



Spellweaver

C.J. Bridgeman

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Book One of the Spellweaver Chronicles

Felicity Lucas never really knew her mother. Even though they had lived together for all the fourteen years that Felicity had been alive, they had barely even had a meaningful conversation. It was a relationship that was far from perfect.

So when her mother dies in a car crash and Felicity is sent to live with her estranged father in a deprived London borough, she is determined to move on. It isn't easy - content with her solitude, she's never had friends before, but the most popular girl in her new school won't leave her alone and she's forced to attend counselling. To make things worse, it's obvious that her father doesn't want her around.

It is only after she discovers a book of spells and is attacked by a strange boy who can conjure flames in his hands that she starts to realise that her mother was far more than what she seemed. She had a great many secrets, secrets that promise to thrust Felicity into a terrifying world of magic and straight into the path of beings who are determined to destroy her...

Spellweaver Details

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Author : C.J. Bridgeman

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From Reader Review Spellweaver for online ebook

Liv says

Overall: First, thanks to the author for a free copy in exchange for a review! Now, I found this book to be entertaining. The idea was good, just a little typical. You know, the mom dies, girl feels left out, finds out secrets about herself, and finds friendship all at once. Real life just doesn't work that way. I thought the magic was a cool aspect though! I enjoyed the counselor character, he was mysterious and frightening which I love! I wanted Fliss to get together with the boy twin, Jamie I believe, I'm honestly surprised they didn't get together, but maybe next book? I definitely wanted more romance in this book. The ending was ok, just again typical. Girl doesn't know she has powers, almost dies, discovers she has powers and saves everyone she loves, aww how sweet. I didn't like how naive Felicity was, and how much of a complainer she was at times. I felt the plot was good, but very quick. One second she's the new girl and the next the end is happening. I yearned for one more minor event to space things out. Her relationship with her dad was quite sad, but it got better for both of them near the end. I just didn't like that she would like stay out all night and her dad wouldn't even know. Like that almost never happens realistically speaking. All in all, it was entertaining and quick, just a few issues with it.

Characters: I adore Jamie, he's smart and loyal and I picture him to be nerdy cute. Felicity was naive and talked too much about being a loner and finally she has some friends who change her life forever, ugh, gross. I'm not sentimental at all so I didn't like that at all. Holly was loyal, just too preppy for me, like honestly she put on makeup after a guy tried to kill her?!? Honestly? But, the characters were introduced well and their relationships were well developed.

Quote: "The knowledge he possessed had a power beyond that of any strange, magical spell he could perform"

Recommend?: I'll give it 3/5 stars, it was pretty entertaining, just not my type of book.

Salaam,
Lived One Thousand Lives

Justine Winans says

Spellweaver is a remarkable novel - a fantasy disguised in contemporary young adult, it's a true introduction to a series.

I really enjoyed the pacing and plot of the novel. Despite the vast amount of magic in writing today, Bridgeman still managed to keep the perspective unique. I liked how the story had a feel of taking place in a relatively short amount of time. That fully kept my attention while adding a strong sense of urgency.

Although some portions of the plot were a bit predictable they still worked so well that I can easily look over that. The action and suspense that especially rose in the second half of the book were not undermined. I also loved the explanation of the spellweaver and the mystery behind it.

The themes of Spellweaver involving friendship were very prevalent throughout the novel. So many reads

tend to focus on romantic relationships and throw away friendships. The bond between Jamie, Holly and Felicity was wonderful to read about. (Although, I'm not going to lie, I definitely wouldn't be opposed to a little something more between Jamie and Fliss.)

Fliss is a character the reader cannot help but root for, being strong - although she doesn't know it, and loyal - although she never quite had the chance before to prove it. Despite her heritage and situation, she acts like a real human being and not just a character.

Spellweaver is a novel that readers can devour, and will leave them wanting more.

Namrata Ganti says

This book is like a breath of fresh air. It is well written and crafted with a skill I can't help but admire. It has been a while since I read a book in this genre that actually held my attention until the end. The book had me turning the pages yearning for more.

Felicity's character is well thought out and for the heroine, she may come across as shy or timid/ a loner, but we are shown a glimpse of the strength that lies beneath. Her behaviour is justified as she has never experienced a normal life the way her new friends have.

Holly's character is quite interesting. Though she is extremely popular and social, she's well meaning and a real good person. This is a wonderful change from the usual popular girls whose only ambition is to make other people's lives miserable. Her equation with her twin, Jamie, a complete nerd, is fascinating especially as the two are polar opposites.

