



For Love or Magic

Lucy March

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Eliot Parker's good-for-nothing deceased husband has left her a new lease on life: a house in sleepy Nodaway Falls, New York. But his offer comes with a cost: his ghost...

As if being married to him wasn't hard enough! Nodaway Falls turns out to be a town with more than a little magic in the air. Eliot swore off using her own powers sixteen years ago, thanks to one catastrophic day when she lost the only people who ever mattered to her, and ran away from her spellbinding father and his reckless enchantments. Now, when a chance encounter with quiet, handsome Desmond Lamb results in a magical explosion that rocks Eliot to the core, she can't help but wonder: Has her heart fallen under some sort of spell? Or is this what true love *really* feels like? The real question, of course, is whether her husband will stop haunting her . . . and let Desmond give her a chance at happily ever after?

For Love or Magic Details

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Ama says

This tale, which takes place about a year or so after the previous one in the series, doesn't hold the same magic as the previous two. In the last book, we find out that Desmond Lamb wasn't quite the good guy that Stacy had thought him to be. Though, now that he is back to his real self, and not the man he was when deadening his emotions, Desmond is a good person. The only one who seems to truly believe it is newcomer Eliot Parker.

Eliot has some secrets of her own – as well as a dead husband haunting her (or is that just her imagination). When her husband's death brings her to Nodaway Falls, she can't figure out why.

I have a problem with the practically insta-love between Eliot and Desmond. Also, Desmond's complete and total personality change from the previous book (conveniently explained by the lack of the super special magic potion he had been taking). The series could have ended with the 2nd book and it would have been perfectly fine.

Sherry says

I've enjoyed Lani Diane Rich's novels, and when I discovered she was writing paranormal romances under the pen name Lucy March, I had to check them out. I don't think the books in this series are as good as some of her women's fiction titles, but they are worth checking out if you enjoy fantasy with a touch of romance.

In this book, Eliot Parker comes to the town of Nodaway Falls (site of the magical goings-on in March's first two novels in this series) when her no-good con man husband dies and she discovers he bought a house there. She's got baggage, though, including both her husband's ghost and his dead mistress's dog. She has also been on the run from her father since she was a teenager, when he engaged in a magical experiment that left a number of people dead and caused her to deny her own magic. Still, Eliot thinks Nodaway Falls might be the place for a new beginning, until she realizes that several of the town's citizens are magicals, including the handsome Englishman she's attracted to. If that's not bad enough, her father lives there, too. So Eliot needs to figure out whether she can make a place for herself in this nice little town after all.

This book was an easy read. I liked both Eliot and Desmond as characters, so I enjoyed reading their story. I think the books in this series, in spite of being marketed as paranormal romances, fall a little bit heavier on the fantasy side and a little lighter on the romance than some other genre novels. So if you want a hot and heavy romance, this might not be the book for you. However, I liked the fact that time was spent on developing the magical world and on Eliot and her relationships with her new friends.

Recommended for readers who enjoy magical fantasy with a side of romance.

An ARC of this novel was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Olga Godim says

Mediocre paranormal romance. I loved it in the beginning, started cooling off by the middle, and was totally disappointed by the end.

Janice (Janicu) says

This was about a woman who had some magic but it was locked away when she was a child, for the same reason for that she changed her name and avoids people with magic. Then her scoundrel husband dies and she inherits a house in a town where it looks like her past is coming to get her.

This was a book that falls squarely into 'fun read' category. Read in on setting, enjoyed myself, and you can't really expect more than that. The dialog is snappy and cute and most of the characters are quirky and interesting. I didn't know this was the third book in a series, so it sort of works fine as a standalone, but I did feel like past couples from previous romances were showing up and their voices didn't feel distinct so I got confused by who was who amongst that group. That was one issue, otherwise I did enjoy the magic part of the world building and general weird personalities and humor. Probably the other issue was there were parts where it did feel a little schmaltzy for me and there was something about the wrapup of the conflicts that felt almost too easy.

P.S. I liked this hero. Very dry, almost expressionless British guy, the bad guy in the past, who really has a surprising inner world of emotion. Really liked his interactions with the heroine.

Silver James says

I've not read Ms. March before and I enjoyed this book quite a bit. It hit several of my catnip choices: paranormal, magic, big, goofy dog, brooding hero, heroine with issues but a heart of gold and a snarky sense of humor. I've not read the previous two books in this series and had not trouble picking up the storylines. You can't help but cheer Eliot Parker (named for George Eliot and Dorothy Parker) and the very English Desmond Lamb to a happy ever after. There are trials and tribulations and lots of sparks--romantic and magical--along the way. A very satisfying read.

Nurse Lisa In Ohio (PRN Book Reviews) says

4.5 stars!

Fantabulous! My favorite in the three book series so far....I am smitten with the Nodaway Falls magical gang ??

Ian says

That's no way to conduct a war

There is an island sitting between Greenland and Canada called Hans Island. Both Canada and Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) have claimed the Island as their territory for 50 years.

Every now and then the dispute will flare up...either a Danish or a Canadian Naval vessel will go to the Island, pull down the other nation's flag, raise their own and leave a bottle of either Canadian Whiskey or Danish Akvavit.

