



Spell Checked

C.G. Powell

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Broken relationships were a constant in Mae's life, causing her to swear off men forever. Unwittingly lured to Ireland, Mae finds herself knee-deep in a hidden world she never knew existed and head over heels for the very man that tricked her to coming there. His deception is complicated by his own feelings for the one person that holds the key to merging the ancient races that once ruled the ancient world.

Mae finds herself in an underground world of witches, and vampires, which are half-breeds of aliens long gone. She learns about her own unique parentage and powers, which she must study in order to control, before they consume her.

Beck and Helen's love for one another spans across a millennium, her human soul reincarnated to match Beck's own immortality. This time however the body she occupies is of a being that cannot be eclipsed by her return. After waiting two hundred years, Beck finds himself tormented by Helen's inability to return and his growing love for her new host.

Some of the underworld creatures welcome her with open arms as a savior, while others seek to destroy the abomination they believe her to be. Will the knowledge of her existence cause a race war when the true power of her blood is discovered? Or will love become her ultimate downfall?

Spell Checked Details

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Books says

Spell checked? I think not.

I have no idea where to start with this review. I somewhat enjoyed the book, but there were so many things “wrong” with it, it’s actually quite sad. The one thing I can say with certainty, is that a good editor would’ve made a world of difference. But instead of droning on and on about the things which brings down the value of this book, I’ll give you a quick run-through of the points that bugged me. Just humor me and let me have my little rant here, about a book that has so much potential to be a bestseller if the author is willing to make a few changes to it.

Let’s start with the first major point which I found quite annoying: the author’s fear of using the apostrophe in all the right places. Do not; has not; was not and are not, contributed to throwing the rhythm of the book off balance. Once I started reading it as don’t, hasn’t, wasn’t and aren’t, the story read smoother and suited its characters and setting much better.

The second issue I had was the grammar errors. It wasn’t overwhelming, but it was noticeable.

The whole book is written in such a way as to make it an easy read suitable for young adults, but time and again the intimate scenes between the characters ended up being pure erotica with unexpected crude language at inappropriate intervals - thus making it unsuitable for younger readers. It also succeeded in creating the impression that the author wasn’t sure whether it should be a young adult novel, or a read suitable for more mature readers.

Magic was used as a scapegoat to fix every situation to which the author couldn’t figure out a solution. Abracadabra and the characters got out of sticky situations in a jiffy.

There was no point to the plot and not an ounce of suspense. No, really! The blurb hinted at some action and danger for the main character, but nothing happened. Mae - the main character - was trained throughout the book to use her magical gifts to protect herself and others from harm; creating the impression that she is preparing for a big battle scene or something similar. All she ended up using her magical gifts for were to heal one or two characters and to knock her lover off his feet while they were chasing after each other naked down the passages in their mansion. It was such a disappointment!

The characters were somewhat flawed, in an effort to make them believable, but it was still hard to identify with them when all the difficulties they faced were easily solved with truckloads of money and magic, thus making it hard to feel any sympathy for them whenever they went through rough patches.

As this is the first book in this series, I’ll rather believe that it served as a very (unnecessary) long introduction to the characters who will be the main role-players in the next books in the series. But other than that, there was really no point to this story other than character development.

So why am I recommending this book with 3 stars? Because despite everything I found “wrong” with this book, I couldn’t put it down. There’s definitely something in the author’s writing that is captivating enough to grab the reader’s attention and keep it until the end of the book. This alone is testimony that CG Powell is a talented author who knows how to engage her readers, but just has to find the right rhythm for her writing style and some good advice (or a better editor) on how to add that extra “oomph” to this book. She certainly

impressed me with her knowledge on technology and she has an imagination that can charm readers out of their socks! Now if only she can find a way to apply it in a more-showing, less-telling manner...

Lindsay says

Spell Checked is a fun YA, and it's easy for me to see the appeal to so many. The characters are dynamic and witty, taking being geeky to a whole new level of sexy. The series holds a great amount of potential. I did have a hard time with the dialogue in some places. Contractions were missing, which is simply awkward. People don't usually talk that way, especially not the young adults of the targeted readership. Although, I assume the characters are adults?? I was never actually told how old they were, but some of their behaviour was on the more mature side. And I do mean MATURE! Don't let your teenaged daughters read this!!!

