



# Bruja

*Aileen Erin*

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## **Bruja** Aileen Erin

Claudia De Santos has always looked out for every witch but herself. She fought from the shadows as her coven turned dark, and with a little help from her half witch/half alpha werewolf cousin, Tessa, Claudia is doing everything she can to keep her friends and family in the light.

Now the coven has splintered into two factions: Luciana's army of witches wielding dark magic, and Claudia's few stragglers who fight with the wolves. War is coming, and it won't be much of a battle if Claudia can't find the spells to counteract Luciana's demonic power.

The answers lie in ancient magic, and Claudia must journey to Peru to rediscover what the Inca mages knew. Fighting evil will require a pure spirit, but her quest is full of temptations, including a handsome Peruvian guide with secrets of his own.

As she struggles to gain the knowledge her friends will need in the coming battle, conflict rages in Claudia's heart. Following through with her arranged marriage could bring hope and more allies to the side of good, but at the cost of her own happiness. Should Claudia stay on the same path of duty she's always walked or risk it all—her life and the futures of all brujos—for a chance at something more?

## **Bruja Details**

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Author : Aileen Erin

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# From Reader Review Bruja for online ebook

## Kayla says

I read the start of this series quite a while back and am now trying to return to the series.

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## Ian says

Despite escaping from her coven, Claudia remains blood-bound to Luciana, the coven's leader. She, along with a small group of witches who left with her, has found sanctuary with the werewolves but Luciana can still invade her dreams and the blood-binding makes it possible for her to take Claudia's power.

Desperate to break the binding, Claudia travels to Peru in search of a mysterious and possibly extinct group of white mages but she finds herself facing witches even more evil than Luciana.

I loved this book. The characters are wonderful and the story is great. It's like the characters reach out of the book grab you by the scruff of the neck and drag you through the pages. Honestly, I don't give up sleep for very many books but I just couldn't put this one down.

**Many thanks to Ink Monster and Netgalley for providing me with this ARC**

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## Amanda G. (Nellie and Co. says

Faultless.

Utter perfection.

Absolutely beautiful.

Heart-soaringly gorgeous.

This book makes this series.

So, so, so good. So good. Seriously.

Claudia.

Lucas.

<3

*You need to read this series starting now.*

*No arguments, no huffing, no excuses. Do it.*

Anybody that has been following for any length of time will know that the Alpha Girl series is a series that forever proceeds to steal my heart, ruin me for any other paranormal series, and makes me really really really want my own wolf in my life, (alas, I shall stick to wanting my own cat-sized fluff-ball instead.) Tessa and Dastien's story has always hit a soft spot in my heart, as has the entire plot and collection of characters throughout the series, but Claudia has always been a character I've wanted to explore more, and I could not

be happier than Erin not only explored her story, but made Claudia shine.

Instantaneously, I was impressed with Erin's writing abilities in that Claudia's voice was identifiably different from Tessa's in the series, and only too often do you find authors struggle to write different voices when taking on different POV's, but this was not a problem here. Claudia wore her heart on her sleeve and wasn't afraid to stand up for herself and the people she loves. She's such a strong character, mentally, physically and emotionally, and it's pretty much impossible to feel what she feels through her POV - she's so passionate about her beliefs and her feelings for the people important to her, and she fights her own personal demons everyday, and yet puts so many other people first, and it was nice to seriously be able to appreciate and experience Claudia putting herself first and making decisions for herself, not just for the benefit of others. Her development throughout this novel in itself was outstanding, and in my opinion, was so much better than Tessa's in the previous series instalments because Claudia, while supported, grew into herself and became someone she wanted to be, she wasn't developed through another character or a romance, but through herself, and that's what was most beautiful. Erin proved to readers that you can be a hero and do the right thing, all the while never letting go of dreams and making decisions for yourself, which is so lacking in fantasy novels.

Speaking of development without romance, the romance itself was in every way perfect in my eyes. No seriously, there's a level of insta-love within this series through 'finding your perfect mate and knowing it right away' and it's one of the few features in this series I've accepted easily as it's pretty important to the plot, but the romance here was a whole other story. Beautiful, I'm telling you, it was nothing short of fuzzy feelings, adorable hand-holding, tender cuddles and so much pure emotion, I could not and still cannot handle just how damn cute Claudia and Lucas were. There was so much honesty and maturity on Lucas's side of the relationship - he never pressured, he never rushed and he fully understood that Claudia had a lot of baggage, both in her past, and during the plot with the affect Raphael's condition had on her emotionally, and throughout it all, he stood his ground and stuck with her, supporting her, guiding her and allowing her to come into herself, tell me that is not a wonderful love interest. Yes, their romance is a little rushed due to circumstances that come about during the novel, but oh man, I'm so on board this ship with my shippy feels. So much perfection between their emotions and their feelings and the cuteness and I just haven't got it in me to contain my feelings.

