



How to Hang a Witch

Adriana Mather

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The #1 *New York Times* bestseller!

It's the Salem Witch Trials meets *Mean Girls* in this *New York Times* bestselling novel from one of the descendants of Cotton Mather, where the trials of high school start to feel like a modern-day witch hunt for a teen with all the wrong connections to Salem's past.

Salem, Massachusetts, is the site of the infamous witch trials and the new home of Samantha Mather. Recently transplanted from New York City, Sam and her stepmother are not exactly welcomed with open arms. Sam is the descendant of Cotton Mather, one of the men responsible for *those* trials--and almost immediately, she becomes the enemy of a group of girls who call themselves the Descendants. And guess who their ancestors were?

If dealing with that weren't enough, Sam also comes face to face with a real, live (well, technically dead) ghost. A handsome, *angry* ghost who wants Sam to stop touching his stuff. But soon Sam discovers she is at the center of a centuries-old curse affecting anyone with ties to the trials. Sam must come to terms with the ghost and find a way to work with the Descendants to stop a deadly cycle that has been going on since the first accused witch was hanged. If any town should have learned its lesson, it's Salem. But history may be about to repeat itself.

"It's like *Mean Girls* meets history class in the best possible way." --**Seventeen Magazine**

"Mather shines a light on the lessons the Salem Witch Trials can teach us about modern-day bullying--and what we can do about it." --**Bustle.com**

"Strikes a careful balance of creepy, fun, and thoughtful." --**NPR**

I am utterly addicted to Mather's electric debut. It keeps you on the edge of your seat, twisting and turning with ghosts, witches, an ancient curse, and--sigh--romance. It's beautiful. Haunting. The characters are vivid and real. I. Could. Not. Put. It. Down." --**Jennifer Niven, bestselling author of *All the Bright Places***

How to Hang a Witch Details

Date : Published September 12th 2017 by Ember (first published July 26th 2016)

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From Reader Review How to Hang a Witch for online ebook

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

He opens the basket and pulls out delicious-looking foods.

"Where'd you get all this?" I ask, still flustered.

"The tea and scones are from London. The finger sandwiches and pastries are from Paris. And the Devonshire cream is from Devonshire."

He went all over Europe picking out food for me? How's this happening right now?

This book is about witchcraft, and it is the silliest book I've ever read about the subject. I've read plenty of books with very young MCs (the one in this book is 15) that are likable, and the story well-written. This book isn't one of them. It is laughable, and the only reason I think anyone should read it is for pure amusement at how excruciatingly painful it is.

This book was fluffy, contrived, full of stereotypes, without an ounce of originality in how it presents its characters. It is complete with **mean girls**, which, to be fair, is the (movie) concept with which it aspires to associate itself, **brooding "bad boys"**, a **love triangle**, and a **wicked, bitchy stepmother**.

The MC is a tomboyish, pretty, and finds a way to indirectly **humble-brag** almost immediately after we meet her.

"Uh, Sam. Everyone calls me Sam."

"Nonsense. That's a boy's name. Now, aren't you pretty. Too skinny, though."

Yawn.

Her narrative is undoubtedly fifteen-year-old, for better or worse. For example, her internal monologue.

Don't laugh at me. You probably never had an awkward moment in your life, with all your floppy blond hair and tanned skin. So shut it!

Unfortunately, since it is first-person POV, the book definitely reads like a middle grade book. Some books find ways to make up for that fact; some middle-grade books can be truly poignant. This book is not one of them.

The adults are *so mean*. All of the authoritarian figures pick on her for no good reason, for speaking up a little bit, for being picked on. There is, hilariously, I might add, a **clique of Salem descendants**.

"Have you noticed a group of girls in my grade that wear all black—rich goth types?"

"The Descendants?"

I venture a look at Jaxon. "What?"

"Like that?" He nods toward a guy and a girl entering the room. The guy wears an expensive-looking black button-down shirt, black pants, and black loafers. And she has on a floor-length

black dress with a tailored black blazer. Her hair is a perfect bob.

