



# Bayou Myth

*Mary Ann Loesch*

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## **Bayou Myth** Mary Ann Loesch

As a sixteen year old voodoo queen in the making, Joan Renault just wants to be like all the other girls in the small town of Monte Parish, Louisiana-obsessed with boys and swamped with social lives. If the other kids would quit calling her "hoodoo hag," she might have a small shot at normality. It would also help if Joan's weekend outings with her secret crush, Dave, weren't always being interrupted by her dead Grandmere, the legendary Marie Laveau. After all, it's hard to make out with your best friend when your grandmother is watching! But when you come from a long line of voodoo priestesses with dried gator heads decorating the wall of their huts, normal doesn't come easily. When Joan witnesses the brutal sacrifice of a child to a tree Druid, she learns her Grandmere's scandalous past has come back to haunt those living in the present. Hera, a vengeful voodoo priestess is determined to use the residual energy of Pandora's Box to revive a sleeping voodoo god and declare war on the descendants of Marie Laveau, especially Joan. Suddenly, Greek myths are being re-enacted all over town, and Joan has her hands full trying to sort it all out. With the approach of Samedi's Day-the voodoo day of resurrection-Joan must learn to accept her destiny in order to stop the approaching threat to her family and friends.

## **Bayou Myth Details**

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Author : Mary Ann Loesch

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# From Reader Review Bayou Myth for online ebook

## Seth says

This was the first voodoo hoodoo book I've read. I was a bit worried it might be too creepy for me. But, I must say, I enjoyed the book. It is a quick read with interesting characters and I hope the start of a new series. There was a bit of guts and gore but not enough to turn me off. If you are up for a bit of magic and you are not offended by a bit of heart gouging and head chopin' then give this book a try.

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## Rea says

Full review can be found [here](#).

As soon as I read the synopsis for this one I was sold. Voodoo and Greek gods? Cool! Totally sounds like my sort of thing... Then I stopped and thought about it for a bit and I started to have a few reservations about whether or not the author would be able to successfully pull off a believable scenario that mixes voodoo and the myths and legends on Ancient Greece. So I went into the book in a state that was somewhere between excitement and trepidation.

Excitement won.

I read the book in two sittings. One that was about 1-25% (I only stopped because it was late and I couldn't keep my eyes open anymore!) and the second was the other 75% of the book. The fact that I sat down and read 75% of a book with no breaks says everything. I could finish the review right here... but I'm not going to.

I'm not going to spoil how the author manages to merge the two very different cultures of voodoo and the Greek myths and legends, but I thought the way she did it was rather ingenious. It allowed them both to stay true to themselves without forcing either into an uncomfortable situation. I was so glad that they were mixed together in such a way rather than trying to shove two pantheons together and require them to work.

The story itself turned out to be addictive. I was in one of those "just one more chapter..." phases. You know, the ones you never slip out of until you've turned the last page and then you have an oops moment as you realise just how much of the day you've lost. Oops. But it was worth it! I've never seen Marie Laveau portrayed in a positive light before so this was an interesting experience for me from that point of view. I was also captivated by the Louisiana bayou setting. For someone who grew up in the Pennines and the Alps, the bayou is a far cry from any environment I've known. That could be part of its mysticism and the charm it weaves on me. I loved how the author managed to really bring it to life for me, despite the huge distance separating me from it.

Joan, the main character, was also very interesting. Chosen to be the next great voodoo priestess, she's still in the phase where she resists her calling despite her grandmere's consistent intervening. Of course, events line up just so and she can no longer ignore the destiny that is before her. I did occasionally get the feeling that she was a little too blind to things around her. For example, at one point she thinks she's talking to her best friend and just blurts out her whole plan when he's practically interrogating her. Only later does she realise that her best friend might not actually have been the one controlling the body she was interacting

with.

There was also a fair amount of exposition through dreams. This is not something that I'm usually fond of, preferring other means to be used to uncover secrets, but I have to say that it did work fairly well in this particular novel.

