



Wild Man's Curse

Susannah Sandlin

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The bones said death was comin', and the bones never lied.

While on an early morning patrol in the swamps of Whiskey Bayou, Louisiana wildlife agent Gentry Broussard spots a man leaving the home of voodoo priestess Eva Savoie—a man who bears a startling resemblance to his brother, whom Gentry thought he had killed during a drug raid three years earlier. Shaken, the agent enters Eva's cabin and makes a bloody discovery: the old woman has been brutally murdered.

With no jurisdiction over the case, he's forced to leave the investigation to the local sheriff, until Eva's beautiful heir, Celestine, receives a series of gruesome threats. As Gentry's involvement deepens and more victims turn up, can he untangle the secrets behind Eva's murder and protect Celestine from the same fate? Or will an old family curse finally have its way?

From award-winning author Susannah Sandlin comes the first book in the Wilds of the Bayou series.

Wild Man's Curse Details

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From Reader Review Wild Man's Curse for online ebook

Jill says

While checking on an illegal gator catch, Wildlife and Fisheries agent, Gentry Broussard, sees a guy leaving Eva Savoie's shack. Eva is an old Cajun voodoo priestess. When he investigates, he discovers Eva's been violently murdered. Worse, Gentry thinks the man he saw there was his brother, Lang. But that's not possible; Gentry killed his brother three years previously.

Celestine (Ceelie) Savoie, Eva's great niece arrives back in Whiskey Bayou to tie up her aunt's estate. But when Ceelie is threatened, Gentry is pulled in deeper to unravel his supposedly-dead brother's involvement and figure if an old family curse on the Savoie family is actually real.

Wild Man's Curse is the first in the *Wilds of the Bayou* series, and it's a pretty riveting read. Susannah Sandlin writes with a mature hand, and her evocative descriptions of the Louisiana bayous makes this romantic suspense a standout. The romance between Gentry and Ceelie is a nice, slow build. Though we know pretty much straight away who the murderer is, the mystery behind it is captivating.

The main and secondary characters are fleshed out. The dialogue is believable. In fact, there's not too much here that I didn't enjoy, though I did think there was going to be a bit more about the curse and voodoo practices, since Ceelie is a practitioner.

For anyone who enjoys a very well-written romantic suspense, realistic police procedures, the bayous, and a slowly-developing romance without gag-inducing insta-love, pick up *Wild Man's Curse*. I'm looking forward to the next title in this series. (I'm very much hoping it'll be Senior Agent Paul Billiot's story. *hint, hint*)

Currently free with Kindle Unlimited
<http://www.amazon.com/Wild-Mans-Curse...>

Steam: 2-2.5

So, I Read This Book Today says

"The bones said death was comin',
and the bones never lied." – Susannah Sandlin

"Morning, ma'am. I'm looking for Tommy Mason. Is he around?" Polite and professional, that was Senior Agent Broussard.

"Lord, what's that no-good sonofabitch done now? Wait, you ain't a cop; you're a game warden. "What'd he do, run over a fish?" ? Susannah Sandlin, *Wild Man's Curse*

The songs, the songs, of Bayou Country. Gator's roar and painter's scream. Moans of the wind through the

cypress trees, the sibilant slide of a body into the water. Whether gator or fishin' boat, or the sound of a body being slid over the side. Songs and scents – and always, life goes on. Until it doesn't.

The bayou lives on, as it has always lived, private, dark and secretive. A mystical land where the boundaries between life and death are small. Where Catholicism resides side-by-side with hoodoo, Santaria nestles down with Southern Baptist, and one is just as likely to visit a traiteur as an M.D. She is ancient, unbending, the cycle of life personified. Don't piss-off the Hoodoo Woman, the veves, or the houngan, for magic is real in the Bayou, and the bones, they never lie.

Eva Savoie knows all about the bone, about life and death . . . and she know, in her own bones, that old man Death is coming. So she cleans her house, scrubs her floors, and sits down to die. But the Savoies have never known the pleasure of a quiet death. And Eva's is more painful, and bloodier, than any Savoie before. The curse will have its due, just as it has for the last three generations of Savoies, for what her grandfather did all those years ago.

