



# Criminal Intentions: It's Witchcraft

*Cole McCade*

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## **Criminal Intentions: It's Witchcraft** Cole McCade

### **ABOUT THIS EPISODE**

An eerie ritualistic murder sends Malcolm and Seong-Jae down a bizarre path of the occult to find a killer--but when it comes to witchcraft, the suspect's not the only one casting a spell. With Seong-Jae haunting his dreams, Malcolm is practically bewitched, his trust in Seong-Jae growing deeper and deeper as both men learn to rely on each other.

But when the murder triggers memories from both Seong-Jae's and Malcolm's shadowed pasts, will the secrets they share bring them closer...or drive them further apart?

### **ABOUT THE SERIES**

Baltimore homicide detective Malcolm Khalaji has his own way of doing things: quiet, methodical, logical, effective, not always particularly legal. He's used to working alone—and the last thing he needs is a new partner ten years his junior.

Especially one like Seong-Jae Yoon.

Icy. Willful. Detached. Stubborn. Seong-Jae is all that and more, impossible to work with and headstrong enough to get them both killed...if they don't kill each other first. Foxlike and sullen, Seong-Jae's disdainful beauty conceals a smoldering and ferocious temper, and as he and Malcolm clash the sparks between them build until neither can tell the difference between loathing and desire.

But as bodies pile up at their feet a string of strange, seemingly unrelated murders takes a bizarre turn, leading them deeper and deeper into Baltimore's criminal underworld. Every death carries a dangerous message, another in a trail of breadcrumbs that can only end in blood.

Malcolm and Seong-Jae must combine their wits against an unseen killer and trace the unsettling murders to their source. Together, they'll descend the darkest pathways of a twisted mind—and discover just how deep the rabbit hole goes. And if they can't learn to trust each other?

Neither will make it out alive.

## **Criminal Intentions: It's Witchcraft Details**

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## From Reader Review Criminal Intentions: It's Witchcraft for online ebook

**JR says**

### **Hard to Put Down**

Instead of binge watching, I am binge reading. It is just impossible to put down! I am suffering from lack of sleep, but I am overwhelmed with the way this series sucks me in and doesn't let go. An incredible reading experience.

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**Karen says**

### *Unique, riveting, intense, dark and at times disturbing...*

Somewhere along the line I decided that not only did I want to read this series but I want to see how long I can do this and write reviews for it that...hopefully will at the very least make people to check these stories out and maybe even read them. But I'm going to be honest and say read the trigger warnings for these book because they are they and for some they're going to be very important. While there may be some moments of humor this is not a humorous or even slightly light, fluffy story

These stories are dark and some of the crimes are violent, but they are also incredibly well told. This author has a way of drawing the reader into the story and making you want to stay there from start to finish.

I've been extremely lucky with each episode I've had a buddy to e-mail and share the details with and talk about all the things that I won't be writing about here because I'm trying for spoiler free and to be honest if you haven't started reading these stories yet but plan on it. I can honestly say based on my experience while it's not necessary having a reading buddy to share this experience with really is an awesome way to go.

Now about this episode of Criminal Intentions...'It's Witchcraft' definitely one of the more gruesome and graphically violent stories in this series so far. Amidst the chaos of a new case yet again involving the death of gay men. Mal and Seong-Jae both have personal issues to deal with...Mal's ex-wife is not only in town but staying with him until she can find a place of her own and he's still recovering from injuries incurred during an earlier case but that's coming to an end if he can just get his supervisor...Seong-Jae to clear him as fit for work. Yes that's right Seong-Jae is Mal's supervisor because their relationship isn't complicated enough. While Seong-Jae's just returned from testifying in court against his former partner...as if being the new cop on the force hasn't been hard enough. Mal's not the only one whose past seems be coming back to haunt him and he's ultimately forced to turn to contacts from his past as well to try and find answers.

On the relationship front these two men are beyond combustible...the attraction between them is for me...off the charts! But it's not something that's being rushed into...this one's a slow burn...we're talking s-l-o-w!!! But so worth the wait, I have zero doubt that when things really happen between them...well, let's just say I fear for my e-reader. There were a couple of scenes in this one that were a couple of scenes that had me fanning myself and really all I'm going to say is 'who knew kickboxing could be so HOT!!! and there was a conversation on a rooftop late at night a very private, intimate, conversation, with hugs and just so much emotion and it was HAWT!!! Seriously so freakin' hawt!!! But in a really intensely emotional way...sorry, really don't know how else to explain this.

One of the best parts of this series and this story in particular is that it takes place in a very real world. A world where there are all kinds of people in all shapes and sizes who have a variety of preferences and proclivities...there are people who are gay, straight, lesbian, ACE, aromantic, non-binary and the list goes on and on. So while this is one of the best parts of the series maybe in it's own way it's also one of the scariest because it's also very reflective of the world that we all live in. There are no cut and dried guidelines and each person in this story is as individual and unique as you, your friends, family, neighbors and the strangers who fill in the spaces in between all those we know.

Criminal Intentions is a series made to resemble an television show and it all reflects the strangest thing of all...real life.

