



## **A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses**

*Molly Harper*

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Nola Leary would have been content to stay in Kilcairy, Ireland, healing villagers at her family's clinic with a mix of magic and modern medicine. But a series of ill-timed omens and a deathbed promise to her grandmother have sent her on a quest to Half-Moon Hollow, Kentucky, to secure her family's magical potency for the next generation. Her supernatural task? To unearth four artifacts hidden by her grandfather before a rival magical family beats her to it.

Complication One: Her grandfather was Mr. Wainwright and the artifacts are lost somewhere in what is now Jane Jameson's book shop.

Complication Two: her new neighbor, Jed Trudeau, who keeps turning up half naked at the strangest times, a distraction Nola doesn't need. And teaming up with a real-life Adonis is as dangerous as it sounds, especially when he's got the face of an angel and the abs of a washboard—can Nola complete her mission before falling completely under his spell?

## **A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses Details**

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Author : Molly Harper

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Vampires, Witches, Urban Fantasy, Magic

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## From Reader Review *A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses* for online ebook

**Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says**

*A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses* is book two in the *Half-Moon Hollow* series by Molly Harper.

It's been sometime since I've read the *Jane Jameson* series. The *Half-Moon Hollow* is a spin-off. Many of the characters from the *Jane Jameson* series make appearances and in this one we have a new character from across the pond, Nola! She's been sent by her family to find 4 sacred objects needed to keep a curse in place.

The characters are unique and charismatic. We are brought into the supernatural area of magic. It's a different focus from what the books have been, vampires, and we are also introduced to another supernatural being too. Nola makes friends with a small group of the Half-Moon Hollow gang. She settles in, starts her search, and gets herself a little work. I don't want to spoil things, so I won't mention all the fun things that happen in the search or the family ties. I got a little kick out of who Nola ends up being related too.

The romance for me was blasé. It didn't dislike it, but I didn't fully feel it. I enjoyed the mystery, fun banter between characters, and the family surprise.

*For me *A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses* was a fine read.*

**Rated: 3 Stars**

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**Wanda says**

**\*\*\*2017 Summer Lovin' Reading List\*\*\***

An Irish witch on a special mission to Half Moon Hollow. It's a cute, fun paranormal romance, in Molly Harper's inimitable style. But it's the intersection of this story with the continued adventures of Jane Jameson and Dick Cheney that truly made this worthwhile for me. I'm always interested in whatever shenanigans that Dick is enmeshed in and he features heavily in this book.

Half Nola's adventures, half the Dick & Jane show, there is just enough of each to keep the plot moving along and to keep me smiling. Perhaps a bit predictable, but with enough humour & snark to keep me reading.

Recommended as light, fluffy summer material.

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## **Katie\_la\_geek says**

I was looking forward to this one, it sounds great and I really liked the cover but when I read it there was something missing for me and I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would. The problem actually wasn't that something was missing; it was that there was just too much. The story is told from the main characters point of view and she had a lot to say. Every single page was crammed with detail and conversations and memories that I don't really think I needed to read and in the end I found myself bored and skim reading.

The writing itself is quite good and I had no problem envisioning what was going on. The characters are also strong. Nola is a good character, I found her quite funny and sensible she wasn't silly but her conflicted romantic feelings were troublesome. Jed was even better there was a lot to like about him I loved his personality and thought he was sweet. The romance was nice but for a lot of the book Nola has a boyfriend and the minute that she has possibly broken up with boyfriend she is in bed with Jed. This left me quite conflicted because throughout the book Nola was attracted to Jed but their relationship didn't really build up to that level of intimacy, it just happened.

A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses is not a bad book but it was bursting with unneeded detail which I found off putting.

