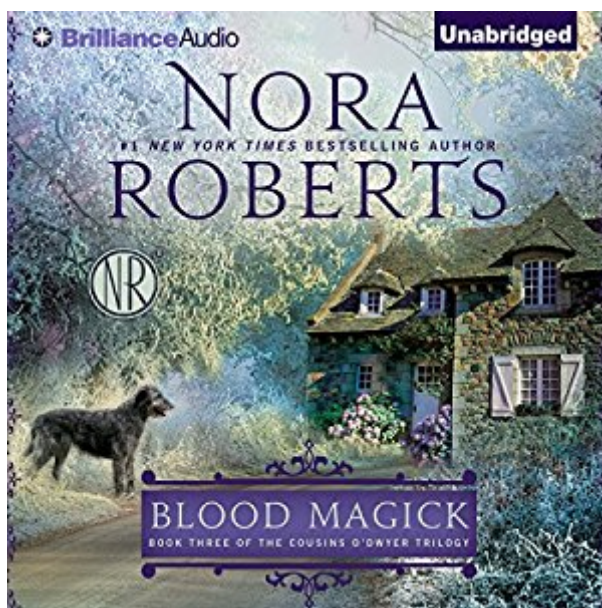


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Blood Magick: The Cousins O'Dwyer Trilogy, Book 3



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times best-selling author Nora Roberts comes a trilogy about the land we're drawn to, the family we learn to cherish, and the people we long to love... Book Three of The Cousins O'Dwyer Trilogy, Blood Magick County Mayo is rich in the traditions of Ireland, legends that Branna O'Dwyer fully embraces in her life and in her work as the proprietor of The Dark Witch shop, which carries soaps, lotions, and candles for tourists, made with Branna's special touch. Branna's strength and selflessness hold together a close circle of friends and family - along with their horses and hawks and her beloved hound. But there's a single missing link in the chain of her life: love... She had it once - for a moment - with Finbar Burke, but a shared future is forbidden by history and blood. Which is why Fin has spent his life traveling the world to fill the abyss left in him by Branna, focusing on work rather than passion. Branna and Fin's relationship offers them both comfort and torment. And though they succumb to the heat between them, there can be no promises for tomorrow. A storm of shadows threatens everything that their circle holds dear. It will be Fin's power, loyalty, and heart that will make all the difference in an age-old battle between the bonds that hold their friends together and the evil that has haunted their families for centuries. Don't miss the first two books in the Cousins O'Dwyer Trilogy, Dark Witch and Shadow Spell

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours 48 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 28, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00O7ZP6OY

Best Sellers Rank: #76 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Suspense #189

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Contemporary #1245 in Books > Romance > Romantic Suspense

Customer Reviews

BLOOD MAGICK concludes the trilogy of books about the cousins O'Dwyer. It is the story of two people who have loved one another most of their lives and yet have been kept apart by evil

hundreds of years old.

THE STORY: Branna O'Dwyer and Finbar Burke grew up together and dreamed of living their lives together. The two are witches who matched incredibly well. The first time they made love as teens, however, Fin was marked with the sign of Cabhan, the evil sorcerer who tried to kill Branna's ancestor. The mark signifies that Fin is descendant from Cabhan. Branna broke things off with Fin because she knew that they could not be together when the evil that is Cabhan continues to stalk her family. Through the first two books of the series, Fin and Branna worked together as the people in their lives intertwined. In this book, the three cousins joined by those who love them, plot the final confrontation with Cabhan that will free them all.

OPINION: This was my favorite book of the series. Branna and Fin have loved each other even though they have been kept apart by the evils of Cabhan and the curse of Branna's ancestor. The pain and angst of these two who love each other and yet know that they cannot be together is beautifully written. At the same time, there is such rightness in the two being together that I had to keep reading every page wondering how the two would work out the problems facing them. I especially liked that there were no false conflicts set between Fin and Branna. The only thing keeping them apart in this book is the external forces. There is no doubt that they have loved each other through the twelve years of their separation despite the fact that each has gone on to live their lives. The truth and strength of the love of two people who cannot see a way to be together permeates the story. I also really enjoyed that both characters are strong, but not brittle. They have deep vulnerabilities to each other and to their friends and family, but they use the love that binds all of them. In the end, it is the love that is their greatest strength. The book is about the connections that bind us to others and the strength that comes from opening oneself up to that love. The story ended as one might expect and yet the journey was deeply satisfying and I am happy to recommend this book.

