



# The Casquette Girls

*Alys Arden*

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**Revised edition: This edition of *The Casquette Girls* includes editorial revisions.**

Seven girls tied by time.

Five powers that bind.

One curse to lock the horror away.

One attic to keep the monsters at bay.

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After the storm of the century rips apart New Orleans, sixteen-year-old Adele Le Moyne wants nothing more than her now silent city to return to normal. But with home resembling a war zone, a parish-wide curfew, and mysterious new faces lurking in the abandoned French Quarter, *normal* needs a new definition.

As the city murder rate soars, Adele finds herself tangled in a web of magic that weaves back to her own ancestors. Caught in a hurricane of myths and monsters, who can she trust when everyone has a secret and keeping them can mean life or death? Unless . . . you're immortal.

★ “In this Southern Gothic love letter, Arden spins a moody tale of magic and mystery. A thoroughly satisfying page-turner. A strong debut.”—*Publishers Weekly*, *starred review*

“A cathartic, uncompromising tribute to New Orleans.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A slow-burning novel in the tradition of Anne Rice.”—*Rue Morgue Magazine*

“A smart story with a surprising amount of emotional depth . . . in the grand tradition of *Buffy* and *The Lost Boys*.”—*IndieReader*

“It's as if Arden took her life experiences within the Vieux Carre, assembled a few Hogwarts students as Avengers, channeled Magneto into Wednesday Adams, drenched the process in Parisian detail, and penned the great American novel.” — *Examiner.com*

## The Casquette Girls Details

Date : Published November 17th 2015 by Skyscape (first published October 31st 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Alys Arden

Format : Kindle Edition 576 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Romance

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## From Reader Review The Casquette Girls for online ebook

### Donita Luz says

I wanted to like this more than I did. I really do. The blurb sounds amazing and intriguing enough for me to pick this book up. I wonder why MC's and romance have to fuck everything up for me. I don't know if it's just me, but the romance department of some of the YA books I've read lately annoys the shit out of me. **It's just so frustrating and disappointing.**

*"I felt very tiny, like a pawn in a life-size game of chess where the stakes were real. How many wrong moves have I made, unaware that I was even a player?"*

I have no idea what this story is about when I started reading it. I was pleasantly charmed and intrigued with the setting of the book, but aside from the characters and romance that pretty-much put me off, **I also didn't appreciate how the story is so eventful but still make the story somehow drags.**

A storm has almost swept the New Orleans apart. The damage was bad, so bad that the government turns a blind eye on what's happening of the place and when the initial news and excitement has died down, it's like people of New Orleans was left to fend of themselves, which I find utterly ridiculous. The place is just starting to get on their feet after the nasty storm, if it isn't bad enough, dead bodies after dead bodies are found in the streets drained with blood and the government and even the media has decided to let them deal with their problem. It's like New Orleans was temporarily removed of the map to conveniently cater the story. There goes your world building.

**But to its credit, the book made a very good job at advertising New Orleans because it got me really intrigued.** I fell in love with New Orleans and the introduction of the Casquette girls. I think that it's amazing and unique. I even started looking through google images what New Orleans look like and to know more information about the Casquette girls and the writing was great! That's pretty much the reason why I stick with the story, all other thing was a turn off for me.

The story started out so great, then the MC suddenly met 2 mysteriously sibling hot guys and another 1 in a cafe. the story started to freaking dragged i struggled not to actually start reading backwards to just know what will eventually happen.

I also think that this book is quite a hypocrite. I mean, it is so strongly against to the idea of sparkling vampires(*which is ridiculous*), but have no problem making the vampire blush and have flickered heartbeat in this book. **Well, I guess if the author wants their vampires to blush, sparkle or have a heartbeat, who am I to judge?**

This book had a great potential and superb writing. If unnecessary romance doesn't annoy you, then by all means don't let my review scare you away from reading this book.