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A copy of 'Criminal Intentions: It's Witchcraft' was graciously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Natalie says**

This series, this author, just get better and better. This installment is less about the bizarre crime and more about the various characters we've met: Malcolm and Seong-Jae of course, Gabrielle, Anjulie, Sade, Lillienne Wellington and Jason Huang. Several more details and clues are surprising and revealing. Most of all, Malcolm and Seong-Jae do make some progress with their uneasy partnership. The author adds even more diversity to the cast when the two men have an unexpected and deep conversation, exchanging a bit more personal history.

The murder is pretty gruesome and the circumstances truly bizarre. It was more easily solved and concluded, sort of, than previous cases but made me wonder if any of the perpetrators will appear again or be involved with other players. There's still the matter of Edmond Bishop to resolve. I'm so glad these are coming every month because I'd go crazy waiting longer for the next episode!

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### **haletostilinski says**

[gay grayace/demi (hide spoiler)]

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### **Bev says**

This series improves with every episode, but again I would stress it is GAY fiction, **NOT** romance [although with the way things are progressing between Malcolm and Seong-Jae, that *will* happen sooner rather than later ?]. As the author mentions rather cheekily in the Q & A session at the back of the story, try Cordelia Kingsbridge if you want quick romance between your MC's...and I have to say having also read that particular series insofar as it's been published [and it's absolutely brilliant], the protagonists we have here are much more complex and difficult to read.

If you're squeamish, you should avoid reading details of the especially gory and gruesome death in this one, and I'm not going into much more detail otherwise. The character progression is fantastic, the bad guys are

still bad [and yes, our friend Lillienne is *definitely* not a victim...], and the next episode is already pre-ordered yay!! 5 stars.

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### **~Volha~ says**

This keeps getting better and better! The level of intensity both personal and professional keeps escalating, more players enter the fray, more thoughts and feelings weave themselves into Malcolm and Seong-Jae canvas. I believe that the painting will soon follow. And it's going to be beautiful. The characters are complex and multidimensional, the situations are raw and real, the murders are devious and shocking. But the best part is Malcolm and Seong-Jae.

This time the murder investigation takes the back seat to the development of personal relationship between MCs. Who knew that touching fingers and whispered words could be more seductive than the hottest kiss. I waited with bated breath to see what will happen between them here and they didn't disappoint! Some parts are very emotional and a tad painful, always intense and very intimate. The tidbits Mr McCade drops are explosive, the subjects he tackles are complex and on point. I loved these two imperfect slightly dented but not broken men who sought solace in each other in the time of need, loved the trust that developed between them to the point that some of the darkest secrets were revealed. It was amazing.

The murder investigation was thrilling but still did not overshadow the emotional side of the book. This time it was pretty gruesome and was dealt with very quickly. More was told about characters that at first didn't make sense but now it gets a little clearer one book at a time. I am enjoying this series immensely and highly recommend it!

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### **Simone says**

**\*\*\*4.5 Stars\*\*\***

*The emptiness that we confess  
In the dimmest hour of day  
In the common town they make a sound  
Like the low sad moan of prey  
The bitter taste the hidden face  
Of the lost forgotten child  
The darkest need the slowest speed  
The debt unreconciled  
...  
The awful cost of all we lost  
As we looked the other way  
We've paid the price of this cruel device  
Till we've nothing left to pay  
~ The Angry River*

As for me, this song fits to the whole season, but it pretty much sums this episode up to a T. In several aspects.

**Boy, this was powerful and *intense!*** In every friggin' way... Calling the case Mal and Seong-Jae are dealing with this time 'gruesome' would put it mildly. The gory details in all their sickening glory shine a light on the depravity of human nature, which makes it feel so much the more alarmingly *real*. Even thinking about what our more and more twisted society is capable of, makes me sick to my stomach.

But even if this episode combines several threads to the story arc in general and gave me some answers to certain suspicions, it is the steadily deepening emotion between Mal and Seong-Jae that is in the focus here. The sparks that fly between them (gahhhh, I'm still thinking about this kickboxing scene!!!!) would put every fireworks to shame and we are still in the build-up phase of their relationship. I can't even begin to imagine the lush intensity when they are finally together. Seeing these complicated men *talk* and open up to each other felt almost magical and gave me goosebumps all over. Because they not only talked, they pretty much bared parts of their soul by revealing a bit of their past and themselves. Of *feelings*. And that's far from being all...

*Wordless, Seong-Jae held him, his embrace so warm, so comforting, long fingers threading through Malcolm's hair in soothing strokes. He said so much through touch, more than most managed with the longest speeches, and that touch right now promised safety, promised forgiveness, promised kindness, promised acceptance.*

*Whatever Malcolm's crimes of the past...*

*Here, in this now, in Seong-Jae's arms, he finally felt whole again.*

There is a captivating beauty to the author's writing style that makes everything all the more emphatic, haunting and vibrant. I can see each and every detail as clear as crystal in my mind's eye and that only intensifies my feelings about the characters and the stories in general. Another big plus for me is the diversity Cole McCade brings to life with his characters, so on a very personal note: there are not nearly enough characters from the ace spectrum in gay romance in my opinion, therefore I have to thank the author for giving me some variety here and someone I can identify with to some extent.

