



# The Halcyon Bird

*Kat Beyer*

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## **The Halcyon Bird** Kat Beyer

For fans of Lauren Kate and Cassandra Clare, a romance with a paranormal streak.

Mia has settled into her life with the Della Torres -- Milan's premier demon-catching family, accompanying them to exorcisms and even learning some way to be useful in the family trade. Then Bernardo comes into her life, handsome, well-mannered, someone who makes her forget her impossible crush on Emilio, her cousin. But always lurking in the background is the demon who possessed Mia once before, and who has not given up on possessing her again--this time for good.

\*"Mia has a strong gift for the family trade, which, like the novel's other elements...are portrayed in exquisite, affectionate detail. This one goes to the head of the class." - Kirkus, starred review

"Sets the stage for a thrilling sequel. By the book's close, Mia is armed and ready--she whispers to the demon lurking beyond, 'You'll have to wait. But I'm coming. Believe me, I'm coming.' Readers will be ready, too." - Booklist

"A supernatural novel with a fresh promise, worthy of note." - School Library Journal

## **The Halcyon Bird Details**

Date : Published November 11th 2014 by EgmontUSA

ISBN : 9781606843161

Author : Kat Beyer

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal, Supernatural, Horror

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## From Reader Review *The Halcyon Bird* for online ebook

### Ashley says

Thank you book God's for making this book series wonderful. And it only took for more answers than question, which was the main reason for not liking *The Demon Catcher of Milan*. *The Halcyon Bird* really saved it for me. There were supineful moments, humor and loads of informations about the demon world. Looking back we as readers were to grow with Mia as she learn about the demon hunting trade. The frustration that came with that though was just too much at times. But not with this one oh no, it had everything right to the point that I stad up till one in the morning finishing it because I wanted to know what would come of Mia and Bernardo. It left me with a whole lot of feels I'll tell you that. So many feels! I can't find any information about a third noval being written, but it would seem most likley due to the ending . If anyone has more information about another novel please share.

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### Ally Doerman says

In the first book of the series, *The Demon Catchers of Milan*, 16-year-old Mia Dellatorri was possessed by a demon that has been tormenting her family for years. To help her deal with her possession, her great uncle Giuliano and her cousin Emilio come to the states to take her back to Milan where she will learn how to become a demon catcher like most of the people in her family.

In the second installment, Mia has learned what life is like living as a demon catcher. The same as in the first book, she is inappropriately obsessed with her cousin Emilio, who is "the most attractive man in Milan." Mia and her family help various families with exorcisms. During one of the jobs, they are to build a "second door," which will lead them into the second realm where they will be able to exorcise the demon. On this job, she meets, Bernardo, who she claims is more attractive than Emilio, and who is a contractor helping them build the door. Mia becomes tongue-tied and blushes every time Bernardo looks, let alone talks to her.

I had a hard time getting through both the first and the second book for different reasons. The first book was very slow moving and took a while to get into. There was the really awkward and inappropriate crush on her cousin, but for the most part, the book was about demon hunting and catching. Also, it was a little unbelievable how quickly Mia is able to learn Italian and become fluent in the language. The second book, however, was all about romance with very little actual demon catching. Mia is constantly talking about not having a boyfriend and needing a boy to want her. When Bernardo shows up, it's all about him. But at least she's no longer pining after her cousin. When Bernardo actually kisses her, she then decides that she has a reason to try to survive the demon that is still hunting her... Really? You didn't want to survive for yourself? Is it really that important to have a boyfriend? I don't know, it just irked me. Also, I felt some confusion about the demon. At one point he says something to Mia about her being in love with him and he recites a poem to her. I have no idea. I'm guessing that it will be cleared up in the third book (UGH!) that I will definitely not waste my time reading.

