



## Spells & Stitches

*Barbara Bretton*

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**In the latest novel from the *USA Today* bestselling author, raising a baby is hard, but raising one with magical powers is even harder...**

Sugar Maple, Vermont, knitting store owner Chloe Hobbs couldn't be happier about her pregnancy. But with the arrival of the town's newest resident, things are about to get a lot more magical.

Baby Laria is six pounds, eleven ounces of perfect, and Chloe and Luke are over the moon. But when they learn that Laria takes after her mom in the sorcery department, it becomes clear that their baby might have more power than even a pro like Chloe can handle...

## Spells & Stitches Details

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Author : Barbara Bretton

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Mystery, Fiction, Crafts, Knitting, Cozy Mystery

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## From Reader Review Spells & Stitches for online ebook

### Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This is the 4th book in the series and I am staunchly in love with the characters, plots, and now a beautiful new baby. I can see so many more avenues this story might explore. I sincerely hope the series is just beginning.

Socceress Chloe Hobbs, and Chief of Police, Luke MacKenzie are having a baby. She will be 3/4ths human and one fourth Socceress. Who cares? The baby is beautiful. Alas, to our lovely joint families, someone does care about baby Laria. The person is not easily detected and suspicion falls upon Elspeth, the 300yr old troll sent to protect Laria's life.

What I really enjoyed about the book is the humor, and the lovely blending of the human and paranormal worlds. Can Sugar Maple, VT retain it's major secret from the love of the human family? And, just how strong is baby Laria's magic???

This is a Romantic Suspense story that knitters (oh yes, you should love fiber arts to fully enjoy this book,) with fantasy (or is it,)overtones.

I highly recommend this series.

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### Wall-to-wall books - wendy says

Loved, loved, loved loved, loved! This is book 4 in the Sugar Maple series. I have been waiting a whole year to read this book! This is the book I was most excited to read during my "Witchy month of May" that and the 3rd Hex Hall book!

As were the first 3 books, this book was fantastic! It was fun, quirky, exciting and full of adventure! This is one of my favorite series ever and I hope Barbara Bretton continues to write in this style.

If I seem excited about this series - I am! I can not recommend these enough! If you like quirky, fun paranormal and stories about witches that are fun and addictive - you should read these books!

The character development in these books is so excellent. I would have to say that Chloe Hobbs is one of my favorite characters ever! Barbara also does an excellent job is describing the settings. I can really picture the little Vermont town of Sugar Maple. But the thing I love most about these books is that they are FULL of magic! That is part of the problem I am having with a few of the Witch books I have been reading - there is not enough magic happening. In this book there is magic happening on every page!

"I just have butterflies."

The second I said it, a swarm of butterflies spilled out of my mouth and filled the truck.

"What the He\*\*...?" Luke barely missed slamming into a parked Saab when a monarch landed on the bridge of his nose.

"Tis the spell of containment loosing its hold," Elspeth said. "A bad sign... A very bad sign."

"Stop with this spell-of-containment stuff, will you? You're making me crazy!"

"You're speaking French," Luke said "When did you start speaking French?"

The butterflies disappeared and tiny silver shooting stars took their place. Unfortunately they were shooting out of my ears and straight toward Luke and the troll in the backseat."

This pretty much sums up the whole series -

Chloe - She was smart and funny and kind and talented and beautiful and a sorceress. A flames-shooting-from-her-fingertips, sparks-flying-from-her-eyes, turn-you-into-a-newt sorceress who lived in a town crammed with Vampires, werewolves, trolls, ghosts, sprites, and a sleeping giant. Sugar Maple's existence was predicated on their ability to hide their magic in plain site.

Sound like fun? Read the books!

There is some swearing, and talk of sex but nothing graphic.

I always say - You can tell how much I loved the book by how long the review is!

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### **Sharon Redfern says**

This is the fourth book in the Sugar Maple series and it keeps getting better with each one. The premise of the series is that the town of Sugar Maple is populated with magical creatures of all kinds who have transplanted their village to Vermont after the Salem Witchcraft trials. Chloe Hobbs is half human and pregnant by her human lover, Luke, a policeman who has moved to the town. She is the last in a line of Hobbs women who are the key to keeping Sugar Maple safe.

