



Spell Check

Julie Wright

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"It's a little known fact that witches are alive and well in Salem, Massachusetts . . . They call themselves cheerleaders."

Allyson Peterson believes that being hanged by the Salem High Witches is the absolute worst thing that can happen. But when her powers, wrested from the trolls of ancient Sweden, manifest themselves, she realizes that a prank hanging by vindictive cheerleaders is the least of her worries.

Ally accidentally sends her parents to the jungle to fight anacondas, turns her brother into a mute, and curses the entire cheerleading team with an illness that has no cure, proving that her spells need a little checking. Her Swedish grandmother shows up to help her through the worst part of all—surviving the Troll Trials and saving the guy of her dreams from a vengeance that has festered through-out generations.

The power is in her, if she can just get the magic right.

Spell Check Details

Date : Published June 10th 2014 by Heart Stone Press

ISBN : 9781941849002

Author : Julie Wright

Format : Paperback 218 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance

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Cindy says

This is such a fun read. As usual Julie has created wonderful characters that you will connect with. Her ability to infuse humor while creating the story, is one of the things I most like about this author. An absolute must read.

Sheila says

Spell Check is a fun story of a young woman, Ally from Salem Massachusetts, whose life is turned upside down in just a few days. Not only does she find out that her thoughtless wishes are coming true, but also that she is a witch. Turning 16 is the key that unlocks her powers and boy does this cause havoc in her and her family's life, her friends and her "frenemies" lives. I really liked how her magical powers came from the four elements of earth, air, water and fire. The best part of the book is the humor and the dialogue that will keep you laughing page after page; even when Ally is in very scary predicaments like trying to save her parents in the Amazon and during the Troll Trials.

Julie has written some of the best side characters, in Ally's 10 year old brother Robison, and her Swedish Grandmother, Farmor, who is also a witch or a Troll Kvinna. The banter between Ally and her brother and Ally and her grandmother is sarcastic and funny. There is the sweetness and uncertainty of first young love between Ally and Jake, which is all clean, but so realistic for what teens go through.

This YA Paranormal novel has so much to offer readers: mean girls that are chastised after they've bullied Ally for years, magical trolls with trials that can kill, and a rogue troll whose deception puts Jake's life at risk. This story is one of coming of age where Ally finally learns to love herself and be proud of who she truly is. This was a great message for anyone, especially teens to read.

I'm ending the review by listing some of the clever chapter titles that kept me smiling. If you like books about magic combined with great humor, you and your tweens and teens will love Spell Check.

- Note to Self: A Troll is a Lame Birthday Gift.
- Note to Self: Sleep is awesome. I should try it sometime.
- Note to Self: Just because a tiny man shows up at your door with an elk in tow doesn't prove anything about Santa Claus.
- Note to Self: Dragon Boats are sarcastic, unhelpful, and deserve to sink.
- Note to Self: No matter what happens...it can be worse. At least I'm not married to a troll.

Walter Peterson says

I just finished reading Julie Wright's new fantasy book Spell Check. It was a complete delight and a fun read. I previously have read her other books, including the Hazzardous Universe series book one and two. I hope book three will be coming out soon. This book is as interesting as it is imaginative and well written. I generally read military, spy, and thrillers, but enjoy a good fantasy every now again.

Marni says

4.5/5

I wish to thank the author for providing me with a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Doing so does not sway my review in any way.

Honestly, this has to be the best coming of age witch book I've read in ages. Perfect for the teen reader, it also draws in to the imagination of those older. Who doesn't think it would be cool to find out that they are actually a witch? Unfortunately for Ally, she didn't read the letter her grandmother had sent, so she haphazardly realized, after the fact, that she was casting spells on people.

A fun and easy read, this book flows pretty smoothly from start to finish. There are a few small bumps in the road that makes the story a bit jumpy, but all in all, it takes you for a ride that you just don't want to end. Witches and trolls have their places. A "ghost" from the past is on the prowl to get to Ally. You have your classic high school bully who gets a taste of her own medicine but than doesn't seem to know when enough is enough. A love interest that may either grow into something more or run for the hills.

The rules on what can and can't be influenced by magic are smart choices by the author. It gives the magic depth, clarity and a control. Too many times we read about witches and magic and there just doesn't seem to be a start and stopping point to them, which makes for a chaotic story line. I don't know if the author will be writing more about Ally, her magic and her family but if she did, I will read it.

Some of the book reminded me of the bumbling of Samantha in the series Bewitched and of the series, Sabrina, the Teenage Witch. Both trying to do what is right but sometimes things getting in the way and setting off a chain of events that made you giggle but also warmed you at the same time. This is a book that even though it's about witches and magic, will also warm you because of other messages that come through.

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

After finding out that the women in her family inherit powers that were wrested from the trolls of ancient Sweden, Allyson Peterson did not expect the amount of responsibility or troubles they can cause. Suddenly the saying, 'be careful of what you wish for' holds a whole new meaning. Especially after accidentally sending her parents off to the jungle to fight anacondas, cursing the cheer-leading team and turning her own little brother mute. Now her Swedish grandmother is involved in fixing her mess and preparing her for the Troll Trials, if she could survive them first.

