



Charmed Spirits

Carrie Ann Ryan

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Jordan Cross has returned to Holiday, Montana after eleven long years to clear out her late aunt's house, put it on the market, and figure out what she wants to do with the rest of her life. Soon, she finds herself facing the town that turned its back on her because she was different. Because being labeled a witch in a small town didn't earn her many friends...especially when it wasn't a lie.

Matt Cooper has lived in Holiday his whole life. He's perfectly content being a bachelor alongside his four single brothers in a very small town. After all, the only woman he'd ever loved ran out on him without a goodbye. But now Jordan's back and just as bewitching as ever. Can they rekindle their romance with a town set against them?

Warning: Contains an intelligent, sexy witch with an attitude and drop-dead gorgeous man who likes to work with his hands, holds a secret that might scare someone, and really, really, likes table tops for certain activities. Enough said.

Charmed Spirits Details

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Author : Carrie Ann Ryan

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Witches

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From Reader Review Charmed Spirits for online ebook

Eva Millien says

The first book in the Holiday Montana series is a fast captivating read full of romance, intrigue, and a witch.

Jordan is a witch and she has come back to the town that persecuted her for it to settle her late aunt's estate. Matt is boy she left behind when she ran and he still loves Jordan, but he has a secret that he doesn't know how to explain.

The suspense builds as the some of the towns people try to get Jordan to leave town again. The author conveys the tension so well that the reader is feels like they are in the story with Jordan and Matt as they try to uncover the mystery of what happened to him.

The romance between the two is well written with some red hot sex and the author portrays their emotions as they come to terms with the past and their feelings for each other in a way that the reader connects to the characters.

The plot flows smoothly from one scene to the next and keeps the reader's attention from beginning to end with intrigue and bewitching characters. This story of romance, old and new friendships and second chances has a couple of surprises and unique and fun elements as well that keeps things interesting. I just wish it had been longer and I can't wait to read more about the town of Holiday, Montana.

Donna says

Magic happens. Jordan has been away from Holiday, Montana the town she grew up in. She left behind small minds and the boy she loved. She is a witch and all she ever wanted to be was normal. She was never going to be normal there. Matt was the boy she left behind. The youngest of five brothers Matt is a carpenter and owner of the local hardware store. He has never forgotten Jordan as he believes she is responsible for his becoming a ghost for five nights of the month. Charmed Spirits is a fun tale that brings Matt and Jordan back together.

Teresa Lara says

amazing 2nd chance beautiful love story with Justin and jordan

Lyndi W. says

I liked the plot and dialogue, but the heroine was super annoying with all her "this is all my fault, I have to run away!" bullshit.

Abra says

Meh. This book had the usual small town plot points:

- 1) Heroine is returning to the small town after leaving it many years ago to fix up and sell a relative's house.
- 2) She hasn't spoken to the relative in some time.
- 3) She's been pining for the boy she left behind.
- 4) He's tried to get over her, but still loves her.
- 5) There's a mean and good looking woman who's been chasing him since high school.
- 6) The mean ex/wannabe girlfriend says over the top mean things and warns the heroine off.

Bonus clichés:

- 7) Heroine's parents both died in a car crash several years ago and she was raised by another relative.
- 8) She disappeared without a word to anyone (much less a note to the hero) so no one knew why she left and couldn't tell her boyfriend (actually fiancé, but I don't think they told anyone).
- 9) No word on what she's living on since she's not working during the several months she's in town.
- 10) The town has a stupid name.
- 11) You'd never know from the cover that the main character is a woman or that she's a witch.

Secretly Reading says

Originally Reviewed for The Book Vixen

Pleasant enough novella which does better setting up a series than telling a strong romance.

Two words: Cooper brothers. Matt is the youngest of five totally super hottie brothers. Each of his brothers is unique with interesting personalities and I love how they love and support each other while needling each other. I'm a sucker for men in romance being part of a brotherhood so this totally set up a great series. In fact, at least two of the brothers' romances are hinted at here and I can't wait to read both of their HEAs.

Even though this is the reunited lovers trope that I'm not normally fond of, the author did a believable job of bringing Jordan and Matt back together. They didn't have a big misunderstanding, which I hate in romances. Their reunion was fairly drama free with adequate emotional and sexual intimacy. This isn't a romance that wowed me but it was decent enough.