I love the varied people who live in the town and how Luke deals with them and they with him. Chloe is a great character with her pregnancy hormones causing random disasters all around her. I would recommend reading the earlier books but the backstory is skillfully interwoven into this book and the reader is able to follow the relationships with no problem. Elspeth, the troll, is a riot, going around being a major meanie to human and magick folk alike. The stress of imminent child birth, meeting Luke's family, and keeping herself from wrecking things makes Chloe's story so much fun to read. That said there are moments of suspense in the book and there lurks through the whole book portents of future trouble. The ending is big and emotional. I hope there will be more tales of the folks from Sugar Maple in the future.

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### **Maria says**

Livro 4 da saga mágica e romântica passada em Sugar Maple. Este livro começa com a protagonista Chloe grávida de 8 meses. Seguimos o final da sua gravidez e confesso que pensei que teria mais cenas com a bebé ma gostei do livro apesar de o final ser um pouco morno mas provavelmente para deixar a porta aberta para mais livros, que eu leria com prazer pois gosta da escrita da autora, com algum sentido de humor

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### **C. says**

This fourth **Barbara Bretton** novel about societal misfits, differs from the others. It focuses on 'Luke's' family, especially a rebellious sister similar to him. It spotlights 'Chloe's' pregnancy and her jubilant advancement into motherhood, over and above her family line's important to their town. Gone is any form of antagonism or disagreement with other citizens but gone too are the large-scale, life or death, ethereal battles in grand fantasy style. I had to frankly proceed and see along the way, whether "Spells & Stitches" would amount to the five stars of the rest of its set. There is such an apples and oranges change of priority and tone

that I'm unsure I could compare quality and enjoyment very effectively.

What gauged my reaction is that, same as the rest; I lapped this book up in a day! At no time did I want to put it aside. Just as before, I finished it into the late hours of a night. No matter if other elements did not belong in this particular story. I definitely rode along with gusto! I didn't find it as funny as the others but it did contain well-placed humour and there was certainly magic from stem to stern. I candidly observe, the mind-boggling magical wars of volumes one to three contributed a greater layer of ambiance. However in a picturesque town of werewolves, fairies, shape-shifters, and witches counting among *Chloe & Luke's* best friends; this book wasn't permitted to fall flat with a lack of the paranormal.

Other than the interesting enlargement of *Chloe's* family nucleus; it is the wondrous step into motherhood that delivered a strong emotional wallop. We wonder if '*Laria*' will be magical, since she is mostly human. I hope **Barbara** will resume her wonderful setting of 2011, for I became a fan.

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### **Tina says**

Sugar Maple, Vermont, is a small New England town where magical secrets and crazy yarnaholics abound. Chloe Hobbs, pregnant and the owner of Sticks and Strings Yarn Store, manages to keep Sugar Maple's secrets from being discovered by others. Luke and Chloe have a beautiful baby girl named Laria, who becomes very ill. No magic can help her; will Luke and Chloe lose the most powerful and precious member of Sugar Maple?

Spells and Stitches is the fourth book in the Sugar Maple series by Barbara Bretton, an ongoing mystery series with a paranormal twist. In order to fully appreciate and understand the dynamics of this town, this is a series which should be read in order. It's a wonderfully quirky town with creative and magical residents.

Chloe is sweet, quirky, and in love with yarn. I like this series because it reminds me a lot of where I live, and I am a yarnaholic myself, so I completely understand Chloe's love of yarn. I also appreciate the little cute things inside the book, like recipes and knitting facts. Whenever I pick up a book by Ms. Bretton, I smile.

There is a lot of love, a mystery I won't soon forget, and more love that just pours off the pages. Adding Laria, the powerful little girl Luke and Chloe make, is just the icing on a cake I just can't get enough of. I believe this is a book for anyone who loves anything paranormal, a little mystery, and yarn.