Oh, and can I talk about Claudia's other relationships with people around her, her family and her friends, because they were SO important in this novel. Her wonderful relationship with her brother was such a vital part of this story's plot and it was beautiful to be able to explore a different angle of families than we've seen previously in the series - the brothers and siblings and families in this series are just gorgeous, and they're portrayed so honestly and realistically, considering the actual genre, it's hard to not be impressed. Her family bond with Tessa is also really quite wonderful, and I can see their relationship growing more within the series - it's such a sweet, caring and understanding connection between them, wanting to take care of people, but needing to be reminded that they need time for themselves too. Not to mention Claudia's friendships and how loyal and caring those friends are, the relationships and connections in this novel blew everything else I've read in the series out of the water, and trust me, that's saying something, this series is up there with the best for me.

I wouldn't mind, but previously, this series has struggled with containing good single plots within it's instalments all the while growing the entire series plot, but Bruja pulled this off perfectly. I never for one moment felt as though Claudia's story wasn't important to the story, in fact, I feel as though it was so important to the series, it'd be a shame to skip it because of the different POV. The pacing felt stable and really well written, the development of characters was up there with the moving plot, and the romance never felt as though it took over the actual mystery, tension and dramatics that were part of pushing this book

forward. Learning more about magic, learning more about the coven's and just how vast and magical Erin's world is, it's wonderful, and I would lap up anything this woman wrote in this world, it just contains to wow and leave me in awe, but Bruja took this to a whole new level, and knocked everything I've already read out of the park entirely.

I never expected to love and fall for Bruja the way I have - enjoy yes, but become one of my favourites of this year, never, and yet, it wowed me at every corner. Claudia's development and growth throughout such a special, yet short period of time, her romance with Lucas, her sibling and family love with Raphael and Tessa, her own important part to play in the overall plot which is bound to come to a climaxing end, there's very little, if anything at all, I can fault in this novel. The twists and turns from specific characters were fabulous, the horrible, nastiness that is the darkness in this series, and the pure and utter gorgeousness that is Erin's talent and writing, it was so completely amazing, I'm not even the slightest bit ashamed of my fangirling. If you're already a fan of this series, please please please do not skip this novel because it's from another POV, it's such a beautiful story from a character I already liked, that become a character I now adore with every ounce of my being, and if you're still considering reading it, please, stop wasting time and do it now.

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## **Leila says**

### **5 STARS**

*"I received this from netGalley in exchange for an honest review. This is in no way affected my opinion of the book, or the content of my review."*

I waited a WHOLE year to pick this up, and let me tell I did not regret it, I mostly forgot half of what happened on the previous books, but reading this one made me rediscover what I already LOVED, OMG I love this series soo much!

### **Full review Now Posted**

Obsessed is an exaggerated word to describe my feelings for this series however if you tell me that your favorite genre is paranormal this would be the first book series I would recommend you and I would shove it constantly in your face until you read and love it as much as I do, like I LOVE IT ! Literally! So should you!

So this book continues where the last book stopped however instead of Tessa we follow her cousin (who is a witch) all the way to Peru and meet hot dude there, I'm not going to speak much of him so you won't be spoiled, *\*whispers\** ageless and swoon worthy, that's all you need to know *\*wink\**

Honestly, I really enjoyed this one, Claudia is a character that draws a person to their mind and heart she's naïve yet very intelligent, We follow her character development until the very last page, she grows so much that I feel very proud of her and what had become of her although I still don't know if she's going to take that last step or not, it just makes me want to know more about her side of the story-, we get to know more about witches ancient life....

It does not solve much of the initial problem (the wolf war) as it does the witches side, they are working to break their bound to Luciana, and Claudia is expected to save everyone because of what she represent and her -of course- unimaginable powers, Then on we start the adventure from there until we come back to start point with more solved problems.

Overall I loved this book so much, so If You are a werewolf, witch, vampire... whatever paranormal YA lover then this series should be Number ONE on your Must read!!!

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## Deniz says

Bruja is a fun, fast-paced, adventure packed PNR. A touch of Indiana Jones, some fabulous witch magic and nice shifter romance make this a really enjoyable read.

Just like in all the previous books of the series I adore the world building.

