



The Cat's Meow

Stacey Kennedy

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When a magical presence is detected around a recent string of feline slayings, Libby, an enchantress, is determined to discover who is behind the odd deaths. But being a witch gifted by the Goddess won't protect her from the talented warlock the Coven sends to assist her. Kale weaves a spell more powerful than any she's ever seen--and he's sexy as sin. But why he's even needed for such a simple mission is beyond her.

While having some muscle around can't hurt her investigation, fighting her growing attraction for Kale is worse than a hex, especially considering she knows he—and their Coven—are hiding something from her. When she turns up clues that point to something far more sinister than slaughtered cats, though, the elusive warlock isn't the her only concern. She now has a political rebellion on her hands, too. And when the truth about who she really is begins to surface, the only person Libby can trust is herself.

The Cat's Meow Details

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Author : Stacey Kennedy

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From Reader Review The Cat's Meow for online ebook

Lori {Romancing the Dark Side} says

Original Romancing the Dark Side Review:

A fun and sexy urban fantasy mystery!

This is another great addition to Stacey Kennedy's fun and flirty supernatural world! *The Cat's Meow* is more than just a pretty cover, it's an entertaining, fast paced read with a few twist and turns and some sassy characters. The world of witches and warlocks depicted in this story is quite unique and keeps you turning the pages to learn more.

Enchantress Libby is investigating a string of recent feline sacrifices when her superiors surprise her by sending in a warlock to work along side her on the case. With little regard for authority and a dislike of warlocks, Libby finds herself in the middle of a dark and sinister plot against her world with the irresistible Kale by her side who is just as mysterious as her latest case. Needless to say, things get more interesting with every turn of the page.

Saying Libby is an outspoken heroine is an understatement. She's snarky and bold which tends to come off as rude sometimes but her heart's in the right place. I thought she was a bit immature in certain situations and could not understand her hatred towards Kale and warlocks, even when her past was finally revealed. Smart-mouth and all, Libby has some unique magical powers that come in handy and I love her devotion to protect the ones she loves. I would have liked a little more of the softer side and less of the sass from her but she's a fun character in either facet.

The love interest Kale didn't instantly get my heart racing. I was expecting an outspoken alpha who would match Libby's strong personality and got a laid back, patient warlock instead. His sexy side shows up in Libby's dream (I won't say any more) and quickly made up for his nonchalant attitude. Kale and Libby have some great sexual tension which is not a surprise if you've read Ms. Kennedy's books, she's a master at it! I'm not a fan of insta-love and was thankful that we saw a lot of interaction and banter between these two before anything happened.

The Cat's Meow is a delightful read with a little suspense, magic and cheeky humor! A magical world of witches and warlocks filled with politics and rebellion keeps you guessing but never loses momentum. No matter the genre, I always know I'm in for an adventure with smart heroines, swoon-worthy heroes and plenty of passion when I pick up a book by Stacey Kennedy and *The Cat's Meow* meets all those requirements!

{ebook courtesy of author in exchange for review.}

Jessica (My Not So Vacant Shelf) says

View more of my review and others at my blog: www.mynotsovacantshelf.blogspot.com

Swoon. Swoon. Swoon. That's what happens when I basically come across a guy who dresses like a biker. Well he sort of does. Black jeans, or jean and a dark plain t-shirt. Oh. So. Sexy. That is Kale for you. And, yet he is frustrating. I really don't blame Libby for wanting to punch him in the face. I loved this novel. I've read a lot of books that contain witches, but I have yet to read one about someone who says thanks to the Goddess, which is what Liddy does being an Enchantress. It was pretty awesome. The mystery behind this novel was a very interesting and I had no clue what was really happening, however the mystery that surrounds Kale I sort of had it figured out but not exactly. It was interesting to find out who he was after all the vague comments, and evading Libby's questions. Sometimes I wanted to yell for her. And not just him it seems like everyone was against and refused to tell her anything. It was frustrating, but in a great way. There was humour, there was passion, and there was some butt kicking. And I really liked that Libby did kick butt. At first she was hesitant, but she really started to come through. Libby is someone I really liked even the butt-kicking aside. She refuses to take anyone's BS, is determined, and basically trusts no-one. Sometimes a girl can just relate.

Good:

Libby—A Kick-butt, sassy, no holds-bar kind of girl

Kale—Man of mystery, that is tall, dark, and handsome.

Bad:

I wish that Kale would have been more romantic, I know the reason he held back some, but I wish there were many many more stolen kisses.

