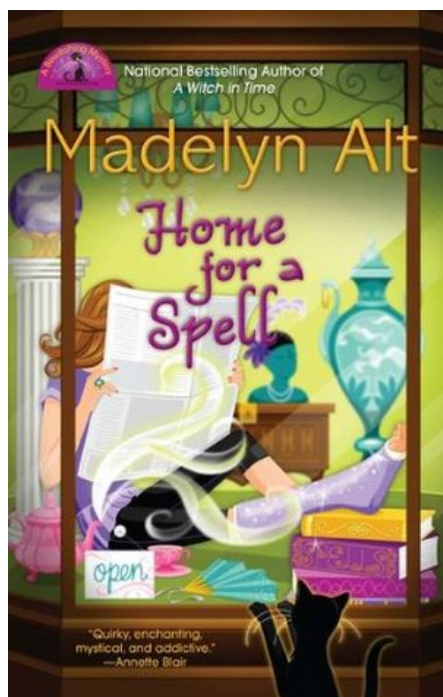




Home for a Spell

Madelyn Alt

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As the newest witch in Indiana, Maggie O'Neill already has plenty to deal with. So being hobbled by a broken leg doesn't help. Neither does the fact that her best friend and upstairs neighbor is getting ready to tie the knot with her own boyfriend and move away. This leads Maggie to wonder if it isn't time to find herself a new pad.

But when she finds a place, Maggie's dream of new digs turns into a nightmare: the apartment manager is found dead before she can even sign the lease. And Maggie finds herself not only searching for a new home-but for a frightfully clever killer.

Home for a Spell Details

Date : Published January 4th 2011 by Berkley (first published November 23rd 2010)

ISBN : 9780425238677

Author : Madelyn Alt

Format : Hardcover 290 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fantasy, Paranormal, Cozy Mystery, Witches, Fiction



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Keriann says

I couldn't finish this one, it was so boring. Nothing ever happened. I got about halfway through and gave up. I hardly ever stop reading, but this one was a chore to even reach the spot that I did. It's a shame because it had potential.

Susan says

I generally enjoy this series, but this particular episode drove me nuts! Maggie has been growing as a character throughout the series. However, in this one she reverts to a two year old throwing temper tantrums and hissy fits throughout. It is as if Alt read somewhere 'romances must have tension to keep it interesting' so she threw in a bunch of gratuitous non-issues for Maggie to agonize and whine about. I read these books primarily because they are mystery novels; if I had wanted to read a formulaic romance, I could have picked up a book in that genre.

Andrea Guy says

This book was Cute with a capital "C." I found this one at my local library and was seduced by the cute cover. This is one of the few series cozies that I've read that made me wish that I had read the other books in the series. This is Book 7 in the A Bewitching Mystery series. It isn't that this book can't stand alone, but I wanted to know more of the back story between Maggie and her ex-boyfriend.

This is a cozy mystery, but it is more cozy than mystery. The mystery just didn't do it for me. It took forever for the murder to happen. What is it with established cozy series doing this anyway? You wait almost half the book before the body turns up? And when it does show up it just wasn't the kind of mystery that had me wondering who the killer was. It was a little easy to guess. It was interesting to read about Locke, and what a creep he really was. It is always good when the victim is a creep, then you don't feel bad that they are dead.

This story felt more like it was about Maggie and the direction she was going in her life. When I read a cozy, I want the mystery. I didn't feel satisfied when the killer was revealed, though the twist that came at the end was a bit surprising. I think I'm going to have to see what the other books were like in the series. I liked the characters, but this book didn't seem developed enough for me.

Lea says

Couldn't finish this crap-tastic book for the life of me. I kept thinking 'maybe once they find a dead body it will get interesting'. Close to half-way through the book, reading painful text and over-wrought dialog (from what I can only assume is a 17 year old writer on a red bull binge) I still didn't have a body, a plot, or any desire to keep reading.

Barbara ★ says

A thoroughly enjoyable cozy mystery set in Indiana. Once again, Maggie O'Neill was in the wrong place at the wrong time! Here she is just trying to rent an apartment when she finds the manager floating in the complex pool. Poor Maggie. If you're reading this series, then you know ex-boyfriend/cop Tom Fielding is involved, as well as her boss, Felicity Dow and her boyfriend, Marcus Quinn. Oh and don't forget her cat, Minnie plays an important role, witches familiar and all that. A quick fun read.

Nicole says

I know I read this book, but I don't remember anything about it (including how much I liked or disliked it).

Elizabeth Drake says

I am getting less and less involved in this series as it goes on. The main character continues to annoy me and her love life bores me to no end. The plot plods along with little to no comic relief and, perhaps the most irritating, for a book that is often shelved with paranormal fiction or modern fantasy - There were no elements of the supernatural whatsoever!

Mirjam says

The star in the fun Bewitching Mystery series is Maggie O'Neill, who is definitely the odd one out in her family. In Home For A Spell she is being looked after by boyfriend Marcus while she is recovering from a broken ankle. Maggie believes that her presence at his house is a great inconvenience for and bother to Marcus. She is therefore eager to lighten his load of responsibilities by going home. But the home she has shared with her best friend is about to change, as Steff is getting married and moving to another town. Impulsive as she is, Maggie immediately decided to start looking for a new apartment. Without consulting Marcus she manages to arrange a viewing that afternoon at a splendid apartment. Before she can sign Marcus and Maggie find the murdered apartment manager. The witchy couple gather clues and go in search of a killer.