And on another more selfish note: could I please have some kind of HEA for Sade and Huang? I don't care how or when, but pretty please??????

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## **Chris says**

4.5 stars for Malcom & Seong Jae ... these two are really connecting now and I'm loving the depth being added to the series. Some big realizations occurred in this installment and there is a greater understanding for both characters emotional levels. The back story with secondary characters is also starting to open up and pieces of the puzzle are forming. No spoilers here - this is a great series...murder & mystery with a hint of romance!

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## **Nazanin ex-Profile says**

Loved this one. My suspicion about who Sila is got confirmed, I can't wait to see what happens next.

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## Nicola says

I've neglected Malcom and Seong-Jae a bit over the past couple of months, but as has been the case with each previous episode, the possibilities, the tension, the complexity and the bigger storyline just keeps building and building. Even more so in this case and with a gripping opener, *It's Witchcraft* leaves you satisfied, yet wanting more. Onto episode six...

*Hell of a first day back, isn't it?"*

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## Aleksandra says

3.5 stars perhaps

This is my least favorite installment in the series so far. It might be because I've read too many CI books too quickly in a row and I need to give myself a break (which I will do), however I do have "objective" issues aka things I can point out I didn't like.

The plot structure was all over the place. Malcolm and Seong-Jae spent more time on interpersonal relationship than on the murder solving. The murder was a particularly bloody and horrific one, it felt weird how little time they spent on it. While I do like reading about Malcolm and Seong-Jae relationship developing, it was felt weird to know from the prologue about this atrocious murder and then spent the next 60 pages on going-to-the-gym miniarc?

The crime of this installment is just too out there, this is Tokyo Ghoul manga level of darkness and I don't feel it's entirely grounded.

This series is advertised as detective mystery thriller with romance + high focus on the interpersonal relationship, there is no need to make such a outrageous crime for them to solve.

Nevertheless, I am enjoying this series. It's one of my new faves! I love Malcolm and Seong-Jae, I'm deeply invested in Sade's plot line and other plot lines, connected to them (vague because spoilers). Anjolie is falling apart, I'm rooting for her to persevere and get through it all.

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## Truuss says

Till 50% I wanted to put my hands in Seong-Jae and Malcolm's hair and smack their heads together...hard! It's so easy... you got two pair of delicious lips just bring them close and seal them... just do it!! You want it... both!

It's killing me!!

Nauseating scenes sometimes, because the scene was so well described I could see the crime very detailed... They are awful clever put together... as always. The way the scenario is unfolding... intriguing... and there is more story coming!

Omg... when Seong-Jae opened up... I just melted... that was so delicate and perfect.

Highly sensitive and sensual passages... I loved it.

I love this way of writing, extended thoughts and sentences with depth... witty... sharp... irritated, cynical and consistent... With a lot of body language and less spoken words. The crimes are various and put down as a tv series... you can see them walking through the office, crime scene or sitting in the car. Always captivating and with great performance.

If you listen close... there is even music...

Kindly received an arc from the author

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## **Claude says**

Detective Yoon:

Detective Khalaji

So. About this!

We left these two guys in a...complicate situation (for a change haha).

Like I said in the previous chapter, someone from Malcom's past came back AND...some bad habits returned. I was so sure! So sure Seong-Jae were gonna find out about it. His reaction was priceless.

He was just so funny AND so cute. He made him pay without telling him why he was so mad (hilarious!) and I loved every second of it.

Malcom is clearly lost between all of it. He does not know where he is in his relationships. Someone represents his past and the other maybe his future. But he's not sure that the person he wants just wants him back so he just clings to the past, to the usual habits. By doing that he hurts many people including himself.

=> All of it created a big tension these two partners.

Until that scene on the roof...

They managed to talk with each other (I'm waiting for this since book 2 haha) about their feelings, their pasts AND just that changed everything.

It helped Malcom with his decision. And gave some kind of peace for Seong-Yae.

The investigation was terrific. I mean I was so choked by the crime. Awful. How can you do that to someone? Horror. Like always the author is brilliant with his feature.

Love this. Their relationship grew so much more in this. I'm so happy. I wasn't expecting this much since these two are very "alpha" and just bickering at each other since book 1 (I love it tough, they are cuties).

READ this guys! Cole McCade: I love you.

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## **Tania says**

[ The case was gruesome once more and too real. People really do this shit on the darknet. It's disgusting.

But this episode was also a well needed breather in the storyline, that gave Mal and Seong-Jae time to talk. Those moments were wonderfully written. And though they didn't declare love or anything, which wouldn't have worked for the story, they are closer now. They KNOW it, although they didn't say it. And that made it so damn perfect. There is still that feeling of tension be

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**rowenalovelace says**

This was soo good! I crave more about Seong-Jae and Sila's past. And Malcom! Glad you made up your mind about sleeping around.

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