Come on, you can't tell me that's fucking hilarious. Even the **love triangle** is clichéd, with a handsome, boy-next-door blond and a dark, brooding, mysterious dark, floppy-haired boy with a secret *howls with laughter*

I suddenly become very conscious that Jaxon's arm is around me, and I break contact. I shouldn't care if Elijah sees that. The thought tugs at me uncomfortably.

I honestly have no idea how this book got a rating above 4.

Jeff Zentner says

I loved every minute of this twisty-turny book.

I wonder what Cotton Mather would think if he found out that his great great great great great (you get the picture) granddaughter wrote one of the best YA books I've ever read...and it happened to be about the Salem Witch Trials.

This book is absolute thrilling, spooky fun. It's not a short book, but it feels like it, such is the tightness and pace of the plotting. There's nary a wasted word. You'll find yourself, as I did, unable to put it down, pressing ever forward, hours be damned. This is truly a corn maze of a book. A corn maze on a blustery, chilly October night, that you stumble through while holding the hand of someone with whom you just fell in love, your heart pounding from suspense and infatuation.

The autumnal atmosphere is so lovingly crafted, so vivid, so creepily quaint. You'll feel the ghosts of Salem tugging at your sleeves while you read. You'll feel the leaves crunching under your feet. The only thing more well-drawn than the atmosphere is the characters. They leap from the page--vibrant, flawed, vulnerable, achingly real and honest. You'll have no trouble rooting for them.

This book contains the perfect amount of everything. Humor. Romance. Wit. The paranormal. Chills. Mystery. There's a twist in this book that will have you picking up your jaw. Oh, and the bonus? It's the most beautifully packaged YA book I've ever seen. The cover and typefaces are sublime. That may sound silly, but that's important to me.

I predict that with all of the things that work perfectly in this book, it's going to be very big indeed. In recent years, YA publishing has shied away from publishing books with paranormal elements. I predict this book will break that trend (even as it creates a very high bar). And I predict that you have not heard the last of Adriana Mather.

Morgannah Mayfair says

4.75 rounded to 5.

Where once witchcraft accusations were the norm, bullying has taken its place. And just as during the Trials, it's not always the usual suspects who get bullied; it can happen to anyone for any reason. But the only way it happens is if the community supports it. Group agreement and group silence are equally as deadly. The moment someone speaks up, it's possible to stop that cycle. It's not the easiest thing to do, but greatness is never without risk. And there is nothing greater in the whole world than kindness - kindness to someone

being bullied, kindness to a stranger, kindness to an inured animal. Every act counts.

That paragraph comes from the "Author's Notes" section at the end of the book and it is what elevated this read from a solid 4 stars to just shy of 5 stars for me. The author, Adriana Mather, is a descendent of the infamous Cotton Mather. Prior to 1692, there had been rumors of witchcraft in villages neighboring Salem Village and other towns. Cotton Mather, a minister of Boston's North Church, was a prolific publisher of pamphlets, including some that expressed his belief in witchcraft. In his book "Memorable Providences Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions" (1689), Mather describes his "oracular observations" and how "stupendous witchcraft" had affected the children of Boston and Salem.

Here is a picture of the beautiful Adriana with an illustration of Cotton. I can see the family resemblance even though she is by far the more lovely of the two.

The story centers around Samantha Mather who is also a descendent of Cotton Mather. She is new in school, she is different, and her family's history in Salem makes her ripe for the picking. This one is highly plot driven and as a consequence some of the characters are flat. However, the story is well written enough and intriguing enough that I can accept that. The genre here is definitely YA and not prose filled thought provoking literature. What sets this book above most books in the supernatural YA field is the message it conveys. The story is extremely interesting and while the plot progressed and layers of the mysteries were peeled back the underlying themes of bullying, acceptance and friendship were ever present. Lastly, I would like to apologize to the designers of the jacket art and the jacket design before I make the following statement. The cover sucks. Consult me next time Ms. Mathers, I am not a designer but I am a prolific reader and I am sure I could have done better than that.