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## **Celine says**

I was really disappointed in this book. I've enjoyed all of Molly Harper's previous books and I'm a fan of stories about witches and magic so I had high hopes. I just never cared about the main characters; Jed especially seemed underdeveloped. I understand that Nola was attracted to him immediately but I never understood how she fell in love with him so fast. I didn't see a reasonable development of their relationship. The plot of the warring families and lost magical objects wasn't interesting and almost seemed like an afterthought in most of the book. I did like the parts where Nola interacted with Jane and Andrea mainly because it was fun to revisit those characters. There are definitely some funny lines like I expect from this author but it wasn't enough to save the book for me.

I will add that I listened to this on audiobook and while I normally love the narrator, I found her interpretation of Nola's Bostonian/Irish accent annoying. The fact that the narrator went in and out of the accent meant the entire performance wasn't annoying but was disjointed. This may have added to my inability to connect to the characters and story since the narrator is so important to an audiobook.

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## **Stephanie says**

Original Post: <http://fangswandsandfairydust.blogspot...>

Early Look: Molly Harper's A WITCH'S HANDBOOK OF KISSES AND CURSES

WITCH'S HANDBOOK OF KISSES AND CURSES

Half Moon Hollow 3

by Molly Harper

Simon and Schuster/Pocket Books May 28, 2013

E-Book, Mass Market Paperback

ARC/E-Galley provided by publisher for review. No remuneration was exchanged and all opinions herein are my own except as noted.

Review Prologue:

There are days when I know I should hold off reading a book and then writing a post about it, but I have had the Molly Harper's new Half Moon Hollow series entry, a *WITCH'S HANDBOOK OF KISSES AND CURSES* (May 28, Simon and Schuster) on my Kindle for over a month and it's been taunting me with its sultry eyes and whispers.

"Read me Stephanie, you know you want to read me. C'mon, just look at my first page."

"Yes, I do, but if I read you I have to write the review and your publicist will be mad at me."

"Oh no she won't -- she'll be thrilled that you are giving Molly's book the attention it deserves. Just one page, you can stop then."

"Really, you think so? Maybe just that one page,..."

Four hours later, I couldn't stop and my Kindle is lying, disheveled, on the bed, smoking a cigarette. At least I am only this way for a few authors.

Description:

Nola Leary would have been content to stay in Kilcairy, Ireland, healing villagers at her family's clinic with a mix of magic and modern medicine. But a series of ill-timed omens and a deathbed promise to her grandmother have sent her on a quest to Half-Moon Hollow, Kentucky, to secure her family's magical potency for the next generation. Her supernatural task? To unearth four artifacts hidden by her grandfather before a rival magical family beats her to it.

Complication One: Her grandfather was Mr. Wainwright and the artifacts are lost somewhere in what is now Jane Jameson's book shop. Complication Two: her new neighbor, Jed Trudeau, who keeps turning up half naked at the strangest times, a distraction Nola doesn't need. And teaming up with a real-life Adonis is as dangerous as it sounds, especially when he's got the face of an angel and the abs of a washboard—can Nola complete her mission before falling completely under his spell?

Simon and Schuster

Each time I review a Molly Harper book, I have to begin with the fact that I am a bona fide Molly Harper fan girl. She is a writer whose books make me feel happy. Like you just had amazing sex the most delicious meal but you know it was totally healthy and good for you.

This book introduces a couple of new characters: Nola and Jed. Nola's Irish and Jed is from Tennessee.

Actually, Nola was born in the US and was sent to Ireland to be raised by her Grandmother. Her Grandmother finally reveals that her grandfather was the late owner of Jane Jameson's bookshop. Further she gave him four magical objects to keep safe. Now they need those objects back. So Nola heads to Half Moon Hollow to find them. The whole trip is arranged in a matter of moments. And before I was really aware of the entire story, Nola is bumping down the roads of Half-Moon Hollow to rent half of a house. Of course there's a rival group also looking for these objects.