Gentry Broussard, un bon garde-chasse, a Senior Enforcement Officer for the Louisiana Depart of Wildlife and Fisheries, is the one who finds Eva's body. He even catches a glimpse of her murderer – a murderer who is, or should be, a ghost. Now, he is on the hunt for a man dead four years, and what he finds may destroy not only his life, but that of Ceelie Savoie, Eva's niece and heir. Heir not only to Eva's property on Whiskey Bayou, but to Eva's ability with the bones.

"Its dying call is weak but clear
Yet it's a plaintive voice I don't want to hear.
I won't go back,
I won't go home,
'Cause next time, Whiskey Bayou won't let me go."

Ceelie promised her daddy on his deathbed that she would escape, and never return. But ain't life funny that way? Now Ceelie is back in the swamp. And it may be her blood Gentry wades through this time.

Admittedly, I am a HUGE Louisiana novel lover. My favorite author of all time for the stories of the bayous, swamps and small towns has always been James Lee Burke. His soulful renditions of the voice of the land touch the soul, drawing you into the land that time forgot, the land where the curtains of civilization fade away, leaving only the truth behind. Susannah Sandlin doesn't quite have that soul-deep ability to draw you in, to allow you to close your eyes and smell the funk of brackish water, the sweet waft of water orchid. You don't quite see the cypress in your mind, or hear the egret's call. But she is close. The suspense is there, the respect for the peoples and culture of the South. I look forward eagerly to Black Diamond, the next in the Wilds of the Bayou series.

Linda says

A powerful, intense, well-paced, well-orchestrated Southern romantic suspense!!!!

"The bones said death was comin', and the bones never lied.
Eva Savoie leaned back in the rocking chair and pushed it into motion on the uneven wide-plank floor of the one-room cabin. Her grand pere Julien had built the place more than a century ago, pulling heavy cypress logs from the bayou and sawing them, one by one, into the thick planks she still walked across ever day.

She had never known Julien Savoie, but she knew of him. The curse that had stalked her family for three generations had started with her grandfather and what he'd done all those years ago.

What he'd brought with him to Whiskey Bayou with blood on his hands.

What had driven her daddy to shoot her mama, and then himself, before either turned forty-five.

What had led Eva's brother, Antoine, to drown in the bayou only a half mile from this cabin, leaving a wife and infant son behind.

What stalked Eva now."

WILD MAN'S CURSE is a dramatically stunning roller coaster ride imbued with a slew of dark twists and turns by the fantastic Susannah Sandlin. Under the alternate pen name of Suzanne Johnson, she writes one of my favorite paranormal urban fantasy series, the Sentinels of New Orleans. I finished inhaling this southern romantic thriller in yesterday morning's early hours and it was nothing short of fabulous! Teeming with voodoo and Indian mythology overtones and a murderous family curse that won't go away, the mystery element within is unquestionably strong. There was also plenty of danger, history, culture and steamy romance. I couldn't put the book down even though I was terrified of what would happen next. I especially feared for the characters I'd grown fond of including our hero's cute stubby bat-eared dog and "Red," his agency partner. Taking place in Whisky Bayou, this is the story of Celestine, the sole heir of murdered voodoo priestess Eva Savoie, and Louisiana wildlife agent Gentry Broussard.

While on a poacher take-down in the swamps of the bayou, Gentry spots a man leaving the cabin of Eva Savoie. He gets a short startling glimpse of a man who closely resembles his own brother - the same brother who died in a gunfight two years ago with Gentry firing the bullets that took him down.

Celine's Nashville music career is on no-where street when she's summoned back to Whisky Bayou where her aunt has been cruelly slain butcher-style. Celine never expected to return to this place she escaped from years ago. Now, she just wants answers as to why her aunt was murdered and a way out. But, she wasn't taking into account a sexy wildlife agent or that the killer would target her!

Susannah's writing never fails to favorably impress - no matter which name she's writing under. Her storytelling ensnared me from the very beginning and never let go until I'd read the last page. Her Cajun-speak was nothing short of enthralling and her vivid descriptions made me feel I was there: in the heat, humidity and the swamp teeming with creatures I didn't want to meet!