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### Maggie says

The Casquette Girls is not your ordinary teen paranormal romance story. The main character, Adele, is not your typical YA character. She is far more complex than that. Yes, she acts childish at times and is ruled by her hormones, but there are more layers to her, and she is a character that uses her head. It's probably why I found the ending quite unexpected - because it didn't end in the way you would expect a YA novel to end - but it felt right because it fit Adele's character perfectly.

The book started off a little slow and took a while to reveal the main plot, but during that time it painted a hauntingly beautiful picture of a post-storm New Orleans that just made me fall in love with it. I could actually see myself walking down the streets Adele called home and feel her pain as she witnessed the destruction.

The other thing I didn't expect were the nature of the vampires. After Twilight, the YA paranormal genre has been inundated with 'tame' vampires that fall in love with the main female character who's too stupid to run away. Not in The Casquette Girls. While there are a few romances springing up, and a lot of confused feelings, Adele never forgets who it is she is dealing with. These vampires are anything but tame, and are probably more terrifying because they pretend to be nice to get what they want. Bram Stoker would have been proud of these vampires.

Then there are the mysteries. Just when you think you have it all figured out, you realise you have barely scratched the surface and there is another mystery to uncover. The final mystery - the big one - was able to retain its secrets right till the very end. I usually pride myself in being able to guess the outcome of a story. I am happy to say that I couldn't guess this one at all. It made for an interesting and unique reading experience for me.

If you want to read a YA paranormal romance without any sparkly vampires in sight, this book is a must. You won't be disappointed.

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## **Mee says**

I just finished this book and . . . oh gosh. My dad's at home right now so he probably thinks I'm all hopped up on drugs.

Okay, I'm going to try to make this review more review like than a crazy-fan-girl-I-think-I'm-going-to-die rant. I don't know if that's possible. I'm still reeling in from this.

-DEEP BREATH-

The first time is always unforgettable - and get your minds out of the gutter, that's not what I'm talking about. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to re-watch a favourite movie again for the first time? The magic of "the first time" is kind of ruined when you can anticipate everything that happens. The Casquette Girls by Alys Arden is one of those books you finish and close, wishing that there was a way for you to read it again - for the first time.

So the book is divided in three different parts and I'm going to try reiterating my thoughts on the story without any spoilers.

## **Part I**

You've cracked open the book and you're read to just dive in because you're dying to learn what the mysterious blurb on the back is referring to:

*Seven girls tied by time*

*Five powers that bind*

*One curse to lock the horror away*

*One attic to keep the monsters at bay*

But Arden teases you, she dangles that golden carrot in your face while leading you into the water. We don't know right away what this curse is or who these seven girls are, let alone what monsters are being locked away in said attic. Instead, we're introduced to Adele Le Moyne, possibly one of my favourite YA character ever. She takes us on a tour around New Orleans, after the storm, and we get pulled into the city because it's impossible not to love the city with how she describes it. There are freak and random incidents that happen throughout this part but you kind of brush it off because well, it's a city trying to repair itself, no duh there'll be stuff happening around that wouldn't normally occur.

HA! As if anything in this story is accidental – Arden lures you with that golden carrot so far into the water, you're already dead before you know you're drowning. You don't know it just yet, but the story *has* begun. So we begin part II.

## **Part II**

Oh my carrots I can't even tell you how much I adored this part – I loved reading the diary entries! This might earn me a slap in the face but I think I liked Adeline more so than Adele in this part because every time we were brought back to the present, I kept thinking, 'oh my gosh, what else happened to Adeline?!' But it wasn't only Adeline that caught my attention in the diary, the "Ette" triplets as I called them in my head, Cosette, Lisette and Minette, were as captivating as Adeline described. I don't know if Arden made Cosette the way she did on purpose, but as a reader, I was drawn to her more so than the other two sisters. (view spoiler)

Anyhow, so in the second part, everything starts unravelling and you realise holy mother shit, WHAT IS THIS?! Remember up above when I said she lures you in quietly? Yeah, this is when you realise it.