Nola's next door neighbor, Jed, sounds fabulous. She's magical but he is apparently magically delicious. Molly has a way of making her hero-types really sound like the really, really hot boy next door (or the one you wish were next door). I always get an immediate picture in my head about what they look like - I'm thinking Chris Evans or Chris Hemsworth. Molly tells me she had Tom Hardy in mind.

I like how Nola fits in with the cast of characters at the book shop and how they adopt her as their own. She proves her usefulness of course. The majority of the cast of Hollow favorites make their appearances in the book. Jane, Andrea and Dick are particularly important. Zeb and Jolene also show up.

In the end it's about self-empowerment (quite literally), choice and being bound by an outdated tradition. There are a few life lessons that it never hurts to have reinforced. Even a witch needs to be shored up once in a while.

It's hard to know which of the characters are going to be the ones that Nola should shouldn't trust. I had my money on,....  
I was wrong.

My one and only detail was that until about the end of the first third of the book. I kept feeling I had missed some important information about meeting someone, or where Nola had lived. It came along later though and made me read more closely.

In any event, Molly Harper's books are almost guaranteed to make you feel good. A WITCH'S HANDBOOK OF KISSES AND CURSES does: It's sexy but not filled with sex, magical but not encased in spell craft. There are a lot of vampires but not a lot of biting. When you read it you not only get a feel for the characters but, you wish they were your friends. If you enjoy sweet paranormal romance, this is a MUST READ.

As for my Kindle, it still respects me in the morning.

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### **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

Totally read this series out of order but it was okay that I did. I didn't really feel lost at all, in fact it just made me want to pick up the other books and start at the beginning.

Not as many laugh out loud moments as I was expecting though but I'm hoping the earlier books will be better since they seem to have better reviews and ratings.

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## **Jilly says**

Molly Harper writes quirky, funny characters and situations really really well. I love the banter and the great relationships that her characters engage in. And, this book has the plus of having Jane Jameson prominently featured along with her new couple which is what saved a book that would have been a real dud without Jane and company.

*Nola to Jane...*

The problem was with the new heroine, Nola. Nola is from Ireland and is a witch. She doesn't do her witchy thing well, and doesn't seem all that Irish either. She's super convoluted. She's Irish, she's Bostonian, she's powerful, she's not in control of her magic, she can heal people, she can't heal people, she's in love with her boyfriend back home, she's falling for her neighbor Jed. I never felt a connection to this character because she never felt like a real person - more like a composite of a few different people.

**Oh crap, we are having a giant storm and my power is flickering. I'm cutting this review short before I lose everything I've written so far.**

**To sum it up: it was okay, but Nola sucked.**

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## **Jess says**

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: B

**“Iris said you were from Ireland!” Dick exclaimed, the soul of cheerfulness. “I only detect the slightest bit of an accent, but it’s there.”**

**There was a pregnant pause. Andrea clapped a hand over her face. “He’s trying to come up with a good Lucky Charms joke and/or nickname.”**

**“Leprechauns are also an option,” Jane told me.**

**I gave the vampire my sweetest smile. “Mr. Cheney, are you interested in a debilitating crotch injury?”**

**He shook his head emphatically. “No.”**

**“Then you should probably keep those jokes to yourself.”**

**Dick beamed at his wife. “I like her.”**

Nola is a witch who’s tasked with coming to Half-Moon Hollow to find four items that she’s to use to keep a

curse on their family's enemy intact. She knows her late grandfather had the artifacts last and now Nola has to try to find a way to search her grandfather's bookstore that's now run by Jane Jameson. Nola has a deadline to meet so she gets right down to business and talks her way into Jane's bookstore and life.

This book was so much fun. It has great humor and banter between all the characters. It's light hearted, and as with previous Molly Harper books, I love the interactions between all the characters. Be it between Nola and her potential hero Jed, Nola with Jane and Andrea, or Nola with Dick (who's hilarious) the characters all come to life on page and it's like reading about old friends.

