



Spell Bound

Jacob Z. Flores

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Mason Blackmoor just can't compete with his brothers, much less his father. They represent the epitome of black magic, strong, dark, and wicked, and though Mason tries to live up to his respected lineage, most of the spells he casts go awry. To make matters worse, his active power has yet to kick in. While his brothers wield lightning and harness the cold, Mason sits on the sidelines, waiting for the moment when he can finally enter the magical game.

When a dead body is discovered on the football field of his high school, Mason meets Drake Carpenter, the new kid in town. Drake's confident demeanor and quick wit rub Mason the wrong way. Drake is far too self-assured for someone without an ounce of magical blood in his body, and Mason aims to teach him a lesson—like turn him into a roach. And if he's lucky, maybe this time Mason won't be the one turned into an insect.

Not surprisingly, the dislike is mutual, and Drake does nothing to dispel Mason's suspicion that the sexy boy with a southern drawl is somehow connected to the murder.

If only Mason didn't find himself inexplicably spellbound whenever they are together, they might actually find out what danger hides in the shadows.

Spell Bound Details

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Author : Jacob Z. Flores

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From Reader Review Spell Bound for online ebook

Pam Kay says

Warlocks, Witches, and Wizards, Oh My!!! Jacob did a great job in this paranormal suspense novel that is very entertaining, exciting, and Hot!! Mason and his family of warlocks are threatened by an unknown darkness who is out to kill them, especially Mason. Mason has met a human who has changed his world which has helped him tap into his hidden powers. Drake, even though he is human, is different, and the covens are bewildered about what to do about him. The story is strong and flows and the character development is amazing, with each individual character having a significant part in the story. We are going to see a lot of these 3 Warlock brothers, the Warlock father, and Drake. Excited to read the next sequel to this series. Have a feeling it is going to get really exciting and even Hotter along the way. This story is totally different from the past stories Jacob has given us. Another side of him that is interesting and exciting. Highly recommend this!! If you like the paranormal, suspense, action, and Hot MM Sex and Love, you will love this.... Don't miss this series. A Twist in Jacob's Type of Novels...A Must Read!!

Lori says

4.5

This is only the second book I've read by this author - but it certainly won't be the last. Here Jacob Z Flores has created a world which I already love...anyone who likes YA stories that have a fantasy/paranormal twist will like these. I love that whole it's our world but with elements much of society doesn't know about theme of books and TV and this embraces that genre so well.

Mason is a character who is hiding a secret and this affects how the world at large views him. Even his closest friends don't truly know him, this seemed very metaphorical to me of teenagers the world over. He has an image to uphold, but truly he only has that image as a way to shield himself. I love that Drake was able to work his way through the shield and into Mason's life, intended or not.

At times this book was laugh-out-loud funny. My particular favourite was 'park whoring'. I'm a park whore fan myself - could watch it for hours. Even if I do call it free running... The whole book managed to find a great balance between humour and action.

I'm eager to find out more about this world, though this story wrapped up I'm not done with these characters. It feels to me like there is a whole lot more to find out about the Blackmoors and the world they inhabit. I also feel like there is more to Aunt Millie than we learnt about here...I often have a feeling in these kinds of tales that the general public in the worlds know more than they are letting on. More than the supernatural characters realise...Danny from Teen Wolf anyone?? I like this because it feels like the simple story we're shown in the first book is just the first layer - I can't wait to read more of this series to see where it goes.

A really enjoyable read, and as I said, an author I'll be looking out for more of.

Review previously at BMBR.

A copy of this book was given in exchange for an honest review.

Funzee Shu says

***** 3.5 stars *****

Buddy reading with Lelyana Taufik.

...from the moment we met, Drake and I had been spell bound...

First, I must make a confession that paranormal~witch is not a genre I'm usually into, but...I'll make exception for this one.

Because this story captivating me from the very start and I can't put it down !

It's sweet, I can't stop grinning and enjoying the interaction between Drake and Mason.

Can't wait for what will happen next since the unique fact that Derek not affected by the spells !!!

Is he really just a human ? Or...

“Mason?” he asked. His voice was low and throaty.

“Yeah,” I replied. A husk deepened my tone.

“Will you kiss me?”

I smiled and ran my fingers along his lips, which pursed against my touch. “I only kiss boyfriends, remember?”

He nodded. “Then kiss me.”

Tess says

3.75 stars

Work has burned me out to the extent that I can't even properly formulate some basic thoughts on this one! I liked it and the romance was sweet with a little steam (this is an *older* YA romance). I'm not sure the YA paranormal genre is really my thing though.

I am very impressed with the author's versatility -- this is the third book of his that I've read and they're all *completely* different.

M says

The CW should make this into a TV show that I get obsessed with for one season and then promptly forget about.