Overall (Writing style, story line, and general):

Overall, the story was easy to read and follow and never had me questioning or having to re-read. I never found a boring part as this short 190 page read kept me entertained the entire time. I liked the characters, which included a large variety, and it left me with the appropriate amount of questions and therefore anticipating the next book in the series.

rameau says

This review can also be found on Book Girl of Mur-y-Castell-blog.

In Charleston there have been several magical cat murders and it's time for the ~~Pet Detective~~ local Enchantress to step in and put a stop to it.

In the "About the Author" section it says:

Stacey Kennedy's novels are lighthearted fantasy with heart-squeezing, thigh-clenching romance, and even give a good chuckle every now and again. But within the stories you'll also find fast-paced action, life-threatening moments, and a big bad villain who needs to be destroyed.

Having read *The Cat's Meow* I can vouch for the lighthearted fantasy part with a good chuckle or three. The heart-squeezing element relied heavily on my overactive imagination as Kale Griffin was kept as a mystery for far too long and his personality was mostly built on a handful of action descriptions and guesswork. This would apply to the thigh-clenching part too, because once Kale was allowed a moment of honesty and openness the book rushed to its inescapable conclusion.

The fast-action and life-threatening moments make this book a compulsively readable and fun as long as the reader has firmly switched off their brain and any sign of logical thought. The big bad villain was unfortunately of the cardboard sort—easily sketched and depthless—and burned down just as easily as any paper doll would. It's fun and entertaining as long as you're not expecting the story to be anything more than a simple romp.

Libby as a character has her good moments. She's a witch responsible for tracking down and stopping anyone who practices dark magic or threatens to expose the magical community to humans. She mostly stands up for herself against the Alchemy, her mother, and the occasional free-range warlock. She has clear motives for protecting herself and her friends from harm, she's smart enough to figure out Kale's secret mostly on her own, and she doesn't let her sex-addled brain dictate her actions. Until she does. This again is my complaint about the ending—the speed. I'd have much preferred had Libby's and Kale's relationship taken several books to develop to the point it reached here.

So all in all, it's a quick and fun read for the fans of paranormal romance.

Unless you're one of those people who actually care about accurate portrayal of Wicca and respect for other religions. I admit Kennedy never uses the word Wicca or its equivalents and that I'm not an expert on the subject, but I know enough to be miffed. Very much so. I would have gladly let *Kennedy* get away with murder in her portrayal of modern magic, had she not dragged in the Goddess and made the deity an integral part of Libby's characterisation. None of the witches or warlocks show appropriate respect towards their Goddess while practicing magic. Would this be a Christian praying, I have no doubt the handling would be very different.

I also didn't particularly care about the patriarchy bleed into this system of magic or the general attitude shown by men—even the hero—towards women. Men are the strong ones in power and women, no matter how special, are weak and to be protected.

If you want to read a light witch version of *The Southern Vampire Mysteries*, this might be the book for you. If you expect anything thought provoking or progressively feminist, you'd be better off skipping *The Cat's Meow*.

I received an Advanced Readers Copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

Jacob Proffitt says

I only got to the 22% point on this book before dropping it. I just couldn't buy the main character as a person, I'm afraid. Her motivations were a jumble of random impulses that don't fit together very well and her relationship with her coven was oddly ill-defined. Libby jumps to fifteen different conclusions just from the fact that Kale has been assigned to work with her on a case (which she accepts as he strolls into a magical crime scene with zero verification, BTW, which I thought was kind of odd) and none of her conclusions made any kind of rational sense. Either the author was hiding the reasons behind those conclusions or Libby is a spaz assuming things she had no reason to. Either way, and along with a lot of emotionally-laden hyper response to Kale's manness, I found it annoying enough that I just didn't feel like slogging through.

Elsbeth says

Wow, what a letdown this book was, I was really looking forward to a new smexy urban fantasy series that didn't star vampires.

Too start I really didn't like Libby very much, she tried too hard to be funny, was a bitch when it wasn't necessary, and was just unlikable in general. She liked being a bitch too much, thought too much of herself, and thought she was witty when she came off as trying too hard.

The story was really predictable, cookie cutter even, with its insta lust with the mysterious bad boy, a HUGE misunderstanding, and neon flashing arrows pointing to the bad guy.

Yeah, plus mutilated dead kitties.

(view spoiler)

Soooo...anywho...this book get a big old flying...