Sarah (thegirltheycalljones) says

While I do deeply respect the research and the personal link the author has with this particular bit of history (being related to the Mather family), I didn't enjoy this book.

The idea was cool, as it always is when it's about the famous Witch Hunt of the sixteen hundreds, and paralleling the events now and then could have been an exciting adventure but...it was not.

This tale is basic YA, meaning you get everything you're used to read about in the post-Twilight tsunami : an irritating and self-centered MC who's super special for no reason, a love triangle, mean girls, clichés everywhere, plot conveniences, illogical behaviour from adult characters, a wtf outcome (either plot or romance related).

Nothing is satisfying.

It reminded me of this short-lived TV series called The Secret Circle, which tried very hard to ride the wave of supernatural YA (but failed miserably because the plot was nonsense and mainly relied on romance, and the characters were dull and kept changing attitude without any explanation). I know this show was adapted from books, I haven't read said books, just watched the show some years ago because that's what unemployment make you do.

Anyway, How to Hang a Witch was supposed to be creepy and I never really felt scared and uncomfortable. As I was saying, the only creepy part was the haunted house but this fact was explained pretty quickly and was therefore not creepy anymore (view spoiler)

I guess the outcome could be labelled creepy but it was so absurd that it's surpassing the potential creepiness. (view spoiler)

Also, the romance. Oh my god, how lame was that?! Not only we have to suffer another ridiculous love triangle with the usual Blondie and Brunette, but (view spoiler)

This review is as messy as this book was. I'm pretty sure you didn't understand a word of my spoiler tags and I'm very sorry to give you a headache.

I could have tried to be more clear but I had a shitty monday and finishing this book on my metro ride home was the cherry on top.

I'm gonna drink a bottle of wine now.

Oh wait, no, I can't!

Well, it really is a shitty monday.

Why, in the name of everything that's holy, do love interests always need to have *dimples*?! I can't stand dimples anymore! STOP WITH THE DIMPLES.

(Is the following spoilery? I think not but if you'd rather know nothing at all, maybe stay away?)

Within the first 6%, the female MC managed to :

- claim she's so sarcastic (at line one, actually).

Okay, it's never a good omen to declare your own self a sarcastic person. Especially when you imply that the majority of the population is not and therefore not able to understand your outstanding sense of humor. It's called bragging, and having a high opinion of yourself.

Plus, usually, said-sarcastic character is not sarcastic at all and ends up being at best average funny.

- be the new girl in town everybody hates for no clear reason.

sigh

- be the new girl in town everybody hates for no clear reason except the super hot blond dude called Jaxon who's also her neighbour.

re-sigh

- be the target of the Mean Goth Girls without even speaking to them once, who are the instigators of said hate, just because some ancestors hated each others.

How is it even logical? She's being bullied after 10 minutes and they didn't even speak! And the adults around them seem to find this perfectly normal and accuse MC instead of Obviously Mean Goth Girls!

- blush everytime she speaks with Hot Blond Jaxon. Because he's hot. And blond. And he's called Jaxon.

Whatever.

- state that Hot Blond Jaxon is so confident at least three time.

How surprising.

- meet Hot Dark Haired Elijah who's so hot, but also a bit creepy because we need a brooding male to make the cast more balanced, as "friendly" was already taken by Hot Blond Jaxon.

I didn't see that one coming... *rolls eyes a million times*

- have no logic at all, or be so self-centered that she becomes stupid? Can't decide yet.

The girl believes her daddy's sick because of her. I mean, she could believe that if it made sense with the basic facts she has, but IT DOESN'T. Her family's cursed, her father is in a coma and she starts to wonder if it's the curse. Okay, sure, setting up the plot. But how can she say "Maybe my dad really is sick because of me"?! HOW IS IT ABOUT YOU IF IT'S A CURSE DATING FROM THE MF WITCH HUNT?!

I can't DNF this book because it's the perfect book to rant about!

