
Lisa Lutz

Curse of the Spellmans (The Spellmans #2)



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Description

In this sidesplittingly funny follow-up to the *New York Times* bestselling *The Spellman Files*, San Francisco's own highly functioning yet supremely dysfunctional family of private investigators are back on the case in another mystery full of suspicion, surveillance, humor, and surprise from award-winning author Lisa Lutz. *Curse of the Spellmans* was nominated for both the Edgar Award and the Macavity Award, and the Izzy Spellman Mysteries have earned comparisons to everything from Carl Hiaasen and Janet Evanovich to Veronica Mars and Bridget Jones.

When Izzy Spellman, PI, is arrested for the fourth time in three months, she writes it off as a job hazard. She's been (obsessively) keeping surveillance on a suspicious next door neighbor (suspect's name: John Brown), convinced he's up to no good—even if her parents (the management at Spellman Investigations) are not.

When the (displeased) management refuses to bail Izzy out, it is Morty, Izzy's octogenarian lawyer, who comes to her rescue. But before he can build a defense, he has to know the facts. Over weak coffee and diner sandwiches, Izzy unveils the whole truth and nothing but the truth—as only she, a thirty-year-old licensed professional, can.

When not compiling Suspicious Behavior Reports on all her family members, staking out her neighbor, or trying to keep her sister, Rae, from stalking her “best friend,” Inspector Henry Stone, Izzy has been busy attempting to apprehend the copycat vandal whose attacks on Mrs. Chandler's holiday lawn tableaux perfectly and eerily match a series of crimes from 1991–92, when Izzy and her best friend, Petra, happened to be at their most rebellious and delinquent. As *Curse of the Spellmans* unfolds, it's clear that Morty may be on retainer, but Izzy is still very much on the case...er, cases—her own and that of every other Spellman family member.

Lisa Lutz brings her trademark wit and humor back in what *Publishers Weekly* calls a “sparkling sequel.” (Re)meet the Spellmans, a family in which eavesdropping is a mandatory skill, locks are meant to be picked, past missteps are never forgotten, and blackmail is the preferred form of negotiation—all in the name of unconditional love.

Insightful reviews

Jeanne: Izzy's back! I was so excited to see a sequel to *The Spellman Files*.

So, we revisit Isabel and the rest of the Spellman family, but they're not as colorful as I remember them. The Spellman parents aren't as nose-y, and her younger sister, Rae, is not the little spy she was in the first book. And her perfect brother, David, isn't so perfect anymore. Only Izzy remains in that crazy Spellman zone--ever suspicious of everyone and everything.

And this is where our story begins. A new neighbor for the Spellman's sparks Izzy's interest. Who is this John Brown? And why is one of the rooms in his home ALWAYS locked? It's up to Izzy to find out!

Along with this minute mystery, there is the wacky relationship between Rae and Inspector Henry Stone, as well as the constant, yet unsuccessful vacationing of the elder Spellmans.

I remember really liking the first Spellman book, but I can't get as excited about this one. I don't think it was as funny as the first one, which is a shame.

3/23/08

Mayda: Curse of the Spellmans by Lisa Lutz

Do not read "Curse of the Spellmans" unless you have already read "The Spellman Files," in which case, stop whatever you're doing (unless, you know, you happen to be in the middle of a brain operation and you are just killing time reading this review). Now, where was I . . . hmmm . . . oh yes, if you have read "The Spellman Files," waste no time in reading the second installment in the series. I haven't quite decided if the Spellmans are on the getting or the giving end of the curse, or maybe it's both, but I know you won't want to miss Izzy's adventures as she is hot on the trail of a (maybe) killer. But if you are in the middle of surgery, you should probably finish that first.

Alli: Not worth re-reading and/or suggesting to anyone else. Although at times it was funny, overall I felt bad for the characters and myself! I felt like the author was talking down to me, the fact that the protagonist is a 30 year old woman who narrates in a more juvenile way than her 16 year old sister makes her INCREDIBLY hard to empathize with or to root for at all...