I don't read small town romances normally. I'd go so far as to say that the whole cutesy middle-America homespun setting irritates me (sorry, classic snobby New Yorker here!). I think it was ambitious to meld paranormal and small town romance but it felt a little fractured to me because of this. I'm likely just conditioned to the urban setting for my paranormal romances but it's the setting I much prefer over the diner-eating-noisy-neighbor setting here.

This is a pleasant novella if someone wants a homespun romance with a dash of paranormal.

Cali Jewel says

Excellent start to a series, whitey, fun, sweet, sexy and emotional second chance romance in a small town with childhood sweethearts. Loved every emotional twist and turn. Looking forward to my next visit to Holiday, Montana.

Jordan Cross is a head strong, sassy, sexy and born witch that has been away from home for over 11 years and has been hiding from her magic just as long. Matt Cooper is a sweet, sexy, hot carpenter, alpha male (one of the many sexy Cooper brothers) and they boy she left behind the night she ran out of her small hometown without saying goodbye or looking back. Loved all the interesting twists in this awesome small town family filled adventure.

Brandi says

I wish I could rate this on potential, because the premise, the characters, and the banter were all intriguing and enjoyable. However, the execution was sorely lacking.

I hate saying that about a book, but this was a disappointing read. There was no depth, no detail, no real struggle, and only the barest of descriptions to get the reader through. There were so many lost opportunities here to bring readers in. Like when Jordan's fixing up the house, or struggling with controlling her powers. None of that gets shared; it's only glossed over. And it was confusing, too, since the descriptions that were given weren't always clear enough to figure out what action was taking place.

We don't see any really deep interactions between Jordan and Matt. We don't get any flashbacks that could help us really understand either point of view. We don't see any struggle, not from Jordan as she tries to get control over her powers, or from Matt as he works out what was done to him. The only internal thoughts we see revolve around lusty feelings and tiresome "I should do this!" moments. And yet everything gets magically fixed (pun intended) without any real work.

Which means that there's no real connection to the characters because they're so two dimensional. Like the author was ticking off boxes instead of writing a compelling story.

Basically, there's a LOT of telling but not showing.

Which is frustrating to begin with, but even more so when this could have been so much better and stronger. The story is pretty original, and I was hoping for more.

And don't get me started on how unrealistic some plot points were - like the way the mayor behaved. Just... no.

This was my first time reading this author, and sadly will be my last.

Deborah says

I must admit I quite enjoyed this book as a quick read but while reading it all I could think was that it should have been so much better, Jordan is presented to us as a strong independent city girl who's also a witch, a strong one at that but she's too scared to use any of her power. I felt the book had potential and I liked the feel of it, I loved all the brothers, Abby and Ally but Stacey and Prescott were more like cartoon characters from a kids book, I won't be buying the other books since I was disappointed that this seemed naive and rushed even though I would like to find out what happens to the other brothers.

Mara says

The trash bin is too good a place for this utter mess. Laughable, plot less, with no characters worth of this name. Ridiculous is really the only thing that I can say about it. And well, sorry, but writing is cringe worthy.

I have no idea what this book wants to be, but for me it's one huge fail.

Kristine (A Cozy Booknook) says

This is a great start to a new series, I couldn't put the book down. The characters are fun, smart, and entertaining. Emotions were up and down between the main characters, the author did a nice job of conveying them. I look forward to reading more in this series.

I received a copy of this book from the author, my review has been voluntarily submitted.

Viviana Izzo says

OMG – the warning in the synopsis is not only hilarious but extremely accurate (particularly the last part of the statement)! I'm not saying another word, but you will know exactly what I'm talking about if you've read the book or when you read it!!

I will say that this reads like a contemporary novel with the exception that the heroine is a witch and there are things that go bump in the night. It was a sweet, romantic story about high school sweethearts that may get that second chance and finally learn the truth regarding the events that lead them to be apart.

Jordan is strong (and by now you know I like my heroines to be strong and not ditz or whiny, anyways, back to the review), smart, sarcastic, a hard worker but she is still vulnerable in that she hides her true self because of the abuse she suffered as a child on the hands of the town. She became an outcast at the age of five because of her gifts and she never got over that feeling, which caused her to neglect her gifts and not reach her full potential.

Enter Matt Cooper and his brothers (which, I'll share more on them in a bit). Matt and Jordan were best friends since they were children, which blossomed into a romantic relationship in their teens. Matt and his brothers always considered Jordan part of their family and protected her when the town folks were mean.

One night they were supposed to go out on a date and she never showed up. In fact, he found out that she left town. No goodbyes, no reasons, just got up and left. Now, eleven years later, she's back. Sparks fly and their connection is just as strong as the day she left. However, she informs Matt that she is only back in town to get things squared away with her grandmother's house and has no intentions on staying any longer than necessary. Matt hopes she changes her mind and offers to help her fix up her grandma's house.