GREAT NEWS! The author has just announced that the second book in this series has a name! It will be titled BLACK DIAMOND and it's tentatively scheduled to be released mid-October 2016! I can't wait!

This is one of those books that makes you say WOW... over and over. I would not hesitate to read this thriller again - but, only once my heart slows down to a regular rhythm by thinking about it. I highly recommend WILD MAN'S CURSE to anyone who enjoys powerful, intense, well-paced, well-orchestrated Southern romantic suspense!

My full review is posted at Reading Between The Wines Book Club. Please check it out there:
<http://www.readingbetweenthewinesbook...>

Sue says

Susannah Sandlin sets the pace and the plot of Wild Man's Curse with a prologue hinting at mystery, danger,

curses and death in Whiskey Bayou. She pulled me right in and I kept reading!

With great descriptions the setting was vivid, and I could feel the heat and humidity, and see the swamp. This was a great draw for me, I was able to easily feel like I was right there!

Ceelia ends up back in Whiskey Bayous for all the wrong reasons...her career in Nashville is going nowhere, and her aunt has died. It's not where she wants to be, it's the place she escaped from. Gentry is a LDWF officer who has his own traumatic past, but as soon as he sees Ceelia and hears her singing he wants to know her so much more. Ceelia is not looking for anything...except for answers for her aunt's death, and a way back out of a place she doesn't consider home. But things have a way of changing, and soon Ceelia not only finds herself in danger, she's starting to feel like she finally is home, and she's starting to feel a lot more for Gentry. The danger is daunting, and the fear is real. Who is after her and what do they want? Gentry has his suspicions...but his heart and devotion are with Ceelia, keeping her safe, and solving a murder. Will he have it all though? The danger heats up very quickly, and it's looking less likely.

Ceelia and Gentry both go through a lot in Wild Man's Curse. They are fighting for a future, but they both must also come to terms with the past. The suspense and mystery are powerful, and the romance and relationships play an important role in the plot. I liked that I felt like I could understand these characters. They really jumped off the page at me...Ceelia with her struggles, a family curse hanging over her, and a relationship she didn't see coming. She is strong and brave, and this is very evident in Wild Man's Curse. I liked Gentry too. He has his own demons from the past, but he is protective, honorable, and wants nothing more than to solve this crime and keep Ceelia safe. I liked how they were together, how they thought of each other, and most of all they trusted each other.

The mystery/suspense is strong, and I liked the character involvement in this. Sometimes I didn't know what would happen next, and sometimes I felt a bit scared at what might happen next!

With surprising revelations about the past, a sense of history and family relationships, and intensely thrilling, I'd recommend Wild Man's Curse to any romantic suspense reader.

Miki says

Disclaimer: I received a ARC of this book in exchange for my honest opinion on it!No compensation was received

I really wanted to share with you an early review of this book because i really think that you should preorder/ buy it if you are a romance suspense book lover or simply if you love a good book but let me tell you a little more about this book now

I'm honoured to have gotten the opportunity to read an advance copy and i really don't regret it, it's FABULOUS!!

This story once it has caught your full attention won't let you stop until you turn the last page, the tension is simply constant and the intrigue is distilled gradually with a master hand. You want to know the culprit and even when you know who, you want the why , how and simply you want to follow the characters on their journey. I loved every moment of this book really if you love romance suspense this is one you can't miss.

The atmosphere of Louisiana is depicted with justness with the weather but also , the customs, people's way of thinking ; you want to visit to get or live that experience. With a light touch of mysticism, paranormal because really what would be New Orleans and Louisiana without that particular past and blend of beliefs, the author transport us in the swamp to follow Gentry and Celestine, Ceelie, as their learn more about themselves and the investigation.

I loved how they got attracted to each other but let the time (and events) built it in something more steps by steps. Ceelie is a lovely woman, determined for sure but also not realising all her potential. To keep a promise she put her life on a path that wasn't necessarily the one she would have chosen . Now she is confronted to the truth.

Retired from the special force, after an event that quite traumatized him, but not giving up on his want of Justice, Gentry applied into the LDWF enforcement....which sound even more complicated and demanding than the police is.