The story so far, as this is just the first book in the series, is interesting, it will keep you hooked till the end and when you put the book down it will be with the urge to know more. For a first time novel, Claire has done a wonderful job, keeping the language simple and sticking to the plot beautifully!

The various twists and turns and each characters' reaction is covered delicately with a huge focus to detail. It takes a great deal to create a whole new world where magic is involved and so far I think she has nailed it.

Cheryl Ashford says

Felicity is a teenage girl who has recently lost her mother and has moved in with a father that she does not know. She is socially awkward with no friends so starting at a new school is also difficult for her. And to top it all off Felicity is finding that her mother is not who she thought she was. And then there is the mysterious Oliver, a boy not to trust if ever you saw one.

I found this book to be an excellent series opener. It is slow to start but this allows the author to explore the inner world of this fragile character. This is something that is done very accurately and made me feel that this would be a good read for a young person who had experienced a bereavement or is socially inhibited or both as Felicity does find friendship and we see her struggle to know make sense of these new people in her life and slowly begin to trust them. As Felicity's relationship with her friends begins to grow, so slowly does the want to develop a relationship with her father.

This feels like a good solid start to the series and the author has left lots of threads open for development such as exploring the father's character and getting to know more about Felicity's friend's family. For some reason I found myself comparing the book to Buffy the Vampire Slayer series in my head. There is something of the camaraderie of the young friends that seemed similar and the role for a mentor character certainly seems to be filled by the end of this book. However the over all tone of this book is a little more serious.

As a reader of quite a bit of fantasy of differing kinds I did find the magic in this book a bit run of the mill. So far there were no uses of magic or descriptions of magic that I hadn't come across before. Having said that this is not Harry Potter type magic and so will be new to much of the age group and as such would make a good stepping stone into adult reading.

(I would like to point out that this review was written before I read the author's blurb about her sources of inspiration!)

Nancy (The Avid Reader) says

I was given a free copy of the book from the author for my honest opinion.

Felicity, a fourteen year old girl has just lost her mother in a car accident and is going to have to move in with her father. Felicity had lived with her mother all of her life but she never really knew her mother. She barely knew anything at all about her because she was never home. Felicity spent a lot of time home alone and she never had any friends. Felicity was so use to being by herself most of the time that she actually preferred it. She was kind of nervous about moving in with her father because she didn't know him. He was never a part of her life although this was not his choice it was Felicity's mom's choice.

After Felicity moved with her father in a new town, house and school she realized it wasn't much different than living with her mom. I mean she didn't really know her either and didn't have a mother daughter relationship. At her new school she met this girl Holly who said they were BFF's. Felicity had never had a friend before much less a BFF so she had no idea how this thing was supposed to work. Besides she wasn't so sure that she wanted to have someone hanging around her all the time but she came to like having friends and having someone care about you. Holly's twin brother Jamie would hang out with them too on occasion and Felicity became to enjoy having both of them around.

She met another guy that was new at her school as well in an alley one night. This guy could make balls of fire with his hands. Felicity didn't understand or know what he was doing and was very frighten of him. She also didn't know if she was losing her mind or if she saw what she thought she saw. She didn't tell her new friends about this new guy, Oliver and what he did because she thought they would think she was crazy. Yeah well she wasn't so sure herself.

Holly and Jamie were twins but they had this weird kind of relationship. Their parents were divorced, Jamie lived with their father and Holly lived with their mother. At school Holly was a very popular person among the student body but Jamie was not. He was more of a nerd kind of fellow. Holly was not real nice to Jamie in school or at least she treated him a little different that she did when they were not in school. When they were not in school Holly and Jamie were pretty close and showed their true feelings for each other.

Jamie and Holly both cared a great deal for Jamie and would help her with any type of situation she got into

which was not her fault. It wasn't her fault that someone was after her and wanted her dead. Why they wanted her to die she had no idea. She didn't know who or what these people were. All she knew was that she ended up fighting for her life and trying to stay alive with Holly and Jamie's help. Now that is what I would call a very good friend indeed.

I recommend Spellweaver to anyone who loves reading about magical elements and people with magical powers. I would like to have seen a relationship build between Felicity and Jamie which never happened and would have been fantastic oh well maybe in the next book they will get together and become a couple. But hey even without the love Spellweaver is still a very great read.

Lori says

This book is really a breath of fresh air. Compared to a lot of YA books that all seem to be close to the same thing written these days this one has its own little twists and turns that make it different.

I'd have to say at first it seemed to be going a bit slow but then it also isn't to the boring point either. It does later pick up and get really good more towards the last 6 or chapters but it all comes together in the end.

