



## Besphinxed

*Alethea Kontis, Kristen Painter (Foreword)*

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Heather Hayden has everything a young witch could desire: beauty, money, popularity, and exceptionally strong magical powers. Too bad she's also got a dysfunctional family that couldn't care less about her and a Head Witch who's watching her every move. Heather has no idea what she wants. But she's pretty sure it's not some low-rent cat shifter boy from goddess-knows-where, despite the fact that their paths keep crossing again and again...and again.

Owen Liddell is in big trouble. A hundred years ago, a descendant of Arachne tricked him into staring into the eyes of the Great Sphinx, leaving him bespelled into the form a cat. Now Arachne's sisters have found him again and placed one of their own as a substitute teacher at Harmswood. And if that weren't bad enough, destiny got involved, tangling his heart up with the most popular witch in school: his best friend Kai's sworn enemy.

Can Owen escape the evil spider sisters, thwart the spell, rescue the girl, save his friendship and pass his finals all before Zombie Prom? It seems unlikely. But unlikely things are known to happen in Nocturne Falls...

## **Besphinxed Details**

Date : Published February 14th 2018 by Sugar Skull Books (first published January 31st 2018)

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Author : Alethea Kontis , Kristen Painter (Foreword)

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## From Reader Review Besphinxed for online ebook

### Suzan says

Really enjoyed this book! Wasn't sure at first when I seen who the pairing was to be but Owen and Heather are a great match. I like that we got to see the real Heather and I loved how her character had grown and changed at the end!

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### Denise says

#### **Every character has more than one dimension**

I love the fact that all of the characters are a mixture of good and bad. Every human is flawed, and every "lost soul" has some redeeming qualities. It makes me so happy that this comes shining through in all of Alethea's writing. I always want to be a part of the world's she creates!

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### Madison Warner Fairbanks says

Besphinxed by Alethea Kontis

From the kindle universe of Nocturne Falls, a town of paranormals where every day is Halloween. Young adult novella.

Heather: Um, she used her Daddy's credit card without permission and felt totally justified in doing it. Deep down, she just as insecure as the average teen. Deep, deep, down. Once you get past the Heather factor, it's quite humorous and touching. Two teens that need a supportive hand learn to rely on each other. If you read the previous book by this author, don't worry. You WILL like and appreciate Heather in the end.

Excerpt:

"Owen started sorting through the ingredients and taking inventory while Heather looked up recipes on her phone. She sat on top of the counter, legs swinging like a schoolgirl. He snuck peeks at her while she was distracted. If he'd never met her before this moment, he'd think she was just a sweet, fun, enthusiastic and helpful girl. A girl who liked him. And he liked her. Later tonight, they could go back to being an attack witch and a scaredy cat. Right now, he just wanted to exist in the moment. Enjoy it. Flirt, even.

Great Scott, did he even remember how to flirt?

His stomach did a backflip"

Excerpt From Besphinxed: A Nocturne Falls Universe Book by Alethea Kontis

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## **Deanna Massengale says**

### **From Egypt to Nocturne Falls via Greece**

I really liked Besphinxed! Having never read any of Alethea Kondis' books I had no preconceived notions as to how the story line would go. But having read quite a number of the Nocturne Falls books both by Kristen Painter and her author friends, I knew the general gist of the town and its citizens. That being said, I thought adding another book into the NFU (Nocturne Falls Universe) with a nod to Ancient Egypt and some Greek aspects would be an interesting twist. I was not disappointed. Alethea spun a creative story in such a way that the reader knows but doesn't really know how the outcome would be. I can't wait to read more of Alethea's books and hope that everyone who picks this one up enjoys it as much as I did!

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## **Michelle says**

Besphinxed is my favorite book in the Nocturne Falls Universe so far. I have enjoyed reading all of Alethea Kontis' books in the Nocturne Falls Universe--they are all fun urban fantasy / paranormal romance with young protagonists and great heroines. Kontis' books fit well together by focusing on different characters whose stories intersect while maintaining their own stand-alone integrity. So while you can read any of the books on their own, you'll get a bigger kick out of reading them all. And unlike some romance stories which lean too heavily on a formula, Kontis' Nocturne Falls books weave unique, interesting plots, focusing on characters with differing life challenges and differing world views.

