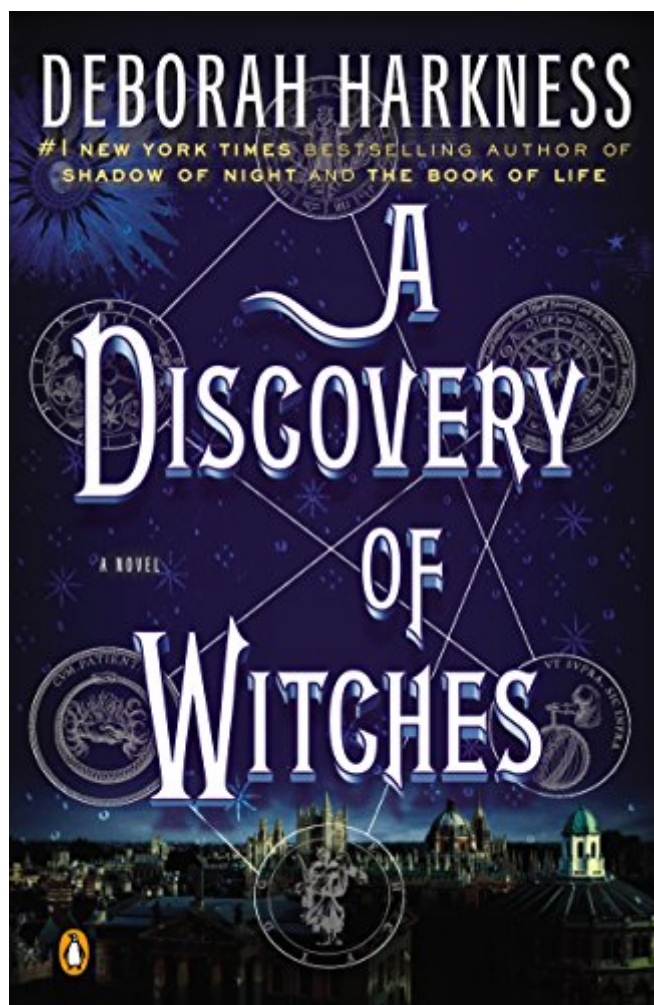


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A Discovery Of Witches: A Novel (All Souls Trilogy, Book 1)



Synopsis

Book one of the New York Times best-selling All Souls trilogy is "a wonderfully imaginative grown-up fantasy with all the magic of Harry Potter and Twilight" (People). Deborah Harkness's sparkling debut, *A Discovery of Witches*, has brought her into the spotlight and galvanized fans around the world. In this tale of passion and obsession, Diana Bishop, a young scholar and a descendant of witches, discovers a long-lost and enchanted alchemical manuscript, Ashmole 782, deep in Oxford's Bodleian Library. Its reappearance summons a fantastical underworld, which she navigates with her leading man, vampire geneticist Matthew Clairmont. Harkness has created a universe to rival those of Anne Rice, Diana Gabaldon, and Elizabeth Kostova, and she adds a scholar's depth to this riveting tale of magic and suspense. The story continues in book two, *Shadow of Night*, and concludes with *The Book of Life*. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

You might stop reading after this first book in the All Soul's Trilogy, but only if you have

super-human reading restraint strength. History and mystery in conjunction with the mystical, metaphysical, alchemical, and surreal weave a story so incredibly fantastic. Layers of magic, witches, vampires, daemons, and humans come together over centuries and continents to form a world both realistic and hopeful. Harkness has created a saga as solid as Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Mists of Avalon* and as complex as Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire*.

A Discovery of Witches is by far, my favorite book. OK, the whole ADOW series are my favorite books. I just love how Deborah Harkness incorporated actual historical events and locations into her books. This series is beautifully written and thoroughly entertaining. Every time I read the books I can't put them down; I purchased the Audible versions so I can continue the stories throughout my day. You definitely need to one-click this series.

I have read this three times and I love it more every time I read it. I am deeply impressed by the vocabulary, writing style, research as well as engrossed in this story. It is just plain brilliant. If you like speculative fiction at all, you may well enjoy this. I mean, it isn't every day that we meet a Roman Catholic vampire, now is it? Seriously, this is really good. And it took me two days to read as it is so long.

I started out needing to read this book for English class and ended up listening to all three books. Extremely good plot lines and good plot connections between all three books which is a rarity these days. Even for a 20 year old college guy it kept me entertained throughout and wondering what would come next as I drive to and home from school. The characters have such depth that it would be surprising if Harkness did not plan it all out before writing.

The supernatural world, the cultures and norms, is so beautifully set up in this book that it feels real. The characters are sympathetic and flawed, completely relatable. At its heart this is a love story, but it's so much bigger, the story full and gripping with edge-of-your-seat twists. History and mythology and romance and suspense, this book is multifaceted. I just bought book two and can't wait to see what happens next.

Very God tale but the telling of the tale is much too cryptic at some points. I just want to hear the story. I just want to understand where it's going. And when I close the book after having read the last page, I want to know where I've been.

I have to start this by saying that this story sucked me in and did not let go. It's incredibly well-researched, and the world and characters are incredibly deep and engaging. As far as a foundation for a series goes, I think this is excellent, which is why I couldn't bear to rate it any fewer than 4 stars. If you're interested in a new, interesting take on what a mystical world that intersects with our own could be like, I highly recommend it. That being said, the story had some major issues that nearly caused me to rate it lower, and I could tell this was a first publication because of them. These issues might not bother anyone else, but for me, they were a serious problem. One of the characters actually had a line that perfectly described what I was thinking: "First I thought this was about [x], then I thought it was about [y], and now I'm not sure what it's about!" At its heart, this sort of twisting and turning in the plot is fine...but by the end of the novel, I noticed that none of the plot threads had been resolved (the only one that WAS somewhat resolved was more abandoned than anything else). Personally, I found that very discouraging--I'm not as willing to spend money on the second volume of a series if you haven't yet proven to me that you can resolve a plot line in a satisfying way. As the first in a series, you have a lot to prove to keep us investing both our time and our money in the next installments. I'd be furious if I bought the second novel, just to see the same thing happen again. That's my only complaint about this book. Again, it has incredibly engaging characters, an interesting, intricate plot, and a version of a magical/modern world that I've never seen before. I'm interested in more of this world...I'm just not sure if the author will make me purchase all three novels to get any resolution on anything that happens. I'm okay with that for an overarching plot...but I still like to have little resolutions for minor subplots all the same.

I started reading this book as part of the annual read-a-long. The intent of the read-a-long is to reach each chapter on the calendar day on which the events occur, from Sept. 18 - Oct. 31. I did well the first few days, and then I just couldn't do it anymore--I HAD to keep going! Then I went on a trip so I bought the Audible version to listen to in the car. Night time reading plus 10 hours driving with the audio and the book was done. Not sure how much I like Matthew (he's a bit overbearing for my tastes), but when he and Diana are together you know you're going to eventually get to some vampire-witch sexy fun times! I'm looking forward to book 2.

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