Nola is a quirky heroine, who's also a witch with powers that she can't always control. She meets her neighbor Jed in a funny, completely embarrassing way. Both Nola and Jed keep secrets about themselves that cause a little angst when they come out, especially regarding Jed. There is a twist with Jed that I liked as it ended up being a little different from what I was led to believe and I like being surprised. Their romance felt like it was on the back burner though. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but I wanted to see them together more as a couple throughout the book. They sort of fell together and that was that. Sure, they have a few bumps along the way, but their relationship was certainly not front and center.

One of the best surprises about this story was all the Jane and Andrea page time that's included. I love these two and not only them, I was glad to see all of the past characters from the Jane Jameson series show up and play strong supporting roles. Nola's relationship with Dick was hysterical, actually his actions around Nola were the best and a little creepy to Nola until she found out a few facts about dear Dick.

Even with a romance that left me wanting more, I really enjoyed getting to know Nola and going along for the ride with her on her artifact finding mission. It's a fun ride and I can't wait to go back to Half Moon Hollow for more.

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## **Regina says**

It is no secret that I am a fan of Molly Harper's books. Her books make me laugh, give me a great escape – and well make me smile in between laughs. Mixed in with the laughs (and maybe wants her books so funny), are quirky family members and a young woman trying to figure out her next life choice. *A Witch's Handbook* (I won't be writing out the full name as it is just way too long) is very similar to Ms. Harper's other books that I have read by her. The *Naked Werewolf* series was full of off-beat family members, a woman needing a change in her life and lots of humor. And *One Last Thing* has a similar set up. Molly Harper definitely has found her gift — to write humor that involves families and women on the verge of ... something. But that is not to say any of her books (that I have read by her) are formulaic. They are not, she has an ability to make them unique but very comfortable at the same time. I typically listen to the audio version of Ms. Harper's books. Amanda Ronconi narrates each of these books and she gets the atmosphere and style of these stories perfectly. But I because I received a copy of *A Witch's Handbook* as an early review copy, I read it instead of listening. I can definitively say that Molly Harper is just as enjoyable in print as she is in audio.

*A Witch's Handbook* is #2 in the Half Moon Hollow series and is a cross-over with Molly's Jane Jameson series. I haven't read the Jane Jameson series, but I am guessing by reading Half Moon Hollow first there are spoilers for the main series. But somehow, I think that might be okay and won't take away from the enjoyment of the books.



Half Moon Hollow is a small town in Kentucky with a strong paranormal presence; vampires are in business and the general public knows this. Nora (the book's main character) is a witch with a problem, she is on the hunt for family relics in an effort to save the world from evil witches.

*Are you telling me there's a real Volemort?*

When Nora arrives in Half Moon Hollow, she rents a half of one house, the other half is rented to Jed. Nora and Jed immediately hit it off with sparks. Jed is a hottie, Nora can't stop looking and together they are pretty funny.

You invited me to dinner, and I end up cooking? What sort of swindle is this?

*I turned to offer a rude response, only to find him wearing another pair of arse-cupping jeans and a t-shirt that showcased his indecently large biceps. I was standing in the presence of living, breathing arm porn.*

Because she is looking for ancient relics in a place that she is not familiar with, Nora relies on locals to help her. In the process, Nora becomes friends with some of the vamps introduced in the Jane Jameson series and much of the humor and the storyline revolves around Nora's friendships and family relationships. The rich cast of characters and the developing friendship are what make this book so fun. It isn't my favorite Molly Harper book but it did not disappoint.

Harper is not below acknowledging her other book series, I love it when authors name drop or hint at their other books — and she does that in *A Witch's Handbook*. I don't want to spoil it, but see if you can catch it. Harper is also not below poking fun at Twilight and Edward's often-times creepy behavior — again, I don't want to spoil your discovery of this super funny part.