Now, the reason Besphinxed is my favorite (so far!): Heather, the protagonist in this book, first appears in The Truth About Cats and Wolves as a bad gal. Think selfish and cliquish, and add in magic powers you wouldn't trust someone like that to have. In Besphinxed we meet Heather and follow along as her life snowballs into an opportunity for personal growth. As we learn more about Heather, Alethea Kontis portrays Heather's dysfunctional family in a succinctly accurate way alongside more positive relationships surrounding Heather.

Besphinxed has real depth without losing the fun; We also get to learn more about Owen, the cat-shifter that's supposed to be the best friend of Heather's sworn enemy, but who finds himself inexplicably attracted to her. And let's not forget the Zombie Prom and a deadly magic confrontation at the end.

Pick up Besphinxed for a touching paranormal romance. I cried at the end!

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## **Laura says**

This is a great book; this book is part of the Nocturne Falls Universe and is written by Kira Nyte. The Nocturne Falls series is written by Kristen Painter and I was so happy that these new books by new authors were asked to write a story in the town. Nocturne Falls is a town that celebrates Halloween every day of the year and also a place that paranormal's can live and not have to hide what they really are. Heather Hayden has everything a young witch could desire: beauty, money, popularity, and exceptionally strong magical powers. Too bad she's also got a dysfunctional family that couldn't care less about her and a Head Witch who's watching her every move. Owen Liddell is in big trouble. A hundred years ago, a descendant of Arachne tricked him into staring into the eyes of the Great Sphinx, leaving him bespelled into the form a cat.

Now Arachne's sisters have found him again and placed one of their own as a substitute teacher at Harmswood. And if that weren't bad enough, destiny got involved, tangling his heart up with the most popular witch in school: his best friend Kai's sworn enemy. This is a great book with a wonderful story and well developed characters. This book will keep you reading long into the night. If you are looking for a great book, then you need to read this book. I am looking forward to reading the next book by this great author.

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### **Niken Widyastuti says**

Hmm, a bit conflicted about this book. Overall, the book was good. Interesting story. A bit immature for my taste, but enjoyable nonetheless. However, my bump came from the heroine, Heather. She was not a likable character in the previous book, if you've read Alethea's book before this one. So, when she was pictured in this book as the heroine, I had difficulties in wrapping my head on it. Well, you're safe if you haven't read previous book. No judgement there.

Anyway, for me, this book still was a solid 4. Interesting and enjoyable story. I also appreciate Alethea's effort in explaining Heather's character and change it to likable.

I was provided a complementary copy by the author / publisher, but this in no way influenced my thoughts or opinions.

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### **Myriam says**

I highly anticipated the next book from this author as she is one of my favourites. After reading The Truth About Cats And Wolves, When Tinker Met Bell, The Were Four (the short story companion relating to some of the side characters, and The Meddlesome Misadventures of Merri and Bright from Merry & Bright: A Christmas Anthology (Nocturne Falls Universe), which I enjoyed greatly, I wanted more. And it is quite possible that she wrote the best story so far.

Main characters are Owen, the cursed cat shifter we met in the first and second story, and Heather, the gothwitch and the villain from the first story, who was also featured in the other stories. This was an unlikely match, but it turned out to be a great one as they overcome their challenges one by one. Nothing is as it seems when it comes to Owen and Heather, especially Heather, who managed to hide a kind and caring heart underneath her cold and arrogant exterior.

There was a surprising character Efthimia, inspired by the author's family history, and I will say no more, as it's best you discover her yourself. As in the first book, there is an element of Greek and Egyptian mythology, which was quite interesting. At the end of the book, the author wrote a few words about her inspirations for this story and some of her family history. I found that part very enlightening and it adds to the mythological part of the story.

This was a great story and one of the few that does not require complete Nocturne Falls, but it does require the previous four stories for character development and the world building.

