



## It Takes a Witch

*Heather Blake*

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## **It Takes a Witch** Heather Blake

Darcy Merriweather and her sister, Harper, hail from a long line of witches who have the power to grant wishes using spells. They've come to Enchanted Village in Salem, Massachusetts, to join the family business, but they soon find themselves knee deep in murder...

Until three weeks ago, Darcy and Harper were working dead-end jobs and trying to put their troubles behind them. Then their aunt Velma delivered a bombshell: They're actually Wishcrafters - witches with the power to grant wishes with a mere spell. Wanting a fresh start, they head to their aunt's magic-themed tourist town to master their newfound skills.

But their magic fails them when a wannabe witch turns up dead - strangled with Aunt Ve's scarf - and Ve's sweetheart, Sylar, is found looming over the body. Ve is standing by her man, but Darcy overheard Skylar wish that the victim would disappear - forever. With Harper distracted by her handsome new crush, Darcy is determined to sleuth her way to the truth. But it'll take more than a wish to unravel this mystery....

## **It Takes a Witch Details**

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Author : Heather Blake

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## From Reader Review It Takes a Witch for online ebook

### ?I?E???? says

This was a fun whodunnit with a delightful cast of quirky characters( Pepe the talking french mouse, a Phyllis Diller look alike!Haha!) Most of the time there is no fooling me as to who the murderer is, whether it's tv or books. The author was very smart about making many of the characters suspects which had me guessing who and why until the end. The romance is pretty much nonexistent but it's been set up for the next book, which I'm totally going to read!!

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### Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

It is very rare for me to feel a debut of a new mystery series deserves a five star rating, but, in "It Takes a Witch" by Heather Blake, it easily deserved the rating.

We are introduced to two sisters that have just found out they are 'Wishcrafters' meaning Witches that can grant wishes. Of course there are rules and they must be learned and adhered to. The elder sister, Darcy Merriweather, loves her new found skills and is so excited to move to The Enchanted Village in Salem, MA. The younger sister, Harper is happy working in a bookstore. This feels quite realistic as I would imagine being a true witch wouldn't be for everyone.

Darcy and Harper become involved in a murder of a wannabee witch, Alex when their Aunt's gentleman friend is accused of the murder.

Many delightful pages are spent letting us learn about the characters in the village and the sometimes humor involved in being a wishcrafter!

A sprinkle of romance and this book was a complete joy to read. I can hardly wait until the high summer to read the next novel.

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### Betty says

#### Wishcraft Begins

The first in the Wishcraft paranormal mysteries. I had trouble at first getting into the story. Once I understood the story I found myself smiling throughout out the book. After the death of their father Darcy and Harper learned from their Aunt Ve that they are Wishcrafters and they moved to Salem, Massachusetts to her. They have a lot to learn and have just started when a woman is murdered and Sylar their aunt's friend is accused of the crime. There are twists and turns,throughout as Darcy learned a about the Enchanted Village. The ending had me smillingq

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## **Melissa says**

I really enjoyed this Cozy mystery, featuring Darcy, her Sister and other Wishcrafters and Crafters that she knows.

Darcy gets involved solving a murder in The Enchanted Village, while starting a relationship with a ex-cop. She also meets some interesting characters in The Enchanted Village, including pets that were once humans..

There are some "twists and turns"...before the killer is revealed. The ending surprised me!

Im looking forward to the 2nd in this series!

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## **TL says**

2.5 stars

\*Another random grab off Overdrive app\*

Characters: 4 stars

Plot: 3 stars

Writing: 2.5 stars

Narrator: 4 stars

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This was an interesting concept, with so-so execution. I did love the idea of *The Enchanted Village* and the different crafts each Crafter had.

I also liked how the author did the magic system for the most part and how the Craft was hereditary.. each person having a specific craft instead of everyone casting spells for anything/everything.

### **\*SPOILER AHEAD, LOOK AT YOUR OWN RISK\***

One part that didn't sit well with me was (view spoiler)

The mystery of the murder and the culprit didn't pull me in for the most part, I was curious enough to see who did it and why but otherwise I wasn't really invested. I kept going with the book because I fell in love with the village and its inhabitants.

Favorites besides the MC and her sister:

Ve  
Mrs. P  
Mimi  
Evan  
Starla

When the killer was revealed, it WAS a surprise but I felt... nothing. Well... a bit except it was more of "Oh, that's who it was." type of reaction. The motive made sense but it felt like (to me) that it came out of left field, so to speak.