The secondary characters are also very well built and you can get attached to them easily like Paul or Jena but the whole bunch of characters is worth discovering. I can't recommend this book enough really you have it all: the setting, ambiance, suspense, action and romance all perfectly dosed...a perfect romance suspense!

Really it's the MUST have of April! so don't hesitate and grab it when you can!

Steph says

Wild Man's Curse is the first book in what promises being a thrilling paranormal series (Wilds of the Bayou). I must confess I am not particularly fond of mystery novels but Susannah Sandlin sure knows how to grab your attention from the very first paragraph. In the prologue, she talks about a curse that runs into the Savoie bloodline for generations, the death surrounding the cursed family, a mysterious box that was dug from the Bayou that pushes you toward sin, and so much more. What sane person could resist to such a mysterious and exciting adventure?

Eva Savoie is seen pretty much by everyone as the Voodoo Queen. Nevertheless, that won't save her from the death's call that she knew would come sooner or later. Death took her grandfather, it made her father kill himself and her mother, and it also took her brother. Of course, she knew that death would come for her either as a young lady or as the old woman she is today. However, what she didn't expect is to involve her niece Celestine in the veil of sin, mystery, and danger that surrounds the Savoie family. On top of that the handsome wildlife agent Gentry Broussard will be added in to the mix. As the Savoie's 'dirty little secret' becomes more and more complex and tangled and more victims appear, Gentry has no choice but to jump into the case with everything he's got in hopes to stop the mass of victims and save the beautiful heir of the former Voodoo Queen.

Now, let's talk about the characters! Ladies, I so promise you will love Gentry! He is protective, sweet, a true man of honor with a touch, well a little more than that, of a tormented soul. Celstine or Ceelie first impression was like a beautiful woman that promised to be kind and calm, but I am glad the author gave her some attitude. She knows what she wants and how to carry herself but without taking away her vulnerable side. Yes, our hero and heroine have one of those that you will get a chance to see. On the other hand there are some very interesting characters that you will get to meet. Among my favorites is Jena, who works with agent Gentry. There is something about her attitude that you will love.

I truly recommend this series to any romance-mystery-voodoo lovers that have a thing for the Bayou. I assure you, you will fall in love with this unique story!

? Kimberly says

Five reasons to grab *Wild Man's Curse*

If you have a thing for books set in **Louisiana**, Sandlin's familiarity with the region is evident from her characters to the incredible scenes she describes. I love books set in the area, and loved the authentic feel from the language to the voodoo.

The **murder-mystery** was multi-faceted and tightly woven. I loved how Sandlin threaded the pieces together ensnaring the characters and reader within her tale. She has respect for law enforcement procedure and it's evident she does her research. Unlike many books set in the south, she does not go for stereotypes.

Secondary characters were developed and local law intelligent and through.

Sandlin's **characters** are fully developed and original. Gentry Broussard a local wildlife agent looking for poachers when he spots a man leaving Eva Savoie's cabin. The man shares a striking resemblance to his dead brother. A brother, Gentry shot and killed during a drug raid in NOLA three years earlier. Celestine returns home and has questions regarding her Aunt's murder. As these two talk, a spark ignites that we watch slowly develop into more. The danger is far from over as the killer will stop at nothing to get what he wants. Secondary characters were unique and developed breathing life into this rural community. I am anxious to learn more about them from Paul, a local officer to Gentry's partner.

The romance was slow burning, with some punches of heat. Typically, in the romantic suspense genre, you get instalove driven by the suspense angle, but Sandlin likes to develop her romances, slowly fanning the flames. It felt genuine and sweet making me hope for happily ever after.

Voodoo, old curses, mysterious facts and danger for our hero and heroine had me flipping the pages of *Wild Man's Curse*. The story is well-balanced, with interesting tidbits about the past that bring us closer to solving the current case and capturing a desperate killer. The murders were dark, revealing a disturbed mind. Sandlin gives us just enough detail to provide chills without inducing nightmares. Sandlin delivered a realistic tale while weaving in the uniqueness of Louisiana.