The concept is interesting, although only a few quirks were truly unique. I would say that I would be interested in reading the sequel to see where this series is headed.

Terry Crawford Palardy says

A trip to Ireland undertaken by two best female friends Gemma and Mae who are suddenly joined on the airplane by a handsome, charming, sophisticated Irishman named Aiden with charisma that attracts both of them is the beginning of this paranormal romance story.

Upon landing, they agree to meet for dinner in Dublin, and he brings a friend, Beck, to the table. The foursome's delightful dinner is suddenly interrupted when the man called Beck is suddenly called away.

As the story unfolds it begins to involve Greek mythology, ancient history, and warlocks, vampires and witches. Science fiction enters the story line when the history of witches and vampires is told to Mae and Gemma. Having always been interested in the paranormal, they accept the stories and the realization that one of them is, in fact, a witch.

I will leave it to you to read the story, to learn who is what and to whom each one 'belongs.' The story does have some editorial issues that might be cleared up with another thorough proofreading. But those issues do not detract from the overall plot line.

This is not a book I would recommend to readers younger than 18, for there is a fair amount of physical intimacy in the story. But college and adult readers will no doubt be intrigued with the history and characterization of such figures as Helen of Troy being depicted as a reincarnation through the ages ... this time being hosted by a witch rather than a vampire's mate.

I'll give this one four stars.

Wendy Mckillip says

This story was fun and I couldn't put it down, with that said there are a few things that made it difficult to read.

Lets start with the good... What a unique take on witches and vampires, very neat! I thought that all the characters were well introduced and they built well throughout the story.

My main complaint was the use of quotes when it was not appropriate... When they are thinking thoughts to themselves and it was in quotes made me have to re-read the lines to see who the other character I missed that was being talked with It was in their minds not someone I missed. This was my major grip about the story.

At the ending when they were going to make major announcement the story ended. I felt let down and unfinished. Perhaps it leads into a new story with a few other unfinished plots but the ending was a let down!

Please understand I really did enjoy the story and read it in two days so it did keep my attention. A little fine tuning and I feel it could be an amazing read.

Kirsten Lenius says

Well.. it was an interesting idea...the whole 'where it all originated' part was sufficiently unique and I liked the premise of the book to start with. That said, this story still needs polishing.

I understand that many errors previously in the book have been corrected which is terrific, but there were a few things remaining that made me twitch a little. One, some word choices were poor. For example, vampire's mind control ability was referred to as bewitching. I found that confusing, especially since there were witches prominently involved in the book as well. And at one point a person was said to "materialize into" the next room. That was awkward: One teleports from a place and materializes at the destination. It could be another word, aside from teleport, of course, but just making the point that using materialize in that way didn't quite work. There were other instances, but no need to belabor the point.

Two, as other reviewers have noted, there was a lot of telling, rather than showing by action what was going on. This caused the story to drag in parts... and the jumping perspective from one person to another left me confused from time to time. My favorite way of using shifting perspective is to do a chapter from one point of view, then the next from the other and so on, always making sure that it is very clear who is speaking.

At about 85 percent or so, I started feeling like the story should be over. I continued reading and when it finished, it did so abruptly. I felt the ending could have been a little more tied together.

At any rate, the author has potential to be a storyteller with more practice and polish. But at the moment, the results took me 3 days to read, when I normally finish a book or two a day... I kept wandering off from the story, rather than reading consistently, as is my habit.

Puddlyduck says

For the most part, this was an enjoyable read as Powell created a very fresh take on the origins of vampires and witches. There are some welcoming sci-fi twists to the more traditional Greek myths too (which was a bonus as I love mythology!).

However, unclear definitions between points of view, editing mishaps and lack of paragraphs indicating passing time, made my reading experience a little stilted. More than once I had to retread passages to work out a) which character was talking or b) whether they thinking or talking aloud.

Insta-love abounds and most of the protagonists' inner circle are conveniently loved-up (after some bed-hopping, ick) by the end of the tale. I am reluctant to say, after such novel approaches to the two supernatural species, I was disappointed by a lacklustre ending - one which is becoming all too common in the fantasy genre recently. 2.5 stars

Laura says

Completely unreadable. It's written with the vocab of a twelve year old, and the storyline can be described as nothing if not gauche. Avoid at all costs!