There was a lot of Italian used throughout the book. Sometimes, it was translated, but a lot of the time it was not. In some instances, I was able to figure out what they were saying based on context clues, but there were a lot of times that I had no idea what they were talking about and it didn't explain. It definitely took away from the story, but I can see what the author was trying to do by including it. Overall, it was pretty boring and extremely annoying as far as the romance aspect. I liked the demon catching parts of the first book and

the romance completely took away from that. There was an interesting twist in the end of the book though that had some redeeming qualities, however, the romance crap, once again, made it awkward and not nearly as enjoyable.

Literary Merit: Mediocre

Characterization: Good

Recommendation: Recommend as Optional Purchase

Level: Middle school (grades 7-10)

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## **Dana says**

DNF

Unfortunately this just wasn't for me. I am always loath to not finish an arc, but I felt that it was more fair than forcing myself through the book and then rating it when I would no doubt be in a foul mood. I'm not going to say that this was a bad book, it just wasn't my cup of tea. The writing seemed more geared towards grade schooler's. As a 24 year old I am aware that I am probably not the target audience for YA, but this felt young even for that. Perhaps someone in the 12-13 age range would enjoy this more.

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## **Ruthsic says**

*Mia has settled into her life with the Della Torres -- Milan's premier demon-catching family, accompanying them to exorcisms and even learning some way to be useful in the family trade. Then Bernardo comes into her life, handsome, well-mannered, someone who makes her forget her impossible crush on Emilio, her cousin. But always lurking in the background is the demon who possessed Mia once before, and who has not given up on possessing her again--this time for good.*

At the end of *The Demon Catchers of Milan*, Mia had decided to enter the family business of demon-catching. While she does miss her home, she is settling well into life in Milan and since she has her talisman, she no longer needs to be on house arrest or accompanied by a member of her family. She is now actively hunting down her demon, while also being intrigued by the fact that the demon bothered to cross an ocean to possess her. While delving into her family secrets and preparing herself for life as a demon hunter, she also wants to live the life of a young girl, and having love in spite of the sword hanging over her head. The story, like before, is quite different in its style, seeming going nowhere until towards the end, where things make sense. In terms of plot development, there is no reaching to an endgame; the whole story has different revelations that make sense in different ways. I quite liked how Beyer paints a splendid and detailed picture of living in Milan, even though she admits having never actually lived there (in the acknowledgements of the previous book). How the history and politics have been rendered is also quite impressive.

I did feel, though, that it did not fully live up to the potential of the earlier book and had a few plot points reused. The twist at the end was quite interesting and made me like this book a bit more, since it was realistic in how the characters were presented. Characters other than Mia, though, still - not much depth to them, I feel, so that was a disappointment. Overall, a good book - 3.5 stars.

*Received ARC from Egmont USA via Netgalley and Edelweiss, which does not affect my review or opinions in any way.*

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### **Jennybeast says**

16 year old Mia is suddenly swept away from her homework into a terrifying demonic possession she is not expected to survive. Enter the mysterious, long-lost, demon-catching family members from Milan, there to save her and try to find a way to contain the demon.

They bring shy, awkward Mia with them on their return, and this book is as much about falling in love with a new language and food culture as it is about the riveting paranormal plotline. Fast-paced adventure with a interesting story to tell.

I like Mia, and I like seeing her grow throughout the story -- in confidence in herself (in a very believable way) and in love with her family, tradition and food. Is she is 16-year-old worried about fashion and boys? Yes, but she's also a thinker who is willing to work hard to find a way to survive, and that is a compelling portrait for any young woman to see.

I loved the first book, and the sequel does not disppoint. I also really appreciate that while the mystery of the demon continues, the books can stand alone. A thoughtful and addicting series.

Book provided by Edelweiss.

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### **Rebecca says**

I like the story of this book. Demons aren't super overdone (yet), and I like that they aren't just random evil spirits. I don't read a lot of books set in Italy, so it's fun to read the culture included.

My only issue is that the main character seems so young. She is 16. The funny thing is that I think she is actually written as 16, and that's why she seems so young. Usually YA characters are so wise beyond their years or whatever. But all of her interactions with guys (or well she calls them men which is weird and makes them sound really old) just seem odd. Maybe not quite believable and a little creepy. But the rest of her story is great! Ha I will probably read the next one if I remember it when it comes out.