Each novel brings new elements to the world of Alpha Girl. When I started the series I wasn't quite sure if shifter novels were my cup of tea. And well, Erin changed my mind. I do like shifter books, if they are written as well as these...

Erin's prose is possibly getting better and better. I like her story telling skills and I adore her sense of humor that comes through. But most of all I noted how different Claudia's POV is from Tessa's. While Tessa is a bit wild and definitely a lot cheeky, Claudia looks at the world very differently. It was actually quite amazing how much my opinion of Claudia changed while reading Bruja. See I wasn't a huge fan of hers in the last three books.

Though there was some redeeming done at the end of Alpha Divided, I would have never thought I'd be totally routing for Claudia after this.

I think this is not only due to Erin's wonderful writing, but mostly to the well done character building. I really like the gang. And it was really nice to go back to it. And I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Mr. Hottie aka Lucas.

I really enjoyed getting a glimpse of Rafaels and Claudia's relationship as well.

But the best part was seeing Claudia's determination, her struggling with her past and trying to do the right thing.

The plot as I said an epic adventure with some romance thrown in makes this a fabulous book.

But I had a couple of issues with this one, the first one is that the romance felt a bit rushed. I mean, I get the whole soulmate thing, (well at least the idea of it anyway) but somehow while I believed their developing friendship, I missed chemistry between Lucas and Claudia. Maybe I just expect way too much, since Tessa and Dastien's bond was done epically well.. but yeah somehow for me it was Claudia's and Luca's chemistry was lacking and their bond was a bit - ok we belong, done, story over. Let's move one.

The second issue are the villains. I feel that there is too much black and white. They not just baddies, they kinda over the top evil. It makes the villains too caricatured for my taste. But also I couldn't understand what their motives would be at times. It made no sense to me, other than look how evil they are now...

Still this is another great instalment in a rather good series. And I am going to take back what I said after Alpha Divided- well at least to a degree- I think Erin should write more story set in this world. Well, I would like Tessa's and Dastien's story to be done with. I am hoping that Alpha Unleashed will take care of that. BUT I want more about this rather fabulous group of friends. Namely I want Raphaels story aaaaand I want more about the elves!!

This could work as a standalone. BUT if you plan on reading Tessa's story, read this in order of the series, because it would have too many spoilers, even for someone like me who seems to make it a hobby to read series out of order.

One of the best shifter YA series out there. Enthralling action, interesting world building, fabulous group of friends all wrapped up with a wonderful prose makes this a must read for lovers of the genre!

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### **Sourour Chek says**

am still recovering from this book it was full of emotions and adventure from the beginning to the end... just what i love.. am glad that i got to know clodia through this one high five Aileen Erin?

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### **Erin Sky says**

I wasn't sure how I'd feel about *Bruja* because I love the Alpha series, and I knew the main characters from Alpha wouldn't make much of an appearance in the spin-off. But it was so much fun! Aileen Erin's books are my reading candy. I just gobble them up!

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### **Carol [Goodreads Addict] says**

*Bruja* is book four in the Alpha Girl series by Aileen Erin. Where the first three books of this series centered around Tessa and Dastien, this book's main character is Tessa's witch cousin, Claudia.

Claudia is twenty years old and has been hurt or used by just about everyone she put her trust in, except her twin brother, Raphael. If you remember from book three, Claudia and some of the coven flee Luciana's dark forces and seek refuge within her cousin's pack. But Luciana still has a bond with Claudia and her friends so every time they go to sleep, she continually drains their power, using it for darkness. Claudia is weakening, both from the draining and from trying to fight sleep. But she can't figure out how to break the bond. Something horrible happens to her twin brother and Claudia is forced to go to Peru to seek out the source of a pure mage that can help her to break the bond and help her brother.

***“With as much bad as I’d had thus far, I hoped I was swinging toward the good. But something told me I might not be so lucky.”***

In Peru, Claudia is met by her guide, the oh so handsome, Lucas. Immediately his presence calms her but she is here for one purpose, to find the help she needs. There is no time for romance. Lucas, though, seems to immediately become protective of her. Could he be feeling the same things she is?

***“His touch soothed my soul and made me feel like I wasn’t alone.”***

As if she didn't have enough challenges, her very crazy and very evil ex-fiance shows up. Claudia has told him over and over that she will not go with him, that she wants nothing to do with him, but still he stalks her.

Lucas does not leave Claudia and helps her to search for what she needs. With all the craziness going on, the bond between them grows.

