



Tangled Webs

Anne Bishop

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The invitation is signed "Jaenelle Angelline," and it summons her family to a special soirée. But when her guests enter the house, they find themselves trapped in a living nightmare created by the Black Widow witches—and if they try to use Craft as protection, they risk being sealed in the house forever.

But Jaenelle did not send the invitation. And now she and the rest of her family must rescue the others inside—and then find out who has created such a place, and why...

Tangled Webs Details

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From Reader Review Tangled Webs for online ebook

Miss Ginny Tea says

Blah. Surreal as a damsel in distress struggling to survive until The Men can come rescue her. Blah. Sure, she's stronger than the man with her, but he's gay, so it doesn't count. I'm all for exploring the awesome relationship between Saetan, Daemon, and Lucivar, but to kill 20 women and children to set up the premise and then recast Surreal as a (damaged) damsel in distress just sucks.

Gee, I wonder if Bishop's working on a book in which Surreal meets a strong warlord who thinks her past is awesome and is going to heal all her pain with his cock. Of course, The Men will be protective but optimistic. ugh.

Dangermousie says

This book will likely make little sense to anyone who hasn't read and loved the Black Jewels Trilogy but to someone, like me, who was obsessed with those books, this is a delicious treat.

Tbh, I view all the books Bishop wrote in the Jewels world after the Trilogy ended as the best kind of fanfiction - glimpses into the life of characters I feel too attached to part with even if I pick and choose what to insert into 'my' canon.

The plot is kinda slim - Surreal gets menaced by a creepy homicidal house, boo-hoo - but that is not why I read the book or why I loved it. No, what I needed and got from it was further glimpses into the lives of the SaDiablo family - from uberDaddy Saetan, to my OTP-to-end-all-OTPs Daemon and Jaenelle, to Lucivar, adorable with his wife and kid.

It's really great to see them all move on with their lives and heal from the wounds of their pasts - yet more issues are addressed and resolved (and let's face it, between Jeanelle, Daemon and Lucivar, there is not a happy childhood or functional past to be had, is there?)

So yes, there is a plot and a bad guy (who gets his comeuppance) but I read it for Saetan hiding from his high energy family by supposedly sorting 'priceless books,' Jeanelle dragging appalled to the roots of her neatfreak soul Marian into her haunted house idea, deadliest-person-ever Daemon getting milk from Tessa and drinking it because she is his mother and he loves her, Lucivar cuddling toddler Daemonar as he falls asleep in his arms, Jeanelle banishing Daemon's inner demons through being Jeanelle, Surreal trying to flip through her book pages to peek at the end, and Marian and Lucivar using chairs for other than G-rated purposes (and being so tender and trusting with each other, which is super awesome given their past).

So yes - a lovely little gift for the Trilogy fans.

CupcakeBlonde says

While this book was not as good as the original three stories in The Black Jewels Trilogy it was a wonderful

book and brought all of the main characters back, whom I adore. Especially Dameon and Lucivar who have pivotal roles in this tale and learn a great deal about themselves and where they came from, something everyone should know after thousands of years of living. Anne Bishop has a way of making this incredible fantasy world seem capable of existing. While reading these books I can envision a world where there are people who possess power and magic to help them rule the territories they keep. Such people of deep honor, tradition and class that must hold themselves above the people they rule due to the nature of their being. She makes us love these characters and feel for them. And wish we could talk to each other on a Jewel thought thread.

This book was better than *Dreams Made Flesh* (which confused me a bit trying to keep all the different times where each story took place correct in my head) and has an interesting plot line. How to these people, who use Craft unknowingly for everything in their life, deal with not being able to use it at all? I was able to figure out many of the little twists before they happened, and before the characters, but it still riveted me and left me yearning for more from my favored heroes and heroines. One thing I did enjoy was that this book focused more on Surreal, Daemon and Lucivar. While I did miss Jeanelle's interaction a bit, she took such a big role in the other three Jewel books it was nice to let the other characters shine. However it did disturb me a bit that she did not take a more active role in helping in the end and left it for Daemon and Lucivar to solve, something I didn't think she would ever do (or Witch would ever do) but as she is still recovering from the end of the Trilogy perhaps she could not do as much as she would have liked.

All around a very good read and a fascinating story. And it makes me want to read the Trilogy again.

Karina says

Anne Bishop's skill with words rivals her characters' skill with magic: she weaves beautifully compelling characters and stories that enchant the mind and leave you wanting more.