Copy provided by publisher, This review was originally posted on Caffeinated Book Reviewer

Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

Gentry Broussard is a wildlife agent. During patrol, he catches a poacher and notices a boat outside one of the remote cabins. That cabin belongs to Eva Savoie. The boat being unusual, he decided to investigate. He then sees someone leaving. Shocked and surprised because the person leaving looks a lot like his older brother. Who is/was supposed to be dead. Gentry then finds Eva murdered.

Cealie left Louisiana after she promised her father she would. Barely eking out a living in Nashville, she gets the call that her Aunt Eva was murdered. She does back to Louisiana to settle her aunt's affairs. While there, she meets Gentry and his partner, Jena. (I hope Jena's is the next book).

I enjoyed this book. Both characters are likable, well-fleshed out. I liked the depth of Cealie's family and her realization to do something she wanted to do vs trying to live up to a promise she made her dad. I thought the

secondary characters were also well done. Here's hoping Jena gets a book. (And yes she does- it's the next one, just looked!).

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

The bayou, an ancient curse, and hoodoo priestesses, truly, what is there not to love about any of those things in a good story?

I don't know about you but, all of those things combined on top of being from a favorite author, are hand downs, something I don't even have to think about, I'm just in. I know I'm not just in for a good time, a good read, but in for a ride like no other.

It has been awhile since I've read a book in this genre, probably longer than it should be because I had forgotten how much fun and how exciting and suspenseful this genre can be and how much I love it.

I admit, it took me a little while to warm up to this read but once I did I was all in. Sandlin has never let me down and her foray into a new genre was a smashing success.

With to chemistry, a mystery that will keep you on edge and just enough paranormal woo hoo to satisfy the craving and you really do have a fun read that is sure to please everyone.

ARC copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Ian says

Calling a spade a spade I'm not a huge fan of Romantic Suspense. Whether it's Karen Rose or Linda Howard, the villains are so over the top evil that they almost become a caricature and the level of depravity committed by the villain is just a dram more than I'm prepared to call entertainment.

So it's not a book I'll ever call a favorite but comparing *Wild Man's Curse* with other popular Romantic Suspense authors like the aforementioned Karen Rose, Linda Howard and perhaps even Karen Slaughter, I'd say it's a better. A lot better.

But it isn't a patch on Lisa Gardner, who IMO is one of the very few shining lights in the genre.

Luli says

No tengo palabras para decir lo mucho que me ha gustado esta historia. Ha sido *casi* perfecta, y aquí el *casi* es lo que la hace especial.

Celestine (Ceelie) ha llegado a un callejón sin salida en su vida. Con sus sueños a punto de hacerse trizas y sin dinero ni un sitio donde caerse muerta, llega el momento de replantearse el futuro, por muy desolador que éste sea. Y para colmo de males y en sus horas más bajas, recibe una llamada de teléfono que le informa de que su único pariente con vida (su tía-abuela Eva) ha fallecido en circunstancias más que extrañas. Así que no le queda otra que coger las pocas cosas que puede llamar suyas y volver al sitio donde dijo que jamás volvería: su hogar.

Gentry Broussard, lo que nosotros llamaríamos un agente del Seprona, está vigilando para detener furtivos, cuando ve como un hombre abandona la cabaña donde vive la “reina del vudú” local Eva Savoie. Al darle el alto descubre que el sospechoso tiene un parecido más que inquietante con su hermano, cosa imposible ya que él mismo le puso una bala en el pecho durante una redada hace tres años, y si por si esto no fuese poco, imagina su shock cuando entra en la cabaña y descubre la escena más gore de toda su carrera.

A partir de ahí nos encontramos con un romance que se cuece a fuego lento, con un suspense que es de lo mejor que he leído últimamente y con un elenco de secundarios que piden a gritos su propia historia.

Los protagonistas son encantadores y cercanos, personas con las que te puedes identificar fácilmente. Los dos son independientes y fuertes pero no caen en ninguno de los clichés de los que este género abusa.

”Told ém you’d be there by eight. And Broussard?” Warren paused. “I also told the sheriff you’d be polite no matter how big a pain this woman (Ceelie) might be. She’s apparently got a temper, and you’ve apparently got a reputation for being a smart-ass.”

Y aquí está la prueba fehaciente de que no hay que ser un cavernícola para ser un macho alfa. Me encanta!

