



What the Cat Dragged In

Molly Milligan

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Magic, mystery and mayhem abound in this new series from Welsh writer Molly Milligan.

The body that turns up in Bron's garden has been there for decades, and he died of natural causes. Just rebury him and carry on as normal, right?

But it's kinda hard to be normal when the ghost of the dead man has been disturbed, and now he wants ... well, just what does he want?

It's down to Bron, a traditional hedge witch, to find out. If she doesn't, that ghost is going to be lingering in corners and upsetting kitchen chairs for the rest of her life. Creepy, tedious and noisy, all at the same time. She's helped by the unexpected arrival of her cousin Maddie from America, who is seeking connection and history in this uncertain age. And there's another mystery – why is this vivacious, friendly young woman so evasive and afraid?

Soon they are up to their knees in faery folk (don't trust em), druids (keen on trees), wild animals (Bron's a healer), the obligatory smouldering blacksmith (sorry, he prefers men), and the maddest Mad Great Aunt of all.

What the Cat Dragged In Details

Date : Published January 27th 2017 by Amazon Digital Services

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Author : Molly Milligan

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From Reader Review What the Cat Dragged In for online ebook

Melani says

I got about 80% of the way through before realizing that I really didn't care enough to finish reading. This book should have been exactly up my ally, but it never quite managed to get there. All the parts, the witchy vibe, mystery, cozy small town, were there but it never managed to come together in an appealing way.

I might have stuck with it if it weren't for the few small bits that annoyed me and pulled me out of the book. There were a few brief asides scattered in the book where the main character is thinking about (or having a conversation about) racial issues, or other progressive issues, and you can see the attempt to be progressive and open minded, but the end result is "oh no, we're all the same and everyone feels some kind of isolation. I mean I as a practicing witch in a small town who makes my living because people accept I'm magic is TOTALLY the same as my half-black American cousin feeling out of place in my small little town of Wales". Pulled me out of the story and annoyed me so much that I stopped reading after the "oh yes, the white dude who grew up in Africa is totally exactly like the half-black cousin who grew up in Southern California" bit. No thank you.

OH AND that's not even getting into my annoyance with the author not understanding how to write conversations. I get that Welsh is a language that has odd pronunciations and spellings, so the desire is there to tell your reader how to pronounce things. This is fine. It is NOT fine to have on character tell (as in verbally speak this) another character how to pronounce things using the same method you would use if you were describing it on the page. Someone who is speaking to you cannot SEE the 'u' in the word you just spoke so saying that the 'u' is pronounced in one way means NOTHING to them, and is solely for the reader. It's poor writing, and shows a lack of understanding of how to write a conversation.

Maggie says

First, her blurb, would lead you to believe there's a bit of fun in here - nope (blurb says "Magic, mystery and mayhem"). It's a cozy, but not a humorous cozy.

::editing to add:: I did continue with this series and each book did get better.

A lot of small disconnects in the story added up. The main character has anxiety, so she doesn't interact much or well with people and that creates enough distance that I didn't really care what happened to her. People spend too long not talking with one another or discussing things. The ending/mystery - all this for that - yikes, fell a bit short. And at times I was too aware of the author lecturing us.

However, she did much better with her magic and fae aspects. It's Kindle Unlimited, so debating whether to give the 2nd book a go (perhaps the characters grow on you, develop?).

Ian says

D. H. says

An enjoyable, cozy, Welsh witch mystery. It has an interesting magic system, interesting characters, and a small town feel. I'll probably read another in the series.

Banshee says

An interesting and fun cozy mystery. I liked the characters but I had one minor problem with the main character Bron. I didn't find her "anxiety" realistic and felt it was thrown into the novel so Milligan could rationalize Bron's weird and introverted ways. A character can just be an introvert, they do exist in the public. The plot was good but the ending felt rushed. I loved the small town feel prevalent throughout the novel. I initially had trouble adapting to the voice actress as I thought she had too strong of an accent (I come from a place with weak accents) but I grew to like her as her voice fits perfectly into the novel. This novel was good and I feel the series has great potential, as such I hope the novels only get better as Milligan's writing improves with each novel.

