



# Witch-Hunt

*Wendy Scott*

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**Witch-Hunt** Wendy Scott

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Two tales entwine (excerpts below).

Sabrina is thrust out of her sheltered life at Mistress Florisah's healing school after the destruction of the witch-ancestor portraits and the appearance of Lauren the Destroyer's ghost. An anti-witchcraft regime is poised on Karthalon's borders threatening full scale genocide, unless Sabrina, the last of Lauren's bloodline, can destroy the Lodestone and restore magic to Valloaria. Hundreds of years before Lauren had wrought the cataclysmic demise of the Council of Witches by unleashing the Lodestone and now Sabrina is the only one who can undo Lauren's legacy. Sabrina struggles to accept this suicide mission and is distracted by her inappropriate affection for Micah, a prospect monk. Lauren's ghost haunts Sabrina's dreams and her diary reveals the tragic events behind Lauren's actions. With invasion imminent, Sabrina embarks on her quest armed only with a sliver of the Lodestone and Lauren's diary.

## Witch-Hunt Details

Date : Published December 2012 by Wendy Scott

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Author : Wendy Scott

Format : Kindle Edition 239 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Witches, Magic

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# From Reader Review Witch-Hunt for online ebook

## John Hugh Glen says

A Review of Lodestone (Witch-Hunt) by Wendy Scott

Review by: John H Glen

Date; 11-Sep-13

Format: E-Book

ASIN: B00AMQX7DO

Publisher: Wendy Scott; 1 edition (11 Dec 2012)

My rating: 4 stars

Authors/Publishers Book Description/Synopsis

Two tales entwine (excerpts below).

Sabrina is thrust out of her sheltered life at Mistress Florisah's healing school after the destruction of the witch-ancestor portraits and the appearance of Lauren the Destroyer's ghost. An anti-witchcraft regime is poised on Karthalon's borders threatening full-scale genocide, unless Sabrina, the last of Lauren's bloodline, can destroy the Lodestone and restore magic to Valloaria. Hundreds of years before Lauren had wrought the cataclysmic demise of the Council of Witches by unleashing the Lodestone and now Sabrina is the only one who can undo Lauren's legacy. Sabrina struggles to accept this suicide mission and is distracted by her inappropriate affection for Micah, a prospect monk. Lauren's ghost haunts Sabrina's dreams and her diary reveals the tragic events behind Lauren's actions. With invasion imminent, Sabrina embarks on her quest armed only with a sliver of the Lodestone and Lauren's diary.

What Do I Think?

I really thought that this story-weaver's imagination in this superb book is a breath of fresh air, she has crafted a world that is recognisable to us, however it is a world inhabited by individuals and animals that are new and utterly credible.

This story-weaver knows just how much to keep you enthralled every time I thought I identified where the story was moving, Wendy Scott took it somewhere else.

As I have already said, there is an abundance of believable three-dimensional individuals, with their own plans and struggles.

It's an enthralling story and left me eager to uncover what happens to the central characters.

The vistas are described superbly, and draw you right in to this world of Valloaria.

The weaver of this story weaves the back-story via a diary written by the heroine's ancestor, and that is all I am willing to say as I just don't like spoilers and will not spoil a well-woven story myself.

So in conclusion I have given this story and story weaver just 4 Stars, I liked it and think that Wendy Scott's stories will tempt a much wider audience than you would think.

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## Emma Jaye says

A classic fantasy tale with an interesting theme. There are plenty of believable 3 dimensional characters,

with their own agendas and personal conflicts. It's an intriguing read and left me hungry to discover what happens to the main characters on an interpersonal level as well as in their society in general. The door is definitely wide open for future books in this series, although you aren't left hanging at the end of Lodestone, just very curious about how things will turn out.

Scenes are described beautifully, and draw you in, without the annoying repetitive details that some established fantasy authors insist on to pad their books. For example although setting up camp fires, cooking, eating and clothing is described in sufficient detail, you don't suffer endless repeats of each meal while the characters travel.

The author weaves the 'back story' in via a diary, and although I found the 'accent' used a little irritating at times, it is well constructed, feeding in information at a suitable pace throughout the main tale.

I'd have given it five stars if they'd been a little more 'adult situations' between the characters, but then it wouldn't appeal to such a wide audience, and it is a very personal preference.