Elaine White says

Length: 216 pages

POV: Mason, 1st person

Star rating: ★★★★★

Wow! What an explosive first book in the series!

Now, before we begin, let me say that parts of this are YA, but it's a YA that is for 18+ only or mature 16+, because there is a lot of sexiness going on in here. It's very true to the single-mindedness of teenagers going through hormonal changes and having one track minds, but it also accepts that teenagers have sex. So, if you don't want to read about that, maybe just convince yourself to view Mason and his friends as 20 year olds stuck in high school, because seriously, you don't want to miss this story.

Right from page one, it packed a punch. The magical aspect of the story was – rejoice! – well explored and a major factor of the storyline. Far too often, I'm offered a story about a witch/warlock and there's limited on-page magical use, conjuring, discussion and history. I got all of that here, when it was the right time, when it made sense and without any of the laborious stereotypes that might make it corny.

I have to admit that I wasn't sure about Mason as a main character for a little while, at the beginning. He was so cocky, with a bad boy swagger and so convinced that he was this badass who ruled the world that I didn't know what to make of him. Then he met Drake and he had a little challenge on his hands that blew up into the sweetest, hottest romance I've ever read between two teens still in high school.

When it comes to characters, I loved them all! Each one was diverse, entertaining, interesting and added something to the story. I loved Mason and his brothers; Thad and Pierce; as well as their dad. I loved Drake and Adam, Elliot and Aunt Millie. I hated Miranda, as I was supposed to, without thinking her completely evil. Most of all, I wanted to see more of Elliot and Adam, from the minor characters.

I was intrigued by Adam, as a 'minor' character with an interesting storyline. At first, I thought maybe he and Pierce had a love/hate thing, but then he showed interest in Mason, which just complicated everything and made him even more interesting. Then there was the part where he asked to speak to Mason and had something to say but was interrupted...nothing more juicy than a secret I don't get to hear!

I also have to confess that, at first, I hated Mason's brothers. The way they made him feel, once we saw him outside of the high school environment, nearly broke my heart. Here was this kid being ragged on by two older brothers and his dad, all of whom were out of control trigger-temperes and considered him the useless black sheep, disappointment of a family member. He was ignored, mistreated and disrespected by everyone – especially Miranda! – that it got to me, after a while. Then I began to understand the dynamics more and it all made sense. It was no wonder he wanted to live up to the big-man-on-campus image he had in high school when that was how he was treated outside of it. For such a badass, Mason is sweet, charming, naïve and adorable in all the right ways. Drake is just the same, but on a much deeper level. I love them both, together and apart. They're perfect for each other.

And, while I'm in a confessing mood, I should also say that I cried. Twice. The first was at the water hose incident, when I realised just what Mason had to deal with from friends and family alike and how strong he had to be not to break down in tears the way I did. The second came later, with the simple but effective and heart-ripping quote:

“No boy should be without his momma.”

For me, the intrigue just kept building until I barely knew what was real, what I was sure of and what might happen next. I was curious over what and who Drake might be, even until the end; I was curious over Adam's behaviour, the way Drake's parents died, then the mention of Mason's mother loving him but that she'd always been hiding a secret she never told him of. After that, things blew up and the supernatural hi-jinx began for real. As did the intense teen-lovin'.

I loved the way that Mason and Drake discussed knowing each other's secrets in such a natural way that made it so easy and so simple to misunderstand each other's real meaning. The cleverness and the utter excitement I felt every time they tip-toed around 'what' they knew, only for us readers to know they weren't talking about the same thing, was great.

That is the genius of Flores' writing. It's my first book by this author and I can already tell it won't be the last. It had action, adventure, magic, romance and a whole host of sexiness. The balance between romance, high school drama and a rampaging magical adventure was stunningly well crafted, well written and gripping from page one. What's not to love?

~

Favourite Quote

“He ran a finger through my dark locks and then kissed my nose. “This was perfect for our first time.”
“First time?” I asked, my lips drawing into a huge smile. “Does that mean there's gonna be a second and a tenth?”

Drake chuckled and shook his head. “I swear. One-track mind.”

I rested my forehead against his. “You haven't answered my question.”

“Yes,” he said, sighing. “Seconds. Tenths. And maybe even a one hundredth.”

I grinned broadly. “Think we can get to a hundred by tomorrow?”

“Tomorrow?” he asked. “I was thinkin' tonight. You're such a slacker.””

Sara says

No time for a real review because I need to dive into the next book.

This was so much fun. Flores certainly created a world that was made for me and I cannot get enough. I feel like I read this at the speed of plaid (if you get that reference- I love you) and couldn't stop to do anything because I had to know it all.

I adore the Blackmoor family and Mason's book was a great introduction to them all. I totally need to see how Thad thaws (get it?) and how Pierce is restrained. OMG! I just love these brothers and seeing who the 4th book is about and the POV we get in it has me giddy as a badass motherfucking warlock...gah! You know what I mean.