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### **Catarina says**

Mas que livro mais fofinho, querido e cheio de magia.  
Recomendo seriamente. Apesar de não ter lido os primeiros livros da trilogia (ainda), percebe-se bem a história.  
E claro ficamos com uma vontade de tricotar :p

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### **Sapphyria says**

Spells & Stitches is the fourth book in the Sugar Maple series and it's just as great as the previous books.

Chloe is pregnant and due anytime when she's surprised in the knit shop she owns by Luke's mother. Chloe's not the only one who is surprised though. Luke had not yet told his family that they were expecting. Now that the cat is out of the bag, things in the quiet, magical creature filled town are about to go haywire. Between Chloe's pregnancy and stress upon meeting Luke's family for the first time, her magical powers are becoming quite unpredictable. Also, when baby Laria is born with powers that look to far surpass Chloe's, stress all the way around ratchets up a few more notches. Chloe and Luke also have a paranormal babysitter by the name of Elspeth who, while being an important character in this story, also causes stress levels to climb. And, if things weren't bad enough, there is an air of trouble that snakes its way through the story.

I enjoyed a story filled with parenthood. Chloe's pregnancy is not only wonderful but also a must in keeping Sugar Maple's true nature and identities of its residents a secret. As will all stories in the Sugar Maple series, there are complications, generally involving the magical folks. This story, however, has complications involving both the magical beings but also the human beings. This story was fun to read and had a very suspenseful and emotional ending.

This book is extremely well written. The plot is smooth and flows evenly and there is humor and conflict. The characters are well developed and enjoyable. I highly recommend the series and that you start from book 1. There is enough backstory provided throughout the book, but everything would make more sense to the reader if they started from the beginning. Lovers of the paranormal will enjoy this unique story and setting.

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## **Kimberly says**

Blue Ribbon Rating: 4.5 out of 5

[Original Review Link](#)

For Chloe Hobbs, life couldn't get any better. She's in love with the gorgeous Luke MacKenzie, her knitting shop, Sticks & Strings, is thriving, and her magical hometown of Sugar Maple is doing well after narrowly missing a disaster a few months back. Best of all, Chloe and Luke are expecting a new addition to their family. But being a pregnant sorceress isn't easy. Chloe's little sorceress-to-be is making her powers go haywire and on top of that, Chloe and Luke are stuck with a cantankerous troll who's intent on guarding Chloe until the baby's born. If that wasn't enough, Luke's very human family has discovered that Chloe's expecting, and the soon-to-be-parents have to figure out how to mask Chloe's magical outbursts. It's almost too much for Chloe and Luke to handle...and that's before a dark force intercedes, threatening Chloe, Luke and their baby.

Magic and mayhem are part and parcel of the SUGAR MAPLE series, and author Barbara Bretton makes no exception with SPELLS & STITCHES. I love this zany series and in SPELLS & STITCHES, Ms. Bretton ups the stakes for Chloe, Luke and the readers when it comes to the dark magic in this book. There are few things more frightening than a child in danger, and Ms. Bretton definitely tugs on readers' emotions when Luke and Chloe's baby is threatened. I could not put down SPELLS & STITCHES until I was sure the entire Hobbs-MacKenzie family would be all right.

Though the ominous presence in SPELLS & STITCHES kept me enthralled, the book itself isn't all darkness and danger. As she has in her previous SUGAR MAPLE books, Ms. Bretton keeps the overall tone of the story light. SPELLS & STITCHES feels joyful most of the time, and it really was a delight to revisit the oddball town of SUGAR MAPLE.

SPELLS & STITCHES is the fourth book in the SUGAR MAPLE series, and Ms. Bretton provides enough information that readers new to the series can read this book as a standalone. I will say, however, that my

emotional investment in SPELLS & STITCHES stems from reading this book's three predecessors, CASTING SPELLS, LACED WITH MAGIC and SPUN BY SORCERY. I fell in love with Luke and Chloe in those books, and my attachment to them and their growing family only strengthens with SPELLS & STITCHES.