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## **oakie says**

it was a run of the mill magic Harry Potter clone full of sexy making out scenes and an unoriginal plot.

some of the choices made don't make much sense to me. and this is where the spoilers will begin. minor, but still a warning.

her horse is afraid of everyone, it took Sabrina a year to get the horse to trust her. but she somehow managed to gallop across the country with her not ever freaking out or panicking outside of the normal horse amount. Sabrina freaked out thinking someone was in the horse's stall but let's ride her free across the world full of people.

she had horrible nightmares about her long dead relative haunting her, she most likely would have been talking in her sleep and freaking out like most people with normal nightmares. why did none of the boys question this during the months they traveled together? even just that she had nightmares, especially when she slept cuddled up to the young boy to comfort him.

the monks were said to be logical, would debate until long after they needed to make a decision on defense. yet the main chamber of the oldest monks, those who would talk the most, going by old folks in my life, they just quickly decide she needs to go after the lodestone and they will defend as best they can there while she destroyed it.

also where was that old master guy? they acted really suspicious when he was mentioned and nothing ever came of it. nobody batted an eye and yet it was made like it was important to the reader. not sure if this was supposed to be followed up and edited out or for the sequel or forgotten. but it left me frustrated.

the scenes with her and Micah stealing away for making out were so cheesy romance novel that I sent quotes to my friends and we laughed about it. "he touched where no one has touched before" was said so many times I could have made a drinking game out of it.

also did we ever figure out what that fire rain was because it was kind of important to stop that???

so basically, it was average, with quite a few plot Holes that were never talked about. if you don't think about that stuff you'll probably like it but I'm not one for being set up for information and then it drifting off as a past thought.

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## **Ian Wood says**

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmetic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's reviews on the blog typically feature two or three images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a book is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate it three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

I rated this book WARTY!

**WARNING! MAY CONTAIN UNHIDDEN SPOILERS! PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!**

This is book one in the Lodestone series, because why publish one book and then create something brand new when you can milk the same tedious topic for an entire series? I am not a fan of series, as you can guess. They are, with very few and treasured exceptions, boring, and they are abusive in that they actively prey on reader addiction. I've seen readers review a book negatively and then admit that they're going to read the next in the series because they have to know what happens! How wrong-headed is that? People who write series are no different, on the bottom line, than drug pushers, and publishers and writers are okay with this and indulge themselves in it mercilessly. I am not on-board with that, and I am not an addict!

The title is about as unoriginal as you can get. Sometimes the publisher rips the right to title their own novel right out of the author's hands, so maybe it's not her fault, but BN lists thirteen pages of books when you type this title into their search engine, and the first page consists almost entirely of books sharing almost this exact title! As I quickly discovered, originality is not this novel's forte.

This book started out just fine - minor issues, but otherwise quite engrossing, until the shirtless guy showed up with his muscles rippling. Seriously? It was actually funny because he was brushing down a horse which had just arrived in the stable, and his own eyes were exactly like a horse's - brown with long lashes! Since this is a book of witchcraft, maybe the guy's a horse? Of course this begs the question as to what other traits he has and whether this is really a young adult novel about witchcraft or if it's simply YA erotica. I'm guessing it's the former even as I continue to wonder about the wrong-headedness of this stuck-in-a-rut approach to stories about young girls (and I use the word 'rut' deliberately).

Seriously, though, the problem is that this is yet another in a long, long, way-too-long, line of books with a female main character who is presented as heroic, yet right up front the author starts telling us loudly that this girl is actually quite useless without a macho guy to validate her. Why would an author - especially a female author - do this to a girl? I have to say that this put me right off this book. Fortunately for the author,

it had been interesting enough until that point for me to want to continue reading it, but I was definitely not pleased.

It certainly didn't help at one point in chapter 4, we were explicitly told that, "Women are nature's sacred carriers, holding the precious seeds of future life, and are far closer to spiritual perfection than a man could ever be." Seriously? Please, get it right. Women carry half a seed of life; men carry the other half. Let's not get disgustingly genderist about this. Women do carry that life in their bodies for nine months, and pay a hefty price for that. I don't get this kind of writing: one which on the one hand puts women on a pedestal like this, and then on the other, renders them as air-headed, blushing, giggling, flibbertigibbets as soon as His Royal Majesty King Shirtless o' the Rippling Muscles shows up. A woman cannot intelligently be both a strong female character and a man's 'bit of skirt'.

What's almost as bad is that this is yet another Harry Potter clone: it's a school for witchcraft, with an orphaned child who is \*special\*. On top of that, it really bothers me that writers take up a fantastical and boundless topic like witchcraft, full of adventure and promise, and then hobble it by placing it into a rigidly mundane setting. Just like in Harry Potter, there's a council (like the Ministry of Magic) which controls the witches. Seriously? I don't get the mentality whereby an author can take the supernatural and then treat it as the ordinary, with schools, and controls, and councils and - well in short, make it exactly like the mundane world. How unimaginative is that? The supernatural deserves better!

As if that's not bad enough, Sir Shirtless is suddenly man-handling Sabrina - the main character (Sabrina? Seriously? Let's get some originality, please!). Instead of approaching her respectfully and standing away from her, advising her as to how to brush this particular horse, this creep is all over her, grabbing her hand like she's a little child - but then that's how this kind of jerk views women, isn't it?