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### **Shelley says**

\*\*I received this book for free from Egmont USA via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

\*Genre\* Young Adult, Paranormal

\*Rating\* 3.0

\*My Thoughts\*

Milan, Italy is once again the setting for Beyer's *The Halcyon Bird*, the second installment in the *The Demon*

Catchers of Milan series. The story picks up right where it's predecessor left off. 16-year old Mia Dellatorri, the protagonist, was saved from a demon possession by her cousins Emilio and Giuliano, and brought to Italy where she trains as a demon catcher.

\*Full Review posted @ Gizmos Reviews\*

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

\*Recvd via Edelweiss 03/06/2014\* Published: November 11th 2014 by EgmontUSA

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### **Sandy says**

Fast and very enjoyable read. Better than the first one. A strong voice and a realistic teenage character who is learning things about herself and the world while training to be a demon catcher in Milan. Meanwhile she's falling in love with a young man. This one really stuck the landing.

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### **M.R. Graham says**

Pretty good. I put off reading this for quite a while, because I hadn't realized on entering the giveaway that it was a second book. However, references to the first book were clear enough that I never felt lost, and by the time I finished, I felt pretty silly for putting it off.

*Halcyon Bird* follows Mia in a solid ordinary-girl-learning-the-ropes-with-her-extraordinary-family storyline. She is pursued by a demon who apparently possessed her over the course of the first book and is now determined to get her back. Meanwhile, Mia is apprenticing as a demon-catcher with the rest of her awesome Milanese family, who have been catching demons for centuries. There is demon trouble, boy trouble, and lots of succulent descriptions of food that occasionally had me dropping *Halcyon Bird* and scrambling for a cookbook, instead.

The writing is very good, too. Very smooth and comfortable. The dialogue in just a couple of places was weird and stilted, though.

In Conclusion:

A fun read. Made me hungry.

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### **Beth says**

What if you were born a demon hunter and never knew it? Mia had no warning before the demon took possession of her but when her family the Della Torres crossed an ocean to save her, Mia discovers a whole new life path is set before her.

With the initial demon that possessed her still hot on Mia trail, Mia gets a quick course in demon 101. Her

new found family is supportive but Mia yearns for the day she can stand on her own.

When the man Mia has come to adore is attacked, Mia must do everything in her power to try and save him...but will he ever think of her the same when it was her heritage that put him in danger in the first place.

I found *The Halcyon Bird* a highly imaginative, young adult tale. The Della Torres family was utterly relatable, aside for their demon capturing abilities, making you feel like a member in their family.

The story was slightly too slowing moving, I keep thinking it was young minded. At times, we are caught up in the daily details rather than the continuation of the story. I believe this created my detachment from getting emotionally connected to the characters and their plight.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed reading this story. Will I continue reading this story? Absolutely, it has a huge potential!

*The Halcyon Bird* was a very vivid story. The premise is captivating with an eerie glimpse into Beyer's imaginative perspective on the spiritual realm. 3.5 Stars

I received this ARC copy of *The Halcyon Bird* from EgmontUSA in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication November 11, 2014.

Written by: Kat Beyer

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Series: Demon Catchers of Milan

Sequence in Series: 2

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Find this book on: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

Reviewed for: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## **Sarah says**

### **2.5 stars**

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to EgmontUSA and Edelweiss.)

*“Il mio nome e Vendetta,” whispered the demon, cold, guttural.*

*Oh, please, I thought. For real? “I call myself Vengeance.”*

*This one should be easy, at least.*

This was an okay story, but I did feel like there was a lot of stuff in there that really didn't need to be in there.

Mia's verbal diarrhoea continued in this book, while I understood her need to wax lyrical about Italian coffee in the first book, I didn't expect it to continue in this book, and it wasn't just about the coffee either. We got all sorts of in-depth descriptions and info-dumps about bicycles, coffee, Venice, wine making, and even a squash!