It is really necessary you come to find is that without it you wouldn't have a clue as to why things are the way they are which I think will make the next book in this series way more interesting.

Felicity is such a confused and backwards teenager that has no social skills what so ever when she is forced to change schools. All she wants is to be left alone, a wallflower. She has no idea how to make friends and doesn't want to. She truly believes that she was not wanted by her mother and now seems to think that her father doesn't want her either but he was forced to take her in when her mother suddenly passes away. she's ripped from her life, or what life she seemed to have. not one of a normal teenage girl with lots of friends but just a loner in a private school now forced to go to public school in London.

When she arrives her 1st day she is taken in by Hollie a her school guide and what will soon become a very great friendship. even though Fliss has no idea what to do with a friend. Then comes along her twin brother Jamie who also becomes her friend. Hollie is now her BFF and Jamie becomes her protector. Fliss finds out what true friends are and is more than happy to accept them.

As for her mother she had secrets that directly affect fliss's life in a way she never thought possible. She receives her diary from the police that she opens and can't understand what it is. well it later turns out that it is a spell book. she comes to find out her mother has been hiding a very big secret from her and her father. There is only one person that can read it that she finds out but he turns out to be a very evil person.

now without giving the book away I would say its a good read for YA. its at least a 4 star read you just need to give it a chance. I found it in no way boring at all just slow at first but when it takes off it takes off in a good way and leaves you wanting to read the next book

Lourie says

*** I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review ***

On the surface “Spellweaver” seems as though it’s going to be like every other young adult book out there however it has some unique qualities that gives it an edge on the competition.

CJ Bridgeman is developing a new world that has not been done before. One that is revolving around magic but to be clear it has nothing to do with witchcraft. There is a mystery behind the main protagonist’s (Felicity) past that is going to have major bearings on her future and the twist that the author delivers is not only intriguing but has the potential to lead to a very interesting series.

It does start off slow but once it lays the foundation it gets better. Refreshingly there is no love triangle or mean girl’s to contend with but delivers pure and simple camaraderie between friends.

This book bordered more on the sci-fi spectrum with a hint of supernatural for me so it I look forward to seeing what the author has in store.

Cassandra says

My Thoughts - 3 out of 5 unicorns - I liked it!!

**Received ebook from the author for an honest review

The cover is beautiful & magical and totally what attracted me to the book when the author was looking for reviews.

This book is the first book in the series. It is beautifully written and learned some new things (I had to look up what Boxing Day is because we don’t have this in the US and both my mom and grandma didn’t know either - made me feel better that I wasn’t the only one). I always look up words that I’m not sure of because I’m from the US and want to make sure I understand what is happening especially if it is written how people talk in London because they have a different vocabulary than I do :)

This book had some very slow moments, but it is what I have come to find is typical for the first book in a series. You have some mystery that you slowly learn about, and you get to know Felicity and the twins really well. I really like the twins and Felicity was finally coming into her own at the end of the book. I am not saying too much because I don’t want to give anything away, but there is magic, secrets, lies, and attacks.

I think this is going to be a fantastic series and can’t wait to see where it goes in the future. There is so much potential built when this book ended.

I always enjoy finding new authors and series, and this is Claire’s first book. I will definitely keep an eye out for more.

I recommend this book to YA Paranormal fans :)

Autumn says

I received this book to give an honest review.

I was really hoping to get into this book but it just felt dull to me. I couldn't really relate to Felicity on any type of level. Yes she was this shy girl and I get that. Being as I was shy in school, but it just seemed like that wasn't her. She makes a comment in the story "my mother never showed me how to make friends." It is kind of up to you on making friends. Or at least that is how I see it.

There wasn't much action within the story like I hoped from the blurb.

Felicity learns that her life has been a secret and that her mother was much more than just a mom! There is a mystery surrounding the background of Felicity and her mother. She also learns about friendship, and has a small amount of action come to her which makes her come out of her shy shell. I hope there is more details in book 2 on the "other world" that was brought up in the story.

Overall decent story, but like I said it felt dull, and fell short of what I was hoping. I wanted more magic, more action that dealt with spells and magic. More of a female character who was strong and not dullish.

Sophia (Bookwyrming Thoughts) says

Well, I'll have to admit that from reading the first few sentences, I had this really dreadful feeling I was going to have to face another DNF. And right after a different one as well.

In other words, Spellweaver is not the greatest first impression when you first open the book. Thankfully, it wasn't a snooze fest and joined the really small DNF club.