Imjussayin says

What the Cat Dragged In: The Celtic Witch Mysteries 1

In A Nutshell: The blurb said 'Magic, mystery and mayhem abound' and I found two of out three. That's not bad. Bronwen a blond white witch finds a decomposed corpse in her garden. And as the ghost of the corpse is haunting her, it's best she finds out why he is still here. An interesting read, especially, the Welsh mythology but it is not side-splitting.

The Protagonists: Bron is a full figured blonde witch. I am not sure why either is relevant perhaps the latter makes her too self-conscious while the former is meant to automatically make her beautiful. Anyway, they are a feature of the book. As both are a repeated theme. She is also a natural healer.

The Plot: Kiplins 6 little men are in play when Bron finds a body in her garden. What and Why and When and How and Where and Who.

An enjoyable Welsh story that is more weighty, but not mind-bogglingly so, than the usual throwaway cosy mystery. The Welsh mythology, folklore and paganism are written in an informative and enjoyable style.

It's not a murder mystery in the traditional sense, which was different. I welcome the diversity (intergenerational and racial) and would like to have seen more of Aunt Dily. There are some unique characters her familiar, a cat who brings home injured animals, druid, hedgewitch, shape-shifter and Fae. And Maddie from America gives the story a lift. However, I think the book could have been edited down by a few chapters.

A heavyweight cosy that has its roots in Welsh mythology. That can make it a little flat for those who want a

Disney style mystery.

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Book Rating

Sexual Content: U

Language: U

Violent: U

Would I read the next one ~~or reread~~?: Yes

My rating system (* = star)

0* Could not finish this book (waste of time)

1* Finished the book but didn't like it.

2* Finished the book it was okay.

3* A good read worth your time.

4* An excellent read often with a novel concept or unusual plot.

5* A magnificent read. A prominent example of the genre.

Cheri says

A warm and cozy paranormal mystery

A fun read about witches in Wales who need to solve the mystery of why one ghost from the 1960s won't cross over. Set in a small and quirky town there are plenty of strange humans residing right next door to druids, shape shifters and of course some fae. The author, Molly Milligan, is very familiar with the country and people of Wales and it shines through.

Summer says

Title: What The Cat Dragged In (The Celtic Witch Mysteries – Book 1)

Author: Molly Milligan

Genre: Adult Supernatural Cozy

Rating: Five Stars!

The body that turns up in Bron's garden has been there for decades, and he died of natural causes, so she should just rebury him and carry on as normal, right? But resuming the status quo isn't easy when the ghost of the dead man wants attention — and he's going about it in the most comical of ways!

It's down to Bron, a traditional hedge witch, to find out what the ghosts wants, which is all well and good since she's currently teaching Maddie, her cousin from America, the ropes about their family history and all of the magical fun that it entails. Soon, the girls are up to their knees in faery folk (don't trust 'em), druids (keen on trees), wild animals (Bron's a healer), the obligatory smoldering blacksmith (sorry, he prefers men),

and the maddest Mad Great Aunt of all.

Trust me; it's well worth the read, my friends, and if you're inclined to learn about new cultures and traditions then this is the book for you. Not only is it hilarious — seriously, I lost count of how often I laughed out loud, but the author also managed to weave in the elements of witchcraft and the Celtic tradition so seamlessly that I felt as though I was in Llanfair. It was a genuinely fun and educational read, and I can't wait to laugh and learn more about the book series in the next installment!

Courtenay P. Adams says

Other than stumbling over pronouncing Welsh words (even though the author kindly explains how to pronounce letters in the beginning of each book, it's difficult to get to a word and try to remember how that "w" or "y" or "ll" is supposed to roll off the tongue)..... ah, well, the story is lovely, so I just stumble along and do the best I can. Enjoy reading about Bron's adventures, but kind of disappointed that Molly doesn't give more of a physical description to the "heroine" of the story. One is left to assume that Bron is attractive -- especially when we find out that the "cute" policeman, Adam, is enamored with her. But all we know is that she has blonde hair and doesn't think much of her own looks. Hmmmm BUT, then, perhaps that would detract from the story? This witchy murder mystery is a good read, and I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series. I do think Aunt Dilys needs a bigger role in the story, so I'm hoping to see that next.