Phaedra Seabolt says

This was a wonderful read! I read it in about two days because I just had to know what was happening next. The story moves along at a quick pace without feeling like you are missing any information. You get all the information you need just when you feel like you need it. I thoroughly enjoyed the new twist on where vampires and witches come from (not telling where because you should read it). This story is about how vampires and witches exist in our world (specifically taking place in Dublin, Ireland mostly). Humans don't exactly know that they are among us, but they also are very accepting of the possibility. Vampires still need to drink human blood to survive, but it turns out that witch blood is poisonous to them. However, witches have breed so thoroughly with the human population, that it is becoming increasingly difficult for vampires not to drink some of the witch blood in their "human" donors. This is a problem that Beck, the main vampire character of the story, is researching for solutions. He believes there must be a way to help vampires and witches alike survive on Earth without bringing about war and with helping all races. He believes his research will even bring an end to many diseases like Cancer and Aids. This is where the main character, Mae, comes in. She becomes a part of his research as well as the love of his life.

Mae finds herself in Ireland on a vacation with her best friend Gemma. During her vacation, she becomes immersed in the world of the supernatural and finds her true place in the world. She has been an orphan, adopted child, and finally left alone when her adoptive parents died. Her only family is her best friend Gemma. She loves anything geeky (a woman of my own heart), but finds it difficult to really fit in since technology is still primarily a man's world. Beck falls in love with Mae even though his real reason for meeting her is because the soul of his eternal beloved is trapped somewhere in Mae's body. Helen of Troy, Beck's beloved was cursed by Aphrodite to keep returning to a new body after death takes her and to find Beck again and again since he will never die. Mae is the host for this lifetime, but Beck falls in love with Mae and must decide between the love of his eternal life and his true soul mate. I thoroughly loved this story.

Wenona Hulsey says

Almost done with this jewel! Great read so far. I'm enjoying the strong characters and the story.

Pam Asberry says

I haven't read a lot of paranormal romance, and I was intrigued by the premise of this one. The author created an interesting world, filled with vampires and witches in the unlikeliest of places; the main characters were likeable and sexy, and I enjoyed all the references to history and mythology. Grammatical errors and inappropriate shifts in point of view distracted me from the story at times. But hopefully that won't stop you from giving this unique, fresh tale a try!

Lauren says

In all honesty, I'm not too sure how I feel about this book. The storyline and world building were very weak - but the characters were all very well developed and all so fun and likeable that it kind of made up for the fact that this book is a wash.

I hate how easily **Mae** accepted the fact that she was a witch. I mean, she's charmed into feeling something for **Beck** - *he calls her by another woman's name* - causes her to fall into some kind of 30 minute magical coma- and wakes up to be told this unbelievable thing & she's all *"oh yeah sure, I'm a witch. I've always felt a little odd, so this explains everything!"* Really??? And I was hardly surprised with the big reveal about Mae's true heritage.

I was glad to learn about the mutual attractions between witches. I'm was very happy to learn that Mae wasn't really attracted to **Aiden**, that he was just being an ass & playing on that connection.

It was kind of cool that these guys are so old - a little cheesy to. Like when Aiden reveals that he was once known as Loki - I couldn't help but roll my eyes. And when Beck flushes with embarrassment when Gemma jokes about edible underwear. *Seriously dude - you're so old you're a fucking relic & edible underwear make you blush?? (also - vampires blush?)*

I was a little confused at first about the whole *Mae/Helen* thing. I wish the author had explained & broke that down sooner in the book - *like as soon as Aiden & Beck brought it up?!!?* Regardless, I'm happy with the way that situation resolved itself.

I really liked **Alexis** & wish she'd had a bigger part in the book. She was great!

Even though I like **Meredith** & Aiden together, I kinda feel like the author changed their mind about Aiden being with **Gemma** more then halfway through the book - but it's ok because I didn't really like Gemma. She made me feel icky when she asked Beck to bite her. Also, it was stupid turning Gemma into a vampire. The whole reason they did it was because it would be to painful for Mae to be separated from her - so they turn her into a vampire and send her off to China - with a guy who

had 2.5 seconds in the book? What was Gemma's purpose?