I wasn't aware that this is actually the first of a series. In a way, I'm slightly bummed out because I want to have the answers to my questions already – in the form of the next novel of course! Things are not really rounded off at the end of the story and a lot of threads are left dangling to be picked up come book two. I really want to find out how Joan's relationship with her best friend, Dave, will progress now that she's finally uncovered the truth about the secrets he's been keeping. I've got my fingers crossed for them as Dave turned out to be a very decent guy.

Possibly the very best thing about this novel is the role that the parents play. There are far too many YA novels out there where the parents either aren't there or just don't give a damn about what their teenage child is getting up to. In Bayou Myth the parents played a very positive role. They cared about Joan, gave her limits to what she could do (not that she always respected them) and helped her when the going got tough. There should be more YA books out there where the parents are portrayed in such a positive light.

Overall a fabulous book. When's book 2 coming out?

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### **Victoria Richards says**

A surprisingly good book that I couldn't put down. I found myself reading it till the wee hours of the morning. With each passing chapter I couldn't wait to find out what happens next.

In the deep south of the Bayou area near New Orleans, the story of a young girl, Jane who has inherited her Grandmother's voodoo powers. Mentored by the ghost her grandmother in voodoo, they battle the forces of evil to save themselves and those around them. With the horrible murder of an innocent boy, the story takes on dark tones as still young Jane struggles to figure out what two evil spirits are up to.

Every chapter really kept me guessing. The author even managed to weave the Greek Gods in the story of voodoo, that on the surface sounds inconceivable, but she does it in a way to make it very believable.

All Joan wants is to simply be your average teenager. However she must come to grips with the truth... that she is destined to be far from normal. Her destiny is to become a voodoo priestess like her Grandmother was. She must embrace her voodoo heritage to save herself, her two friends, and even the entire world from 2 dark spirits from the other side as they try to break through to the living.

Full of voodoo, mystery, murder and evil spirits. This deeply entertaining and fun read will have you wishing the story wasn't done. Very enjoyable and highly recommended.

Bayou Myth- <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B007...>

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## **Stephanie Ward says**

'Bayou Myth' is a story full of mystery, magic, ghosts, and typical teenage problems. I love books that deal with magic, so the fact that this one was centered around voodoo drew me right in. The story is set in the perfect place - the bayous of Louisiana - which makes it all the more mysterious and dark. All the characters, especially Joan, were well written and believable. I was instantly rooting for Joan to beat the darkness that was threatening her family and was cheering her along when it came to her romantic endeavors. The story itself was fast paced, flowed really well, and was a fun read - I didn't want it to end. I loved being transported to the backwoods of Louisiana and surrounded by the voodoo, ghosts, and dark magic that wound around the characters and the setting. I highly recommend this book to lovers of the paranormal and to those who love reading about magic.

Disclosure: I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Angela Newberry says**

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Bayou Myth. This book is an adventure-packed novel that I could not put down. The story is an endless series of twists and turns – there is never a dull moment in the life of Joan Renault. The many characters (some with bodies and some without) are well developed leaving you rooting for the good guys and fearing the evil ones. I thrived on the detailed descriptions of voodoo priestesses with a dose of Greek mythology intertwined. This is an entertaining glimpse into another world – but, I must say, I will never look at a tree the same again.

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## **Kelly Knapp says**

### **Great book for young adult and adults**

When our protagonist is born, her parents believe she is special, so they wait for the perfect name. Then, at the age of five she hears her great, great, great-grandmother apperates and begins to tell her just how special she is destined to become. When her mother hears this, she tells the five year old about Joan of Arc, who heard voices and that it is the perfect name. This is all background, the real story begins when Joan is about 15. Her grand mother reappears and urges Joan to avert a catastrophe, but she is too late and something has released. Grandmother tell Joan that she is the only one who can catch and re-imprison what was released. Why has this task been dropped in her lap? Because grandmother is the famous Marie Lavaue, the greatest voodoo priestess and Joan may just be even stronger.