That said, I'm very disappointed so far, because I thought it would be creepy. It's not creepy. At all.

The only creepy element is "explained" around 20% and goes from Creepy to How Cool Is That + Giggles.

Where's the promised creepiness? Gimme some creepiness!

Lola says

There's something so fascinating about witches. About their powers. Their history and destinies. No wonder they are still so present in literature.

If this book had been about vampires or werewolves, I would not have had the same experience with it. In fact, if I weren't curious from the very beginning about Salem and the Witch Trials, this is a book I would have put aside early on.

Because it feels as if it was written by someone who has a story to tell, but no wondrous writing skills. They're adequate... I guess, but the writing is definitely the lowest point of this book.

If you're expecting to read a historical fiction novel, this is not for you. This also isn't for you if you want realism to dominate, since one of the main characters is a ghost and there are numerous paranormal events.

However, this is the book for you if, like me, witches are creatures you admire and constantly want to learn more about. If the author did something well is to make Salem seem cursed and eerie. There also very much is a plot here, therefore, the characters are not wandering around – they each have a role to play.

The heroine is judgemental, impatient, reckless and, sometimes, plain stupid. But one must acknowledge her courage and determination. She is not one to give up easily. This book would have been better without her ubiquitous and repetitive inner-thoughts, but at least she felt like a real teenager, although not an easy-going one.

Did I hear that there will be a second book? Unexpected, but interesting.

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Imogene Dacanay says

FUN FACT: The author of this book is actually a descendant of Cotton Mather. COOL RIGHT!

This book isn't one that I could say "the best", I can't say that right from the very first start it will capture you. To be honest, I've managed to read almost 30 pages before deciding that this book is good.

Adriana brings us to the present-day Salem. Samantha Mather, together with her stepmother moved to Salem, specifically to her grandmother's house. Being a descendant of the man who's mention to be a great supporter to the Witch Trials- Cotton Mather, isn't easy. Sam became a leper in school, in town. The so-called Descendants of the Witches torments her, which makes her life in Salem, hell. To top it all, she's having troubles with a guy spirit at home.

The main character, **Samantha Mather**, is stubborn, she's ill-tempered. But she is brave, fearless, but she is determined to fight for the people around her, to save their lives even if it means risking hers.

Salem was completely ascertained. There were a lot of creepy and strange stuffs. Their beliefs are a bit unnerving. I haven't been to that place. And even if I'm creeped out, I wanted to visit Salem.

I was trying to figure out where the title fits in, not until I read a part (almost at 1/2 of the book). Finally, the title fell into its rightful place.

What freaked me out most is the paranormal love interest of the characters. I still can't stand the idea of a spirit falling in love with a living girl, and vice versa. Thank goodness, there's not much for a love triangle.

How to Hang a Witch gives us high school vibes, mainly its social hierarchy. The book also carries the angst of being a new student, someone who's new in town, an outsider.

The book's concept is distinct. It has this perfect blend of mystery, thriller, and suspense. Not to mention romance and humor. It has utmost factor of spook. It's packed with unearthly run-ins that will make your spine tremble in thrill.

Adriana Mather is impressive when it comes to misleading her readers. There were times when I'm positive that my predictions are true. Then she'll just bitchslap me in the face as if saying. *"you think so? Ha!"* This book is full of surprises and it pleased me. Warning: The book, and its author is deceiving! And that's truly awe-inspiring.

Readers will acknowledge the evocative locale of this book.

"Salem isn't like other places." -Adriana Mather

Candace Robinson says

I have been interested in the whole Salem Witch Trials situation for a long time and have wanted to visit Salem forever to see all the history. So, this book seemed pretty dang interesting. I'll have to say this book was pretty fun! Now I will start AGAIN with my pet peeve ... love triangle! Also my favorite line ... I let out a breath I didn't know I had been holding!!! It was clear who Sam liked more, but she still kisses them both and "likes" them both. It would have been better if Jaxon either became just a friend to begin with, or Elijah (the ghost)...she would have only had to help, not crush on. Also the group of girls that are mean to Sam are called the Descendants, so I kept thinking of that terrible Disney movie my daughter watches. ??