## **Part III**

So now the characters know about the curse and the vampires so things are *really* starting to pick up. I love the magic that's woven in the plot, it's not overwhelming and just right. I loved seeing Désirée just dive into the magic her grandmother has passed down to her and how the two of them (view spoiler) worked together to find a way to deal with the vampire problem.

This part was definitely action packed! I loved seeing Adele grow throughout the book and she turned into a kick ass heroine! I think Emilio put it perfectly with this quote; *It seems just yesterday you were that little lost duck in Paris.*

Speaking of Emilio, can I just say how much I hate love triangles? My heart just can't take it!! I am SO torn

between Isaac and Nicco!

Okay, I lied. I love and hate love triangles. I hate that I love ones that are done well. It's as if I enjoy having more angst in my life. Who has an edge right now for me? I'm going to say . . . Nicco. DON'T KIL ME ISAAC FANGIRLS! I don't know why, there's *something* about him that's got as much as a hold on me as it does for Adele.

There was something that Issac said at the end of the story that caught my attention and I cannot wait to see what he was trying to tell Adele before he was interrupted. I had an inkling when Nicco and him were speaking in the club but gah, I cannot wait to actually hear the full story of what happened there.

All in all my review does not do this story any justice. There are twists in the plot that makes it so when you think you've got it figured out, you realise you really don't. There are so many loveable characters in the story – Ren was just hilarious! – and the antagonist! I can't decide if I love them more or the coven! There was something about them that you hated and loved at the same time. I'm probably due for a check in an institution because I still can't help but *still* like Gabe despite what he did. I thought it was so evil but almost . . . delightfully so.

I can't wait for the sequel to The Casquette Girls so I'm definitely going to be stalking Arden's fan page for sneak-a-peeks and any other goodies she may send our way.

Definitely recommended for readers that are looking for a different paranormal story with a splash of romance!

Last gif just to sum up my feels because there's no way I'm making one of myself doing this;

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### **Casey Ann Books says**

When I read a book, I hope that I'm taken away to a place far from my own. When I read I book I hope that I cry, scream, gasp, laugh and all that good stuff. When I started The Casquette girls I had no idea what to expect. I was hoping I would feel all of those things and boy did I.

New Orleans in this novel is a place of Magic, history, mystery, romance, and destruction. Adele Le Moyne has returned from staying with her mother in Paris while attending Notre Dame university. Adele fled with her father before the terrible storm hit New Orleans that created the most heartbreaking destruction. She's back in New Orleans with her father and its time to start again. However things are some what different now she is back and not just because of the destruction the storm had left in its wake.

When she is caught up in a spell that wasn't hers to begin with, When she meets two mysterious brothers who are hiding a big secret, when she finds a diary that will change her life forever.. and when all else fails its time the coven band together to fight evil.

Adele is one of my favourite heroines of all time. She wasn't at all two dimensional. I could picture her

sitting on my bed and having a conversation with me! she's badass, doesn't take no for an answer and is one brave chick! You can definitely tell that Alys Arden is from the French Quarter of New Orleans, because of the amount of detail and eeriness that she brought to this book. So much so that I am now going to New Orleans next year! it has to happen.

There are some shocking revelations in this book! Im not going to spoil it for you people but lets just say it wasn't wedding dresses in those Casquettes.... it was something much more sinister and exciting. Aly has created word images so vivid that it is almost like watching a movie. She takes you for a romp through beautiful New Orleans with an action packed suspenseful event that had my heart racing and had me excited from beginning to end. Don't open the attic door guys. Its locked for a reason. READ THIS BOOK.

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### **Ben Alderson says**

4.5

Thank you Alys for sending me this copy. Thank you Casey ann books for pushing me to read this!

Brilliant book for fall! Supernatural, New Orleans, History!  
I love it!

Cant wait for book two!

