



Glamour

Andrea Janes

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Stealing the life she's always wanted is as easy as casting a spell.

Townie. That's what eighteen-year-old Christina Sundy is. All year round she lives in a one-stoplight town on Cape Cod, and when summer comes, she spends her days scooping ice cream for the rich tourists she hates. So when one of them takes a job in the ice cream shop alongside her, she's pissed. Why does a blonde and perky Harvard-bound rich girl like Reese Manning want to scoop ice cream anyway?

Something else weird is happening to Christina: tiny blue sparks seem to be shooting off her fingers. It isn't long before she realizes the truth about herself — she's actually a powerful hereditary witch. But her newfound powers are too intense for her to handle and, in a moment of rage, she accidentally zaps Reese into another dimension.

So that no one will notice that the rich girl has disappeared, Christina casts a disguising spell, or "glamour," and lives Reese's life while she tries to find a retrieval spell. But as the retrieval spell proves harder than anticipated, and as she goes about living Reese's life without anyone on the outside noticing the switch, Christina realizes that there's nothing to stop her from making the glamour permanent... except, of course, her fellow witches, a 16th century demon, and, just maybe, her own conscience.

Glamour Details

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From Reader Review Glamour for online ebook

Nims says

This is a quick and savy book. The author leads you right into small town and the main character Christina. You get to know the Christina quickly and the teen angst is there. The conflict and story to follow are great and easy read. There was no confusion and I like the fact that there wasn't a lot of swearing? in the book. The confrontation was well thought out and would have any teen enjoying the story. Good read and I would read from this author again.

Annalee Sweeney says

This book is more of a dark comedy than the usual YA books I have read, and it is a really quick and fun read. That being said, there are still quite a few heartfelt parts as well, especially when the main character learns more about herself toward the end of the book.

Bascomb James says

Fast-paced coming of age story about a young witch on Cape Cod. A good read.

Rebecca says

I received an ARC of this book from the publisher. The opinions expressed in this review are my own.

I love Christina's quirky, sarcastic tone. She's like Daria on steroids. She's kind of tough, but that's only because she grew up poor in a small town and was subject to ridicule by her peers because of it. She ends up befriending Reese, who grew up with plenty of money and opportunities, and also with parents who dote on her, unlike Christina, who has been raised by her good-for-nothing father since her mother died.

This is not quite your typical 'body switch' story. Christina is able to cast a glamour to look and sound like Reese, and she takes advantage of this when she accidentally sends Reese to another dimension. She then has to fight the temptation of leading the good life as Reese while figuring out a way to get her friend back.

Christina has a lot of depth to her, as does this story. The romance sort of takes a back burner to the rest of it, which I actually enjoyed. I like how the story mostly focuses on friendship, particularly maintaining friendships despite two people having some major differences. This story ended up sucking me in, and I read through it in a couple of days. I would definitely read other works by this author, and I look forward to whatever she has coming out next.

vvb says

Modern story of witches in a small town on the east coast. In this instance, it is a of coming of age story for a

witch who finds out about her abilities and learns to juggle it with coming to terms with herself and her life.

There are some cute moments, instances of female friendship bonding and an encounter with a demon that makes this a fun read about the witch world.

Larissa Brown says

I should remember that I don't generally like YA books. This one sounded really fun, and it was a cute book about a girl coming to appreciate herself, make and be a good friend, and not be so selfish. I was not surprised to read in the back of the book that it was first a screenplay. It would be a good TV show or perhaps a movie. I would have loved it when I was a teenager. Also, while the writing was rather engaging, the author used a really clunky device whenever she needed to download information that the POV character could not see.

Jen says

Give me a teenaged girl who doesn't know she's a witch and I'm immediately going to think Sabrina, the Teenaged Witch. I'm not sorry. I'm just a product of the era. But this concept receives a reworking in Andrea Janes' Glamour.

To read this, and other book reviews, visit my website: <http://jenpaul13.wix.com/makinggoodst...>

Christina, the witch who doesn't know she's a witch, lives in the summer tourist area of Cape Cod and works in the ice cream shop of her deceased mother's best friend, Bridget. Christina is your average student and average girl who was born and raised in the small shore town, thus making her somewhat reasonably enraged when Bridget hires a rich, good looking, smart, and out of town, Reese for the summer. And as Reese gets on Christina's nerves, her powers act up exponentially until the point where she unwittingly banishes Reese to another dimension. While feverishly trying to get Reese back, Christina glamours her appearance to be that of Reese so people don't realize she's gone missing.

The story was rather interesting and apart from the revelation of Christina being a witch, I wasn't reminded of Sabrina, which makes me happy that it wasn't too derivative of previous work. There were a decent amount of allusions to contemporary trends, music, and things to make the characters and situations relatable. I did find that there were some consistency issues in the narrative--Chapter 19 being a good example. I also felt that the narrative was trying a little too hard to be cinematic with the "what Christina didn't see" sections. I feel that if that information was to be included, it could have been handled either through the entire book utilizing a different narrative point of view or more fully fleshing out those "what Christina didn't see" sections to make them worth the effort. I also found that Christina's overall attitude toward the outside world and those around her irksome--the type of person you'd want to avoid having in your life.