Besides that, I really liked the story line. I had guessed the villain situation ahead of time, but that was fine. There was some cool ghostly elements, and the rash scene was so good! The ending I thought was super perfect, and loved it, so I'm not really sure there needed to be a sequel, but I'm about to start on it, so we shall see!

Jacqueline says

3.5/5 stars

Video Review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gp2h...>

This was one of the books I picked up during my BEA/Bookcon trip. I was looking forward to this book ever

since I read the synopsis earlier this year and have to say I really enjoyed what I read. It flew by for me since I finished it in a matter of two days even though I am crazy busy.

I loved how the author took her family history and twisted it into this YA book. Now, I didn't exactly feel too connected with the characters (y'all know characters are a huge thing for me) they were sorta flat for me and I didn't honestly love the romance (could've done without it to be honest since I felt it developed way too fast) but I really enjoyed the mysterious aspect the novel had.

With this being Adriana Mather's debut novel I'm intrigued to see what else she will bring out. Maybe she will take other aspects from her family history to use as a backbone for other books, I would surely enjoy that since I think that part of the story at least in this book really stood out to me.

Overall, if you are interested in a YA supernatural book involving witches, ghosts, and a whole lot of mystery definitely check this one out!!

Jamie-leigh Haughn says

Reading this book was like eating plain low fat oatmeal... blah. The characters had no personality, the story was rushed and predictable, I enjoyed the beginning but found myself annoyed by the end. I do feel that this would make a good made for TV Disney channel Halloween movie, but as a book I just wasn't a fan. Whomp whomp.

Whispering Stories says

Book Review by Stacey on www.whisperingstories.com

Teenager Samantha (Sam) Mather's father is in a coma, her Step Mum Vivian has had to sell their apartment in New York to pay for his medical bills and move them to the house that her Grandmother owned before she died, located in Salem.

Being a Mather in Salem isn't easy though, as one of her relations, Cotton Mather, was one of the people behind the famous witch hanging in 1692.

Also living in Salem, and attending the local high school, are the descendants of the witches that were hung. They are not impressed with the arrival of Sam, especially when people start dying, leaving Sam to take the blame. They believe that she is cursed and want her to leave.

Is Samantha really cursed, or are there far greater evil forces in Salem?

I love a good story about witches, and How to Hang a Witch was definitely good. In fact, it was more than that, it was amazing. It was so good that I ordered the sequel, Haunting the Deep, and I am already half way through.

Whilst the story might be fictional, the Salem Witch hangings are certainly true, and being a Mather herself, the author is actually the real descendant of Cotton Mather. The book combines a great story with factual events, leaving you with subtly embedded factual knowledge.

The plot contains a whole host of characters that YA readers will love.

- The school gang who everyone is afraid of and take an instant dislike to the new girl. (Think Mean Girls)
- Two hot young men, though one is a ghost and a few hundred years old.
- A feisty protagonist with a smart mouth, who is determined to find out the truth at any cost. One who has confident outer strength, while her inner is less so sure about herself.

I read the book in two sittings, one in to the early hours of the morning. There are plenty of twists and turns to keep you interested and a fantastic showdown near the end. Believe me, I did not envisage a certain person being the evil force at play.

This is a book that you can fully immerse yourself within. One you can forget the outside world and go and take a walk in Salem, where the houses are painted black, the police cars have a witch logo on them and everyone knows a descendant.

Max Baker says

Have you ever read a really highly rated book and just *know* you're going to be in the minority? Because I do, and it's this one. It pained me to read this book, like I was literally regretting sitting down and reading up. But, there was no way I *couldn't* finish it, because I needed to know exactly what made this such a painful experience. And, honestly, I'm still having a hard time with that question. there are so many elements in *How to Hang a Witch* that just didn't work. Maybe it's me, but this book was just...bad.