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### **Bee (Heart Full of Books) says**

The fact that Nicco calls her 'bella' really adds to the whole Twilight thing.

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### **Althea Ann says**

Guilty pleasure alert!

I have to admit, as I began this book, I found my eyes rolling several times at the silliness of it all... I wasn't sure it'd be for me. But somehow, as it went on, I found myself continuing to turn the pages... enjoying it more and more. It didn't get less silly, but I was along for the ride.

Adele Le Moyne is a high school student whose hometown of New Orleans has been devastated by a terrible hurricane. (Is it Katrina? I'm not sure - there's not mention of "Katrina" at all, and it might be an even-worse storm.) After spending two months in Paris with her rarely-seen mother, Adele is ready to rejoin her father and start rebuilding her home.

The destruction she encounters is shocking. Her school is closed down. The streets are empty. But some of her old friends are around, trying to make the best of a bad situation along with her.

There are the "teenage" things to deal with: soon, Adele is placed in the upper-crust girls' private school, where her designer duds from France are her only hope of being socially accepted. After school, there's the



annoying guy from the coffee shop who unfortunately (?) starts taking art lessons from her dad. And then there are the two drop-dead handsome Italian brothers - who say they're in town searching for lost family members. (ooh la la!)

But stranger things are also in the offing. After a bizarre experience at the old convent, Adele seems to be developing a talent for telekinesis. She has to consult with her new friend down at the local voodoo store (who's also a 'cool' girl, AND the mayor's daughter) about whether she might be a witch... and the descendant of old-time New Orleans witches.

When we hop back in time to learn more about what happened with those old-time witches - back when young, unmarried girls were sent over from Frances with only the 'caskets' than supposedly contained their dowries - more light is shed on the supernatural events that Adele has become entangled in, back in the present day.

Good fun... and, (view spoiler)

The quote that really captures it all: "Am I going to die tonight? As a sixteen-year-old virgin with only one passport stamp?"

Many thanks to Amazon and NetGalley for the opportunity to read. As always, my opinions are solely my own

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### **? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says**

Putting this aside at 11%. It seems like there is potential here, but it's not keeping my interest enough to want to continue right now. Besides, reading funk and all just means it would be worse if I tried to keep forcing myself...

#### **Previous post:**

Free with Kindle Unlimited, or \$1.99 on September 17, 2017.

I saw the word vampires and I was sold.

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### **Rachel Kirtlan says**

Wow. What a journey this book took me on. I absolutely adored all the complex history that was woven within the story, and how the characters tied in with one another. Set mainly in the French Quarter of New Orleans after a horrific hurricane, simply known as the Storm, it follows a teenage Adele Le Moyne as she returns to her city to find almost everything destroyed.

Man, where do I even start with this book? Basically, I loved everything in it. There. Review done, yeah?

Okay, for real now. The legends in this book are so intricately wound, that it's hard not to feel completely submerged in them. I loved how the past and present was so expertly connected, and how it was slowly revealed throughout the book just how related it really was. The pacing of the book was excellent, as I was constantly on the edge of my seat, waiting for the next little morsel of information to be revealed (while still trying to make my own guesses (which were often wrong...)).

All the characters in this book were amaaazing! As it got further into the story, more bits of information about many of the characters were revealed, leaving a whole lot of really developed characters. That's another point, actually. Quite a few things that happened earlier in the book that seemed a bit random, out of place, or even completely pointless, totally ended up making sense later on, which shows a lot of writing skill, so I applaud Arden for that.

This book had such an intriguing storyline that it was very hard to put down. The paranormal element mixed really well with the urban setting, and all the past/present links matched up perfectly to create a truly exceptional story. This is a really well-constructed book that any reader can easily love.

*\*I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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## **Patricia Eddy says**

\*\*\*This review was originally submitted to Author Alliance.\*\*\*

I admit, I don't read a lot of YA. Why not? Well, because so many times the teenage characters have so much angst that I just can't get through it. That said, the description of *The Casquette Girls* really spoke to me and I decided to take a chance.