I wanted to smack Darcy at one point when she discovered a certain clue and went after it herself. Felt like it was put there for drama's sake.

A couple surprises came late in the game... and have me very intrigued, specially the latter. (Although I don't get all the secrecy surrounding the one point completely... hopefully it isn't dangled for too long).

All in all, very creative, with a few issues... I am interested enough to continue with the series. We'll see how it goes :).

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### **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

This book was incredibly cute/fun/light. Perfect if you're in the mood for a cozy or something amusing. It takes the witch theme and does something completely different with it. Rather than just the urban characters, the entire small town, 'Enchanted Village', is charming. Special touches are even added to each business name such as Spellbound books. People who are into a lot of magic and different elements surrounding that may be disappointed, though. To me the witch style is a bit weak that the main character possesses. In this world there are different types of crafters.

It rocks humor without having to try hard and the characters are likeable. The heroine Darcy has some realistic hangups and flaws, while the love interest of the story, Nick, is serious and yummy. From charming to chuckle-inducing, it's the entire town and their interactions which really makes the book have a sparkle.

Who the murderer is was a surprise to a degree (I guessed it before it was revealed, but only at the end), and the clues and lead-up are good for mystery buffs searching for a puzzle worth solving. As is usual with cozies, the violence level isn't high, gore not there in any way (unless you count disgusting, suspicious rashes!) Pacing is evenly applied, and the writing style holds its own charm.

I do have to wonder if this is an error though and if the writer meant homemade soap, not candles:

"..just about drove Troy nuts when he came home to find the hall mirror suddenly turned into mosaic of the house stinking of lye because I'd try to make homemade candles.."

It was a nice surprise for the emphasis in reading and love of books to be heavy. The heroine's sister, Harper, another fun quirky type, emphasizes throughout the novel how much she loves books. Found this part particularly cute:

"He does manage the bookstore, which is currently my favorite place on earth." Her eyes glazed over. "All those books. If I married him, I could probably work there the rest of my life. Nothing would make me happier."

"What about love?" Ve asked.

"Oh," Harper said solemnly. "I love books."

Overall I'm itching for more of this series and will definitely continue it. It's not the best magic/witch book I've read, but it's charm makes an incredible cozy mystery.

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### **Sinn says**

I was so excited to receive this book in the mail! The "Uncorrected Proofs" got me extremely excited! It made me feel like I was finally coming into my own as a book blogger! I really, really, really wanted to like this book, especially with the nice note left by the author. Unfortunately, I could not convince myself.

Where do I start? When I started reading this book, my husband asked what I thought of it. I told him that it was obvious it was the author's first book. It needed a lot of work. The author, while having an interesting story idea, needed to mature into her craft. After that, I found out the author has written several books. Oh wow . . .

First of all, I found Darcy and Harper's last name to be way too cliche. I could see it as a cute touch to a first time author, but it really annoyed me. Also, when a pickpocket was mentioned at the village meeting, Darcy was quick to jump to the conclusion that her sister was responsible. However, the audience is told that Harper only did crimes related to activism. That being the case, why does Darcy automatically assume her sister is stealing money from tourists? And that brings up the Enchanted Village . . . I cannot put my finger on it, but it felt too contrived.

The residents and business owners in the Enchanted Village are concerned about the pickpocket and the fact that it was driving tourists away. However, the murder had no effect on them. Does this seem weird? In addition, the residents didn't seem to be phased by the fact that someone was strangled behind the local bookstore. It was more of a novelty and something to titter about around the green. To a point I can see the gossip, but the author pushed it to an unbelievable point.

Multiple times Darcy and other people break into the victim's house/place of business. On the first occasion, it was to stop a thief. Unfortunately, the thief disappears into thin air, which leaves Darcy and her accomplice on the scene of a crime. Does this strike the cops as weird . . .? And, if this isn't enough, Darcy constantly tells the audience that she frowns upon breaking laws; however, since it was fine to break in once, she breaks in AGAIN!

Almost every chapter ends with a cliffhanger. The following chapter picks up sometime after the cliffhanger and barely comes back to it. While I understand a few cliffhangers, constantly doing it is a sign of an

immature writer. It felt as though she was doing it in an effort to keep the readers reading.

And, to add insult of injury, the characters in the book honestly believe that an allergic reaction is CONTAGIOUS!

