



## **The Witch Who Courted Death**

*Maria Lewis*

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For some, death is a way of life . . .

Considering her status as the world's most powerful medium, Corvossier 'Casper' von Klitzing and her twin brother Barastin had a pretty normal life. Her unrivalled ability to speak with and control the dead had made her a living, made her notorious ... and made her a target.

After a horrific incident in her home city of Berlin, Casper's life is forever changed. The sole survivor, she is consumed with vengeance towards an enemy she doesn't understand. The only other person ever to escape the legendary Oct was a witch - so Casper is soon on her trail.

But this witch does not want to be found.

Diving headfirst into the supernaturally secretive world of spells, charms and covens, it's not long before Casper is crossing much more than just the line between the living and the dead . . .

This time reinventing witches and ghosts with a much-needed feminist twist, *The Witch Who Courted Death* is a brand new title from the bestselling author of *Who's Afraid?*

## **The Witch Who Courted Death Details**

Date : Published October 31st 2018 by Piatkus

ISBN : 9780349421292

Author : Maria Lewis

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Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Witches, Magic

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# From Reader Review The Witch Who Courted Death for online ebook

**Rachel (rachels.geeky.stuff) says**

I need more Opal and Casper in my life ASAP and I defiantly need a new book from Maria soon!

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**Sammi says**

I absolutely adored this book!!

I haven't read Maria's other books, Who's Afraid and Who's Afraid Too, so I was meeting all the characters for the first time. It was fantastic! I need to get my hands on her other books asap!!

This story follows medium twins, Corvossier 'Casper' von Klitzing and her brother Barastin 'Creeper'. Throw in some kick-ass fight scenes, tragic events, a witch, a lot of ghosts and some other supernatural creatures and you have an amazing read! Not going to lie, parts of this book just broke my heart.

*As a general rule it was always best to navigate life as politely as possible, especially when dealing with the dead.*

Maria's writing style is just fantastic. She has created a dramatic and exciting world, but you don't get bogged down with information overloads. Maria manages to seamlessly incorporate world and character building into the storyline.

Whilst the story takes place throughout Europe, my favourite thing is the nods to Australia dropped throughout the story.

*'Uh, sure,' Corv murmured, not wanting to be rude but having a) no idea what Vegemite was and b) feeling reluctant about the notion of vegetables in mite form.*

Overall, this was an original and enjoyable read with diverse and relatable characters. The story includes a little bit of everything you could want in a book, romance, horror, action and mystery. I highly recommend this book to everyone! If you haven't read any urban fantasy before, I think Maria's books are a great place to start.

I would like to thank the publisher and the author for providing me with a copy of this book! This has in no way affected my views or opinions of the book or the content of my review.

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**Ryan Buckby says**

**Actual Rating: 4.5/5**

Maria you have done it once again written one hell of a good urban fantasy novel and i cannot get enough of your stories there all so well done.

I like how Maria has connected this book and her other books all in the same world, so the Who's Afraid series, this one and it came from the deep are all set in the same world so it's something that i really love. You don't have to have read the others to start off this book because Maria has done it in a way were you can just pick up any of her books and still get that fun of finding things out without going into any spoilers.

Like Who's Afraid this one is also set in Berlin which was really clever of Maria to do because we got to see so many of the places we visited in Who's Afraid. This book follows Corvoisser **\*casper\*** and Barastin **\*Creeper\*** who are both some kick ass heroine that really work well with each other and the story being told. One thing i love about Maria is her female characters are not stupid and she really knows how to write strong and capable female leads that i can just easily fall in love with while reading the story.

We also meet some new characters in this book who are Opal and Sprinkle who are some very loveable characters we meet during the duration of this story. Also making a return from her other books include Heath, Rouges and Phases which i loved getting some characters that i was already familiar with.

Another thing that i really enjoy while reading this book is all the pop culture references that Maria makes because they are i'm familiar with and some new ones i have not even heard about before. I loved Maria's nods to Australia and its culture which was fantastic.

my favourite line early on in the book was: **her phone was broker than Nicolas cage and there was no getting it back** i have never laughed so much at a pop culture reference.

Maria is good at creating worlds and is really good at having a different range of styles throughout her books, they provide the creepiness, pop culture references, kick ass main characters, fast paced action and so much more.

I cannot wait to read more from Maria lewis because her writing always sucks me in and i can't wait to read more from these characters hopefully very soon!.

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## Lainy122 says

This was a good read! Interesting, competent protagonist with good world building and serious stakes in play.

There was a little too much detail to keep me riveted (there are only so many times I can read about eating muscles in cream sauce before my eyes glaze over), but I know that some people really appreciate that kind of description to help them sink into a story. YMMV.