***“It was nearly unbelievable. I’d somehow found my match in the middle of all this craziness.”***

At first, I had to do a little adjusting to this book being about Claudia instead of Tessa. But the more I got to know her, the more I warmed to it. She has been hurt by so many people, deceived by so many. It was so nice to see someone finally be completely on her side. But this book does not lack with intensity either. Lucas and Claudia are faced with one gripping, dangerous challenge after another as they speed towards trying to find the pure magic of the mages. Will they get there in time and if they do, what sacrifices will they be forced to make? Amidst everything, will Claudia finally find her own mate?

These books need to be read in order to really understand what is going on and enjoy all of the characters involved. If you enjoy paranormal romance including werewolves, evil vampires, witches, both good and dark, crafty fey, and lots of both romance and intense action, this series is for you. I look forward to book five September 29, Alpha Unleashed, which I believe will be back to Tessa and Dastien.

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## **Diane Lynch says**

Bruja starts where Alpha Divided left off but is told from Tessa McCaide’s cousin, Claudia De Santos’ point of view. Claudia goes on a quest to Peru to seek a way to break the witches' bond to Luciana and remove a demonic curse cast upon her twin brother, Raphael.

I loved this story. I wasn’t sure what to expect being told from Claudia's viewpoint. I really like Tessa, so my initial reaction was a bit hesitant. I’m so glad we got to know Claudia.

Claudia is a worthy heroine. Her parents abandoned her and Raphael to the coven at an early age. She never really had anyone but her brother to rely on. With his life in jeopardy, Claudia will do anything she can to save him. I like that she admits her feelings to herself, even the not so flattering ones like jealousy. Claudia is intelligent and brave. She is a good person.

I really like Lucas Reyes, Alpha of the Peruvian Pack. He is an interesting guide for Claudia. I enjoyed their conversations and chemistry. He is very protective and caring of Claudia. However, he is also good at giving Claudia her space.

Bruja had an excellent plot that kept me on the edge of my seat. It was full of unexpected surprises and a lot of action. I could not put this story down. I love this series. I cannot wait for the next book.

Complimentary copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## Hannah L (Reviewer) says

Another good installment in the Alpha Girls series, Bruja takes a new view in the Alpha Girl world. Bruja takes the readers on an adventure with a witch introduced in the previous books in the series. Her name is Claudia. She is an extremely powerful witch that has been blood oath to an evil coven leader named Luciana. This another causes launch Claudia on an adventure in the forests and mountains of Peru with a certain handsome werewolf.

I loved Bruja. It was action packed and pretty romantic. Claudia was a very strong, determined and respectable character. Along with her, all of the characters in the novel were extremely interesting and well developed. I loved the dynamics between the characters, they were very well done. On top of that, I thought the plot was well done and very well developed.

If I were nitpicking I do have one complaint or two. The first complaint is that I feel like the romance between the wolf and Claudia could have had some more tension. My second and last complaint would have to be with the introduction of the story. It was a wee bit too slow. I felt that it should have been quicker, getting Claudia to Peru quicker, starting the adventure faster. Past those small nitpicked problems, Bruja was perfect. I loved it. I give Bruja the rating of FOUR AND A HALF STARS OUT OF FIVE!

Want more of me? Go to: <http://thenotsopubliclibrary.blogspot...>

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## Haadiya // Hiatus says

Okay, so I started off this book obviously not content with the fact that Claudia would be narrating this story, I thought I'd be bored as hell. *Boy was I wrong*

Claudia is just a little ball of fluff who needs protection from the world, I found her narration refreshing and actually quite enjoyed it, I really wouldn't mind if she narrated the remaining books, Heck I **want** her to narrate it, meh, but you live with what you get.

Anyway, I was wondering if I have a pattern, I *always* end up loving the third lead male wolf, or third lead male true mated wolf to appear.

Needless to say Lucas is a ball of sunshine, he is just so cute! I mean he definitely reaches swoon worthy standards, but not near as close as Will Herondale or Costin Mikos for that matter.

*He reached for my hand. "Aim for the stars, Claudia. If anyone can reach them, it's you"*

I mean how can you not love him?

TBH Claudia and Lucas are literally my OTP in this book (don't come close to my ultimate OTP sally and costin though) they are so- Pure , I can't help but love them

*It would be the light at the end of the very long tunnel that my life had been so far. He would be my light.*

What is there not to love!?

Overall this book had a strong plot as compared to the other books and left me feeling perfectly content. Two more books to go!

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## Stacey Brutger says

### 4 Stars

#### DESCRIPTION:

Claudia de Santos has always looked out for every witch but herself. She fought from the shadows as her coven turned dark, and with a little help from her half-witch/half-Alpha werewolf cousin, Teresa McCaide, Claudia is doing everything she can to keep friends and family in the light.