Krystyna says

The lost and the frightened

A good start to the series, although the ending was a bit weak. Loved the way mythology is mixed into the witchcraft lore. The characters are getting really developed but it will be good to see how they evolve. She and her elderly aunt live a secluded life. As most aspects of modern life don't work around her. She has an adverse effect on electricity. However she has just been told that she has to pick up her cousin from the airport. This means using public transport as cars and her don't mix and so she has never learnt to drive. Slightly uneasy about picking her up as she has never met her. They settle into an easy relationship until she finds the body in the garden. A body that should have been in it's grave in the churchyard and now he is haunting the cottage. What does he want? How can they put him to rest? What has her cousin come to England for? What is she seeking?

Karen says

A cut above the average cozy

Witches and druids and a ghost that won't go to his rest. Wales and things Welsh. An absorbing tale that appeals to the need in all of us to believe that there is magic in the world. Well written with memorable characters. I found the main character's nature-based magical gifts to be quite plausible. A good read.

Viviane says

I needed a break from heavy books and wanted something to simply enjoy and this book ticked all the boxes nicely. Like a nice warm cup of tea it came with a thick slice of Bara brith which had a good amount of fruit and a bit of unexpected but fun spice.

This book was a fun read and I am looking forward to the next one already.

I enjoyed the pagan twist and it made me smile and laugh along with the characters, yet also nod in sympathy in places. I could often relate to the main character even if she sometimes made me want to shake her a little (which tells me how engaged with the story I got).

I really liked the druids, young and old, the vicar and aunt Dilys and I look forward to learning more about them in the future. Maddie's character floated a little bit alongside for me and I did not get that attached to her but I am hoping to get the chance to understand more about her background and life wherever the stories go from here. Overall there are a lot of interesting characters in this wonderful place and this was a nice introduction.

Carro says

This was recommended on a Goodreads cozy reads thread. Initially wasn't quite sure if it was totally for me - well written but I was feeling more three star about it. By the end I decided 4 star - I particularly didn't see the ending coming.

This is rural/urban fantasy - as in contemporary time and set in a Welsh village, Bronwen is a hedge witch - and this means she gets her powers from boundaries, whether they are physical such as the hedge around her garden or a time of day such as sunset or midnight. Not an idea I've encountered before and it worked really well for me. The whole feel of the book is domestic - not house perfect domestic but homely.

Bronwen the hedge witch lives with her slightly bonkers Great Aunt Dilys in a cottage next to the churchyard. She has a rather unusual cat who brings home injured creatures for her to help. The cat is not injuring them, he is finding them and herding them home where they are cured by Bronwen in the little animal hospital in her utility room. Bronwen looks after the health of the village with various magical and herbal potions - for which she is paid in kind - food, bit of carpentry and the like. The story kicks off with her cousin Maddie coming to visit from the USA and then Bronwen digging the garden and finding a dead body. The village really comes to life in the book - and it completely avoids being twee. I would have liked a little more of the cat in the story (especially since the cat is in the title) but this was good, so I have the sequel on order.

Ian says

You might ask what's occurring? I would replay that I was really intrigued by this series. The first book does a great job introducing a diverse array of characters that live in the small Welsh town. It's great to see Welsh culture and language mixed into the book, and being married to a Cymrphile, I get to constantly amaze my partner with the basic words that I picked up through the text. It is also nice to see Pagan culture used to positively as being a natural part of the main character's life. Adding a biracial Californian cousin also added to the number of conversations that Milligan worked into this series and makes it more approachable for

yanks like me to read.

I listened to this set on audiobook, read by Gemma Dawson, who also does an amazing job with the accents and words for the various characters. I highly recommend reading and/or listening to these books!

Jeannie and Louis Rigod says

This witchy murder mystery, or not truly a murder, is set in Llanfair, Wales. The story entails use of Welsh mythology, folklore, and local belief systems.

Bronwen is a witch who is a natural healer. Her cat brings injured animals, even 'lost' persons to Bron to aid. Bron, by necessity, must live in the old ways...electricity shorts etc.

A body decades old is found in Bronwen's garden. Who? Why? What? are questions that present themselves as well as the ghost of the man found. Now, it becomes crucial to find out how to put the spirit to rest.

Along for the adventure is, Maddie, Bron's American cousin. Maddie is on a quest of her own and the answers are so interesting.

This book was suggested and then given to me from a dear friend, Jenny. I'm so glad she introduced me to this series. I look forward to future tales from Ms. Milligan.