I'm also not a huge fan of mystery novels, so all the detective work in tracking down the bad guys was a bit ho-hum to me, but again some people dig that.

But I found the main characters completely badass in very different ways, and it was fun to see Europe through the eyes of an Australian character (Opal was a great voice in an otherwise serious book). It was also amazing to see a main character who was completely and unapologetically bisexual, and there was no hand-wringing or fence-sitting self loathing involved. Made me happy :)

**SFF Fems Book Club** - January 2019 (option 01)

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## **Jessica M says**

<http://jessjustreads.com>

The Witch Who Courted Death is the start of a new fantasy duology by Australian author Maria Lewis, reimagining the role of ghosts and witches in present day society.

This was a delightful read. I was completely smitten with pretty much everything inside these pages, from the plot to the characters to the world to the writing. Maria Lewis is so talented. I've read quite a few of her books now and The Witch Who Courted Death is my favourite so far.

After a horror attack in Berlin, protagonist Corvossier is planning revenge. In order to track down the people who killed her brother and stole her arm, she must team up with a witch who has escaped them before.

Maria Lewis has taken the concept of 'mediums' and 'ghosts' and completely reinvented them. Corvossier can interact with ghosts and help them move on. She can encourage them to cross through and find peace outside of our world.

When we meet her at the beginning of the novel, her and her brother Baristan are working to remove a vengeful, angry ghost from a haunted house. They're strong and they're prepared and this really sets the tone for the rest of the novel.

**"As a general rule it was always best to navigate life as politely as possible, especially when dealing with the dead. The ghost looked up, blinking for a moment before glancing around the room with surprise. She registered their presence for the first time, somewhat snapping out of her daze."**

The Witch Who Courted Death illustrates an incredible amount of research from Maria Lewis; the book finishes with a four-page glossary, describing words for the reader like Alchemist to Selkie to Vankila.

The plot felt original and enriching, the dialogue realistic, and the characters diverse and relatable. I loved the strong bond between Corvossier and her brother, and the budding relationship between Corvossier and witch Opal. There were also a cast of secondary characters like Heath and Sprinkle who added humour and warmth to the novel.

**"She remained still, Corvossier touching her fingertips to the woman's temple. They could physically interact here, on this plane, and she could tell just by the way the ghost's body stiffened that she had forgotten what it was like to be touched. Images flashed in front of her eyes, like a deck of cards being shuffled."**

I'm now heavily invested in the series and really looking forward to the sequel. I love that a disabled,

bisexual character was the protagonist for the book and her relationship with another female was a dominant part of the story, not something glossed over or skipped.

Urban fantasy readers will love this new edition to the genre. *The Witch Who Courted Death* will also delight all readers, young and old, even if you're a stranger to this genre.

*Thank you to the publisher for mailing me a review copy in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **The Nerd Daily says**

Originally published on The Nerd Daily | Review by Jayse Smith

In the latest offering from Australian author, Maria Lewis, readers are reacquainted with the amazing character Corvossier 'Casper' von Klitzing and introduced to her twin brother Barastin. The siblings both have the ability to confer with and control spirits of the dead. For those of you playing at home, Casper first appeared briefly in Maria's *Who's Afraid* series.

In *Casper*, Lewis has made a phenomenal character who is smart, independent, and although she does have moments of vulnerability when pushed to her limits, she is never presented as weak. This had a massive effect on myself, as a man, as a writer, as a person. So much so that in response to this, I spend three to four minutes raving about this exact statement in my latest booktube video.

Lewis has attempted and succeeded in bringing a character to life who is likeable and represents women in the way they should be portrayed in fiction. Writers need to stop this insta-love, love triangle, wall-flower BS and start taking a leaf from Maria's book and instead write a kick-ass, accurate representation of a woman... Okay, rant over. Let's continue!

After a tragic event in the beginning of the novel (don't worry, I'm not about spoilers), Casper is filled with thoughts of revenge against The Oct, a corrupt gang of which she has little understanding. The medium uses her unrivalled ability to speak with and control the dead as well as her knowledge of the supernatural world to solve this mystery. Little does she know that this search will see her ending up missing a limb, being nearly drowned, hexed, tangled up in witchcraft, and perhaps getting more than she bargained for.

Every piece of evidence leads to a witch who does not want to be found. I for one adored the use of magic throughout the book, the spells/charms and Wicca history were all well researched and based in real practise. Lewis grew up in the 90's around the same time of the last popularity boom for witches and witchcraft. The self-professed lover of the movie 'The Craft', easily weaves the magic into each page of this spin-off of her already successful *Who's Afraid* series with another strong female lead, Tommi Grayson.