And as those of you who have read my other reviews know, I rarely rave this much about an author, but Anne Bishop is my favorite by far.

When I happened upon book one of the Black Jewels trilogy, which *Tangled Webs* is sort of a sequel to, I could not put it down, ran out to buy the next two the very next day, and read every instant I did not absolutely have to eat, sleep, or work. I immersed myself in Anne Bishop's words and world and did not emerge until a few hours after I had read the last word.

What's even more rare is that my mental red pencil (I've worked in publishing for too long and therefore am always correcting typos and/or grammatical errors in my head) is quiet the whole time I'm reading her books since there is not one false note or one extraneous scene.

Okay, so a little bit more about this book. Although many of the Black Jewels' favorites are back--including Saetan, Daemon, Lucivar, and Jeanelle--the book revolves mainly around Surreal.

When a "landan" (non-Blood and therefore non-magic using) writer accidentally discovers that he's Blood after all, and he doesn't get the reception he's expecting from the stronger Blood (not knowing their caste system and protocol), he decided to take revenge by inviting them to his "spooky" house, where he forces them to fight for their lives against predators and spells--*without* using "Craft" (magic).

The story has suspense, magic, humor, passion, love...everything you could ask for in a good book. I highly recommend this book and all of Anne Bishop's books to anyone who likes fantasy and/or just an amazingly well-written book.

Ashley says

This book is a kind-of-but-not-really sequel to the trilogy in that it takes place after it, and I don't recommend reading it unless you've read the Black Jewels Trilogy. Obviously, it's not set on such an epic scale. The "plot" itself sounds rather silly: Surreal and her escort get trapped in a deadly(!) "spooky house" that was set up by a pompous writer who wants to get revenge on the SaDiablo family, and so, of course, Daemon and Lucivar have to do their "Evil Twin* Powers! Activate!" routine in order to get her out.

On a more serious note, it's really a story about what it mean to be Blood, and about some of the SaDiablo men's Issues. (Because there are very many.)

On a less serious note, read the book and marvel at Lucivar's awesomeness!

It was a fun, quick read, and for a while there, I couldn't put it down, but it kind of fizzled out at the end. Anne Bishop's bad guys are kind of underwhelming after a while. They're very easy to hate, which I guess is part of what makes the books fun. But, come on, how many tales about people exploding from sexual pleasure at the sight of Daemon and lasers shooting from Lucivar's eyes** do people need to hear before they realize that if you mess with the SaDiablo family, you're going to get your ass handed to you cheek by cheek, along with your other body parts. You'd think there would have been a memo going around by now.

Haha, this series makes me silly. I want more!

* And by "twins," I mean "half-brothers," but it just doesn't sound as cool.

** Kidding, kidding! He doesn't shoot lasers from his eyes. He shoots lasers from his hands.

Gwen (The Gwendolyn Reading Method) says

This book was sweet, but less engaging than a book about a haunted house made real should be. I love Anne Bishop and I loved the bits that were an insight into Jeweled family life, but the haunted house itself fell flat. Watch my video review

? BookAddict La Crimson Femme says

Another Black Jewel novel is always exciting for me. In this one, all I could think of was, "uh oh, someone is going to get a spanking when they get out of this haunted house". Surreal, I wish there was a little side story of what Lucivar did as a punishment after she was healed. While the plot of this story is pretty hokey. Still, it was fun for me because I loved seeing my favourite characters all back together again. This was a happier sweet story. Light read and nice insight into the secondary characters.

Jessica says

Anything after The Black Jewels trilogy will seem completely inconsequential in comparison. After all, what's left to do after you've already killed all the bad guys and saved the world? This book serves as a sharp reminder that even though all the bad guys are gone, that doesn't necessarily mean there aren't still problems in society, ie. neglected orphans, subpar schools, random psycho weirdos.

The plot here was subpar, I felt. There's a line from Surreal in the beginning of the book:

She clapped her hands to her cheeks, widened her eyes, and wagged her head. "Oh! Look! It's the gardener. Who is dead. And look! There's blood on the hedge clippers. Do you think it's a clue?"

For some reason, that's exactly how I feel about this story: really obvious and everything was too neatly concluded. Not to mention, there are some random side stories that have nothing to do with the plot, but I think were "gifts" from Bishop to her fans who want to find out more about the main characters' histories and stuff. It would have been a better idea to turn those side stories into separate novels, rather than drop them in this book, where they have no place.