***“Nonno Giuliana was very pleased that Anna Maria and I had found the entries on the Second Door. We read on, learning about the kinds of wood G. Della Torre had used, the number of silver nails, and the real iron nails that had been used to keep the thing from falling off the wall of the palace.”***

I mean I will say that at least the door was a significant part of the plot, but discussing wood and nails? I'm sorry, but I'm just not interested in that!

The storyline in this did have a few interesting moments interspersed with Mia's uncontrollable babbling about things, but I didn't find them all that entertaining. There were some moments that I think were supposed to be creepy, but they fell a bit flat for me.

***“He was holding the hand of a small boy, who looked up at me and spoke in my demon's voice. I stopped still.***

***“I will come for you,” the child said simply, his voice deep gravelly, horribly familiar. The grandfather frowned down at his grandson; the air opened and parted; the boy blinked in confusion, himself again.”***

We did get a little bit of romance, although Mia once again showed herself up a bit by walking into a car door in front of the boy she liked!

***“No problem,” I said lightly, smiling at him, and walked smack into the passenger door.***

We did finally get a little bit of action and excitement at the 86% mark, which was a case of 'too little, too late' for me. It was a nice change from the pace of the rest of the book, but at that point I really wanted the book to be over.

***“Go ahead,” I told my demon. “We're not finished yet.”***

Buffy, she aint.

5 out of 10

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## **Abbie says**

(I received a copy from Edelweiss, In exchange for an honest review.)

I was hoping this one would be a bit better than the first, but it wasn't.

Mia continued to annoy me in this one. She just went on, and on, and on about stuff that didn't add anything to the story.

The pacing in this series is a killer. It's full of info dumps, and really really slow. It makes the book feel like it's over a thousand pages.

Overall, Not an enjoyable read for me.

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## **Carol Hill de Santos says**

I have been waiting for this book to come out and was happy to get an ARC. Now I can't wait to see what happens in the next book. Mia is such an interesting character. She is settling into life in Milan, becoming a real part of the family. She is also starting to spread her wings and venture outside the house although she has very real fears about her demon who is still looking for her. This book introduces some new characters and brings back some unnerving characters from the first book. The world of demons is a very interesting one which Mia, and the reader, is slowly learning more about and there are some intriguing conversations and incidents which I think show that there is a lot more to know, that even Mia's family doesn't know or remember. This book sets the stage for more to come: Mia has suffered quite a bit in the first two books, but she is growing more mature, learning and becoming stronger. She is learning more about demons, and her demon in particular. She is changing from a victim to survivor to... I can't wait to see what she does.

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## **Judith says**

I received the Arc of this book from the publisher via Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review. I had not read the first book in the series so it took me a little while to get to grips with the characters but once I understood what Mia Della Torre had suffered previously being possessed by a demon and realized that it was still pursuing her the plot drew me in. Although I found the pace rather slow and laboured sometimes I felt drawn to Mia's Milanese family and was delighted to see her relationship with Bernado blossom as she learned to be a demon catcher herself. I look forward to reading the sequel to this book to find out whether Mia can defeat her demon and protect her loved ones from his influence.

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## **Daisy says**

**\*\*WARNING: POSSIBLE SPOILERS FOR FIRST BOOK IN THE SERIES\*\***

I liked diving back into this world that has a lot of Italian culture and family and demon catching badassess in it, and I really did love Mia's family because they're awesome. I had just expected a little more of this sequel,

cause I remember really enjoying the first book. I was a bit frustrated with Mia's crush on her cousin and was relieved when a new love interest appeared on the horizon, even though she was majorly clueless about this, which was a bit annoying at times. But they were cute together.

Mia's demon majorly creeped me out, but with all the family's badassery, I was wondering why they still hadn't found a way to beat this demon for good. Or at least for the next fifty years or so. I mean, he's been killing other people in the family and just been a general nuisance, so why not destroy/banish/whatever him for good?

Anyway, I did really like this, but it didn't have that spark that the first book had.

My rating: 3,5 stars

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