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## **Tracy says**

I liked this book but I didn't love it. The character building was kind of lacking, I didn't really care about any of the characters. I think the first 30% of the book could have been the entire book with a little more character detail and back story. I almost didn't finish this one but I wanted to see where the book was going. There was just so much going on though with the voodoo and the Greek mythology.

I won this book from the giveaway on goodreads.

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## **TheCosyDragon says**

This review has been crossposted from my blog at The Cosy Dragon . Please head there for more in-depth reviews by me, which appear on a timely schedule.

Joan's a mixed blood voodoo witch. When I put it like that, it sounds very negative - but really Joan is on the side of good. There's lots of nasty things out there though to get her, and she's not got anyone who really can help her other than a dead great grandma. Sound good?

Before reading this novel I had had hardly any contact with any form of voodoo. I found it to be a good introduction with just the right amount of detail. Hoodoo I have come across, in the movie "The Skeleton Key". If you like horror, and you've got a thing for magic, I'd recommend it. It's totally a great film (coming from me who never watches movies, that must mean something).

Joan is a likeable enough character, although I didn't get a feel for her until later in the novel. The first couple of chapters are far more about what she can do, and the big things that are changing in her world. This novel is plot driven somehow, rather than character driven.

I kept thinking about this novel, and how Joan was going to fix things (and also how many more people would die) while I was away from it, so I would have said I was suckered in by it. It was obvious who the bad people were, but the how and why of things was much more fascinating.

The ending was quite satisfactory, although I don't feel the need for a sequel as if I would if it was an outstanding novel. I'll give it three stars, because I still could put it down, and wasn't completely hooked.

I received this book free in a giveaway. It took me far too long to get around to reading it though, and I've had this book on my ebook shelf since September last year. That kind of reading length really upsets me, but I'm glad I've gotten a chance to read and review it now.

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## **Becca Smith says**

Bayou Myth is definitely a page turner! I literally sat down and read this in two sittings (and the only reason it wasn't one was because it was 4 in morning before I forced myself to go to bed!). Ms. Loesch creates a unique world full of magic and myth that had me completely captivated. The main character Joan was such an interesting and relatable character and Ms. Loesch gives her such a strong voice. She created a kick-ass girl who can take care of herself. It brings me back to "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" days, where she saves everyone and doesn't need to be saved. The book is fast-paced and Ms. Loesch obviously put a lot of research into the study of voodoo. It felt very real and natural to the characters and plot. As a YA book, it was the perfect combination of romance, teen drama, horror and action. I seriously was very creeped out by a few moments (did I mention I stayed up until 4? Lol). Overall, this was a fantastic read and I highly recommend it!

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## **Donna (BLHmistress) says**

As many of you know I am a huge fan of Mythology, so I couldn't wait to dive into this book. Not only does this book have Greek Mythology but it mixes it with Voodoo and it blew me away. I totally became engrossed in this storyline, so much so I didn't want to take time to eat and prayed my Kindle's battery would hold out so I could finish it. I read this none stop and I still want more.

Joan is a typical sixteen year old for the exception that her Grandmere is none other than Marie Laveau. Which I found totally fascinating. I have heard the myth's regarding Marie Laveau but never read a book with her in it and I just couldn't get enough. Even when the author mixed Greek and Voodoo, I thought I might have gotten lost but I didn't. She did a fantastic job weaving the myths together.

The characters were well written and the story flowed well. There was a lot of twists and turns in this book as well, which is another thing I love when I am reading a book. I can't figure what is going to happen next.

I have nothing bad to say about this book, I loved every minute of it just wish it didn't end. I will definitely read more from this author. I hope maybe we might see more of Joan, Dave and the rest of the characters in the future

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## **V.A. Dold says**

This is another one of those "I couldn't put it down books". If you have read the Sherrilyn Kenyon's Dark Hunter series and love the Greek pantheon here is a great new twist, (voodoo style). Personally I love anything located in New Orleans or the Cajon bayou. Add to that the paranormal aspect and I am so there!