And no, I'm not that mean enough to judge a book by the first page. You just have the first 50% of the book to impress me. I think it's time for another review update (handy, because that's going to be updated after the new design goes up). And I think that sort of reassured some people.

I'll have to say that Hollie seems like a really fake character. OH EM GEE! Um... no. She's like Dee Black from the Lux series (I only read Obsidian, thank you very much), only on MEGA steroids or something. Even Dee doesn't do that... nor does anybody I ever came across – and that includes the people who gossip way too much for their own good – say OMG in that fashion. e_e

It could be a British thing. I somehow really doubt it. But the way it's written, it's just so weird. It could be the timing of it also. Still, it feels really weird and out of place. A sore thumb sticking out. *cringe, cringe* I will, however, have to give the author some credit on that. Hollie is the complete polar opposite of her twin brother Jamie, and therefore it's pretty easy to tell the characters apart.

Things were getting interesting about a fourth of the way through. BUT... it always gets interrupted with something else. e_e x2

Speaking of which, it's not a page turner. Of course, there were times when it was a page turner, and it probably would've made a perfect chapter ending, but then the story continues on and ends at a not so page

turny area. Also, it sort of feels like I'm reading a mature, yet weird version of My Little Pony combined with Thomas the Train (Thomas did this, Thomas did that, Thomas did blah blah blah). o_O

And speaking of Thomas the Train, Spellweaver also sounds like that narrator (the author named Karen) from Strangely Fiction. Or something similar to that... it has Will Ferrell, who plays Harold Crick... and that's all I'm going to say about the movie. I could have gotten the name wrong, but it's close enough from the top of my noggin.

Well, no significance of C.J. Bridgeman's novel that I was left with, but not too shabby either. I mean, aside from a message of friendship. It wasn't great and certainly didn't land in my well liked books list, but it's somewhere in the middle. And I literally mean somewhere.

Review copy provided by author for review

Original Rating: 2.5 out of 5 Owls

Formatting has been removed due to copy and paste

This review and more can be found at Bookwyrming Thoughts.

Liz Barnsley says

****3.5 - 4 stars****

Thank you to the author for the review copy.

Book One of the Spellweaver Chronicles

In “SpellWeaver” we meet Felicity who after her mother dies is sent to live with her estranged father. When she finds a book of spells and is attacked by a strange boy with flames in his hands, she begins to realise that there are things about her mother she did not know..

This is a fairly quick and easy read, a bit of a slow burner but intriguing enough to hold attention and a great start to a new series and definitely one that I will be following.

I did really love the characters in this one – Felicity is socially inept (I know that feeling!) and has a whole lot of other worldly stuff to deal with at the same time as trying to embed herself into a new life. There is an eclectic supporting cast, including Holly the “popular” girl, who pushes the boundaries of what you expect popular girls to be like (kudos to the author) and a great part of this story is the yin/yang aspect of Holly and her twin.

The world building is solid enough and there are some twisty bits that will definitely encourage you to move forward with the story in forthcoming books – I wouldn't say Ms Bridgeman has done anything unique here but she has given us a well written, charming story that you can escape into and enjoy.

Overall I would recommend this to lovers of YA Paranormal fiction. It feels like one of those series that will improve with age having gotten off to a good start.

Happy Reading Folks!

Ellis Lane says

I found this book to be a very good read. It's shorter than I would have liked. I was left wanting more - which is probably the point.

The characters' personalities were described well, Jamie was my favourite character, brave and protective which I liked a lot. but I'd like to know more about him, and the relationship between the twins' parents. Holly is also a good character, kind and sweet but a tad over the top. Felicity is shy and introvert, her character reminded me of Bella from twilight sometimes. I'm hoping she comes out of her shell more in the upcoming books.

The plot was interesting and gripping, certainly left me in suspense! The ending was a little predictable but definitely left me wanting more!

Overall, I thought the first edition to The Spellweaver Chronicles was a fantastic read. I was entertained throughout and on the edge of my seat on some pages! I am looking forward to the second edition!

Bookish Indulgences with b00k r3vi3ws says

<http://www.b00kr3vi3ws.in/2014/02/Spe...>

Felicity Lucas had always been a loner. She liked being the invisible wallflower at school and once home, she couldn't even tell you what her mother did for living that had her travel a hell lot. When her mother dies in a car crash, Felicity is sent to live with her estranged father. A new lifestyle and a new school is enough to get any teenager nervous, but not Felicity because she likes being on her own. But things are about to change... The most popular girl in her school and her not so popular brother befriends her, she has to attend counseling sessions and she us being attacked by mysterious boy who can make fire out of nothing.