”He was all macho talk covering a soft-hearted, good man who wanted to save the world and all the puppies in it. She wouldn’t be voicing that opinion, however. She (Ceelie) wasn’t sure he was even aware of it, and might find it insulting.”

Creo que nunca he leído un suspense tan realista. De verdad creo que así es como trabaja la policía y no toda esas historias que nos venden de machos alfa haciendo lo que les viene en ganas sin dar explicaciones y sin consecuencias. Ha sido refrescante. Nada de tonterías. No ha sido perfecto todo, ha habido algunos momentos de “pero que estás haciendo, alma de cántaro?” y eso la ha hecho aún más real. Y a pesar de que desde el principio sabemos quién es el malo eso no ha impedido que la trama me haya enganchado de una manera brutal.

Pues lo dicho. Realista, sin tonterías y con una trama que se apoya en los personajes, en todos, y con un malo para la “galería de los malos bien hechos”.

Me quedo con media estrella porque realmente quería más de Ceelie y Gentry...un poquito más...después de todos los nervios que había pasado.

Muchas gracias Jill por tu recomendación.

;)

I have no words to express how much I liked this story. It has been *almost* perfect, and here, the *almost* is what makes it special.

Celestine (Ceelie) has reached the end of her rope. With her dreams about to shatter and with neither money nor a place where to crash down, it comes the moment to rethink her future, a gloomy one. And to make matters worse and at her hard times, she receives a phone call informing her that her only relative alive (her great-aunt Eva) has died in circumstances more than strange. So she has no choice but to pack the few things she can call hers and return to the place where she said that she would never come back again: her home.

Gentry Broussard, a wildlife agent, is watching to detain poachers, when he sees how a man leaves the cabin where lives the local "Voodoo Queen" Eva Savoie. While trying to stop the man from escape, Gentry discovers that the suspect has a more than disturbing resemblance with his brother, something impossible since he himself put a bullet in his chest during a raid three years ago, and if that were not enough, imagine his shock when he enters the cabin and see the more goriest scene of his career.

From here on, we find a slow-built romance, a suspense that is the best I've read lately and a cast of secondary characters that are begging to have their own story.

The MC's are great. You really can relate to them. Both are strong and independent people without falling into the trite cliches so typical in this genre.

"Told é m you'd be there by eight. And Broussard?" Warren paused. "I also told the sheriff you'd be polite no matter how big a pain this woman (Ceelie) might be. She's apparently got a temper, and you've apparently got a reputation for being a smart-ass."

And here it is the irrefutable proof that you don't have to be a caveman to be an alpha male:

"He was all macho talk covering a soft-hearted, good man who wanted to save the world and all the puppies in it. She (Ceelie) wouldn't be voicing that opinion, however. She wasn't sure he was even aware of it, and might find it insulting."

I think that I have never read a suspense so realistic. I really think that this is how police works and not all those stories about alpha males doing what they want without explanations and without consequences. It has been refreshing. No nonsense. It has not been perfect, there have been some moments of *"what are you doing, airhead?"* but that has made the story even more real. And while we know from the beginning who is the bad guy is, that has not prevented the plot to hook me from beginning to end.

With that said, it has been a realistic, no nonsense story with a plot that relies on its characters, and with a bad guy that is the poster child of the "best-done baddies".

I'll take half-star back because I really wanted more of Ceelie and Gentry... a little more... After all the nerves and angst...

Thank you Jill for the recommendation.

;)

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

From The Book Junkie Reads . . . Wild Man Curse (Wilds of the Bayou, #1) . . .

Murder. Mystery. Suspense. Oh, yeah. . . a little romance on the side. Voodoo, Louisiana, a priestess, a curse, bloody bodies, death threats, secrets, passion and damn no real jurisdiction in any of this action.

Whiskey Bayou, LA has a little something brewing in its pots. Gentry has something brewing in his brain. He thinks he sees what he knows that he could not have seen but want proof that he had see what he seen. Make sense? Good. You will find more in these pages than just your everyday romantic suspense. There was depth, vivid depictions, and intense characterization.

A family curse in the bayou was not uncommon the Louisianan region. There was no reason to take this one to be any different but there was something about it. Something that made it stand out.