As far as buoyant paranormals go, Ms. Bretton writes the best. I absolutely adored SPELLS & STITCHES, and I hope Ms. Bretton has more adventures planned for Chloe, Luke and baby Laria.

Note: My review was written for Romance Junkies and is cross-posted here courtesy of Romance Junkies.

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### **Mafi says**

Já prevendo do que a autora é capaz, confesso que fiquei agradavelmente surpreendida com *Filha da Magia!* Para mim é o melhor livro da série e termina da melhor forma as aventuras de Chloe, Luke e companhia.

Opinião aqui - <http://algodaodoceparaocerebro.blogspot...>

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### **\* Jennifer says**

I really enjoyed the first three books in this series but this one left me feeling "meh". 80% of the story was completely centred on the wonderfulness of having a baby, motherhood and the bond, etc. etc. as well as Chloe forging a relationship with Luke's extended family. Very little time is spent on the plot itself and significant events that happen are never explained. The last 20% of the story has the entire plot squeezed into it and ends with very little angst or drama. I'm not saying I disliked the book, I love the characters and the town of Sugar Maple and I was happy to "catch up" with both the town and its inhabitants. But the author could have done a much better job with the plot.

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### **Cata says**

*Filha da Magia* é a minha estreia com Barbara Bretton.

Sim, é o 4º e último livro da série *Sugar Marple*. Não, não li nenhum dos anteriores. E era esse aspecto que me deixava nervosa, pois receava perder o fio à meada. Felizmente, tal não aconteceu. Acabei por descobrir os grandes *spoilers*, o que-pessoalmente- não me incomoda.

O que podem esperar deste livro? Um livre leve, de leitura muito fácil- mas nem por isso oca-, cheia de situações caricatas que vos farão rir um pedaço. Aconselho-os a lerem num lugar privado, porque se o forem ler num lugar público [digamos, um café] arriscam-se a levar olhares de soslaio de pessoas que provavelmente vos acham completamente doidas varridas por começarem a rir sem razão aparente [*True Story!*]

Não sei se os pais do Luke apareceram nos volumes anteriores- apareceram?- mas gostei imenso de Bunny e Jake. OK, OK, gostei especialmente de Bunny, com a sua maneira de ser autoritária, peremptória, um "pouco" intrometida, a ligar 50 vezes por dia ao filho e a se instalar em Sugar Marple dando cabo dos nervos

de Chloe e Luke que tentam a todo o custo fazer com que o clã MacKenzie não perceba que Sugar Maple **não** é uma cidade normal... mas quem não gosta?

Outra coisa que gostei foi a existência de vários POV's- neste caso três- o que dá sempre maior dinâmica a um livro, sendo que os meus preferidos foram os de Luke. O POV de Luke em Shadow Beach foi épico!

Houve uma coisinha que me fez um pouco de confusão: alguém me explica a panca pelo tricot? É que parece que toda a comunidade é completamente viciada nele. Sou só eu que consigo imaginar umas quantas actividades mais divertidas/estimulantes/lúdicas para se passar o tempo?!

Tricots à parte, gostei bastante e pretendo ler o resto da série.

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## Sara says

É possível esta saga descer mais? Devo dizer que quando peguei no primeiro livro, há cerca de 4 anos atrás, foi simplesmente uma lufada de ar fresco, uma leitura que me animou o dia, que me aliviou dos estudos na altura, foi um livro verdadeiramente apreciado. Apesar de não ser um livro 5 estrelas, foi um bom livro, uma boa leitura. Veio o segundo livro e este já não conseguiu chegar aos calcanhares do anterior. Foi bonzito, está bem, mas não tão engraçado nem tão brilhante. De seguida, o terceiro, e a fasquia continuava a descer. Ainda assim continuei, porque apesar da história ser cada vez menos fascinante, eu continuava curiosa com as personagens, com o potencial da história e do mundo criado em Sugar Maple. Estando o quarto livro e último livro à vista, as expectativas subiram, todos diziam ser o melhor livro da saga, que valia a pena ler, que até dava para ler o livro isoladamente. Mas, desculpem-me todos os que lerem e adoraram este livro, para mim foi uma desilusão. Vamos lá.