Mara says

I'm absolutely new to this author, so I hope I'll not offend her or her fans with this "review".

This is going to be one of those in which I'm compelled to say again that the rating is really my experience with the book, not a value of the book in itself.

The Cat's Meow is Urban Fantasy with a romance thread. As a UF it would have been much nicer without

the insta-lust and the forced HEA at the end.

I like the plot and the characters, but the world-building was somehow not enough to keep the story afloat. For **all the book** I kept wondering "why". And I couldn't enjoy it a tiny bit as it was a constant refrain in my mind. There's no explanation on why the heroine doesn't stop the train wreck and start expecting truth and collaboration. At the end of the tunnel there are murders and satanism. You do not simply go on because the story says so. As a reader I need a logical explanation why she doesn't confront her coven and demands the truth. Why she simply doesn't refuse them her help without more info. And so on.

My pet-peeves with TCM were many, from a somewhat weak beginning to a worse end.

Beginning. Libby is written off as a mouthy woman. Mouthy as in blabbering, more than sassy. Not particularly pleasant. It gave the story almost a chick-lit dress (which I wasn't interested in). Luckily it's only at the start.

End. Sorry, I really disliked it. Kale behaved exactly as all the other warlock she despises. Moreover, he forces his presence at her house on his power over her life (again why?). It's a no-no for me. He refuses to go away when she asked him to and go on to "seduce" her. Sorry this isn't acceptable to me. As I found unbelievable/unacceptable the justifications. The way he chose to behave is in no way the same Libby did with her best friends (this is the excuse for "forgiving"). No, no way. She kept some of the truth from the best friend to protect her from depression (a real threat). He kept all of the truth from her to manipulate her. He put her life at risk. How these two behaviours are alike?

I understand he might have not a choice (but I didn't see him trying to change it), it doesn't mean I as the "victim" have to like or accept it. He's not evil, but he doesn't deserve the heroine at the end of the book nor her help. Worse of all this thread really really stunk of a forced feeding to romance junkies. Love is trust. When there's none, it's simply lust. Nothing wrong with it, but don't wrap it in a different paper.

Really, really personal: I hate "religious" overtones, whatever the religion. I'm (wrongly) incensed when someone says because "God will it so" as a justification. Here many of Libby's choices were based on the theme the goddess says so or similar. Pagan or Christian, it's something I dislike. The choices should be mine. Responsibilities too.

It wasn't strong, mind you. But it was another notch on the do not like list.

So, with a different ending I might have thought about book 2 to see if the world-building might have improved and how the story kept on (both the overall plot and the "romance"). As it is, I'm sorry to say "no, but thanks no".

Delphina says

This is my first read by Stacey Kennedy and it will not be the last. I picked up this book and did not put it down until the very last page. I tried a few times because I was super tired, but I could not do it. I do not know if it was the magical world she created, the feisty and intelligent heroine, Kale in all his power and hotness, or the mystery that kept me glued to the pages. I imagine it was all of the above. Whatever the case, this book is not one you should start if you only have a few minutes before the you have to start dinner because your family will be stuck fending for themselves.

I am going to lay it out there. If you are a cat lover, the first chapter may be a bit tough for you. It was for me. The mystery starts with a deceased cat. Not an easy thing to read. Have no fear though. Once you get over that very short hurdle, all is good. I promise.

I admit I was a bit surprised by some of the things that happened as Libby worked on the case. This always makes me happy because I hate knowing who done it from the very beginning. It takes away the fun. Speaking of fun. I love the lore of this world. I was excited when I saw on the cover that this book is book one. It means there is more awesomeness to come. The story was complete, if you are looking for a one time read and do not want to commit to a series, but the possibility for more is out there. Happy Dance.

Lyndi W. says

Jesus Christ, can somebody please just kill Libby and put everyone out of their misery? This woman is a rude, mouthy, TSTL bitch. Awful, just awful.

Steph says

The Cat's Meow introduces us to Libby Jenkins, an Enchantress - a witch gifted to work spells, and Kale Griffin, a Ward - a warlock who draws runes. There have been some cat slayings and Libby is out to find out why. Kale is sent in to assist her.

I am a big fan of Stacey Kennedy's writing. I love her *Frostbite* series. This one, however, lacked something for me. The world building was present, but there were still things I didn't get. There is tension between witches and warlocks, but I'm not sure why. Typically I love a smart mouth on a heroine, but Libby's tone felt forced for me at times. Why is she questioning the coven? Also, I found Kale to be a snore-bore until we learn what he's really up to.