Michelle says

Bishop tells us right up front in this book that "the big battle has been won, the big tale has been told," and that this is just a day-in-the-life-of sort of story. which is to say 2 very obvious things: 1)don't start here, 2)it's nowhere near as good as the books that *did* tell the big story.

but you knew that, thanks to the handy disclaimer up front. you don't particularly mind though (those of us who loved those previous entries, anyway), since Bishop is absolutely *killer* at characterization. that's really what made those other books so much fun. this novel feels like a short story that got plumped up with a lot of side travels so that the reader could check in on all those fave characters one more time. and they're doing fine, life moves on after the big battle apparently, and that's pretty much what this book is all about. nothing earth-shattering, no big changes for our crew, but a fun little diversion anyway.

Tom says

Even though it wasn't the most intense book of the series I still really liked it! I started this in September and got side tracked. I wish I would have finished it then because this is a great Halloween read and would be a great time to pimp this book to lovers of the series. Janelle and Marian want to start a haunted house and things start going really wrong. It was more like a social visit to the world for most of the book until Lucivar stepped up to show who was boss and then the intensity kicked in!

valee says

I actually read this book thinking it was the 5th book in the series. I guess the fact that I never realized I had skipped a book without noticing, even after I was done, says a lot...THIS BOOK WAS REALLY BAD. While I adored the original trilogy, I felt like I wanted to tear every single page off. The plot was terrible, exactly like a Jigsaw movie but for all audiences, really depressing. No content at all, everything was terribly shallow and superficial. I just didn't care for anything that was going on, I just wanted the damn book to end.

While I love the characters and always enjoy reading about them, NOTHING MADE SENSE. Witch should have never been this powerless, or careless. It's almost as if she wasn't a part of the book. We see a side of her that will completely ruin everything you've read so far. She becomes this insignificant female you would not care to know. That powerful and almighty queen we love does not make an appearance on this installment, instead we see a shallow girl who doesn't resemble the Witch at all. And the romance between Her and Deamon will leave you weeping for its nonexistence. So tragic, for in the first 3 books we see a romance like no other growing up hard and fast.

I don't know, I'm truly frustrated and depressed. I did want to read more about the characters, but I never thought they would change so much. I'm heavyhearted because while the first 3 books were great, this one was truly one I would have been better not reading it.

Debrac2014 says

Good story! I almost lost interest because of the slow moving beginning but the story line picked up around the time Luciver's invitation arrived! Poor Torsa, I'm glad she got her revenge!

Yui says

Unlike the previous books this one doesn't have a complicated plot. It was actually quite silly and very used. Some crazy man thinks too much of himself and his arrogance and sense of self superiority lead him to take unreasonable revenge to the most powerful family in all realm. If you've read the first trilogy (not necessary to enjoy this particular book) you'll actually sympathize with the villain since it's painfully obvious what would happen to him once his own game caught up with him. I never once doubt that the villain will be begging for his own death at the end and this certainty might be enough for some readers to spoil the book but it didn't for me since it gave me doubts and mystery in other areas like who's -if any- is going to die. ^-^ That and the horror house theme is the silly part.

What I liked most in this installment is the extended and more elaborate show of the previous main characters' family interaction. I crave these things since very often a novel when it reach the HEA, an epilogue (If the writer is generous) isn't enough to tie up perhaps not the mystery but the emotional side. Esp. in a long series that you spent years to love the characters. Sometimes the few pages of HEA, after years of anticipation and thousands of pages of the heroes' trials and sufferings, doesn't feel very fair or enough. So, when neatly done (no matter how silly the plot is) I really appreciate follow ups like this.

The writing is good and even though the spooky house plot is like a borrowed b-horror movie, it's the family interaction that's the main attraction for this book.

Kaci says

What a spectacular visit back to the world of the black jewels! Ms. Bishop's best work is without a doubt her Black Jewels series and this long await return does not disappoint.

Trapped in a web of danger created by Jarvis Jenkell, Surreal and Rainier try to escape, while guarding the children, they unknowingly brought into the web with them.

Forced to work from outside the web to rescue Surreal and Rainier, Lucifer, Daemon, and Janelle race against a mad man to save them.

Kara-karina says

Wow, this was different! Surreal and Rainier were the main characters of the book but Daemon, Lucivar and Jaenelle weren't left far behind. This book is a perfect Halloween read, peeps! It involves an evil house designed to trap and kill SaDiablo family and their very gory struggle to stay alive and destroy this house. Chilly, scary and very intense, this was a fantastic read!
