



Hexes and X's

Zoey Kane

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An invitation to a dead pirate's two-hundred-year-old mansion. A decrepit finger bone tied to a map of hidden passages, supposedly leading to bloody pearls. A legal fight over who owns the estate, and its hidden treasure—the tenacious town council, the mischievous Matilda Dread, or the kooky Coven House Witches? And booby-traps galore.

What are Zoey and her daughter Claire getting themselves into now? Thank goodness there's a handsome deputy, Riley Jones, and an endearing redneck named Slobber, to help them along the way.

Hexes and X's Details

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Author : Zoey Kane

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From Reader Review Hexes and X's for online ebook

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

This was a very fast paced mystery with lots of action. The murderer was quite a surprise and I enjoyed the treasure hunt that Zoey and Claire embarked upon on behalf of their friend Matilda (who was not all she appeared to be either). some of the characters were quirky and I chuckled at the mannequin that they named Millicent and the situations where Zoey & Claire would find the mannequin.

I haven't read the first two books but think that it is ok to read this book on its own.

Shauna says

I LOVE LOVE LOVE this series!
It continues to be fun and entertaining!

This book has pirates, legends, treasure maps, booby traps (hexes), hidden passages, kooky witches, mystery, murder, and hopefully a treasure chest full of pearls.

It also has a mother and daughter team, old friends, new friends, enemies, romance and ex (X)- boyfriends.

Fun, fun story line!

Zoey's old college friend has invited Zoey and Claire to come solve the mystery of the hidden treasure and to find out if the pirate tales from her family are really true.

Going only by a map with multiple X's on it Zoey and Claire must endure the town council, the mischievous villain who wants the old house and treasure to herself, the ex-boyfriend who shows up on the scene, and a storm that will keep all the players together in the old mansion.

Luckily they have a "handsome deputy, Riley Jones, and an endearing redneck named Slobber to help them along the way."

SO. SO. SO. GOOD!
A little laughter.
A little mystery.
A little suspense.
A little romance.
A whole lot of FUN, FUN READING!

Bonnie says

Hexes and X's is kooky, funny, and entertaining. A light quick read, great for the beach or poolside reading.

The detectives are a mother and daughter pair, Zo and Claire respectively. The one who requested their assistance is a self proclaimed witch named Matilda, with whom Zo attended college. The reason for the

required assistance is Grandpa was an eccentric who filled a house with booby traps so no one would find his treasure.

The hunt begins with a 'sketch,' includes rumors of pirates and a dead housekeeper, threats of witchcraft by The Coven who meets at the house and a cast of town-folk who kept me in stitches.

The puzzle of the house would have read better if there had been a diagram in the beginning. Or the sketch used as a map had been shown. I was a bit lost as to where they were and how they got there – especially 'Poop Falls.' lol

This is the 3rd book of a series but since I found it free for Kindle on Amazon I thought I would give it a try. I don't know that I would pay for the others but may put them on a list of books I look for at book sales.

Karen Wright says

Another adventure for Zoey and Claire

I fell in love with this series after getting a book free from amazon. This book was really a lot of fun. Claire and Zoey are off to solve another mystery, this time for Matilda from the last book. Of course readers have gotten to know the mother and daughter team over the previous books but the new characters are beautifully described and lively. This treasure hunt seemed to be full of humor, not to mention a pace so quick I am afraid to put it down. The story is a little more fantasy than previous books but I really enjoyed it.

Ruth McCurry says

This is the first of the Zoey and Claire Mysteries I've read,(It's book #3) but I enjoyed it very much. Light reading, fun and enjoyable.

Zoey and her daughter Claire unravel the mystery of the Coven House, for the Coven House Witches and the City Council.

Bodies pile up, some old and some new. Claire and her mother find old friends and new ones and they find lots of treasure, even though they have to go thru lots of booby-traps to get to it.

They even find a long dead pirate, lots of spiders and lots of snakes (one which is a two legged snake, Claire's ex).

Dharia Scarab says

Wierd. Just couldn't get into the story.

Since I don't normally write reviews unless I have something specific to say, here's the break down of how I

rate my books...

1 star... This book was bad, so bad I may have given up and skipped to the end. I will avoid this author like the plague in the future.

2 stars... This book was not very good, and I won't be reading any more from the author.

3 stars... This book was ok, but I won't go out of my way to read more, But if I find another book by the author for under a dollar I'd pick it up.

4 stars... I really enjoyed this book and will definitely be on the look out to pick up more from the series/author.

5 stars... I loved this book! It had earned a permanent home in my collection and I'll be picking up the rest of the series and other books from the author ASAP.

Katie says

I did not end up finishing this book. Hexes and X's was a free ebook on Amazon one day (I think it's still free if you're interested in giving it a try). It was very campy; if you want a humorous book that doesn't make much sense and has a sort of amateur detective aspect, this is the book for you.

People go missing, get sick, are murdered, etc. and everyone else seems to shrug it off and go looking for treasure. It's meant to be silly, I get that, but I was hoping for more of a typical mystery with some humor thrown in. The plot seems to have gaps in it and there are parts that clearly need more description to make sense - the secret rooms are very confusingly and briefly described. There were too many distractions to get through it all.

The two main characters in this series, Zoey and Claire, are too busy drooling over the attractive detective to concentrate on the fact the gas station blows up and they receive minor injuries.