There are many more issues I had with the book, but going into all of them would be overkill. To distill it down, I really did not enjoy this book. The idea was a creative one; however, it was not implemented properly. Normally, I would have given the author a lot of grace if this was her first book. It can take awhile for an author to mature into their craft. However, since she has many books out, there is no excuse. I'm sorry to give a low rating. The only thing that kept this book from getting one skull was the fact that I was curious who murdered Alex.

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### **Mirjam says**

Heather Blake's *It Takes a Witch* is an utterly bewitching and compulsive read. Time stood still while I was reading the book and it was only when I finished the book that I noticed it was long after midnight. On a weekday. However, *It Takes a Witch* is well worth sacrificing one's beauty sleep for! Heather Blake did an outstanding job creating a good plot, a charming community with big secrets, loveable characters and cute familiars. I enjoyed discovering the different crafts and the secret crafters community along with the very disarming Darcy Merriweather. Blake's characters are all well-drafted and very likeable, but the truly irresistible characters were the familiars. Especially the wonderful Pepe. I really hope Pepe continues to be an important supportive character in this series! According to Fantastic Fiction the second book in this amazing new supernatural mystery series is due in August this year. I would be sorely disappointed if they are wrong or the book is delayed. Thank you, Heather, for this amazing and well-imagined whodunit!

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### **Anagha Uppal says**

Originally posted on my blog: <http://book-spark.blogspot.com>  
Received as part of a book tour

An enchanting beginning to a fun, cute series! When sisters Darcy and Harper are told that they are witches (Wishcrafters to be exact), their world is turned upside down – and they are slightly relieved. Darcy is still recovering from a brutal divorce and Harper has just been released from jail (her attempts at activism tend to get her in trouble).

They arrive into the quaint little town of Enchanted Village that seems harmless on the outside. They've only been here two weeks when the sudden murder of Alexandra Shively rocks the town. Even more, the girls' aunt's sweetheart is accused when he is found leaning over the body. Everyone is convinced he's as dangerous as a big teddy bear -couldn't hurt a fly. Or is he so harmless?

With her sister Harper falling for the bookstore owner and her aunt beside herself with worry, it's up to Darcy to solve this mystery. And the private detective on the case she somehow keeps bumping into isn't such a bad incentive either...

I loved the intimate atmosphere of the book and its setting. What a fun place to live in! The former location of the Salem Witch Trials, witchcraft is widely practiced but is hidden under the guise of commercialism for tourists. How cool would it be to live in a place where everyone knows each other and the Crafters run

charming stores. The Wishcrafters run As You Wish, where you can order just about any job done. The Bakecrafter runs Gingerbread Shack filled with delectable sweets and you-can't-stop-after-one mini-treats. The Curecrafter is a highly recommended doctor. The Cloakcrafter has awesome dresses. And the tourists don't have a clue about the magic. It's the perfect haven.

And the characters are what make it such a cool place. It's a little difficult to keep them straight – there are a LOT of characters and you're introduced to many in the first chapter which was hard to keep up, but once you start to get to know them, they're easy to like. I love how they are all so accepting. Starla starts making plans to go jogging together after one conversation with Darcy. Darcy is so worried she goes to check up on Evan a day after she meets him (he's not the love interest, don't worry!) They're all just so sweet!

The romance was just okay. I can't explain it but it wasn't the kind of couple you would find yourself rooting for. The book provided plenty of twists and nice page-turning mystery, but there was always this underlying "happy" atmosphere that most reminded me of the show Hart of Dixie (yes, I watch that sometimes ;)

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### **Deena says**

This is the third series I've tried by Heather Blake/Webber. I really enjoy the Lucy Valentine stories she writes under the name Heather Webber. But this one...

The premise is fine, I guess. But the world-building is extremely weak, poorly developed, badly explained, and implemented unreasonably. The protagonist is almost painfully stupid for much of the book, which was too long.

The "crafter" concept just didn't work for me. "Lawcrafter"? Seriously? I'm pretty good at suspending disbelief, but the whole thing was just too weak and flimsy for me to handle.

I doubt I'll bother with the second one; this one was just disappointing.