There are some not-so-surprising supernatural twists and the ending is what I expected but still, it is very satisfying and rewarding. Sometimes, I just need to slip into a world that will make me laugh, keep me smiling and is definitely sweet and sexy. But I want to do it without roll-my-eyes stereotypes. I prefer to read a book with rich friendships and texture beyond just the heroine and the hot guy she is focused on. Molly Harper delivers that. Paranormal romance is hard for me. I don't like the trope of the tiny virgin needing a man and I really don't like the fated-to-be-mated storyline. I can't stand scary stalkerish behavior that would be arrested in normal life and I want the storyline to go beyond just the "hero" and the "heroine's" romance. Molly Harper writes her paranormal romance books without all of that and with so much more. If you want a laugh, a light read then I recommend Molly Harper. It won't change your life but it will make you smile.

*To read more of this review and others like it check out [Badass Book Reviews](#)*

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## Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

In this one, we meet Nola, a 1/2 Irish witch. I had a hard time imagining her accent (part Irish & Boston). She was not wholly embracing of her abilities and seemed to want to be more normal, but (happily) by the end she was more comfortable in her own skin.

I loved that Jane, Andrea, Dick, and Gabriel were in this one. Enjoyed this one!

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## Sana Zameer says

### 2.5 Stars

This was not as entertaining as the first book in this series. I like Molly Harper's writing style but the plot was really boring. Also I couldn't understand Nola. Her conflicting feelings were really irritating. There was no chemistry between her and Jed. They were attracted towards each other but I didn't get how they fell in love so soon. It was rushed and unrealistic. I liked the parts with Jane, Andrea and Dick. Those were fun scenes. Iris Scanlon also showed up briefly. But there wasn't enough spark in this book.

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## Jacob Proffitt says

This was a fun romp and has Harper's signature blend of snark, wit, and heart. Since that's exactly what I was looking for, I was very pleased with the results.

I actually wasn't that engaged with the heroine, Nola. I'm not sure what it was that kept me from empathizing with her more—I just didn't buy her plight, I suppose, and had a hard time taking her family seriously. I mean, the setup of dueling witch families is fine as a backdrop but it doesn't hold up well (as presented) under scrutiny. This is particularly true of the weird "artifacts" that Nola must find. It's kind of a lame quest for a modern tale. And I've never had much sympathy for those paranormal folks who "just want to be normal". Normal is boring, which is why we read books about the extraordinary in the first place. Duh.

On the other hand, I wanted to pack Jed up and take him home with me. He's nine kinds of the best Cajun spice wrapped up in a pretty package. He has his flaws, true, and his less trustworthy moments, but by the end, he's just adorable.

In the end, I enjoyed the book quite a lot simply on the strength of Harper's built-in charm, the great setting, and the characters. I might have wanted the perfect main character, but at that point I'm probably just being unreasonably greedy.

**A note about Audible:** Amanda Ronconi is a fantastic narrator and has done all (I think) of Harper's other books. So I was puzzled, at first, that she didn't seem capable of a decent Irish accent. Nola was coming from her family in Ireland and yet, the dialogue had more than a hint of Boston in it (enough so that I actually thought to myself, "huh, that sounds kind of Bostonian"). Well, it turns out that Ronconi is actually supremely talented and that the main character grew up in Boston before moving to Ireland as a teen. I'm not sure if Harper did this on purpose just to see if Ronconi could pull it off, but wow, did she pull it off. I mean,

if I were to think of two accents that were diametrically opposed, I'd probably have to pick Irish and Boston. Their Rs alone are practically inverse of each other. You could probably mesh an Irish R with a Boston one and come up with American Standard. So yeah, fantastic performance by Ronconi. Plus, every time Jed opened his mouth I... uh... never mind...

**A note about Steamy:** A light steam level, really. A single explicit scene of about middle length and a little playing around at various points (one of which is pretty early on, but that turns out to be misrepresentative of the whole).

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## Malinda says

4-4.5 stars

This was a really good story. I just love Molly Harper and this was an enjoyable addition to the Half Moon Hollow stories.