Susan says

I couldn't read it. Thank goodness I got it for free. The dialogue was so stilted, and the humor was contrived. It was written as though everyone had read the previous book(s) -- or novella, to be exact. I simply couldn't continue the attempt. A waste of my time. I sent it to the trash heap.

Brenda says

I like the idea of these Zoey and Claire mysteries, and the plots could be good stories, but the writing just isn't up to speed. The really bad grammar and sometimes hard to follow wording really detracts from the story. I had a really hard time picturing in my head what the puzzle rooms looked like and how they managed to get through them the way they did. I've read two of them (1st and 3rd) because they were free on my Nook, but am not willing to pay the \$3.99 to read the second book. Okay to read if you can get them free, but don't spend to read these!

Donna Foston says

This book is problematic. Due to a lack of contractions, the dialogue is very stilted. People don't say "I am here" or "you are going" in casual conversation. They just don't. Then there is the setting. Every small-town cliché is pulled out in this book, including the toothless guy with the colorful name. The story itself reads like a little kid relating an incident at school. This happened, then this happened, then this happened. You can't visualize the settings at all. The puzzle rooms could have been really interesting without being gross and disgusting. There are constant attempts at weak humor. In spite of all this, it is very readable, hence the three stars. Good read when you're looking for something light.

Joyce A. Raines says

Fun read

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Once I started reading it I only stopped for a bowl of soup and a cup of hot chocolate. For pitstops I took my Kindle with me. This really was a fun read.

Tim says

A freebie from BookBub, third in the author's cozy-mystery series featuring mother-and-daughter sleuths Zoey (Zo) and Claire Kane, from a small town called Riverside. Zoey is a realtor and Claire was once a managing editor for a magazine, now fired, whose husband Jack left her after she got fired, for another, younger woman. (this edition includes the first three chapters of the first book in the series, in which much of this background is delineated).

This story has a couple of sort of double meanings in its title, for the X's also refer to a couple of "exes" of two of the characters, one of whom is Zoey's ex, Jack. The other is explained below. The book starts with an invitation from Zoey's old college friend, Matilda Dread, who lives in a nearby town of Grovelsey in a mansion, known as "Coven House." occupied by a group of women known in the community as "witches." These are mostly holistic healers from several such professions. There is, however, another group of women whose intent is more malicious ("bad" witches). The group is led by Cynthia (for whom Matilda's ex-husband John left Matilda) and Patricia Bule. The property is in dispute because the City Council claims it belongs to the City as it has historical importance, so a hearing on the subject is being held at the mansion.

Matilda's reason for contacting Zoey is that Matilda has come across a sketch (and perhaps treasure map) of the mansion with a number of X's throughout it, supposedly drawn by Matilda's grandfather, a reputed notorious pirate named Captain Zachariah Dread, who had had the mansion built in the early 1800's. The sketch is rolled up and tied with a string, fastened by a finger bone. Matilda has a sort of "skeleton key," if you will, with both a standard end and a smaller, more pointed, end, which allow access into several of the places on the sketch marked by X's. Turns out the X's are also booby traps (a meaning of the "hexes," as well as the implications of the supposed occult abilities of the "witches").

The book has a number of quirky minor characters, the quirkiest of whom is the owner of the gas station across the street nicknamed "Slobber," who actually turns out to be heroic, and, ironically, a potential

romantic partner for Zoey. Also of note is Sheriff's Deputy Riley "Too Tall" Jones, who has his eyes on Claire. Another minor "character" is a dressmaker's dummy named Millicent (comic relief all around).

The story line, like the usual cozy mysteries, has a number of murders, characters who aren't who they appear to be, abundant red herrings and more than a couple surprises in addition. To say more would be to give too much away. I enjoyed this little tale and would recommend it. Gonna get to some of the other "Claire and Zoey" works sometime in the vague offing.

Victoria Case says

The book was pretty much horrible. I certainly wasn't expecting high literature but i though this might be a fun whodunit and it was poorly written, poorly paced, and downright stupid in places (ouch - sorry but really a guy drops dead in the kitchen and they just move him???? smh). While they was some witty repartee between the mother and daughter, it seemed like the whole book was just geared to riffing one liners. Sorry, won't read another one.

Debra says

Zoey Kane and her daughter Claire have been invited to a mansion by Matilda Dread to help her find a buried treasure in the house. The mansion once belonged to Matilda's deceased grandfather, a pirate who possessed a large quantity of stolen pearls and jewels. A lot of people want to get their hands on the treasure and will stop at nothing to do so.

It's a fun premise for a cozy mystery, isn't it? You've got a terrific setting with a houseful of people on a stormy night, a coven of witches (none of them actually knows witchcraft) and a killer on the loose. Unfortunately, the writing doesn't measure up to the plot. The dialogue is awkward, the characters two dimensional, and the plot twists don't make sense. The deputy trapped in the house with the group isn't smart enough to confiscate or even search for weapons after the first murder, so guns are appearing out of nowhere. Nor can the deputy apparently tell when a man is really dead. The transitions jump from event to event with no build up, no sense of suspense, and too little logic, which is a shame. I wanted to like the book but it needs much more work to properly flesh out the characters and fix those logic problems.

Jill Martin says

Stupidest book I ever read! Reads like a young person wrote it with an immature style of writing. Author's way of describing settings and situations in her murder mystery were so lacking that it was hard to even visualize the scene. Her details were inconsistent and I found several places in the book where she contradicts herself. The whole thing was unbelievable. Thank goodness it was a short book and I could get through it just to say "I'm not a quitter!" I will not bother with the rest of the series.
