



Misspelled

Julie E. Czerneda (Editor) , Kristen Britain , Doranna Durgin , John Zakour , Jim C. Hines , Kristine Smith , Marc Mackay , Kent Pollard , more... Kell Brown , S.W. Mayse , Morgan S. Brilliant , Kate Pault , Nathan Azinger , Lesley D. Livingston , Shannan Palma , Kevin G. Maclean , Janet Elizabeth Chase , Rob St.Martin ...less

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strange magic...in 17 Fascinating tales of spells gone awry

When it comes to magic, skipping the directions, changing the ingredients, or garbling the words of a spell can lead to unusual consequences-sometimes dire, sometimes comical. Included in these stories are just a few of the possible results: a cybermancer has her spell disk corrupted by some unexpected input; two students brewing up spells outside the curriculum forgo a critical ingredient; a young woman orders a fairy-tale life, but forgets to read the fine print. Now they're really spellbound...

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Misspelled Details

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From Reader Review Misspelled for online ebook

Jenne says

Not the best anthology of fantasy stories I've come across. I enjoyed most of the tales, but none of them really stuck out as outstanding

Kate says

(More rated as 3.4 to 3.5 stars)

As with many anthologies some were good and some were so-so. Some stories were good stand alones (example: Shannan Palma's), while others felt like more could be said or explained about the magical structures in them. Some like Kristine Smith's, Rob St. Martin's, S.W. Mayse's stories could make for great novels (I would definitely read them).

Robert says

I shouldn't have bought this book. I just saw the name Czerneda and didn't read further. There were a couple of good stories, a couple that left me cold and one I really struggled to finish. It boils down to the fact that I find short stories very unsatisfying.

Doranna Durgin says

A huge whole lotta fun in one collection. Great concept for an anthology (my story was a blast to write!)--no surprise with editor Julie Czerneda at the helm.

Steven says

Misspelled is a DAW themed anthology. Inside are seventeen stories related only by one plot element: A spell has gone awry.

I love short stories. They're what I write. I like reading them. And so it makes me vaguely upset when anthologies like this get out there. There are seventeen stories, and unfortunately, half of them are so-so at best. In this particular anthology, the introductory remarks are done in a jarring "Narrator: " voiceover style, which completely misses the effect that it was going for. After a while, the novelty of the central theme wears off and yet another story (most of them just simply too short, forcing a deus ex machina feel) takes a predictably novel twist on the theme. Out of the seventeen stories, about five get a B and seven get a C or D for predictability, overexplanation, or overstylized elements. (There were two I simply stopped reading because of forced language or confusing narration.) If all of the stories in this book were like these twelve, I'd recommend it for a run to the library, or perhaps borrowing from someone. Most of them are okay, but

just okay.

There are, however, several **great stories** buried in this book. *Crosscut* by S.W. Mayse, *A Spell of Quality* by Kate Paulk, *Untrained Melody* by Jim Hines, and *Yours for Only \$19.99* by Shannan Palma (all, strangely, in the last third of the book) are all excellent (and amusing) tales. All but *A Spell of Quality* are modern fantasy, with *Spell...* taking place in an undefined fantasy kingdom. These stories have compelling, interesting characters and a fast pace. They are worth seeking out on their own right; with the paperback of this edition going for US\$8, that's \$1.60 for each of these stories. Not a bad deal at all.

So go buy this book, and be sure to read those top five stories. If you like the rest more than I, great. If not, you'll have still more than gotten your money's worth.

Jim says

I don't care much for fantasy/magic, but sometimes short stories are palatable.

This is a collection of 17 stories where magic spells go awry. It is advertised as a comedy, but I'd just call them light stories, as I did not find much humor.

Most of the stories were average; a couple not so; one I started, then skimmed, then skipped. The last one (*Yours for only \$19.99* by Shannan Palma) I like, by a large margin, the best.

Erika says

A couple of the stories are decent, especially for being so short with 17 crammed into only 300 pages. Some were just weird though, but could have been good with a little revision.

Flitterkit says

Fun stories, very strange. I stopped reading the "Narrator" parts and enjoyed the stories much more.

Joanna V says

some cute stories, nothing outstanding

Penny says

Sooo boring.

Jessie B. says

While one or two of the stories in the collection are good, most of them try to hard to be clever and come off as irritating instead. Wouldn't recommend this one.

MissM says

Most of these stories are first-time authors - and it often shows. Some are better than others though most are just "OK." Weirdly, each story opens and closes with a sentence or two from a "Narrator" for no real reason and with no explanation. (The first story opened that way and I thought it was a quirk of *that story*, but it was on all of them.) Library rent, NOT a buy and only for light/fluff reading.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Mostly forgettable anthology of seventeen VERY short, mostly amusing stories about spells that go awry. Contributors include: Lesley D Livingston, Kristine Smith, Kevin G. Maclean, Janet Elizabeth Chase, Marc Mackay, Kristen Britain, Kent Pollard, Kell Brown, John Zakour, Rob St. Martin, S.W. Mayse, Doranna Durgin, Morgan S. Brilliant, Kate Paulk, Nathan Azinger, Jim C. Hines, & Shannan Palma. Foreward by Julie E. Czerneda.

Rena Sherwood says

After suffering through *Misspelled*, a tedious anthology of humorous fantasy stories, I now have a greater appreciation for the late, great Sir Terry Pratchett. Even the early books of Piers Anthony are funnier than this. There were only three interesting stories and only one outstanding story -- "Cybermancer." The others were just as subtle as a fork in the eye.

And what was the deal with the Narrator before and after each story? This isn't *The Twilight Zone*, for eff's sake. Now THIS is *The Twilight Zone*

See the difference?

Shawn says

A bunch of short stories from various authors. Many stories were humorous.