Onto the Cooper Brothers! Wow! Hot! Sexy! Professional! Family orientated! United Front! Their dynamic is entertaining and everything you would hope for bothers to be like! The stick up for one another and call each other names! Its quiet enduring, actually. Seems like the series will be following the Cooper Brothers as the next installment has been announced, "Santa's Executive (Holiday, Montana, #2), expected to be released on December 4, 2012. I will say it will definitely be interesting!!

Remember how I said this read like a contemporary except for the witch and bump in the night aspect. Well, the only other thing that doesn't read like a contemporary is the sex scenes. Holly Smokes Batman! Yeah, hot and steaming. Remember, this read like a contemporary and bam! Caught me off guard at first but then I was eagerly anticipating the next scene and was not disappointed.

Looking forward to getting to know the Cooper Brothers and the residents of Holiday, Montana better!!

Note: posted original review at Reading Between the Wines Book Club

For this and other book reviews, please visit Viviana, Enchantress of Books

Kelly at says

You know how they say you can always go home? Well don't ask Jordan Cross that. Home is the last place on earth that she wants to be. But she has no choice, she has to go home and take care of the family home after the death of her grandma. Jordan just hopes that this will be quick in and out of Holiday Montana with very little interaction with the locals. But as with every good plan you better have a backup escape route when the love of your life finds out your back in town.

Matt finally has another chance with Jordan and nothing or noone, not even Jordan is going to stand in his way. Will except maybe his little secret might be a problem, but what can he do about that right now. Right now he has to get Jordan to realize she can't leave him again...Not ever.

Jordan & Matt are just too sweet together. And like any good love if they have faith in each other they will make it through anything. Even death can not keep them apart.

This was another great story from Carrie Ann Ryan and a great start to a new series. I am looking forward to book 2 in the Holiday Montana series. Justin's book will be hitting the shelves in December 2012

Disclaimer:

I received a complimentary copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. The following review is my own opinion and not a paid review.

The BookChick says

My Rating: ★★½

Book Description:

Jordan Cross has returned to Holiday, Montana after eleven long years to clear out her late aunt's house, put it on the market, and figure out what she wants to do with the rest of her life. Soon, she finds herself facing the town that turned its back on her because she was different. Because being labeled a witch in a small town didn't earn her many friends...especially when it wasn't a lie.

Matt Cooper has lived in Holiday his whole life. He's perfectly content being a bachelor alongside his four single brothers in a very small town. After all, the only woman he'd ever loved ran out on him without a goodbye. But now Jordan's back and just as bewitching as ever. Can they rekindle their romance with a town set against them?

Warning: Contains an intelligent, sexy witch with an attitude and drop-dead gorgeous man who likes to work with his hands, holds a secret that might scare someone, and really, really, likes table tops for certain activities. Enough said.

Page Count: 229 Pages

My Thoughts:

Sadly, I did not care for Charmed Spirits. It was a rather mundane read with mediocre characters and story plot. It's not that I hated the story because I didn't. There was just no *pop*, *zing*, or *wow* to it that retained my interest in it or prompted my interest in continuing the series. Jordan and Matt were ok but left no memorable impression. Stacey and Prescott were too crazy to even be believed (even in a fictional world). The story just left me feeling flat and unaffected. From the stellar reviews, I can see that I am in the minority and I'm ok with that. To each, their own :).

I have already purchased Santa's Executive and will read it at some point to see if the characters or story peak my interest in the series.

Reading Time: 5 Hours

For more reviews, visit **The BookChick with Kick** blog

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: Charmed Spirits (Holiday Montana Book 1)

Author: Carrie Ann Ryan

Publisher: Faded Desires Publishing LLC

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Pages: 228

Genre: Romance

Tags: Paranormal, Ghost, Witches

Welcome to Holiday, Montana. The place where the holiday spirit is a spirit and being called a witch is not just an insult. If your Jordan Cross being a witch could cost you your life. Which is why she left town years earlier. The only reason she returned now was to clean up her grandmother's house to clean it up from the vandalism of small minded townspeople and put it on the market to sell it quick. Then she is going to shake off the dust of Holiday and never look back again.

