



# Hex Marks the Spot

*Madelyn Alt*

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While her boss becomes entranced with a beautiful armoire at the countywide craft bazaar, Maggie can't help noticing the Amish craftsman who made it. Though his clothes may be plain, he himself is more handsome than a man sporting a jawline-only beard has any right to be. And he seems pretty aware that the ladies love his...furniture. But when the hunky craftsman turns up dead with a strange hex symbol near his corpse, Maggie wonders if the craft involved is the witchy kind.

## Hex Marks the Spot Details

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Author : Madelyn Alt

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## **From Reader Review Hex Marks the Spot for online ebook**

### **Chris Meads says**

Once again , Madelyn Alt gives us a great story and one that makes you wonder what happens next.

Maggie and Felicity are going to the craft fair to see if they can buy items for the store. There is an Amish armoire that Felicity has fallen in love with that was made by one of her friends at N.I.G.H.T.S. But the decoration that is on the piece is not usual for the Amish. It was made by another of the Amish in the community. Felicity doesn't win the armoire. Maggie feels something is not right when the carver stares at her. Then the young fellow winds up dead. And there is some sort of symbol on a tree nearby.

What is the meaning of the symbol? Is it some sort of hex? Who could have killed the young man and why? If you want to know you have to read the book.

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### **Alexandria says**

As I've stated in previous reviews, I'm not usually much for cozy mysteries. I'm something of a Heather Blake fan (if you like this series, definitely go check out her Wishcraft series!) but for the most part I stick to urban fantasy and nonfiction. So, in the interest of fairness, some of my grumbles about this series might just be quirks of the genre that I need to get over. And, in the further interest of fairness, I don't have all that many grumbles...which is kind of impressive for me.

Maggie can be a little...dense at times. She has a tendency to describe something as having been "said in passing" even when it was said to her as a focal point in a conversation. And as much as she wants to be kept in the loop and trusted, she has a tendency to withhold information that could seriously help mitigate the issues going on around her. This, in addition to her tendency towards presumption and her inclination to act and speak more like a fifty year old than an almost-30 year old, can make her a frustrating main character at times. This book was also a bit frustrating in that the twist was easy to see coming a mile off. Not all of Alt's books that, I just think this one was a bit of a weaker offering than the previous two in the series.

Naturally, given my rating, there is much more good than bad in this series! Alt has a wonderfully deft hand in mixing together subplots with the main plot and not everything in the subplot becomes important in this novel. It makes it a little harder to pick out the subplot and say "Aha, so this new character is going to be important" for the simple fact that the character might be important three books later instead of in this book. She also has a talent for involving a lot of side characters - there is a huge supporting cast in this series - and then giving a good reason why they'll be front and center in one book but absent in the next. Many authors just pick up and drop their characters but Alt moves them around very carefully.

I've already downloaded the next book in the series and tried very hard to be good and not go reading online to see what happens with Marcus. I've tried...but I have only been moderately successful. Now, on to the next installment!

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## **Beverly says**

My favorite one in the series...a murder rocks the local Amish community, and Maggie and company can't help but get drawn in.

I love the folk magic/hoodoo/hexes in this installment. So interesting...made me want to do some research and dig into it further. :)

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## **Jennifer says**

The 3rd book in the Bewitching Mystery Series.

Maggie knows that something is not right with her town. She can feel it in her newly found empathic bones. She tags along with her boss and friend Felicity Dow to the countywide craft bazaar in the hopes of scoring some locally made treasures that they can sell at Felicity's shop Enchantments. While there, Felicity bids on an armoire at the craft auction made by their friend Eli and another Amish craftsman Luc Metzger. Luc is quite the hotty - and more than one woman at the auction gives him the once over. Later that very night Luc's body is discovered in the woods and Maggie is once again wrapped up in the mystery.

This read just as quickly as the first two in the series. I am getting frustrated with the boyfriend situation. I understand Maggie needing a straight man to assert her belief's against - but it's getting a little old. I am getting ready to start book four and I am finding myself hoping for Maggie to progress a little more quickly and to make some realizations about the man (or is it men???) in her life.

And once again I knew who done it pretty early on. Maybe one of these books will surprise me and it won't be who I think it is. I think of this series as a pretty solid 3.5

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## **Levia says**

### **Love it love it love it!**

Each book is better than the last. The Pagan elements and the romance heat up (romance only a bit but still more than before!) I love how we explored a different type of Magick in this book.

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## **Aki says**

Well, we're in book three and Miss Maggie O'Neill is finally growing up.

And Marcus, way to go man! Finally!

So... in book three we have a very good-looking Amish man (and he knows it, too) who is later found murdered not far from his farm.

Being that the Amish Community in Indiana is pacifist, the biggest question is who wanted the man dead-- and why.

Well, you know what William Congreve wrote, yes? "Heaven has no rage like to hatred turned, no hell a fury like a woman scorned."

Food for thought.

I did enjoy this book. I didn't enjoy the detective who went pretty much out his way to have nothing to do with Maggie, except to get upset with her for various reasons-- nor did I enjoy Maggie making excuses for him-- but at some point Alt needed, I think, to bring it to an end. Hopefully, this book was that end.

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### **Gen Roze says**

Maggie's relationship is confusing. Does she really need a boyfriend because her mother is putting some pressure on her. She needs to know that it's her mother's job to worry about her non relationship status. She is selling herself short. She needs to find her calling first, before she settled.

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### **Barbara says**

I do enjoy Maggie O'Neill and her struggles to come to terms with her paranormal talent as an empath. In the start of this book, while she acknowledges her gift and has come to accept, love and join others in the paranormal community in her small town, she still is trying to decide if she should embrace her talent or try to avoid it, bury it and shield herself from it.