It felt like the mystery itself played second fiddle in Home For A Spell , but I didn't really mind. The story seems to focus on the relationship of Maggie and Marcus. Consequently neither Maggie's family nor her friend Steff play much of a role in this book. Felicity, however, continues to play an important role. It makes sense though as both Steff and Maggie are in a serious relationship. Apart from that, Maggie is staying with Marcus, so naturally she sees less of Steff at home.

There is decidedly less magic going on in Home For A Spell than in previous books. Although this story did not require any magic I do hope the next book will see a little more paranormal activity. Of course Felicity continues to be the most witchy witch in this series.

Madelyn Alt is always good for a nice, fun read. After a long and busy day at the office there is nothing like settling down with a Bewitching mystery. I enjoyed it!

Doris says

I read several in this series back to back, although not in order. I have to say that this one did not hold my attention like the previous books – I actually fell asleep reading it.

One of the strong points of this series, and this book, is the building of the relationship between Maggie and Marcus, who were attracted to each other from the first meeting. Here, they are working together on compromises and becoming one, instead of the normal series books which have the main character going back and forth between two loves. Maggie had a short term relationship which lasted for a couple of books, but she has moved on (although it is obvious the man has not).

I did not like that Marcus seems to be so very much the heterosexual male. He pampers Maggie, drives her around, and takes over. Having written that, that is what I dislike – he decides and that is the way it will be. On the flip side, he likes to pamper her – but she needs to be close to him. Maybe I am not as comfortable with that relationship as I thought!

The mystery was almost like a throw in to make a place to tell the love story, rather than a reason to write with the love story as filler. As soon as I met the victim, I knew he would be killed. I knew what he was probably up to (I was right). I did not immediately get the villain (although in this case I am not sure villain fits). As soon as the villain was mentioned though, in light of the rest of the story, the motivation was obvious, as was another point which Maggie and the rest of the investigators totally missed. (view spoiler)

I did like the discussion about big changes coming at year end. In that respect, this book fills an obvious niche – it solidifies the relationship between Maggie and Marcus, it strengthens the bond between Maggie and her mother, and it relegates Mel to a background scene, a supporting role and not even an important one. Overall a decent read, and a good lead to the next, hopefully better, book in the series.

Final note: I have to make this comment. When Maggie enters the apartment she is considering leasing, the manager searches under the sofa. Yet later, and several times, Maggie makes a point of saying the place was empty of furnishings. Oops! Editors – you should have caught that!

On that thought, I think a 3-star rating is generous.

Erin says

Apparently, other books in the series are paranormal comedies and have received high ratings. I thought this was boring and not very interesting. The murder did not happen until Chapter 6 and the solving of the murder was not very thrilling. So, not a fan.

Myhotstylist says

uggg... what a HOT MESS this book was. Mrs Alts books are becomming more and more chick lit than anything. Skim reading worthy at best. The dead body didnt appear until about the 6th chapter, and the entire 7th chapter was a re-hash of all the first 6 chapters. I was litterally able to skim read the last 2 chapters to get a resolution. I seems the NIGHTS are not active at all anymore. Pfft... so much for the whole paranormal theme they had going.

Im sad to say I honestly dont care anymore what happens to these characters because they have just gotten too dull for me. This book was a drag... and yes, it dragged. The only thing nice about this book, is the beautiful cover, but thats about it.

Marissa Culp says

The latest book in the Bewitching series by Madelyn Alt has heroine Maggie O'Neill side-lined by the broken ankle received in the last book (A Witch in Time). The ankle just isn't healing as fast as she hoped for and now Maggie feels she's being a drain on her boyfriend, Quinn. At the same time, her best friend is getting married and preparing to move out of the upstairs apartment where they both live. Feeling a little lost, Maggie decides it's time for a change and starts apartment hunting. When Quinn's uncle turns her on to a lodge brother's apartment complex, the deal sounds too good to be true. Maggie returns to sign the lease only to find the apartment manager floating in the pool. Being the witchy detective she is, Maggie just can't let it go and finds herself hobbling after another murderer.

This is a delightful series I became hooked on about a year ago. It is light and breezy and there's never a dull moment in the small town of Stony Mills. Each book proves to be a bit of respite in between my darker reading material, and this installment delivered just what I expected - Maggie being typically curious and sometimes obtuse; her boss, Felicity, a down-to-earth Grandmotherly-slash- Brit-slash-Wiccan; her co-workers, Tara and Evie, two teenage girls who couldn't be more different but who have somehow bonded and become best friends; and her boyfriend, Quinn, caring, understanding, amused by Maggie's antics and, untypically, jealous of former boyfriend and town cop, Tom.

I enjoy reading as Maggie puts her foot in her mouth, jumps to conclusions, trips over her own feet (or cast, in this case) and takes phone calls from her mother, who just wants her to marry a nice, hometown boy. I give this one four palm trees – a great beach read.

V says

I wanted a mystery / thriller with a little paranormal skills in the protagonist. This book is too simple and juvenile for me.

Risa says

not very bewitching... (very very little "witching" / paranormal at all). Not a very engaging or compelling story.

Beverly says

I would have liked this book a lot more of the series didn't end here. It was slated for at least two more books, and they were postponed several times, then fizzled out. Not a satisfying ending to the series...I keep wishing that she would take the series back up!!