Wow. I am so glad I did.

*The Casquette Girls* is technically a YA Paranormal Romance. The main characters are all sixteen to eighteen years old. If you're looking for a book suitable for teens, this is a good candidate. There's no sex, no swearing, and only limited violence. That said, there's a whole lot else going for it that will keep you engaged even if you're well north of thirty.

I wish I could summarize the story for you. I want to. But there's just so much to it that any description I could possibly make would pale in comparison to what the book was - near perfection.

First of all, the book takes place in New Orleans right after Katrina. The author does a fantastic job of capturing the horrors of post-storm life while not delving deeply into some of the political aspects of the issues that happened in Louisiana. You'll feel for the characters who had to return to storm ravaged life and you'll learn how the city's undefeatable spirit kept it going when it seemed like all was lost.

Next, the vampire narrative is incredibly well done. The story bounces back and forth between Adele's ancestor, Adeline's diary and present day and it does so nearly seamlessly. All too often, these flashbacks can be too drawn out and slow, but in *The Casquette Girls*, they are incredibly important and very well done. Just as you're wondering why we need to read all this history, the author shows you exactly why you're reading.

There were parts of the climax that took me completely by surprise and that is rare. The author left me

wanting more, but not a lot more. I don't want another book (well, unless there's another threat to neutralize), but I'd love to read an epilogue or check in with these characters five years in the future to see what happened after all of the...drama.

Superbly written and edited, this is a book that will hold your interest from the first page to the last. Each character is important. Each is well defined and well crafted. The ending is thrilling and nearly perfect. This is definitely one of the top books I've read in 2014.

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### **Gemma ? Books\_McCoy says**

I really, really enjoyed this book. The magic and history that is woven into it is gorgeous. I loved the setting and cast of characters. The switching between French and English felt so authentic and I cannot recommend the audio book enough because Kate Rudd puts so much personality into each character. You know who she is the moment she starts speaking. The characters are great. I loved them all, pretty much. Adele on ever so slightly annoyed me now and again, just purely because of her obsession with someone so obviously wrong for her (to me anyway). I adored Isaac and Dee and the friendship they built up between them. I have a huge soft spot for Mac!!! Hes so awesome and I hope he finds out more about whats going on in the next book. Thoroughly enjoyed!!

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### **Forever Young Adult says**

**Graded By:** Jennie

**Cover Story:** Christopher Pike Would Be Proud

**BFF Charm:** Yay

**Swoonworthy Scale:** 6

**Talky Talk:** Straight up avec une touche paranormal

**Bonus Factors:** New Orleans, Southern Gothic

**Relationship Status:** Cemetery Companion

Read the full book report here.

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### **Maria Kaye says**

Let's review this! :D

**\*\*\*5 witchy stars\*\*\***

I said it once and I'll say it again, this book was freaking amazing!

The book tells the story of Adele Le Moyne. Her and her father are forced to evacuate their homes when a huge storm -- referred to as "The Storm" rips through New Orleans leaving death and destruction everywhere. Washed up houses, broken families, nothing is left untouched. Soon after their return strange

unnatural things start happening to Adele, new mysterious faces join the french quarter and dead bodies start turning up -- deaths unrelated to The Storm.

Caught suddenly in a hurricane of eighteenth-century myths and monsters, Adele must quickly untangle a web of magic that links the climbing murder rate back to her own ancestors. But who can you trust in a city where everyone has a secret, and where keeping them can be a matter of life and death – unless, that is, you're immortal.

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Well. Has the book piqued your interest yet?!

The book was interesting, this was my first witch centered novel (I think) and I loved every bit of it. I was so fascinated by all the stories (even if they were made up) of New Orleans, the history, the integration of the casquette girls (which in fact were a real thing!) and also the paranormal aspect of the book.