Overall, I'd give it a 2.5 out of 5 stars.

Katherine says

Christina Sundy lives in the Cape Cod tourist town of Westervelt, where she works summers in her friend's ice cream parlor. As a "townie," or a person who lives on the cape year-round, she has a complex relationship with the "Summer People." She despises the entitled way they tend to treat the people who depend on their wealth to provide economic stability to the town, yet she also envies them. So when one of them, Reese Manning, takes a summer job at the same ice cream parlor, Christina both resents and admires her for her advantages. Things get complex when Reese decides to befriend Christina at the same time as Christina discovers her own source of unusual power: she's a hereditary witch, and can cause strange things to happen by willing them, especially when she's angry. When she thinks Reese has betrayed her, she accidentally zaps her new friend into another dimension. To keep anyone from finding out, she uses a glamour to assume Reese's appearance and live her life. It's supposed to be temporary, but as time goes on Christina becomes less willing to give up the advantages she's never had.

I ended up liking this book a lot more than I thought I would at the outset. I'm the first one to admit I'm super picky about fiction concerning witches and magic, because so much of takes liberties with real magical systems and romanticizes witchcraft to an insane degree, both for good and evil. I didn't so much mind the "young person discovers she has a super power she can't control" trope, although it appears so often. Nor did it bother me too much when Christina turned out to be about the most powerful natural witch anyone can remember; a story about someone without substantial magic wouldn't be much fun. I did, however, have some problems with the book's portrayal of Wicca, which is a living religion. I felt it didn't provide a balanced view, as the only major character referred to as Wiccan was the antagonist. Certainly there are Wiccans—I've known more than a few—who work the belief system to their own advantage, but not all, or even most, do. I would have liked one of the "real" witches in the book to show something other than disdain for the Wiccan belief, because it left the idea that all Wicca is a New Age ploy to get money out of people who like to buy books and crystals. At least, it did for me. Also—and this may be incredibly picayune—I objected to the use of the word "coven" to describe Silverwolf's organization. A coven is a small group of people working together in intimate relationship, not a 1300-member network spread across the entire Eastern Seaboard. It made me feel like, "Oh, this book is about witches, so we have to get the c-word in there somewhere."

On the plus side, the writing is pretty good (though there's some stylistic weirdness around the changing points of view I could have done without) and the characters are well-constructed. Christina is hard to like, but I counted this as a positive rather than otherwise; it was easy to see why she'd be drawn to doing the things she did. I sympathized with her difficulties in life and appreciated the ways she got revenge on people who'd caused her pain once she understood what she could do. The portrayal of ritual and natural magic was fairly realistic; I could believe in those spells. I especially liked it when Christina's mentor broke away from spells from books and started practicing more "kitchen witchery." But what really sold Glamour to me was the penultimate sequence, when Christina had to face her inner truth in order to gain the power to retrieve Reese from her extra-dimensional vacation. The beautifully-written vision sequence, and what Christina found out about herself, had everything I could have hoped for, from the surreal logic of dreams and visions to the emotional catharsis which is the goal of a really well-designed ritual. On that basis alone, I'd recommend this book to any reader of YA Contemporary Fantasy. 4/5 stars

Nicholas Garret Jenson Catersbie says

A effortless, enjoyable read!

I couldn't put this book down! It was such an amazing tale on the subject of witches! I surely do hope there is a second book because, spoiler, it ends with a cliffhanger!

A. Powers says

Hilarious story with a fresh and interesting main character whose inner monologues had me laughing out loud in public. I'm so glad I picked up this book. Fantastic!!!

Brittany Elsen says

The writing is easily my favorite part about this book. I love Christina's sarcastic voice and tone in this book. It made this book hard to put down, she made me want to keep reading. She also made me laugh because she is bit tough and crass. The townie references definitely made me giggle. I grew up in a small town so I understand the townie references and I myself never wanted to be one of those either.

The book is a bit slow at first but once the witchy stuff begins the story really picks up. Christina, of course, doesn't know that she is a witch and accidentally "banishes" her friend to another dimension. The Glamour is really tempting for Christina because Reese have everything she could ever hope for. At points in the book, Christina enjoyed being Reese so much that I didn't know if she would ever try to actually find Reese.

This book was a really great bedtime read and didn't require a lot of me emotionally. Let's be honest, we all need a read like that every once in a while. The way the book ended was pretty open to a new book but easily could just be a standalone novel.

The cover is gorgeous, it looks like a watercolor. Beautiful!

Lorna says

I did something really strange the other day. I actually had the chance to read something from my huge TBR pile. I just paged back in my Kindle, and picked one. Turns out it had been there since August, and I actually have no memory of buying it, you know, cause of that one click thing. I ended up having a really good time reading this book, and decided to review it.