Now the coven has splintered into two factions: Luciana's army of witches wielding dark magic, and Claudia's few stragglers who fight with the wolves. War is coming, and it won't be much of a battle if Claudia can't find the spells to counteract Luciana's demonic power. But Luciana strikes before they're prepared, and Claudia's twin brother pays the price. Suddenly, going to Peru in search of ancient Incan magic doesn't seem so crazy.

Fighting evil will require a pure spirit, but her quest is full of temptations, including a handsome Peruvian guide with secrets of his own. Finding love is the last thing on Claudia's ever-growing to-do list, but sometimes what you need has a way of seeking you out.

#### REVIEW:

I read the first book in the Alpha Girls series last year and fell in love with the characters. The fourth book, *Bruja*, is a spinoff from the main series. I wasn't sure how I felt about the change, but I was curious enough to pick up the book. Witches, magic, werewolves and vampires...what more could a girl want, right?

Claudia always believed her cousin would be the one to take over the leadership of the witches and right the horrible evil that has taken root in the coven. The last thing she ever expected was to be thrust into the role herself. To protect her friends, Claudia and a handful of friends escape the witches compound and take refuge with the wolves. But the coven refuses to let them go without a fight, and the bindings tying them to the coven tighten like a noose. Claudia must use her magic and wits to free them before they are all dragged back to the coven and used to raise hell on earth.

*Bruja* followed the rest of the series surprisingly well. I wasn't sure how much I would like having another narrator, but it worked. Claudia wasn't as strong of character as her cousin, but her magic was unique enough to keep me interested. Unfortunately, self-doubt and lack of decisiveness watered down the book for me. I loved getting to know Lucas, but the attraction between them didn't feel real. I needed more romance and spark. That said, I thoroughly enjoyed the magic portion of the book, especially the temple scene where Claudia finally grows into herself...it just took her most of the book. So while the book was enjoyable, I liked reading about the wolves more.

## **Stacy says**

I'm not going to lie, I was upset and thinking about not reading BRUJA when I found out that Tessa and Dastien's binding was going to be dragged out even longer than it already was with BRUJA's addition to the series, but I am happy to say I am glad I read it anyways.

We have met Claudia and we have gotten to know her a little bit from earlier books in the series, but BRUJA really let us dive into her personality and I have to say I really enjoyed it. She started off as one person and ended the book as a totally different STRONGER person with someone fantastic by her side. Lucas was protective yet willing to give Claudia her space from the moment he met her. They had a great chemistry and really complement each other.

BRUJA was fast paced with a lot of action and character development. I liked the location and I thought the author did a really good job of keeping the characters on track with their mission while developing their feelings and the relationship.

I am looking forward to being back in TEXAS with Tessa and her friends and I am really looking forward to seeing them take care of Lucinda, it has to happen eventually right? We did find out an interesting fact about the binding ceremony in BRUJA, so I have a few questions that I am hoping will be revealed in ALPHA UNLEASHED.

\* This book was provided free of charge from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Carmel (Rabid Reads) says**

### **Reviewed by: Rabid Reads.**

The ALPHA GIRL series, and I have had our ups & downs; I was worried that this magic driven installment might feel out of place amidst Aileen Erin's werewolves, and that postponing Tessa & Dastien's full moon ceremony (again) in favour of giving a secondary character their HEA was a mistake. BRUJA proved me wrong on both counts. Lucas single-handedly solved my first concern, and Claudia did the rest.

I liked that the author waited a bit before hightailing it to Peru. She set the stage for the why of De Santos' trip with a brief recap, and some new information which did wonders for my opinion of this book's protagonist because she didn't blindly accept Muraco's wild goose chase of a quest. The story did lack Peruvian authenticity though, so the setting change was barely noticeable unfortunately.

Claudia has been a useful ally in the witches vs. werewolves war, and after three volumes as a sidekick it was time for her to step outside of her comfort zone. I enjoyed witnessing her transformation from one of Luciana's minions to future leader of the rebel coven. Her internal monologue exhibited the most growth, but by the conclusion of this tale it was apparent that Claudia was no longer a protégé.

There seemed to be a bit of a love triangle emerging until Erin finished painting her ugly picture of Matt, De

Santos' betrothed, after that unpleasantness he was hastily taken off the menu. The heroine's connection with Mr. July was impossible to miss, as were the not so subtle furry bits. The outcome was easy to predict, although admittedly the shortage of romantic drama only made the plot stronger.

BRUJA was a quaint witch-y dalliance, but I'm ready for more werewolves!

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**Lex says**

Lucas. <3

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