Em Filha da Magia, Chloe está grávida e presa à impossibilidade de mandar embora a troll que o seu avô recentemente descoberto lhe impingiu para que ajudasse ao nascimento da pequena Hobbs que aí viria. A par disto temos ainda a enorme família que Luke tentava afastar da vila mágica, mas que com o conhecimento da gravidez, entra pela vila e pela vida deste casal dentro. A sinopse prometia uma história bem empolgante devido à pequena Hobbs que uma vez nascida promete mais magia do que Chloe consegue lidar. Mas sejamos sinceros: à parte de umas pequenas manifestações de magia que a bebé faz e cuja autoria é apenas esclarecida no final da história, tudo o resto é tanga.

Basicamente esta história baseia-se nos precalços da vinda da família da Luke e nas tentativas de esconder a magia destes; no nascimento de Laria, a bebé de Chloe e Luke, que foi imprevisível para eles, apesar de suspeitarmos cedo do que ia acontecer; numa ida às urgências por algo que acontece a Laria mas que para além do propósito de nos dar mais pistas acerca de um sujeito desconhecido que aparece na história, não serve para mais nada, já que não é esclarecida a causa do que aconteceu a Laria; e um acontecimento final, que serve para dar um bocadinho de drama e propósito à história, para nos mostrar quem é o indivíduo desconhecido e o seu objectivo na história, para mostrar mais uma vez a inabilidade de Chloe de fazer algo de jeito, apesar de supostamente ser mágica (já agora ela é o quê ao certo? nunca disseram a espécie mágica a que ela pertencia) e para confirmar que a bebé tem poderes que nunca se imaginou mas que pouco são mostrados. Lá está, espera-se um história cheia de magia devido à pequena Laria, mas calha-nos uma embulhada de todo o tamanho, que não gostei.

Esperava muito mais desta saga e especialmente deste livro, quer pela sua sinopse, quer por ser o último livro da saga e também por ler tão boas opiniões dele. Foi uma desilusão por completo. Ainda bem que me limitei a comprar o primeiro livro - se comprasse os outros, era puro desperdício de dinheiro.

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## Alaine says

This series should have ended earlier.

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## Tempo de Ler says

No 4º livro da Série **Sugar Maple** encontramos Chloe grávida de 8 meses, feliz e satisfeita com as reviravoltas na sua vida...só que nada dura para sempre...

Não gostei, confesso, de nenhum dos três livros anteriores desta série em especial, portanto fiquei bastante animada quando o tom aconchegante de *A Filha da Magia* me começou e envolveu e a puxar para a história num aglomerado de nostalgia e familiaridade com as (tão atípicas) personagens de Sugar Maple. A interação entre as tricoteadeiras desta pequena cidade mágica estava a revelar-se divertida e engraçada; a inclusão do clã Makenzie estava a ser promissoriamente interessante...

...Contudo, a sensação de que não havia realmente uma história que merecesse ser contada e o facto de esta não ser sequer devidamente desenvolvida arruinou o livro para mim. *A Filha da Magia* não vem acrescentar nada à série que valesse a escrita de um quarto livro. Vazio, oco e sensaborão, este livro revelou-se repetitivo tanto nas linhas de pensamento como nas expressões a que a autora recorreu para as transmitir.

Há partes divertidas e engraçadas e, como disse, gostei da parte inicial do livro mas toda a trama acaba por ser demasiado previsível e o final parece que foi despachado de um fôlego, o que acaba por deixar demasiadas pontas soltas. Mesmo que a escritora estivesse a deixar espaço para mais uma adição futura à série, havia necessidade de esclarecer melhor, por exemplo, o reaparecimento do vilão, os seus motivos e objectivos, as consequências das suas acções caso houvesse capacidade para o sucesso, etc.

A leitura é levíssima-zíssima-íssima portanto lê-se num instante e sem problemas. Bretton inventou de facto um mundo mágico muito animado e alegre mas tornou tudo demasiado «algodão doce» para o meu gosto pessoal.

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