Not at all what I expected, but it was a pleasant surprise anyway. This story felt quiet a bit juvenile to me. I was actually surprised by the main characters age of 16, since I felt she acted way younger. With the theme and the characters actions and the elements, this story probably would have done a lot better if it was for the way younger audience. Allyson's actions baffled me sometimes, but it was nice to see a bit of character growth in this book, especially for a stand-alone. The thing that seemed to have confused me the most was the odd love interest. I didn't really feel it. It was kind of awkward and I have to admit I did not expect it to

turn out the way it did in the end, it almost felt kind of forced, especially since the one big scene between Allyson and her love interest was odd, short lived, and looked like it might actually head in a completely different direction.

The plot line was cute. I thought the author had a great imagination, but once again - I felt it could have done better if it was for younger audience. Somethings did leave me feeling a bit confused. Like... Why was there a death penalty if Allyson refused to take the Vow? That was really never explained. Second, the trials felt a little silly to me. I did not understand how on earth they would benefit her in the real world. Her magic suddenly went from being simple wishes to something much more, it felt unexpected and unprepared. Third, I just could not wrap around my head why on earth Allyson's archenemy Lisa hated her so much and had caused her so much trouble. I felt that it should have been addressed a bit more in the story.

Overall, I liked the magic. The concept was cute and original. The story was fun and It did draw me in. Aside from a few things that left me confused and unsure of, this was a pleasant read.

I got a copy of this book for free in exchange of an honest review.

Kristine Hall says

Be careful what you wish for because wishes can come true! It's Ally Peterson's sixteenth birthday, and as she dangles from a tree -- the victim of a cruel prank -- maybe Ally wishes a little nastiness on bully Lisa and the rest of the cheerleaders, and maybe those wishes come true. Ally soon finds out that it is not coincidence but her family lineage that is making her wishes come true, and that even the most innocent of wishes can have dire consequences. Already Ally's life is complicated with divorced parents, bullying that's lasted for years, an annoying little brother, and a crush on a boy who seems beyond her reach. But careless wishing creates even more complications, and now the stakes are high, Ally's mistakes are many, and time is running out for Ally to master the magic. Can Ally balance her life with her new powers?

Wright tells a great story with a unique premise (trolls!!) that manages to hit on a variety of elements that readers will recognize: imperfect families, friendship, finding your strengths, figuring out who you are, falling in love. There was one line I really liked, which could be taken literally within the context of the story but also at a more basic level about humanity:

People speak of dark magic and light magic, but there is no such thing on either side — there are only people who practice in darkness and people who practice in the light.

Humor really helped carry the story along and when things got intense, the funny chapter titles served as much needed comic relief. Excellent secondary characters, like Ally's fabulous, feisty Swedish grandmother Farmor, further enhanced the story and their descriptions and actions made them easily imagined.

There were so many good messages in the book, and it was refreshingly clean -- Ally had plenty of circumstances where no one would have blamed her for dropping an Fbomb or two, but how wonderfully surprising that there was no profanity, and the romance was sweet and thoughtful (but not at all dull).

Despite the main character being sixteen years old, this book would be great for middle grade readers or older reluctant readers. The storyline doesn't get bogged down with too many details and the writing is pretty simplistic, yet highly interesting. By the end of the story, I did feel there were too many people who were

supposedly "in the know" and sworn to secrecy, and yeah, I think readers know how that probably would turn-out. And though I was happy that Ally ultimately handled being bullied, the scene itself was somewhat vague and anticlimactic.

I do have a gripe about the cover (but it didn't affect my review) -- it just doesn't fit. There are no spell books or fancy form fitting dresses for Ally, and if anything, Farmor mocks the preconceived notions of witches and spells.

I received this book from Ebooks For Review in exchange for my honest review -- the only kind I give.

Chelsea Nissalke says

I LOVED THIS BOOK!!! Julie ties in the struggle of high school matched with magical powers so well, I didn't want to put the book down. This book really makes people think about those strange "accidents" that tend to happen in high school. The characters are easy to relate to. Can't wait for more books from Julie Wright!!

Kathy says

Spell Check is a fun book appropriate for almost any age. I enjoyed it reading it as an adult, it would work as a read aloud to my 8 year old or I could give it to my 12 year old to read on his own.

Set in Salem, Spell Check weaves a tale with a new spin on witches based on Scandinavian folklore. While somewhat predictable this story has lot of unique elements that made it an enjoyable ready.

If you enjoy fantasy and are looking for an original, entertaining story that is squeaky clean give Spell Check a try. It's a story with a good blend of fantasy, friendship, family and fun with a little romance mixed in.