There are rich characters. Detailed oriented procedures of law enforcement and investigation. There was no half-assing it here. There was apparent attention paid to how the scenarios played out. Our hero was a first

for me a wildlife officer on the hunt for poachers. He had some skills. This was most certainly a read about the man. I found the woman to be developed but more of a secondary character to her male counterpart. Celestine had a more prominent role than that of a secondary character. I just felt more focused on Gentry.

****This ARC was provided via Bewitching Book Tours in exchange for an honest review.****

Trish R. says

A 2 1/2 star read..

I've read 7 of Ms. Sandlin's books, all of them except Chenoire, because it only had 48 pages and that's not worth my time. I gave them all 5 stars, except Storm Force, which I gave 4 stars. I loved all her books, but this one was very slow. At 31% I was wondering if anything was ever going to happen to get me a little excited, or breathless, or give me an OMG moment. AND it went on and on and on without anyone saying a word then a slight conversation and then another long telling of a story again. Geez, I just hate when the characters aren't part of the story. I'm afraid I'm going to find myself skimming through most of the story just to get to the players talking.

If the description of Ceelie was supposed to match the cover someone failed at that. The book said she was a blue-eyed part-Indian but the book cover shows a brown-eyed girl that doesn't look at all Indian to me. You need to make the cover match the girl or don't put a girl on the cover, it's that simple.

So, at about 40% the book started getting much better, but still went on for pages without anyone speaking. If this is the way it's going to be with this author's books then I'm done with her.

I did like the other players: Jena, Warren, Meizel, Marie and Louis, Eve, though she was dead soon after the story started, Paul Billiot, and the bad guy, who was truly insane, you'll find out who he is. Anyway, what the bad guy put Ceelie through would have killed a normal person. She was such a strong person. She was smart enough to get out of her house to stay safe but smart to plan and plot while she was dragged through the bayou.

The F-bomb was used 5 times and there was some sex in this book but it was really not described and it was fast and furious, then done, no more.

Overall, a good read but it could have been so much better if the characters had been in it more. Unfortunately, I did find myself skimming, looking for someone talking.

As to the narrator: Absolutely horrible. I gave the book back to audible after listening to it for about 15 minutes.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I read Book 2, Black Diamond and liked it so well I decided to read the first book in the series. I liked it as well, although I think I like Black Diamond better.

I like the setting and the characters that Ms. Sandlin is developing in this series and I really really like her plots. This feels like a very fresh series and doesn't feel as cookie cutter as some novels in this genre can get.

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

This series seemed to offer everything I can appreciate: Bayou, Louisiana, voodoo and murder investigation. Yes a lot of things that make you want to discover more and while the author is none other than Susannah Sandlin here clears all other doubts that we might have. Indeed, I always have a great time with her stories and this is still the case this time and I'm curious to see how far this new series will make us go.

Eva Savoie is known by all to be a Voodoo Queen, although she does not really considers herself as such. But when the bones teach her that death is coming, she hopes that the curse that followed her family until then will disappear with her. Murdered, her niece Ceelie, inherits the small cabin she called home but upon arriving, she found herself at the heart of a story completely beyond her. It appears that the murderer wants something he did not get by Eva and he is determined that the young woman provides him what he wants. Launched in a hunt, all will try to understand who the culprit is. And if he was the dead brother of the charming agent who remains present for her?

I really had a good time with this story. I was curious to see how the investigation was going to be solved, who would be eventually convicted and especially his motives as we do not really understand them. Ceelie is a strong young woman and yet she will have to pass through many trials here and finally also to learn a bit more regarding her family. I loved to see her trying to find her "home" and see if it could finally be here. Her romance with Gentry was pretty cute and it was nice to see the man opening to her, despite his early preconceptions. It was also touching to see the man understanding that the person he thought he had killed, was possibly alive and could be capable of such actions... a rather difficult time. It was a truly fascinating history with this kind of background, with this place and all these references. And how not to be overwhelmed to see a bit of French in the text! It's still very funny even if we see some differences with ours.

In any case you will understand that I had a great time with this first volume and I'm really curious to see what Susannah will present to the rest of the series!
