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Witchcraft



Synopsis

Mystery writer Kimberly Sawyer lives alone and likes it that way. But when she is threatened by a hooded figure, and a blood-red rose with a needle thrust into its heart is left on her doorstep, she knows she needs protection. So it seems like perfect timing when Napa Valley vineyard owner Darius Cavanaugh returns to Kimberly's life, offering help and a place to stay. But how did he know she needed him? Was it the deep, intuitive intimacy of a soulmate...or was it witchcraft?

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Customer Reviews

If you're a fan of Jayne Ann Krentz and have been disappointed in her latest novels, pick up a copy of one of her reissues. First published 13 years ago, *Witchcraft* epitomizes the romantic strength of JAK's characters and the slightly offbeat plot complications in which they find themselves embroiled. Kimberly Sawyer, a writer of detective novels with a gutsy female lead, reluctantly gives herself into the protective keeping of vineyard owner Darius Cavanaugh when she receives some enigmatic threats. A rose with a needle embedded in it, followed up by a dagger-wielding cloaked figure in the dead of night, push Kimerly into Cavanaugh's fierce and and passionate protection. Cavanaugh arrives on the scene because he is in Kimberly's debt for her part in rescuing his nephew from a band of quirky would-be witches two months previously. He's been biding his time before he comes after her to repay the debt and coax her into his life . But he moves like a steamroller when he finds out Kimberly is being threatened by the witchy kidnappers. Female readers will silently applaud heroine Kimberly Sawyer because she is an independent lady who is quick with logical comebacks when the hero tries to railroad her emotions. Cavanaugh quickly reveals his vulnerability to the

reader when he suddenly finds himself wanting to protect as well as bed Kimberly. But wariness and willpower are on her side as she asserts her independence in Cavanaugh's household where too many demanding family members are reminding her that she prefers a life without familial duties and demands.

I recently got the single title book *Witchcraft* by Jayne Ann Krentz. I cannot comment on the anthology version which has recently been released, only on *Witchcraft* itself. That being said, I must say that the characters are lively and engaging, but I cringed or laughed through every single love scene in the book. I have to admit that I am a big fan of Jayne's and I read pretty much every book she writes under the Amanda Quick pen name. I don't ever remember laughing through the other books! As one reader stated, it is definitely dated. Thankfully, most of the description is still relevant because the clothes they wear are fairly standard--shirts and jeans--but the love scenes are chock-full of purple prose. I can't tell you how comical it is to see "feminine core" repeated as a euphemism for female genitalia. I think the purple prose is more of an indication of the time that this was written rather than a reflection on Jayne's writing or style. The writing of love scenes has come a LONG way since the 80's (when this book was written). However, Darius Cavanaugh is still a very interesting hero--an alpha male forced to run his family's winery after engaging in some questionable import and export activities abroad. He is a terrific match for Kimberly Sawyer, an independent writer who prefers to live alone rather than deal with anything remotely resembling family responsibility. There is a distinct contrast between Darius and Kimberly, who are really kindred spirits reacting to the world in completely different ways. The villains in the story are comical and slightly over the top. For a second or two, you might think you are in the middle of the *Da Vinci Code* with the lurking hooded figures carrying silver daggers and the pentagram references.

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