If you like witch books, especially witch books about someone that has no idea that they are a witch, then you might really like this one. Christina is eighteen, and a townie in a resort town on Cape Cod. She's in a dead end job, working at a ice cream store, Scoops, and has no idea what she is going to do with herself now that high school is over. She's got self confidence issues, is very defensive with everyone, and has no friends her own age, except for a loser, cheating, boyfriend. Reese has it all, she's a beauty, is thin, rich, and getting ready to go to Harvard. She's everything Christina isn't, but for some reason comes to work at Scoops, and befriends Christina. This also coincides with Christina manifesting blue sparks out of her fingertips, and causing some pretty bad storms. She only tells Reese, even though her close friend Bridget, owner of Scoops, and her late mother's friend, should have been her first choice. The two girls start playing around with spells. Something bad happens, and Reese gets knocked into another world. This is the story about what happens to Christina when she decides to use glamour to take over Reese's life until she can find a way to get her back.

I mostly really liked the character of Christina. She's full of sarcasm, which I like, but at times, she started to make some really bad decisions, and I started to not like her. But that's kind of when life lessons came into play-usually a good thing. Bridget was an interesting character as well, and probably my other favorite in the story. I think that's because she's a good person, one that looks for the good in people, even when they are doing wrong. As Christina's surrogate mom, she excelled in that. Reese wasn't in the story as much, but is the catalyst for most of what happens, so was very necessary to the story. Matt, a young man working at Scoops, was a good person as well, and one that could see the good in Christina. He only has a small but pivotal role in the story, and it mattered. There is of course a villain in this story. I don't want to say any more than that because of spoilers.

Will Christina manage to get Reese back, or will she take over Reese's life completely? That's the question here. Is there even a way to get Reese back, is another question to be answered. Along the way are some surprises, and actually some life altering moments for Christina. There's other witches, both good and bad, and even a demon. I thought this book was well thought out, and executed by the author, and read it really quickly. I don't know if it's going to be a series, but it certainly could be, and if it becomes one, I will definitely be reading it. (RabidReads.com)

Ron says

A very engaging YA urban fantasy novel. Strong voice with plenty of snark, interesting setting and a twisty plot with some intriguing character dynamics. (Nice cover design, too.) I read a lot of urban fantasy although I'm not too fond of witch stories (despite a trip to Salem, MA at Halloween) but Christina's character was just too compelling. So far this year, I've read nearly 12 books including Stephen King, Lee Child and Bernard Cornwell but this is the one that has been most difficult to put down. The edgy style gives it appeal far beyond the teen demographic. Some of the POV shifts were awkward but clear.

Susan Sullivan says

Note: I won an Advanced Review Copy of this book. This review is my personal opinion.

Now that that's out of the way, let me say that this book is CAPTIVATING! I was totally charmed from the get go and that's so rare for me as a reader. I flew through this book at lightening speed (also rare) and wanted more when it was over. Andrea Janes writes with an amazing voice, and in first-person point of view, which is often the artistic choice for debut novelists, yet is actually rather difficult to pull off. Janes not only pulls it off, she does so with talent and skill. Her narrative voice reminds me of THE CATCHER IN THE RYE--one of my top ten favorite novels of all time--if Holden Caulfield were a teenaged witch named Christina.

I also loved the stylistic choice of sprinkling in third-person point of view scenes throughout the book. This is another writing choice that can flop big time, but Janes makes it work quite wonderfully.

Five broomsticks, er, stars, for GLAMOUR!

Amalia Dillin says

First of all, let me say that I was REALLY looking forward to this book from Andrea Janes. The cover copy had me excited from the start, and the cover art made me even more so. The whole concept of the book felt like it came straight from an episode of Buffy the Vampire Slayer -- which was only my most favorite show in high school! -- and in fact, reading this book, with its very distinct voice and sharp, sarcastic banter, kind of felt like Buffy, too.

Christina has spent a lot of her life struggling, without much in the way of a support structure. And at the start of this book, she clearly discounts herself and her abilities and her strengths. When she realizes she's a witch, and that she has this immense power, she kind of lets that go to her head, turning her self-deprecation into entitlement -- at last, at last, she has the power to make her life better, to get back at all the people who have hurt her, to take what she deserves, to escape the struggle and FREE herself -- except that she's so focused on giving other people a taste of their own medicine that she doesn't quite manage to get to the "free herself" stage before the whole being a witch thing kind of blows up in her face.

Christina's journey is definitely unique compared to most of the protagonists I've read. She definitely gets worse, as a person, after she discovers what she is and what she's capable of. And that smallness take center stage for more of this book than I was expecting, but I can't deny that her story is authentic and genuine. Her struggle is totally real, if magnified by the elements of witchcraft and magic.

Over all, I'd say, if you're a fan of BUFFY, and in particular, you enjoyed Cordelia's character and arc, you'll love GLAMOUR, too!

*I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.