Welcome to the world of Spellweaver! The author makes this tantalizing world of magic and more very welcoming with her simple language and fluid story-telling capabilities. Felicity will soon become someone you know and while Holly will get on your nerves at times – you know her intentions are good. But then there are characters will make you wonder about their true intentions and keep you on the edge. For the most part I loved the new concepts introduced by this author and the ending of the book leaves you craving for more.

I have to admit though that at times the pace of the story got a bit slow where I wanted them to get going. Other than that, this book is a good entertainer. This being the debut work of the author the future seems to hold bright promises for her and us as well.

Leonor (Ner) says

Rating: 3,5 cups/stars

I had my eye on this book for a while since I first saw the cover. Because, let's be honest, this cover is quite appealing isn't it? But the plot also sounded something I would enjoy so, when I saw this book for free on Smashwords I had to get it and immediately start reading it.

Spellweaver was a pretty great start for a new paranormal, magical series that I really want to continue reading. Imagine a female version of Harry Potter but without Hogwarts and slightly different than the Boy Who Lived universe. You get a female character whose mother's death makes her move in with her father and start attending a new school. Meeting new people isn't easy to Felicity but there's a girl there and her brother who soon turn out to be her best-friends and together they discover there is more to the world than meets the eye. Apparently there's magic and a parallel universe where that magic is quite ordinary. And to make things even more complex to Felicity, her mother kept her powers secret and she's the new Spellweaver... meaning, she's far more powerful than a normal person who can wield magic and someone, something is after her.

This book was a bit slow at the beginning with us meeting this new character and getting a little bit of insight to what her life was like and her feeling to this new turn of events with her mother's death. Only after starting classes and meeting Hollie and her twin Jamie did the story really took shape. In terms of action it was slow paced and only at the end did you had Felicity really using her powers and the true magic kicking some butt.

Felicity was a great character that felt real. After losing her mother you expect a character with no ambitions at all and with a hole within her and Felicity had that. At first she's quiet and barely talks and you find yourself wishing she would actually react to something. That was the only thumbs-down to her character. But, apart from that, she develops and opens up becoming someone different at the end but, at the same time, never losing her essence.

Hollie and Jamie were amazing secondary characters that also grow and develop with Felicity. Their friendship first started as something a bit too far-stretched but when things begin to take shape, they prove trustworthy and loyal. Despite the fact that in the beginning when Felicity meets Hollie you kind of feel like Hollie is simply annoying because she never leaves her side. But, and using Harry Potter as a reference again (sorry about that), their friendship blossoms and it becomes strong.

Overall this was a quite enjoyable, entertaining, quick read with good characters and a plot that when developed, hooks you to the end.

Kathryn Svendsen says

Felicity Lucas' mother has just died and Felicity goes to live with her father whom she barely knows. Sent to a boarding school while living with her mother, she tended to keep very much to herself. On the first day at her new school however, she meets Hollie, one of the most popular students who sticks to "Fliss" like glue. Suddenly Felicity comes to realize what it feels like to have a friend for the first time.

This is a lovely fantasy story with more than one theme. One of the themes is the importance of friends and family. I like that Ms. Bridgeman brings this important theme into her novel in such a natural way.

Hollie helps Felicity to settle in at the new school, and since they share all the same classes that makes it easy. Since Hollie is a non-stop chatterbox, even though Felicity would rather be alone, at least she doesn't have to talk much. Gradually Hollie starts calling Felicity her BFF and Felicity begins to share things with her that she's never shared with anyone before, and finding that it feels good.

When things start to get weird and Felicity sees one of the students hold flames in his hands, and then disappear from school, and then the school counselor has her deceased mother's journal and threaten her in the hallway at school, Felicity is glad she has Hollie and her twin brother as her friends.

I liked the element of mystery with regards to the school counselor. He really didn't act like a school counselor and you had to wonder what was going on with him. He seemed rather sinister.

There are a number of plot twists in Spellweaver and Felicity learns quite a few things about her parents and herself that she never could have imagined in her wildest dreams. I thought this first book was a good beginning for the series which is to follow. It does a good job of giving the backstory to the characters and developing their personalities. I did find the ending to the story a little abrupt though.

I enjoyed Spellweaver and I will definitely be on the lookout for Book 2 of the Spellweaver Chronicles. I gave this novel 3 stars out of 5.

Thank you to the author who provided a copy of the novel in exchange for a fair and honest review. A positive opinion was not required. All thoughts are my own.

This review was published on my blog Shelf Full of Books <http://kathrynsshelffulofbooks.blogs...>