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### **Jennifer says**

Why read: ARC tour review

What impressed me: It Takes a Witch takes a fabulous new look at witches. Instead of being able to do spells off all kinds, its witches are specialized through their hereditary lines. The most interesting line in Enchanted Village is Wishcrafters, those who make peoples wishes comes true. Main character Darcy being a Wishcrafter and having to grant any statement that begins with "I wish" makes for huge possibilities for the future of this series. This novel has a double mystery, neither of which I foresaw the resolution to. And the familiars! And the love interest! And the surprise twist ending! I could go on and on. It Takes a Witch just wowed me.

What disappointed me: Not a thing. An absolutely perfect series starter.

Recommended: Most definitely. Paranormal cozy mystery fans will fall in love with Darcy Merriweather and

Enchanted Village.

Continue series: Good lord, yes. You couldn't stop me if you tried.

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### **Jim says**

A cozy PNR mystery set in a small town that's full of secrets. Some of the secrets are dangerous, others are intriguing, & too many are just stupid ways to hurt people for no good reason. This could have been a 3 star read if not for the idiocy of some of the secrets, especially since there is a mysterious all-seeing woman who orders the place. One of the secrets leads to a lot of avoidable heart ache & even a couple of deaths, too. A reveal at the end felt like a cheap shot to me.

It was a pretty good mystery with interesting characters, though. The magical system is unique & was pretty interesting. I liked the issues with the potions & how complex many of the characters were. Still, I won't be reading another, but I think my daughter will like this series.

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

This new mystery series introduces us to Darcy and Harper Merriweather. They have come to Salem, Massachusetts and the Enchanted Village to help their Aunt Ve in the family business. You see, they come from a long line of witches, specifically Wishcrafters, they can make wishes come true. The news of their history is quite a surprise but they are going to embrace it and learn all about it with the help of Aunt Ve. The first thing they learn is that the village is inhabited by witches and mortals and telling who's who is not an easy task.

Shortly after arriving in the village a mortal that wants to be a witch is strangled with dear Aunt Ve's scarf. The body is found by Aunt Ve's sweetheart, Sylar, and he ends up being accused of the crime. Ve believes he didn't do it and the girls would do anything for their aunt. Unfortunately you can't just wish for the truth to appear. In fact there is a whole manual on Wishcrafting and there are so many rules. So Darcy starts by doing some old fashioned detective work, a little breaking and entering, and some eavesdropping to put all the clues together. Who knew magic could be so much work?

#### Dollycas's Thoughts

I wish this story never ended or that the next one was in my hands today. This is a fun little mystery and a really delightful story. Murder, magic, mystery, they just naturally go together. A little romance adds to the fun.

The Enchanted Village is truly a magical place, full of whimsical characters. A place where wishes come true and spells are cast. A place where the familiar becomes extraordinary. A place I would love to visit often. I wish I could go there now. Sadly, no Wishcrafters around here today, but A Witch Before Dying will be out in August. I will just have to wait. Until then you can enjoy It Takes a Witch: A Wishcraft Mystery. It is just the book you have been wishing for.

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## **Maureen DeLuca says**

I went with an open mind- I gave it a shot. Not for me- But, there are those who really enjoyed it- so I guess ignore my review - and read some others. To be honest , I read this for one of my book challenges- I would not have picked this book up otherwise. But, the good thing about some challenges- it can give you an 'excuse' to pick up a book you otherwise would not have. I had some "good, cute" moments- but just not enough of them!

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## **Leya says**

This book should have had a disclaimer on the cover: Do not start reading before bed. It may keep you up all night. And it did, too. Once I began the book I couldn't put it down and yes I was up until 3ish this morning. I cannot complain. The book is very good. Me, on the other hand, not so much. I've been dragging my feet all day long. Yes, I'm tired but I got to read a really book.

Darcy and Harper are new to Enchanted Village and to the Craft. They go about their daily life slowly adjusting to a new place and their gift, they're learning the rules and secrecy of having this gift. Along the way they meet interesting people and I got a feeling that this series entourage will be awesome. The main character, Darcy, is very likable, she's going through an adjustment period in her life, she's newly divorced and she's sworn off men. Until she meets Nick. He too has some issues, he's a single dad raising a daughter. Oh yeah, they're attracted to each other, and I just know that the author will stretch this romance for a few books. Hehehe. There are a bunch of other interesting people, Evan and Starla, Aunt Ve, Pepe, Mrs P, and Arthur. The mystery itself was a very well written. I truly could not guess who could have killed Alex. It seemed like the list was growing constantly. And I was very surprised on who the murderer was.

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