The Nocturne Falls reading order is: The Vampire's Mail Order Bride (Nocturne Falls #1), The Werewolf Meets His Match (Nocturne Falls #2), The Gargoyle Gets His Girl (Nocturne Falls, #3), The Professor Woos The Witch (Nocturne Falls, #4), and The Witch's Halloween Hero (Nocturne Falls #4.5) in Spell of the Ball Anthology, The Werewolf's Christmas Wish (Nocturne Falls #4.6) in Hex the Halls Anthology, The Vampire's Fake Fiancée (Nocturne Falls #5), A Vampire's Valentine Surprise (Nocturne Falls #5.5), Miss Frost Solves A Cold Case : A Nocturne Falls Mystery (Jayne Frost #1), The Shifter Romances The Writer

(Nocturne Falls #6), Miss Frost Ices The Imp : A Nocturne Falls Mystery (Jayne Frost #2), The Vampire's True Love Trials (Nocturne Falls #6.5) in Taming the Vampire collection, Miss Frost Saves The Sandman : A Nocturne Falls Mystery (Jayne Frost #3), The Dragon Finds Forever (Nocturne Falls #7), The Vampire's Accidental Wife (Nocturne Falls #8), Miss Frost Cracks A Caper (Jayne Frost #4), When Birdie Babysat Spider: A Jayne Frost Short (Jayne Frost #4.5), Miss Frost Braves the Blizzard (Jayne Frost #5), and ever growing series of Nocturne Universe Novels, which surpassed 30 by now. Great world to get yourself immersed in.

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### **Natalie Bechaver says**

At first I was a bit confused that there are multiple books about Nocturne Falls, by different authors. This book was a quick and exciting read!

I don't know what it is about witches and magical creatures but they are fascinating to read about! I enjoyed learning about all the characters!

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### **Gwessie Tee says**

Absolutely amazing story, every single book I've read by this lady has utterly blown me away, and I can't wait to read more by her.

I won't give spoilers but what I will say is that any who want to try genre of supernatural romance, already love the genre, the author, romance, magic, suspense adventure and humour including more will utterly adore this book as much as I do.

I may have had the honour of reading this arc thank you so much Alethea for writing it, it's awesome  
XxxxX

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### **Kristine (A Cozy Booknook) says**

This is a cute, fast-paced story in the Nocturne Falls Universe. The characters were interesting, I enjoyed getting to know them. The story would appeal to wide range of readers. I look forward to reading more from this author.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher, my review has been voluntarily submitted.

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### **Jennifer says**

This book was a lot of fun to read! Nice and fast, plenty of action and lots of supernatural character diversity!! Was a nice way to spend some time getting lost in this world.

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### **Michelle Kaye says**

Loved this story.

It's a great continuation of Alethea's stories in the Nocturne Falls Universe.

If you haven't yet read The Truth about Cats and Wolves, you really need to read or re-read that first, as we are learning more about two characters (Heather and Kai) we meet there.

I'm not giving anything away, you're going to have to read the story.

I loved it and had no choice but to read it straight through.

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### **Sarah says**

My only complaint with this book is this, I WANT MORE. Alethea's fast-paced story and endearing characters make you want to see them get their HEA. Quick wit and a little comedy relief make this a fun, fast read that should be on every booklover's TBR list. I've loved every single one of her Nocturne Falls Universe novels thus far, and see no reason why you shouldn't pick up all three books and devour them in one sitting.

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### **Heidi says**

Another good book in the Nocturne Falls Universe. Another book where I felt that it just didn't quite live up to what I expected.

The story is cute, the characters get more background and rounding. I don't know if the Mean Girls vibe helped or hindered the book. After several stories of Heather being the Mean Girl, trying to connect with her as someone we want to like was difficult. While the story was entertaining and easy to read, I didn't love it.

While Owen and Heather make a fantastic couple overall, balancing each other, I hope their relationship survives high school and what comes after.

I give the book 4.5 stars (rounding to 5) because I didn't love it.

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