rather a much darker and twisted mermaid (or siren). Suffice it to say, the differences in the stories are certainly intriguing, as you meet or here about Goose (mother), Hatter, Alice, and a host of others. And yes there is sex and sexual tension, so be aware, but it is also not the be all and end all of the story. Liked the book, going for book 2 now.