But, don't let my 'it was lacking' statement steer you away, you may enjoy it more than I did. There were interesting aspects - mainly, the unique powers held by these witches and warlocks.

Katie_la_geek says

For this review and more visit my blog

I really enjoyed this paranormal romance; it was funny, quirky and interesting. It had great characters, a great storyline and a swoon worthy romance. It grabbed my attention from the start and didn't let go.

The writing and storytelling was really good and I like the way Kennedy subtly uses humour. It was not in your face but it managed to make me giggle often.

I really love the characters. Libby is a lot of fun; she is sassy, funny and stubborn in the best way possible. I loved that this book was told from her point of view only instead of split POV between her and Kale, because I liked her voice and personality.

Kale is also awesome, he is dashing and charming. He is tough as nails but also possesses a gentler side that comes out when Libby is around. I did get annoyed with all his secret keeping and has refusal to tell Libby the truth about himself. I understand that he had no choice but the deception lasted a little to long for me. What I liked about that situation was his acknowledgement that he had caused Libby pain, and that her pain caused him pain. It showed he really cared and it made me love him just that little bit more.

The Cat's Meow is a very entertaining and enjoyable book. it was a lot better than I thought it would be and also a lot of fun.

The publisher provided me with a free copy of this book in exchange for and honest review

Kay says

As we follow Libby and Kale through their investigation of slaughtered cats, it seems like only a few answers were unfolded after each scene which became frustrating. The magic was a bit confusing. There's some inner goddess (no, not like the one from 50 Shades) in Libby who grants her the power and magic. This goddess was never really explained and we don't know where she came from or if everyone has a goddess or not. I would have liked to understand and feel for Libby more. If only there were more details about her past (besides her ex-boyfriend), magic and family as well as more history about her coven and the Alchemy, it would have given me a better connection to the story.

Kale is a mystery. Libby nor the reader has any idea who he is. He doesn't answer questions nor share any details about himself. Libby thinks he's there to spy on her as she thinks her coven is out to get her. We slowly learn that he is a badass Warlock with some massive power but we still don't get any answer on his motive of helping Libby and her investigation until way later in the book. I do think that the sexual tension between Libby and Kale was done well. Their attraction for one another jumps off the page. However, I do think that Libby thought about Kale's attractiveness a little too much while she should had focused more on the investigation.

Overall, this book was okay. Its magical world confused me at times and the story was rather slow until about the 60-65% mark where it finally picked up. The action and the magical moments towards the big showdown were done well. I was anxiously turning pages to find out the outcome. This is the first book I've read from this author and I enjoyed it enough to finish it.

2.5-3 Stars

Lynsey (A Bookish Life) says

Fun and flirty UF

This was a good read with lots of potential for future plots. I've read a number of promising starters in the last 6 months in the Urban Fantasy genre, which is as exciting as it is daunting. Joining a series so early means a commitment of 5-6 years of waiting for new releases, sometimes after crippling cliffhangers, so only the really good ones will I pick up for books two, three, four... This is one I will continue with, for sure.

It was a fun, exciting and well-paced story following a likeable young witch (an Enchantress, actually) called Libby, who is working a case for her coven. The ritualistic killing of cats leads her to discoveries way above her usual pay grade. Since she's so far out of her depth, you'd think she'd be happy to have a darkly handsome and enigmatic warlock turn up to assist her. Right? Yeah, not so much. Libby's past experiences with warlocks have led her to be wary and slow to trust. And that's putting it very mildly. Something Libby probably wouldn't bother to do. She's more the 'say it as you see it' kind of gal. Her smart mouth was

entertaining and only once or twice did I think she took it too far with the wrong people. I really liked Libby's "voice" and felt for her as the frustrations of dealing with her new and extremely evasive shadow got her down.

Warlock Kale, the potential love interest and a man who answers questions with yet more questions, or simply diverts, distracts or fails to answer at all, was so annoyingly interesting I wanted to scream! And so did Libby by the end. He takes secretive to a whole new irritating level and yet I still liked him. I loved how slowly their relationship developed—largely because of his refusal to give away any information about himself—but it was something that I was invested in nonetheless and had me turning the pages like a crazy woman. And although it was slow to start, it had a more than satisfying conclusion!

Can't wait to find out what happens next after all the shock revelations in this book. Bring it on!