I DESPERATELY need to get to a library or bookstore! These Kindle freebies are really killing my brain cells. **2 very low Stars**

Betsy says

This book was a nice take on PNR. I liked the warmth that with which the characters treated each other and I do love books set in Ireland. I wish that the story had more showing and less telling as the plot and characters lacked complexity and much excitement.

Alicia says

Updated Review: This book has been edited since I originally reviewed it. Since future readers will be reading the newly edited version, it seems only fair that I revise this review to be based on that new version.

First of all, let me say something about the story. I definitely found some good stuff there. And now that the editing is improved, I'm not afraid to recommend this book to some people. The author had a unique take on vampires and witches, and there was an original conflict in the romance around which the book centered.

I originally made it 64% of the way through this book. I stopped reading because the editing needed a lot of work, to the point that I was unable to enjoy the book. Additionally, I felt that the book included a lot of telling. It appears that the newly edited version has significantly improved editing. Still, there is too much telling involved for me to get into the story--telling what the characters are thinking or feeling instead of showing with their actions and their words.

For example, an unreasonably large number of the dialog lines were followed by something like "so-and-so said, WANTING to express that she blah-blah-blah" or "NOT WANTING such-and-such." I began to expect that "wanting" or "not wanting" line every time someone spoke, and I wish the author could have found a way to express characters' desires without flat-out telling these feelings. It created a sort of sing-songy repetition of sentence structure, while at the same time expressing details that would be better expressed with more dialog, action, or character body language. With all the telling in this book, it was difficult for me to get lost in the story.

There was also quite a bit of head-hopping. Whenever more than one of the main four characters was a single scene, the point-of-view jumped from character to character without warning. It was jarring, unfocused, and a little messy.

I've increased my rating from one star to two stars for the improved editing.

Brianna Kilcrease says

The First Line: "Hurry-up Mae, before we miss our flight," Gemma yelled across the room as she paced with her keys in her hand, waiting to bolt out the door of their apartment."

My Take: This book remarkably reminded me of The Circle Trilogy by Nora Roberts. In both books there was a witch and a vampire, and their personalities were quite the same. Now, I'm not saying this negatively, because I loved both books/series. I'm saying this because to me it's a good thing because I love both stories, they're definitely not the same, and I love all the characters. The story for this was enthralling. I loved how Helen was in Mae and *slight spoiler* how Beck and her fall in love! I sort of hated Beck in the beginning and was wanting Mae to get with Aiden because I thought he was funny, but by the end you are so in love with Beck yourself, you want to steal him from her.

I loved every character, Meredith, Aiden, Mae, Beck, Gemma, and the other ones. (I can't think of their names xD)

They were all great. I read this book in one day and couldn't put it down. The plot is amazing, the characters so great you can't stand them, and all around this book was perfect!

The Cover: The cover is pretty nice! I love it. It's actually how I would picture Beck and Mae :)

Would I Recommend? Hell yes! This book is hilarious and enticing. I love the Diablo 3 references. I can't wait for the second book to come out!

P.S: C.G. Powell is releasing another novel called Immortal Voyage! Check out the trailer on her page! Can't wait for it :)

Gillian says

Pros of this book - interesting concept if properly developed would have made an excellent novel.

Now for the cons and there are many, most of which have been highlighted by other reviewers.

I believe the main issue lies in the fact that the author had a million ideas that she tried to cram into one story and as such left the writing disjointed, confusing and has me looking at the grammatical and spelling errors rather than focus on the story.

I also found the character development and story development to be lacking. I really do have to wonder if this was the first draft of the novel that we were subjected to, because I really don't understand the author's mindset at times. For instance Mae accepts her fate of being a witch without any resistance simply because she always felt like a loner. Ok, what?? And there are many instances of this lack of story development throughout the book that any reader can pick up on as it is glaring.

While the concept is excellent, there really should be an editor, who could assist in the tightening up on the story and kept it focused instead of the wandering mess it eventually became. I kept reading for two main reasons - one, I really hoped that the story would have improved and two, I couldn't believe that this was so poorly written. Really disappointed.