The world building was so easy to get into and that is always helpful. I loved the whole black, gray and white magic deal and why Havenbridge is such a special place.

My heart breaks for Drake and I adored the cocky motherfucker and how his connection to Mason finally let Mason be the powerful warlock he was meant to be and not just turning himself into Kafka novel.

The romance between Drake and Mason was totes swoony and boy howdy they sure had adult stuff going on below the belt but I am a perv and don't mind.

Anyway. Book was hella good. I wish this were a cable series because it would be amazing and OMG, I need to go start my fellow ginger's book and see where it all leads.

I am in love with this series right now. Can't stop, won't stop.

Jenni Lea says

3.75 stars.

I can't believe I read a YA book and liked it. Yes, it was really YA and some parts just a little too young for me but it was charming and adorable so I didn't cringe or roll my eyes too terribly much.

Thankfully the next book features an MC that is out of high school because I dunno how much YA I can take.

Clare O'Beara says

This is a New Adult fantasy story with adult references to gay sex and plenty of strong language. We have a male protagonist who thinks of new arrivals in school in terms of how hot they are, guys of course, and whether he can be bothered to bully them. But this school is different because this town uses magic and goes to Sabbat coven. Some of the young people get together and ask why they have to use white, grey or black magic just because that's what their parents do. Why not choose for themselves? I haven't heard of grey magic but I suppose it's like grey hat hacking. They are told that they evolved as homo magus and are separate from the rest of the human race.

A murdered woman is found on the school sports field. Proctors, Conclave and warlocks are to investigate. Maybe it's not to do with magic but they believe an ill wind is blowing their way and they can't take chances. There is also a possible shapeshifter in town. However between construction site accidents and more dead bodies, life becomes alarming.

To me it's peculiar that in a modern world where he can work magic - if undercover - and nobody thinks twice about his being gay, our protagonist Mason is constantly complaining and swearing. Get a grip, kid. And learn to use a computer.

Something that annoys me is that when two schoolboys have sex with each other, there is no risk of pregnancy of course, so teens reading this book might not think there are any consequences to any sex. I'm not sure how the message would be conveyed in this context, but I believe it should be. I also think it's worth mentioning what the age of consent is for various activities, if the situation involves kids at high school. Mason seems quite immature, but I know guys mature later than girls.

I'd term this a dark fantasy and I'd have enjoyed it a lot more without the constant flow of invective, something women authors seem able to dispense with in urban fantasy books like *Kitty And The Midnight Hour*. Gay men looking for fantasy reads will probably like the story if they are not put off by the reminder of school days.

Kukko says

Main Characters: Drake Carpenter and Mason Blackmoor

Key Themes: Magic Users, Mystery

MM romance between a teen warlock from a powerful family and a poor orphaned shifter. This story definitely did not leave me spellbound. I just could not get into it.... the story felt somewhat formulaic, the characters were not particularly compelling or consistent, and parts of the story just did not make sense to me.

Duck says

3.5???

Eeesh. I read this right after the book was released and I should've written a review sooner. I'm horribly behind.

I enjoyed this book. I've been a fan of Mr. Flores since the first Provincetown book, and I was pleasantly surprised at how much I liked the change in writing style. *Spell Bound* is paranormal and although technically young adult, there is a bit of steam in the book as well.

Some readers may find issue with the world building, but I never felt bogged down by it. It may be way over

simplifying things, but if I had to describe the book in a few sentences it would be this: Take a small bit of Harry Potter (magic), a few grains of Fantastic Four or X-Men (abilities), add in a tiny dash of shape shifter, pile on high school senior m/m angst and that is "sorta, kinda, maybe" the foundation of the book.

I have no doubt that I'll be picking up the next book in the series.

Rick says

Sucked me in quicker than.....well.....all get out!

Seriously though loved this story. Mason and Drake were such opposites yet ended up working.

I can't say much else other than loved it because anything else I'd say would be a spoiler and we don't want that!

Happy Reading

Marion says

4.25 Stars!!

Lelyana says

*** 4 stars!***

Drake and Mason stole my heart. They're so cute together. This is enemy to lover (or can I say, a 'pretend enemy?').

I love the banters between Drake and Mason, the 'still teenagers', but 'a growing up boys' in them. *grins*. Drake and Mason are funny, witty, and adorable. They're definitely made for each other. A spell-bound.

I loved Aunt Millie :(

And Dad and Pierce and Thad are awesome ! Can't wait for another story to come!

Don Bradshaw says

Nicely written with a good flow to the story. I like the separations between the types of magic. Mason and Drake were good together. There was a build up to the next book between the two dark warlocks. Entertaining for a YA book.