Rating: 4.5 Stars - Highly Recommend

Content: Squeaky Clean

Source: Amazon

(;Missy.Lala;) says

Everyone knows that witches are myths, and are very well known in childhood fairytales, and people once

believed that they used to exists before the 1600s. Well, if they did exist today, we would really use the term "witches" another word for female dog, which is what we like to call to cheerleaders.

Well, in this story witches are real (no not what we call the really mean people that treat others who are lower than them kind of witches, REAL witches!!!)

We have a girl named Allyson; Who believes that being hanged by the Salem High Witches is the absolute worst thing that can happen. But when her powers, wrested from the trolls of ancient Sweden, manifest themselves, she realizes that a prank hanging by vindictive cheerleaders is the least of her worries.

I know right? I mean one minute she's normal, and thinks that that is the worst thing that could've happened to her, but then she finds out she is this paranormal witch figurine, and now embarrassing herself in highschool isn't so bad after all!!!

So of course, when Ally finds out she has these "mythical powers now" she starts panicking and freaking out, she accidentally sends her parents to the jungle to fight anacondas, turns her brother into a mute, and curses the entire cheerleading team with an illness that has no cure, proving that her spells need a little checking.

So, to help her with her "issues" her Swedish grandmother shows up to help her out of nowhere!!!

Her grandmother helps her survive the Troll Trials, with controlling her powers, and save the guy of her dreams from a vengeance that has festered throughout generations.

What she doesn't know is, that she may just be the only witch living in the planet, which leaves "the" power in her; but that's if she can just get the magic right.

So this book was a light, and funny read. I enjoyed it :) this book was at first hard to get into because I've never read stuff about witches, so I gave it a shot to "expand my horizons", and I ended up liking it :) so I'll definitely read more about witches and from this author in the future.

Louisa says

Oh, man, such a great book! Wish I'd read it on Halloween, oh, well! So good! Kinda wish it was a series, but it ended in a good place!

Full Review from Blog:

I really enjoyed this book, so much! It was a nice, cute, sweet book, with a thread of seriousness, in the magic, and the responsibilities there, between the trolls and the treaty made, but yeah, there were just a lot of hilarious comments!

I really enjoyed the notes to self, they were hilarious, like one was a repeat of a previous one, and then a sub note, was to remember to look at and heed the self notes, they were just hilarious! And they told a bit about what would happen in that chapter!

Lisa, as an antagonist, is strange. Well, she's the leader of the popular people, and she's just pretty much had a hate on, on Ally, calling her Ally Cat, and yeah, pranking Ally. And then she says she's nice, and actually

believed it. So yeah, liked when Ally stood up for herself!

That the whole bad guy thing was because of how the male trolls took the magic from the females, and then some human hunter ladies found it, and it became absorbed into their bloodlines? And that the female trolls wanted it back? And so she lied about the oaths? Yeah, that was a some nice twisty-ness, not for Ally, though!

Really enjoyed this book, it was really funny and great, and yeah, it was just really, really good!

Alice says

As an aging adult, I enjoyed reading this book! It wasn't exactly a mature YA book - sort of more on the juvenile side of YA; but most any teenage girl would really love it, I think. And it is clean and has a good moral code between the lines.

At first, I was afraid this was going to be too juvenile (for my book group) when it opened with a cruel, immature prank the "popular" girls played on Ally; but it moved on from that, and Wright was able to put in a lot of underlying things that many of us go/went through as teenagers, like trying to get your parents back together; wishing you had magical powers; teenage romance; and other subtleties woven in.

Little things, like "Note to self" made it very fun and likable. It was interesting to see how Wright was able to neatly pull all the loose ends together. Being a quick-read is another plus for me! :)

[Julie - please come to our book group Thursday. I know you live 4-5 hours away, but you'll make Deleen soooo "in" with the popular girls if you do!! (No worries, there, though; she already is popular!) ;)

Jenboyack says

I was introduced to Julie Wright's stories through her Newport Ladies Book Club series, and her books have been one of my "go-to" choices ever since.

I opened up *Spell Check* with the intention of reading a couple chapters before getting things done for the day. *Spell Check* had me hooked from the first page. Julie's characters leap to life, and quickly become likeable and relatable. Julie can see straight into the soul of an awkward teenage girl and help her find her power. I could not stop reading even though I kept telling myself, "just one more chapter."

I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes magical stories. Just make sure you don't have to do anything else until you finish the last page.

Heather says

What a fun story from Julie Wright. I've read her romances as well as her Middle Grade novels (Hazzardous

Universe), and this was a fun surprise. I wasn't surprised at the humor and the fabulous characters, which are Wright's specialty. Set in Salem, with just a little magic, this is the perfect summer read for adults and teens alike.

Stephonie says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I found myself laughing out loud quite often. When I had to put it down I couldn't wait to pick it back up again.

Summer Peterson says

Spell Check was a super fun read taking some old ideas (witches, girl finding out she has powers) and making them new and fresh (trolls and witch trials that are totally unlike anything that happened in Salem). The story had great humor with some laugh-out-loud moments. I loved the notes to self and the reindeer at the doorstep. Fast read. Good heart.