We read: "...strong fingers radiating warmth slipped over hers, and a musk-laden voice, breathed into her ear." It's not even good punctuation. A musk-laden voice? What does that even mean? Is the author confusing husky and musky? There's clearly no concept of chivalry in this novel, so why not set as an example that it's okay to grab and manipulate women without even considering a need for permission, let alone actually asking for it. Clearly women don't deserve that kind of respect in this world, any novel which doesn't respect women likewise doesn't deserve my time in reading it.

I rate this novel misogynistic. You can see from the covers of some of her other novels (such as Ferrasium, Golden Scarab, and Pyramidion), that either the author or her publisher is very much into the objectification of women. I'm starting to become convinced that such novels should be reviewed negatively without even reading them, based on the cover alone.

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## **Cas Peace says**

This is a great book with some very well developed characters. The writing flows easily and is a pleasure to read. There's plenty of action and mystery, with the author drawing the reader forward with every scene. Sabrina is a character who is bound to attract followers. This is the first book in a series and I'm sure readers will be keen to know how her story progresses. I would recommend this book to YA readers and anyone who enjoys fantasy.

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## Alexes says

Wow! I was completely blown away by the author's imagination in this wonderful book. She has created a world that is familiar and known to us, but populated by characters and animals that are fresh and completely believable. Every time I thought I knew where the story was going, Scott took it someplace else. Very well-written. Highly recommended.

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## Samantha says

I couldn't put this down once I started it. I didn't think it was going to be what it was and this book ended up being more than I thought. I can't wait for the next book.

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## William Stuart says

I'm trying to work my TBR down a little bit and here's the review for Lodestone Book 1 Witch Hunt by Wendy Scott!

Synopsis (from the author): Sabrina and Lauren's tales entwine – linked by blood and magic. Sabrina, a newly fledged healer, is thrust out of her sheltered life at Mistress Florisah's healing school after the destruction of the witch-ancestor portraits. An anti-witchcraft militia is poised on Karthalon's borders threatening full scale genocide, unless Sabrina, the last of Lauren's bloodline, can destroy the Lodestone, and restore magic to Valloaria, but the Lodestone is buried deep within the heart of the Order's headquarters. Sabrina struggles to accept this suicide mission, and is distracted by her inappropriate affection for Micah, a prospect monk. Lauren's ghost haunts Sabrina's dreams as her diary reveals the tragic events behind Lauren's actions. With invasion imminent, Sabrina embarks on her quest armed only with a sliver of the Lodestone, and Lauren's diary but how can a lone girl prevail against an army?

What I liked: I thought at first this book would be a run-of-the-mill fantasy, but I was pleasantly surprised. There were some common elements, but the idea of healers that were really witches was a nice twist. Sabrina graduates from the healing school and discovers she is the descendent of Lauren, who halted all magic in Valloaria. Told as a story that moves between Sabrina's day-to-day journey and Lauren's account through her diary, the tale moves along nicely. There are elements of romance, coming of age, sacrifice, and sorrow, with enough action to keep it interesting, and the development of Micah is intriguing.

What I didn't like: The story did meander a little bit and, just for me, the graphic at the start of each chapter and on the cover seemed lighthearted for the story (sorry, but it did irritate me for some reason). Other than that, I couldn't find much to dislike!

Overall impression: I liked the story, the characters, and the action. Sabrina takes on an impossible task and how she manages it was cool. I would recommend Lodestone Book 1 Witch Hunt to anyone who enjoys a nice fantasy read!

My rating: 5 Stars

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## **Vashti Quiroz-Vega says**

Lodestone: (Witch-Hunt) is a beautifully written, fascinating young adult horror fantasy about witches. The main character, Sabrina is a typical teenager with boy crushes, mood swings, insecurities and a bit of an attitude, which is to be expected. I didn't like her love interest, Micah. He rubbed me the wrong way. I was on the fence about Deakon the monk, because he came across cold and I thought monks were supposed to be warm and kind, but I could be wrong. There were a few interesting side characters, but I felt all the characters, except Sabrina, could have been a bit more developed.

Lauren's story was told via her diary, which was given to Sabrina and she read sporadically throughout the story. I found Lauren's story heart-wrenching and fascinating—I wanted more.

I love the author's writing style it is very descriptive and interesting. She hooked me from the beginning. She transported me to different places and times and I enjoyed this book very much, although I was disappointed with the ending. The conclusion seemed rushed to me, as if the author was running out of time to tie up loose ends. I also felt like the story was building to a spectacular finish and then . . . it was like running into a wall. I was dissatisfied with Sabrina's role in the end.