But, I have to give credit where credit is due. This book is incredibly well researched. From the Salem Witch Trials to the descriptions of witchcraft in the book, it all felt very authentic. It was clear Mather did a lot of research into the culture and history, which is also her history since Mather is a descendant of Cotton Mather from the actual Witch Trials and writing a YA, maybe-fictionalized-maybe-not-I'm-just-saying, account of her family history is pretty cool. So, I can't say that there's nothing positive about this book.

My problems with this book stems from two main points. 1) The Characters. 2) The writing style. This is pitched as a sort of Salem Witch Trials meets *Mean Girls* kinda thing. A lot of books capitalize on the whole "hysteria" thing and the way gossip and fear can take a hold of a community, but this book takes it to a whole new level, linking the Salem Witch Trials to modern day high school, which would be really cool if it were utilized properly.

This is very much a character driven story, but there's no character in this story. Sam, Jaxon, Elijah, the Descendants. They're all lifeless shells full of spite, self-hatred, and occasionally funny one-liners when the plot calls for it. Does Sam need to be vulnerable because plot? Yes. Does Lizzie need to do something bitchy, because reasons? Yep, done. Does Susannah/Alice/Mary need to spout some half-assed/half-explained exposition Sam will ignore until the time is right? You betcha.

All these characters were puppets, moving because the plot, which is pretty flimsy at best, calls for it. None of them were developed past the point of a vague description and a name. Hell, some of them didn't even have that luxury. Two of the five Descendants were interchangeable, one made an impression because he's a guy and another because she was the only person who actually interacted with Sam outside a few mean comments. And the final Descendant? Guys, I can't believe I'm saying this, but how do you mess up a mean girl? Like seriously? Lizzie, the only "mean girl" in the book, is the weakest mean girl I've ever read about. I'd call her a stereotype, but that's stretching it because stereotypes are at least interesting/fun to laugh at. Lizzie was just a shell of a ghost of a stereotype that honestly wasn't in the book for that long.

Oh, and there's a love triangle between a hot junior named Jaxson, yes that is how his name is spelled, and a dead ghost who falls in love with Sam named Elijah. And, seriously people? Has our need for a love triangle superseded the fact the love interest has to be alive and not three-hundred years older than the protagonist? Because, if it has, were in some deep shit. And neither of them are interesting. Seriously. Jaxson was a wet blanket and Elijah was a literal ghost whose dialogue was like something out of a bad porno parody of the Salem Witch Trials. It got on my nerves super fast and not only did I not find it authentic, I found it absolutely irritating.

And Sam? She's...she's...god, I don't know. I can't call her a blank slate because she does do stuff, but I can't call her a character because there's almost no personality behind her. She's funny when she has to be, vulnerable when the plot calls for it, and angry when there needs to be a reason for one of her two guys to make her feel better. This entire book is Sam reacting to what happens to her in a way that gives her no agency. She's just a pair of eyes that pretends to have a personality to trick you into thinking it's a real character.

Moving on to the writing style, it's too fast. And not necessarily fast paced, but fast writing. The scene changes with a sentence, stuff is discovered and talked about and moved on to new stuff in a paragraph, things just go by too fast. The story is written so tightly there's no room to breathe, no room that would allow the story to grow and build on its own. Something is always happening, Sam is always feeling something or do something it overshadows what she was doing previously. It's disjointed and manic and gave me a huge headache. During the climax, like twelve things were going on and I couldn't focus on anything. I had to re-read like the last twenty-ish pages just to get some handle on the setting and what the hell was going on. There was just too much happening all at once to feel any tension or suspense or fear or whatever I was supposed to be feeling in those moments.

And, what's just really really sad, is that this could have been such a good book. It was so well researched it could have been an absolutely phenomenal story about bullying and hysteria and dark family secrets if it just had a better writing style and characters who were interesting/engaging/good. But, instead it turned into a well-researched dreck that made reading it literally painful for me. However, I will probably be reading Mather's next book, because I really think if she tweaks a few things I could see what other people see in her writing and get on board with what she has to offer.