Basic Summary - Isabel Spellman works as a PI for her parents and has a 15-year-old sister who is a bit crazy but idolizes Isabel. The driving force behind the entire novel is that Isabel believes her parents' new neighbor is suspicious...and that's it. She stalks him, tries to break into a less than exciting locked room in his apartment, follows him, etc etc...Perhaps not surprisingly, he turns out being a good guy with valid reasons behind his "suspicious behavior." Really. That's it. This only comes to a head in the last two chapters or so. The only way readers can get through the rest of the book is with the comic relief of Rae (Isabel's sister) and Henry Stone - a cop who has somehow become sucked into the weirdness of the Spellman family and adopted Rae as his own personal project (mainly because he can't get rid of her).

Not the WORST but definitely left me feeling less than satisfied.

Dennis: Lutz has created a lineup of endearing and comical characters within the Spellman family. I loved this follow-up to The Spellman records that choices up the place Isabel and her fellow inner most investigators left off spying on someone and everybody of their lives, together with neighbors, friends, and naturally each one other. As within the first publication the mystery, thus surrounding next-door neighbor topic (John Brown), quite turns out subordinate to the relational supply and take among Isabel, her teenage sister Rae, mom and dad who more and more take "disappearances," their good friend Officer Henry Stone, and others. The dry humor and witty banter introduced with deadpan is correct up my alley and with ideal pitch it frames the loopy situations Isabel time and again reveals herself in because of her 30-going-on-13 antics. it

is a enjoyable and smart series, thankfully with extra volumes left in store.

Michelle: So how can whatever be so solid and coherent and but be so random and rambling? i do not suggest random in a damaging manner at all. In fact, i locate the randomness really charming, simply as i locate Isabel Spellman particularly captivating and funny. Izzy and the full Spellman extended family are a number of nut cases, however the tales paintings for me. In this, the second one installment of the Spellman series, Izzy unearths herself busy surveilling the neighbor who's absolutely as much as no good; her teenage sister Rae has run over her "best friend"...a forty-something-year-old inspector named Henry, and Henry, now not surprisingly, is fed up; her essentially excellent older brother David has misplaced his razor sharp edge; her mom is sneaking out of the home in any respect hours; and her father, well, he is secretly on a brand new came upon future health kick. and there's more...but i will spare you the run down. Like I said...random. What i like approximately Lutz's tale is that every thing seems occurring all at once, and so the radical may still suppose chaotic. but in some way it doesn't. She shifts from subplot to subplot seamlessly, even supposing she is relocating from one clash to the following rather quickly. i'd liken it to a pro race vehicle driver, taking you out for a fast spin at the Autobahn in a Mercedes Benz. even supposing you will necessarily be going so very fast, the experience will be completely smooth. i feel i might wish to attempt that a few day. And then, of course, there are the "mysteries" that Izzy needs to solve. i will pass forward and admit that the significant conflict, Izzy's obsession with the guy subsequent door's deepest life, used to be quite effortless to determine out, however the others are a section extra puzzling, so there has been adequate pressure within the ready to work out what could ensue subsequent that i did not become bored or are looking to scream "DUH!" the complete time i used to be reading. Moreover, those books relatively aren't in regards to the mysteries and are extra concerning the characters and their ridiculous antics, specifically Izzy and Rae...or Rae and Henry, who make fairly the comedic team, actually. i am telling you, the characters listed here are a breath of unpolluted air, and so is the story, whether it's not so mysterious. And this can be in most cases as a result of Lutz's wry humorousness and perfect comedic timing. In fact, i love this one a bit greater than I cherished the first, and that i quite loved the first. I'm extremely joyful to have chanced on those little gems, and that i cannot wait to learn the following within the series.

Sally: I so loved this book. The snort out loud quirky characters made for a quick, light, relaxing read. certainly now not deep, yet fairly entertaining.

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