Then she runs into Matt Cooper, her high school boyfriend and the love of her life. The lines of flight or stay begin to blur. Stacey Prescott and her brother, , the mayor begin to stir up trouble and resentment against Jordan. The end will make you gasp, as will the fast paced events in the story itself. You will not want to miss the first installment of Carrie Ann Ryan's Series Holiday Montana. I am looking forward to reading book 2, Santa's Executive. Even the blurb makes me itch to begin.

Stop on by Holiday, Montana today and meet the Cooper boys and some of the interesting people who make up the town. Like most small towns, there are good and bad. Luckily the good out number the bad.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Kitty's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

3.5 Stars

Charmed Spirits was cute, witty, sometimes just goofy but definitely fun. It was a light-hearted book that put a smile on my face and definitely has me looking at tabletops a little differently.

Jordan Cross ran out of Holiday, Montana as soon as she got the chance. People either hated her, loved her or just wanted her to use her "gift" to get them something – usually a man. When she left, she left with a secret and left the true love of her life behind and always regretted it.

Matt Cooper never really got over Jordan. She just left – no reason given, no good-bye. He resigned himself, along with his 3 hot brothers, to just live his life out without Jordan and live it to the fullest that he could. See, he had a secret too – one that he never told anyone about, not even his brothers. When Jordan returns and he finds himself back in her arms, how does he keep the secret from her? Does he trust her enough to possibly share it with him? Does he ever find out the real reason why she left all those years ago?

Well, she's back – and nothing has changed. People are still looking at her strange, making fun of her and basically just trying to run her out of town. All she wants to do is get her aunt's home put back together and get out of town again as soon as possible. But, the Cooper brothers are making it really hard to just fix the

house and leave again, 3 of them think of her as the sister they never had and Matt can't hide his true feelings. She's falling, again (still) and it's getting harder and harder to think about leaving. After several mishaps and mind-blowing sex with Matt, the final straw comes when someone tries to kill her and the whole truth comes out – both her's and Matt's secrets are revealed!

I enjoyed Charmed Spirits. We have a ghost, a witch and a small town that just lives up to what you would think a small town was about – gossip, back-stabbing and everyone having to know what everyone else is doing. We have a small town mayor who thinks he controls the world and his sister who thinks she deserves it all – well, they are the richest people in town. A hot sheriff (Matt's brother, Tyler) and a grade-school teacher who's as mousy (so she thinks) as what you would picture a small town grade-school teacher could be. Put them all together with sex on every tabletop they could find and you really have a fun story.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

Holiday, Montana holds many a surprise for the inhabitants. Now that one, Jordan Cross, has returned and finds that she remembered the community just as it was. Except on aspect of the community. The one, Matt Cooper, she could never forget. The town is full of new and exciting revelations. Some are not as new as one would suspect.

Interesting story just too short to form a full attachment to the main characters. I liked Jordan from the start. Matt needed more time. His obsession with tables began a connection to him.

Gregory did a good job.

Rosslyn K says

This one book is more like 1.5 stars for me. I didn't hate it but I didn't like it either. I think what disappointed me the most about this book was that there was a kernel of a very interesting story but it was never developed. Actually, that could pretty much sum up my entire thoughts about this book - it is almost completely lacking in any kind of development. The plot goes from points A to B to C but *how* we get to each point seems to have been forgotten. The characters are also incredibly one-dimensional.

This is a story that relies on "telling"; as in, if something is repeated often enough, hopefully you'll start to believe it. Example, Jordan (our heroine) is intelligent and bada**. No, no she's not. She's sarcastic, not intelligent, and nothing she does even remotely qualifies as bada**. Now don't get me wrong, I love good, witty sarcasm but this wasn't it.

The other thing that really bugged me was that no one in this book apparently has any sort of spine and they seem to see everything as a binary choice. (view spoiler)

All in all, Ms. Ryan's writing isn't terrible and she seems to have some really good story ideas so I am willing to try another one of her books.

Tamara says

Charmed Spirits is a wonderful start to a new series by Carrie Ann Ryan. Each story will focus on one holiday in particular in Holiday. Charmed Spirits takes place at Halloween and witches and ghosts are the least of the town's problems. They should be more concerned with the rotten greedy mayor and his bitch of a sister.

Holly says

OMG was I annoyed over the way the town kowtowed to the mayor. Uh..how is it legal that he can demand someone be arrested? Or tear down a house someone lives in and is in the process of renovating? Crap that like annoys me.

And don't get me started on the ridiculous way Jordan and Matt acted at different times. Morons, both.

Having said that..I did think the premise was a good one and I wouldn't mind reading another of the books to see if she improves, hence the 2 stars.