WORTH MENTIONING: Roberts has a special touch with her witchcraft books. The book is informative and respectful without being preachy or shrill. The subject matter may be paranormal and yet these characters are deeply grounded in reality in so many ways that the witchcraft angle feels real and solid instead of fanciful.

FINAL DECISION: This is my favorite book of the series. I think it is a definite read for those who have followed the trilogy, but I think that it is best as part of that trilogy.

CONNECTED BOOK: BLOOD MAGICK is the third and final book in the Cousins O'Dwyer series. The book can be read on its own, but the story of Cabhan and in fact, the story of Branna and Fin have been a part of all three books and I must recommend that readers start with the first book in the series, DARK WITCH, and continue with SHADOW SPELL in order to fully appreciate the story.

STAR RATING: I give this book 5 stars!

I liked this book, but I have read plenty of Nora Roberts' books over the years. I liked this book because the plot line was not completely predictable, there were a few surprises but not outrageous ones, and there was still a happy ending. The plot makes the most sense if you read all three books in order and finish the series, but each book is technically readable as an individual story if you want to read the books out of order. I thought the books were a little slow to start, but the pace picked up throughout. If you like Nora Roberts' writing style and find paranormal romance books entertaining, this book (or any in the series) would be worth a read.

Nora Roberts wraps up this trilogy focusing on Branna and Fin -- their love impossible due to an 800-year old curse. Cousins and friends work mightily to come together to destroy an ancient evil that has preyed on people all those years and the blood family of Sorcha, a healer witch who lived 800 years ago. Ms Roberts does not fail to bring the reader full into Ireland -- it's scenery, it's richness and its lore. The flow of the Irish characters' speech and love between the six cousins and friends stays true throughout the mixing of magicks needed to defeat the long-living evil. Like the other books in the trilogy, this was not a pulse-pounding ride through scary adventures. I was held due to the relationships between Branna and Fin and their loyal family/friends managing to live their lives in spite of a fearful curse. Not my favorite Nora Roberts book but fun nonetheless.

Well, this trilogy was fantastic, but I took away one star for the name of the demon. Really? All the research you must have done to write such a wonderful Irish witch story and you used that particular name for an evil dark demon, when all that name has stood for over the centuries is completely opposite to what the demon was all about. Even a made up name like Dqrithraughe or something would have been a better choice. I kept thinking it was a trick of the bad guy's to get the good witches to mistakenly banish a being of light, but any Irishman would have heard that name and go, nah, dudes trying to trick us, sheesh. A beautifully written story, I binge read all three books, and at the very end to read that name as a demon was like an unexpected car crash. Yikes. Not cool. Not going further with this to avoid spoiling it for others.

Nora Robert's trilogies are always amazing. This is one is bound with more of a Wiccan and magical tone. It's still a love story and the bad guy still needs to be dealt with. I have read all three and highly recommend these even for those who are not NR fans. If you like love stories and magic, then give this a try.

Seriously, where's the rest of the book? (SPOILER ALERT) So the storyline development was plodding along and *poof* all of a sudden Brannan backs down from all she's held sacred for the past 12 years, abandons her stance, subjugates herself to Fin, they fly off to battle, and it's all over. Not even an Epilogue. And the final 'battle'? To say reading it was anticlimactic is an understatement. Since the first two books were sort of interesting I stayed with the trilogy, expecting the author to really wow me in the end with the two strongest characters. Not so much. If I had it to do all over again I'd have skipped all three books. It's almost like she got bored with the tale and just gave the story cursory attention in order to be done with the story. Very disappointed.

Nora always delivers. It's been a while since I've read any of her books and she hasn't disappointed me at all. I could have gone for a wedding at the end, but I understand it would be overkill. Great story. Great ending. Great magic and fun beside.

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