4 Stars ★★★★★

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Annette M Guerriero Nishimoto says

Today's review is on *The Cat's Meow* by Stacey Kennedy

This is the first book I have read by Kennedy and I have to say that I'm an instant fan. Her writing presents a clear picture of the characters, their surroundings, and the dangers they face. Gone are the days where the women are in the background. Now they are strong, independent, and able to take care of themselves, and Libby is no different.

Libby is her covens Enchantress, and though she tries to follow the rules she doesn't exactly like all of them and in fact finds herself on the coven's "shit list" more often than not. But Libby is an exceptionally strong Witch, and her spells are stronger than any of the others. That's why she is called in to work on a case involving the slaughter of cats around Charleston. Then the coven sends a Ward to work with Libby and she is beyond insulted.

Kale is a powerful Ward, not to mention sexy-as-hell, and Libby finds herself immediately attracted to him. Even so, Libby has had nothing but bad experiences with Warlocks. Her father left her mother when she told him she was pregnant and her ex took all the credit for solving a case that Libby pretty much lead. But according to Libby, that's a Warlock for you. Self-serving and competitive, always wanting to prove they are better than Witches. This is why she has written them all off.

But Kale seems different. As the case moves from the murder of cats to the murder of humans, Kale shows great concern for Libby's safety. He complements her about her magic, and he is so gentle at times. And the sexual tension? WOW!! And though Kale is anything but forthcoming with much information about himself, Libby cannot control her body's reaction to his closeness or his touch.

These two are so obviously in love that it's painful to know that the secrets Kale is keeping from Libby may be the one thing that could ruin his chances. Even though it is for her safety and protection.

Everything listed in Kennedy's About the Author section is true. I'll be anxiously awaiting the next installment!!

4 of 5 stars

Available at Amazon

Tracey says

4.5 magical stars!!

First of all I'd like to say dont let the cover put you off this book, It didn't draw me in at all, but it's just a cover and the book is great.

Libby is an enchantress living in charleston working for her coven. She is called to investigate a case of multiple cat killings.

Peyton is her best friend and can sense magic, dark or white. While investigating she introduced to a new warlock Kale (swoon), well one things for sure Libby doesn't trust warlocks as far as she can throw one, and physically that wouldn't be far, but with her magic she could as she is good at her job.

When Libby gets called to the coven to speak with the priestess, we get to meet her mother. Kale is a mystery though, no one will tell her anything and to say his elusive is not close enough. She gets ordered to work with this annoying man/warlock so she grudgingly does. Even she can't deny to herself there is some electricity between them, he makes her tingle in places she forgot!

"I glanced over at Kale, and sex-packaged-in-jeans looked troubled with his dark expression."

The investigation continues and it appears someone from Libby's past could be involved.....there is dark magic being used.

This book is really good, so much better than expected, the magical aspect, the sexual tension between Kale and Libby, the twists and turns. There is also comical lighthearted moments in this book my favourite was a dream sequence ;).

In the end there is a mystery to solve and danger to stop, secrets to be told and maybe grovelling to be done!!!!!!

Well worth a read. The is a long wait for the getting together scene, and it's hot when it happens .

Will look out for book two.

i received this copy from the publisher via netgalley for an honest review

Megan says

Oh my Goddess this was such a great story! The Cat's Meow follows Libby, an enchantress witch, and Kale, a mysterious warlock, as they try to discover who is killing cat's around the Charleston area. While that may not sound all that entertaining on its own, Libby is quickly pulled into a much deeper mystery where she has to rely on Kale and her own abilities to keep her safe. I must say that this story kept me thoroughly entertained and I wish it was longer.

Libby is a great character. While she does seem to waffle quite a bit on her feelings for Kale (and who wouldn't? He's yummy and mysterious) she is still her own person and a very strong witch in her own right. She's also fun, a bit of a smart a** and funny. Kale (ah Kale....okay all better) is very mysterious for most of the book. From the beginning of the story he pushes Libby's buttons with his evasions and half answers. He also is very sweet and kind to her when she shows her vulnerabilities and he makes an effort to protect her whenever it's needed. As the story progresses we get to see both characters progress and grow and the outcome is great!

While I can't give much of the plot away without giving spoilers I will say that it was very entertaining. There were several twists and turns that I didn't see coming and I was pleasantly surprised at how it all turned out. I would love to read more about these characters and find out what happens after the last chapter. There isn't a cliffhanger but Kennedy did leave the story open enough that I do expect there to be another book in the series (pretty please?!) Overall a great read and I look forward to reading more.

Read and reviewed for thejeepdiva.com