I really loved Joan and that she was so strong and yeah (KickASS). Being a Thank you, but no thank you I will save myself kind of girl, I could really relate to her. Her relationship and interaction with the great voodoo priestess, her Grand'Mere Marie Laveau is wonderful. I felt like I was there in the room with them. Can you imagine being mentored by the Great Marie Laveau and claiming her as a relative!

I got a kick out of the ineptness of the snooty Ana. And, I have a huge old tree out back that I will never look at the same again....read it and you will see why.

I would have no problem handing this book to any teenager to read, well done Mary Ann.

A big 5 thumbs up to you!

I received this book for free from the I.O. Book Tours in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Tracy says**

What an interesting tale of voodoo witchcraft ! This introduced me to a whole other culture of mystery and magic. Joan is a strong heroine surviving her teen years while discovering her history and true self.

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## **Debbie says**

This turned out to be a great read. Voodoo and all the strange that goes with it.

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## **Tanja (Tanychy) St. Delphi/James says**

It's actually 3.5 stars

Considering how many paranormal books I read it's strange that I haven't read a lot of books about witches. This is one of those rare voodoo books.

Main character Joan, or how her parents call her Baby Girl is high school girl who has some powers. She sees ghosts and deals with voodoo magic. She is still young and in process of learning so sometimes is difficult to deal with all paranormal things around her. Through this book she grows up and learns how to become better at what she's doing. The person who will help her the most is her best friend Dave. Although relation between them could become more than just best friends relationship. Oh another person who will help her is her deceased grandmother Marie. She is the ghost now and only person who can see her is Joan. If you're lover of voodoo stories with maybe a dose of horror then this book will be interesting for you. You'll enjoy in all different voodoo stories and all relations between characters. For me this book was really fun and fast read. Although Joan is too young for this story if you ask me. Someone more mature would be much better.

All in all this is one readable and funny book. If you have time check it out

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## **Liseth (Read-a-holicZ) says**

My review: As seen on Read-A-holicZ

First of all, I just want to say that I LOVE any book set in Louisiana. So I had to read this book. It was really good. I mean, the synopsis was really interesting. Long but interesting.

The story starts out with like a flashback event in Joan's life, about how she "entered" the world of voodoo & how she met her mentor & grandmere, Maria. Whom was pesky, and annoying like a grandma but looked like a teen, whom I also liked as a character.

Joan, Dave, Ana, and her parents. Joan was a great protagonist. She had attitude,bravery, and confidence for who and what she was. I loved Dave, at the begging. He was troubled yet calm and of course, hot. Then at the end I wasn't sure, he kinda-maybe does something to Joan, which in my opinion is unthinkable if it was true.

Ana, oh Ana. I loved to hate her too, like Joan. I mean, the mean things she did to Joan & then to call her for favors, playing the guilty card for Joan was low. But there relationship made me keep reading further, to see



what else would happen between them. Joan's parents are very interesting. Her mom is white & her dad is African American, so there is a mixing of races there. Both are open-minded, considered "hippies" for their loose views. Her dad is a sorta teacher to her, in voodoo.

There are some intense, kinda graphic scened in the book, that I found horrible yet fascinating at the same time. There were some funny-interesting scenes too. Especially with a ghost named Bart, who was a dead comedian who wouldn't pass until he performing at Cesar's Palace. Some crazy cheese goes down in that town. Also liked the scene with the little boy, who was eaten & beheaded by a tree, later found with the head stitched on. Eww. But creepy interesting.

The ending. The ending! It was a great ending to the book. Lot's of action going on there. So much emotions. I was crying by the last page. Ana & Dave both brought strong emotions to me. Sadness & betrayal. Ana, can't say what happens, but it killed me. I CAN NOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT BOOK. If there was a next book. I really don't know. But it was an AMAZING read, really enjoyed it. There is SO much more that I am not talking about, like Ana's father & Hera, who is SHE, READ THE BOOK!

Overall this book was intense and moving. The writer does a great job at creating a story that was enchanting & creepy! LOVED it! 5/5 feathers!

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