And that's kind of like this book. You end up liking everyone, even the villain. And at the end they all sit around the campfire singing kumbaya. Don't get me wrong, this book is good...it's strangely refreshing, just not very typical.

Charlie says

So this is the first romance novel I've read, and I liked it more than I thought I would. (Little embarrassed about that.) My library has a summer reading program going on where you're supposed to read books in a bunch of different categories - and one category was "a book outside of your comfort zone". It's hard to get further from my comfort zone than a heterosexual romance novel. The writing was cringe-inducing at times, as expected, but the plot was surprisingly compelling. I liked the deaf dog and the old lesbian lady who ran an antique shop with her wife. The protagonist and her love interest had some genuinely sweet moments, too.

Jennifer Appleby Vines says

Light hearted and fun while still having high emotional stakes, great characters and an interesting plot!

Bette Hansen says

An awesome paranormal read filled with humor, a magical town, some very interesting characters, and a wonderful romance. Nodaway Falls is not your typical town and Eliot Parker realizes that as soon as she arrives at the old rundown house her deceased husband (the cheat!) left her. With her ruthless father hot on her trail, Eliot can use all the help she can get and luckily for her the residents of her new town are up to the task. This book is very well done. The characters are amazing, the writing and story are top notched. Although this is the third in the series, I had no problem following along even though I haven't read the first two. I'll definitely be reading them now. This is one I highly recommend.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Lucy March is a hopeless romantic, but that's alright – I'm one as well. The third book in her Nodaway Falls series gave me exactly what I'd hoped to get – a small community filled with lovable characters, a delicious romance, a nuanced, interesting villain and a very interesting plot.

By now, the residents of Nodaway Falls are all very familiar and dear to my heart. I've been with them through hell and back, faced danger and walked bravely into the unknown, fell in love and found joy. Going back to them feels a lot like coming home, comforting and familiar in a way that very few things are.

We meet Eliot Parker at a very low point in her life. Her husband just died in a car crash while spending a weekend away with his mistress. In addition to being a heartless cheater, he left her with nothing but an old house in the middle of nowhere and his lover's dog. Eliot has no choice but to move to Nodaway Falls, away from everything she knows and loves.

Heartache aside, something very sinister is brewing in Eliot's new town. Her father, a mad magical scientist of sorts is on her trail after many years of hiding under a different name. Suddenly everything seems to be a product of his manipulations, including Eliot's new life. Luckily, Liv and the old gang are all there to help, albeit cautiously and with many problems of their own. She might have lost everything, but Eliot also gained some new friends in Nodaway Falls, magical friends who understand her better than anyone else ever has.

I felt that Eliot's conflict over her father was very well done. I love villains I can both sympathize with and hate at the same time, and he was certainly one of those. Even the hero, Eliot's love interest Desmond Lamb, was so very well done. As the villain of the previous book, Desmond has so much to atone for, and forgiveness was very far from everyone's minds.

You can always count on Lucy March for delicious, intriguing paranormal romances. I love small communities, towns filled with eccentric fictional people and Nodaway Falls is practically bursting with them. I have no idea what's coming next for our group of friends, but I'll definitely be there to find out.

Kimberly Gonzalez says

I don't read much romance anymore because I got tired of HEA's and false conflicts based on characters not talking to one another. I follow this author on social media though for her writing advice, and decided to give her a try since this book includes some fantasy elements.

I. Loved. This. Book. The characters drew me in, the relationships between various people within the town felt authentic, warm, and at times funny, if not occasionally bittersweet.

Haven't read the earlier books in this series yet, but never once felt like I was missing anything or loaded down with too much "As you know" info-dumping to keep me up to date.

Very lovely book. Definitely worth a read if you like a little humor, mystery, fantasy and romance.

Moriah says

Very cute and sweet. I love a redemption story. Made me sniffle. I read it in one sitting.

Problems for *me*: The heroine (like in the book before this) was far too forgiving of, well, everything. I read this immediately after book 2, and the sympathy I had for the heroine in book 2 disappeared in this book. I didn't like that it took everything about her away and then some.

Thing that made me LOL:

"What is it you do? Do you have any marketable skills?"

"I have a graduate degree in philosophy and spent six years working in a video rental store that finally went belly-up last fall. Unless there's a market for someone who can discuss the themes of Randian objectivism in The Incredibles, then no. Not really."

Melissa says

This book was funny! I literally had laugh out loud moments while reading this book. I really get the author's humor and enjoyed it a lot. This was actually the first book in the series I have read and while it holds its own as a stand alone there are still lots of references to things from the first two books. Since I liked this one so much I am going to get and read the first two books as well. :) I loved the characters there was so much personality to each one of them and Eliot was especially wonderful. I also really enjoyed Seamus he was big and lovable and I am a dog person. A really great story!

Disclaimer: I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads. The opinions I expressed are entirely my own.

Deborah Blake says

This book is probably my favorite of all the Nodaway Falls series by Lucy March, although it is hard to say, because I liked them all. As always, her writing has humor and emotion and of course, magic. It was wonderful to revisit the characters from previous books, and protagonist Eliot Parker was a wonderful new addition to town. I hope there are a lot more of these books to come. (And not just because I read this one so fast, because I couldn't put it down.)