The build up in the beginning was slow, Adele's character, she was very.. annoying in the beginning due to her denial. Ugh, she went back and forth believing she had powers to thinking she was crazy. But after she accepted what she was the story finally kicked off!

After about a quarter of the way I found it so hard to put the book down, I just wanted to keep flicking the pages to find out what happens next. Alys Arden does a great job at foreshadowing hints to add to the mystery surrounding Adele and The Storm.

The characters were all very likeable, there is a love triangle in the book. I didn't really mind it since it was done well. I really liked Nicco and Isaac! And Gabe! And Sebastien and every other freaking character in the book. Each had their own personalities and were different! Even the bad guys were kind of likeable. It was such a perfect set of characters for the book.

I don't know what else to say, there were a lot of twists, a lot of secrets get uncovered and shit gets crazy by the end of the book. I should also mention that this book is sort of told in two POVs, one being Adele in present time and the other being Adeline (Adele's ancestor).

If you love YA paranormal books with witches, heaps of mystery, great characters and plotline then read this! READ IT!

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### **madamereadsalot says**

3.75

I quite enjoyed reading The Casquette Girls. It's been ages since I last read a book with vampires and witches & it was a fun read. The beginning was a bit slow to start, but I am not really one to mind it much, bc I think it is good for creating the introduction to the story, build up the action parts and make the story feel more 'realistic' in regards of character development and story development. (I usually have troubles if there is too little explaining, so I prefer a longer introduction to the story.)

I enjoyed getting to know a bit about New Orleans and how it is switched between present day with our main

character Adele and past 'Nouvelle Oléans' with Adelaide.

I also liked Adele as a character and Desirée and especially Issac. A character that seemed too cliché for me tho, was Niccolo. As well as the love triangle. I have to be honest, I like some kind of conflict in the romance department. I like if the protagonist has to figure out things regarding their own emotional state. I am not a fan of Insta-Love. But neither a big fan of love triangles. And there was a bit of both in it for me. But still, I am rooting for one particular character. And for the other, I feel like there still is more to discover on background info as to why they acted the way they did. Overall I am very interested in seeing what this talk of Saint-Germains curse is all about. And I very much enjoyed reading especially the last 100 pages, as it felt like this would be an amazing, actionpacked movie scene. I also was a big fan of the side characters introduced such as Bastien! I hope they'll play a bigger role in book 2.

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## **Nick says**

### ***5 MIND BLOWING STARS!***

You can find the full review and more about this book on my blog!

*The Casquette Girls by Alys Arden*

*Book One of The Casquette Girls series*

*Publisher: fortheARTofit*

*Publication Date: October 31st 2013*

*Rating: 5 stars*

*Source: ARC sent by the author*

*First, look at this **cover**. It's perfection, just like the book. I adore this cover so much, because it reminds me somehow American Horror Story and I love that tv series. And I don't know why but I kept thinking about that show reading this book. I freaking loved it.*

***The Casquette Girls** is a paranormal mystery romance YA. And believe me it is not fluffy romance, I wouldn't have rated this 5 stars if it was. Actually I liked the romance here. It did not become a really big deal, and it was fun to read about it. I must say when I learned this is also with vampires, I was less intrigued to read it, because vampires and witches are my least favorite creatures, but I didn't mind here at all.*

***I really liked the way the book is written.** It is so unique from others, because sometimes you are lost, at least I was. I liked all the parts of this book, because they completed the story so beautifully. Also the characters. I liked Adele because she was not the typical female characters, and she reminded me Violet from American Horror Story, so of course I loved her.*

*The story takes place in New Orleans after the storm. The main character, Adele who wants to have a normal life. But meanwhile she discovers that she faces some strange powers and also there are a series of unusual events that began a long time ago. Also new people come to her life and everything starts to change. Will she complete the jigsaw that has been going on for so long?*

*I highly recommend this book to every reader, especially if you read paranormal YA. It is a perfection. Pick it up:)*

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