Lewis has an extensive breadth of work under her belt. She writes amazing film reviews on Junkee and flicks.com.au. She's a journalist, a screenwriter, she interviews stars and directors on YouTube and much, much more. Be sure to hit up Maria's website to join her mailing list. She sends out a newsletter monthly with links to her articles as well as all the awesome stuff she has been up to recently.

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## **Bec Rideout says**

I loved this book. It has a bit of everything. A bit of horror, a bit of mystery and a tad of romance. This has become a fast favourite urban fantasy.

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## **Emily says**

This book was amazing!!! I loved how seamlessly it fits into the same world as her other stories, it just seems to slot in. I think a lot of this is due to the connections to the world and characters that have appeared in previous books. 'The Witch Who Courted Death' is set in Berlin, which is also where a lot of 'Who's Afraid Too' was set - familiar locations and characters include the Rogues, Phases, and Heath. I was so excited and fangirled when I read that Heath was back - I loved reading about him!! After just one chapter I already loved Corvoisser (Casper) and Barastin (Creeper), as well as all the other new characters who we meet later including Opal and Sprinkle.

For people who haven't previously read any of Maria's books, you could easily start with this - even though the stories are connected, Maria makes sure to introduce the reader to the world and the supernatural creatures that inhabit it. I really enjoyed that this book (and 'It Came from the Deep' to a degree) expanded the supernatural world and the creatures within it. I also like how Maria is taking the focus away from vampires and giving other creatures their time to shine.

All of the pop culture references that Maria is known for are very present in this book too and I love it! I found it hilarious that Barastin was using tinder (or a similar app). At one point a demon makes a comment about the need for internet access and Maria clever has a go at how terrible Australian internet can be. As this book has a lot to do with witches there were a lot more references to well known witch pop culture and stories - some of these included a nod to 'The Craft' and 'Hocus Pocus'. At one point Opal makes a comment that reminded me so much of Hermione. Opal says: *"You're going to get yourself killed. Or worse, lead them back to us"* (p 234), mirrored against Hermione saying: *"I'm going to bed before either of you come up with another clever idea to get us killed or worse... expelled!"*. There were many Australianisms in this book too which are hilarious, including Corvoisser's response to Sprinkle saying she'll make her a vegemite and cheese toastie: *"feeling reluctant about the notion of vegetables in mite form"* (p 235).

All up this was a really good read and I cannot wait to continue reading more from this world and more from Maria Lewis!!

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## **Imogene says**

While there was a moment in which I thought that I would never ever ever forgive Maria Lewis, I managed to swallow my tears, and then accidentally finished it in a day. Oooops? Now I have that much longer to wait for more!!!!!!

Also, a badass bisexual disabled protagonist who can see ghosts and hangs out with Aboriginal Australian witches? Including a mini-witch who names herself Sprinkles? Yes, there is all of the perfection right there.

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### **Maisie Dickson(SleepyWiredStudios) says**

This book was my most anticipated book of the year and didn't disappoint.

Maria Lewis is one of my all-time favorite authors and her Who's Afraid series is one of my all-time favorites. This book while technically a spin-off just didn't feel like a spinoff. It felt like a story that happened alongside Tommi's journey.

Heath, my stupidly heroic son I loved him in this. Casper and Opal were fantastic characters and I loved reading from Caspers POV.

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### **Sheryl says**

I love everything she writes. Need more :)

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### **Helenasghost says**

I'll keep this one short and sweet. This was amazing. I absolutely love Maria's signature style of writing and this is no different. Full of pop culture references and nods to all things quintessentially Australian, I enjoyed every page (well most pages because there was some things that made my heart hurt).

New characters take the spotlight in this spinoff from Lewis' well adored Who's Afraid series including Casper - a medium from Who's Afraid Too, Heath - the towering beast of a Pict warrior followed by his own ghosts, Sprinkle (yes like the things on fairy bread) - a baby witch with a penchant for fire magic and enough sass to fill a large swimming pool and Opal - a witch who got caught up in a conspiracy who is simultaneously soft and squishy for all things Casper as well as a badarse in her own right.

Although there were some minor editing errors, they fall by the wayside when the book is read as a whole and I honestly loved it. Read it! Otherwise I may need to hunt people down and make it into a personal projectile.

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### **Jayse says**

Wow. Wow. Wow. Wow. Wow.

This book is absolutely amazing. Highly recommend.

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### **Pamela Smith says**

Brilliant urban fantasy from Maria Lewis.

It's an absolute page turner.

My only complaint is that I finished it and immediately wanted more of it.



I can't wait to read more in this universe.

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**Greg Vekiarellis says**

I just love spending time in this universe.

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