Nola is a witch from Ireland that's been sent to Half Moon Hollow to retrieve some mystical items that are very important. She rents half of a duplex, the other half of which has been rented to Jed. A very handsome man she tries not to flirt with because she has a boyfriend back home. Regardless of this fact, the attraction between them is hot and they both have trouble ignoring it.

Jed is a good guy. I liked Jed and liked the chemistry between him and Nola and seeing came next between them. Fortunately, Nola does break up with her ex and we get to see things heat up between her and Jed when they end up on a road trip together.

To start her search Nola contacts Jane and company. Fortunately they get along well and Jane and friends help Nola with her quest to find the items. It's interesting where the items ended up and seeing what Nola has to go through to gather them all up. Unfortunately the search isn't without it's issues. The rival witch clan that's against Nola's family causes problems. Also, Jed does end up having some secrets that cause some issues. Things do get worked out but with difficulty and I liked the way they ended the conflict. It was a good solution.

I really enjoyed this book. I was very happy to see Nola and Jed together in the end (view spoiler). This was a very good book and addition to the Half Moon Hollow series. I'd recommend it. :D

\*Note - I listened to the audiobook version of this book. Nola was supposed to have a Boston/Irish accent. Amanda Ronconi did a great job on this. I wouldn't usually expect a combo accent like that to be pulled off so well but Amanda did a great job with the accent. I could hear both the Bostonian accent and the Irish. Very well narrated.

10/20/15 - I just finished a reread of this book and I still really liked the story and characters. :D

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## Mithrendiel says

I normally adore Molly Harper books, but this one left me with lukewarm feelings.

**What I loved about the story:** Molly Harper's trademark quirky humor; the host of familiar and delightful side characters; the plot which was cute and fun, if not very riveting.

**Things that could have been better:** I had issues identifying with the heroine, which is first for me with Molly's books. She cheated on her boyfriend and didn't even have the decency to feel bad about it, which really bugged me. I can never really love a character with no sense of honor. The hero also left a lot to be desired. He's too much of a bad boy for me. Case and point, he groped the heroine's ass within seconds of meeting her. Then he pulls this hot/cold act that was meant to be sexy, but ended up annoying me more than exciting me. The reveal of his "big secret" was anticlimactic, and no where near as interesting as I'd hoped.

I can't imagine ever hating one of Molly's books - they are all fun, and light, and make me feel like I'm reading the book version of a romantic comedy, but *A Witch's Handbook of Kisses and Curses* was not one of my favorites.

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## **Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says**

### **3.5 Stars**

Nola Leary has come to Half Moon Hollow, Kentucky because of a death bed promise made to her grandmother, one her grandmother is determined that she honour even from beyond the grave. She has to find the four Elements, four artifacts each representing one of the elements, before her rivals do, if not her whole family lose their magic. But things get complicated when she finds long lost relatives, some crazy new friends, not to mention her Adonis like next door neighbour who seems to be allergic to wearing tops...

I always enjoy a Molly Harper book, it is hard not to with her mixture of funny banter and some really quirky heroines and of course a great romance. Although they never quite make it to a 5 star review with me, that doesn't stop me enjoying her books and looking forward to the next one.

What stood out for me most in this book was the humour and the relationship Nola quickly develops with some familiar characters such as Jane Jameson and Dick Cheney. The romance between Jed and Nola was really good as well, they had chemistry from the start but it was allowed to build up so that you got to know Jed. He wasn't just the sexy guy who was there for her to conveniently fall in love with, but a funny character with issues of his own.

The story line itself about the elements wasn't particularly strong and it was a bit of an anticlimax at the end but it was a good vehicle for Nola to start looking at the issues she had with her magic and eventually come to terms to things in her life.

This was a fun book with great characters and although it didn't rock my world, it made me laugh and look forward to the next page, what more can I ask for?

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