This is a well-written, evocative and intriguing story. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading young adult dark fantasy and horror. It's definitely worth reading and I look forward to the next book in the series.

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## **D.L. Finn says**

Ms. Scott wrote an entertaining story told from two different time-lines. Sabrina the healer-witch lived in times when magic had been removed, while Lauren lived in the past when there was magic. How their lives intersected I found fascinating. As Sabrina sets out to right the wrongs of the past, she develops a relationship with an apprentice monk Micah. Their relationship was one of my favorite parts of "Lodestone". Also, getting the history through Lauren's journal showed that even with good intentions and a mother's love things can go very wrong--was the strength of the story. It was a long process to get Sabrina to the place she needed to be, and many people suffered along the way-- and after. If you like a story with a quest, magic, forbidden love and fantasy with dark undertones you will enjoy this book!

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## **Jan Sikes says**

I won this book in a book trailer blog party through the Rave Reviews Book Club and although I love paranormal books, I didn't know what to expect. However, by the third chapter, I was hooked and couldn't put it down. What a story!!

Sabrina has been at the 'Healing School' since she was a very small child. Florsiah, the matron of the school, is the only mother figure she knows. Sabrina finds herself thrown into chaos at her graduation from the 'Healing School' when she learns she is the direct descendent of Lauren, a woman who is considered evil.



Florsiah gives her a diary, written in Lauren's own hand, and a sliver of stone, and is told she must leave the school.

Lauren's Order has been established to stamp out any and all witchcraft. They are known as witch hunters and scour the countryside killing innocent people, destroying villages and taking slaves.

As the story unfolds, Sabrina travels in the company of a monk and three young monk apprentices to Sha' La' Shang, an idyllic city high in the mountains inhabited by monks. However, in the course of the journey, she falls in love with Micah, a young monk apprentice who has a unique talent of communicating with animals.

So much happens during the journey to Sha' La' Shang and I don't want to give it all away, but there are grave troubles, fired up passions and danger lurking around every corner from the soldiers of Lauren's Order to mythical birds who struggle to survive.

Once they reach Sha' La' Shang, she is given the task of finding and either destroying or changing the Lodestone to save Vallatoria. Being the direct descendant of Lauren, she is the only one who can undo the evil that has evoked terror across the land for many years. With the help of Lauren's diary, the sliver of stone that burns brighter as she gets closer to the Lodestone, and many people from The Hidden, who strive to overthrow the evil that prevails, she takes on the task. At the cost of many lost lives, she finally makes it to her destination. What happens next is breathtaking and left me wanting to pick up the next book of this series to see!

If you like paranormal, fantasy and witchcraft, you'll truly enjoy this book!

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### **John Horst says**

Just as Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter are appropriate for readers of all ages, Lodestone (Witch-Hunt) will capture the attention of anyone interested in this genre, and even those who would like to venture out of their reading comfort zone. The story reads at a brisk pace, and is easy to follow, which can be daunting when delving into a fantasy world that one has obviously not experienced before.

The editing was fine, and the book was professionally prepared for the reader. There were no issues whatsoever with formatting, grammar or spelling errors. I think this is important to note.

I am looking forward to more from this writer.

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### **Yvette Calleiro says**

I really enjoyed this book. Although it states that it's part of a series, it can be read as a standalone as well. The problem of this book is solved at the end, although the author hints at the problems to come in the rest of the series.

The main characters were well-developed, though I would have wanted more scenes with Micah. Lauren's story being told in first person was a treat because it made it real easy to understand her emotions and state of mind. I love the side-forbidden love story of Deakon and Miss Florisah and how it parallels Sabrina and Micah.

I also really enjoyed the plot and how good intentions don't always turn out well. I love how the

misjudgments that characters have on one another led to the wrong conclusions (and thus, poor decisions). The scenes were well-described and kept me engaged the entire time I was reading.

It wasn't heavy into witchcraft, but it had enough paranormal to make me happy. Anyone who enjoys reading stories where the characters are more than what they seem will enjoy this book! :-)

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### **Donna Capil says**

Fantastic story-telling Wendy. Once started, not only did I have difficulty putting this book down but I found myself thinking quite a lot about the characters and where to next for them. It tugged at many emotions as I journeyed along with the characters. Great plot, well-rounded, believable characters and loved the beautifully descriptive scene settings. I was on that mountain-top, right beside Sabrina and Micah. I could see the breath-taking view as they first laid eyes on Sha' La' Lang. Great job and an amazing imagination. I would highly recommend this book to all.

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### **Sara Alexi says**

Came across this and, as often happens, bought it as I was taken by the cover. It is not a genre I am normally drawn to but set about reading it with a critical eye, seeing what I could learn from a different field of writing. By page three I completely forgot to be analytical and found myself absorbed into the story. Easy to read but strong writing that brought the scenes to life.

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