Maria Clara says

4.5/Realmente me ha encantado! No soy mucho de novela juvenil, peroooooo vamos, ¡ya quiero leer el segundo libro!

Juli says

Samantha Mather lived in New York with her dad and step-mother Vivian until her father suddenly fell into a coma. With medical bills mounting, Vivian sells their NYC apartment and moves them to Salem, Massachusetts. Samantha's grandmother owned a house there before she died, and they can live there while Samantha's father is hospitalized. Immediately, things do not go as planned. As a relative of Cotton Mather, a proponent of the Salem witch trials, local descendants of those killed in the trials take a disliking to her. Strange things begin happening....accidents, injuries, deaths. Samantha has felt cursed all of her life. Maybe it's more than a feeling. Maybe she is actually cursed. With the help of a friendly spirit that only she can see, Samantha works to unravel the mystery causing harm to descendants on both sides of the infamous witch

trials.

This book is an enjoyable read. The mystery is engaging and the plot moves along at a nice speed. The suspense kept me reading until the very last page. While definitely a YA book dealing with teen social issues alongside the witch trial, history of Salem, etc., the plot is not juvenile. As an adult, I still enjoyed the story. There is no sex, graphic violence or anything that would make this book inappropriate for middle grade aged students through adults. It does have a witchcraft theme...if that isn't your bag, then I'd pass this one by.

How to Hang a Witch is the first book in Adriana Mather's series about Samantha Mather. Luckily I have the second book, *Haunting the Deep*, on my TBR shelf waiting for me! Interestingly enough, Adriana Mather is actually a descendant of Cotton Mather just like the main character in her series.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

A REVIEW VIA GIFFERY (*even more so than usual*):

As soon as I saw "*It's the Salem Witch Trials meets Mean Girls*" I was sold. I was also 100% positive I would love this. Not to brag or anything, but . . .

With descendants of the original Salem witches as the girls who rule the school I immediately pictured . . .

And was so excited I almost peed my pants . . .

Bonus was the bitch squad were all super fab and also included hot boys so my brain went all . . .

DON'T YOU JUDGE ME!

I was sure this would be the reading equivalent of one of the numerous programs on the CW to which I am addicted. (See above regarding not judging me.)

Where was I again? Oh yeah, then I started reading and, well . . .

We're talking straight up . . .

It should NOT take me four days to read a book. ESPECIALLY not a 350 page YA book. But when the pacing is slower than me sucking a turtle, the person doing all of the superbadaful the most obvious cliché in all of obvious clichés and the love triangle (because duh OF COURSE there was a love triangle) featured a dead dude . . .

Yeah. Dead. Anyway, all of the above = a not-so-happy Kelly and Mitchell on this All Stabby's Day

Wendy Darling says

This review is a magnet for trolls for some reason, which I find extremely interesting, especially since it was quietly shelved a long time ago. Love the book? Write your own fucking review and stay the hell off mine. You think you're actually helping a book you like by attacking people who didn't enjoy it? Think again. You're turning my disinterest for this book into despising it, and the next step is going to be my rating it one star whereas it's been left unrated until now.

I'm at the point where I've started deleting and blocking without a second thought. **Mind. Your. Own. Space.**

DNF at 25 pages. I had an uneasy feeling from literally the very first line, which boasts of the main character's self-proclaimed "affinity for sarcasm," and added to this are the jumble of:

- an utterly cliché teen and authority figure/stepmom relationship
- at least 3 instances of using "Seriously?" (Not to mention additional "really?" and "s/he's got to be kidding" type incredulity)
- vague dad in coma references, moving, new house, new school, mean girls, and
- two attractive boys (view spoiler)

It's a lot in a short amount of time, and the writing is so awkward and not entirely organized/convincing and the MC such a stereotypical teen that I can't deal with any more.

This is written like it's the novelization of a TV show. And not a very good show at that.

An advance copy was provided by the publisher for this review.