This is definitely a cozy mystery, but a good cozy mystery. While Maggie can be impetuous and impulsive, she does have good common sense and can rein herself in and be more cautious. That escalates her in my opinion.

She finally embraces her talent to try to solve the murder in this book. I was happy to see this development. She also seems to finally have come to have more perspective on her love life, at least as far as I am concerned. She has been hung up on the local town cop that I think is so wrong for her. He cannot accept the possibility that people with psychic, paranormal abilities exists. Anything out of the ordinary is the work of evil or the devil as far as he is concerned. He seems to make baby steps to being more accepting or open to other possibilities, other than the 'normal' or scientific world, but then usually retreats. He can't seem to fully trust and accept Maggie.

She has had an alternate 'love' interest, Marcus that she has blindly interprets and she sees to be the love partner of her boss. He too has abilities and is intimately involved in the paranormal side of the town. He would be a better fit for her, in my estimation. She is entirely wrong about his 'involvement' with her boss and at the end of this book; her romantic life seems to be starting to get on the right track. At least, I hope so.

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## **Jim says**

This story was pretty good but it was a little too cozy for my personal taste. It had a bit of mystery, a bit of romance and a bit of magic all wrapped up into a tidy package with a big pink bow. I enjoyed it but not so much as some of the others in the series.

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## **Al says**

A gentle and well written mystery with romance intertwined in the pages. Magic is included, but not of the level to be considered (by me) to be paranormal. Maybe just a bit extra-normal. Great characters that keep their identities from previous book. Very well described world they move in. And a dog that helps solve the mystery.

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## **Erin says**

This is a fun mystery! Not only does Maggie find herself caught in the middle of yet another murder mystery, but that love triangle is really getting good now. The Amish setting is equally interesting, although I would have liked to know more about the Amish characters. It's easy to get invested. I find myself talking to the book telling Maggie to open her eyes!

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## **graveyardgremlin says**

Here we are into the third entry into the Bewitching Mystery series. So what's Maggie into this time? The murder of an Amish ladies' man, one who's married and has young kids, at that. She also has struggles with her love life and is overcoming her fear of the "unknown" and becoming more adept at using her gift.

### **May contain minor spoilers of previous books.**

A few times throughout this short book (246 pages), I felt like throwing in the towel. After reading the first book, I really felt this was a series for me. One that I connected with and would be able to read book after book. Sadly it has not panned out this way. Mostly because of the main character, Maggie O'Neill, who I really liked in the first book. While there's nothing inherently wrong with her, I cannot relate to her and I don't like her too much either. She's rather a dull fish. Also, some of her thoughts feel forced, especially the "humorous" kind, which might be a big part of why I'm not liking her anymore. Well, whatever it is exactly, she's just not quite working for me. Though now that she's using her gift more, this may liven her up in the future, I don't know. The other thing is her presumptions, or rather the one presumption about the "relationship" between Marcus and Liss she's had since the first book. Where she ever got that idea in her head, I haven't a clue, but at least it was resolved by the end of this book. On the up side, she wasn't as dumb as in the previous book, A Charmed Death. All the other characters in the series I like and feel really add to the series, with maybe the exception of Tom, who is very closed-minded and basically just irritates me as a modern woman. I suppose a character who is that way is needed, and he is making some strides in opening

his mind to new and frightening (to him) things, but I don't get Maggie's attraction to him; it just has not come across in the three books I've read. As for Maggie's other love interest, Marcus, while he's definitely way (way, way, way, way, way) more interesting than Tom, and I'm going to flip this, but I totally don't understand Marcus's interest in Maggie. I cannot think of anything that would intrigue him about her. I honestly can't, other than she's nice. A nice, boring, girl-next-door-type. Well, I guess that's something. So, the mystery.... Surprisingly, it seemed very minimal in this installment and the baddie very easy to figure out since there wasn't many, or any, other suspects. Still, it was tied up pretty neatly and made some sort of sense.

At the beginning of every book there is enough of a recap of characters and what's been going on so each book in the series can easily be read by itself, and not necessarily in order. While that is nice for a new reader or one who has gone a long time inbetween books, it makes for a repetitive nature if read too closely together, so I think it'll be a while before I pick up the next entry.

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### **Kat says**

Basic Plot: Maggie finds herself at the center of another murder in small-town Indiana, this time of an Amish man.

I think Alt has found her stride with this book, and I found myself actually glad that I hadn't given up on the series after such a disappointing sophomore effort as the second book was. I finished this book WAY faster than book 2. The pacing of the mystery was much better, she doled out the clues with a little more subtlety (which made the mystery actually mysterious!), and Maggie didn't do nearly as many STUPID things as she did in the previous book. Her involvement with the murder case felt much more reasonable, more natural, than in the other books. She didn't stupidly talk to random people in public about the case, she actually tried to work with Tom within reasonable boundaries, and moreover, she actually mentioned having learned from her mistakes so the changes in behavior were justified.

I still don't see why she is so determined to be with Tom, or how Marcus is even interested in her (and be as dark, mysterious, perfect, and sexy as he is-IMPOSSIBLE). They exist almost solely to create sexual tension. I think too many women thrive on the idea of the love triangle. Really. Of course, each man is tied to specific plot elements, which does help justify their existence, but still.

Based on this book, I plan to keep on with the series unless it takes a total nosedive. Of course, I've read all of the Sookie Stackhouse books, so ups and downs in a series are nothing new to me, and I might end up reading the whole series out of sheer stubbornness at this point. Yay for public libraries and not having to buy the books myself!

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### **Cassie Shannon says**

3.5\*

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## **Samantha says**

Third in a murder mystery series. Has tons of stuff right up my alley; tea, antiques, food, hunky guys, and witchiness. Although this series is far from great literature, it's fun, low-key reading.

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