



Sugar Spells

Lola Dodge

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For fans of Hex Hall, The Magicians, Practical Magic, and Food Wars!

After her run-in with a jealous warlock, apprentice baker Anise Wise can't wait to get back the kitchen where she belongs. But thanks to her brush with death, the land of the living isn't all cupcakes and marshmallows.

Anise's magical mojo is way out of whack and her evolving powers are stirring up trouble. As the town buzzes with news that Anise can bake deathly spells, unsavory characters start lining up for a taste. They'll stop at nothing for the chance to use Anise and her witchcraft to further their own plots.

She plans to hole up researching magic recipes until the attention dies down, but then she discovers the horrifying terms of her bodyguard's contract. Wynn has saved her life so many times, she can't leave him trapped. But doing the right thing will mean risking death or worse—being cast out of her dream job.

For this witch, justice might not be as sweet as advertised.

Sugar Spells Details

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Author : Lola Dodge

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From Reader Review Sugar Spells for online ebook

Alaina says

I have received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review.

WARNING: SPOILERS BELOW

Maybe..

Okay, yes this review will have some.

Read at your own risk!

For the love of baking and all kinds of fun magic!

Sugar Spells was a pretty quick and cute book to dive into. I loved getting to see the darker side of magic with this book - even if it is with baking yummy treats! Anise is so lovable and I liked seeing her go through every day troubles. Baking can be hard (for some people) and it sucks when you've slaved all day (or an hour or two) baking and it all just dies. Burnt to a crisp. Inedible basically. Unless you like food like that..

Well Anise's magic has definitely gone through something. It's not her magic anymore really. Of course, when you try to bring people back from the "dead" they tend to change. At least she still had her humor and Wynn. OH WYNN - I definitely was seeing some tension between them. I was hoping for some kind of romance but I think their friendship actually becoming a thing was beautiful to read.

Of course I still ship them and I hope they are a thing in the next book .. because you can't hint such things and not give me anything!! I will be distraught guys. Besides the baking and the hints of romance, there were familiars and vampires! The vampire bats in that damn cave kind of creeped me out (a bit) .. yet they were oddly adorable at the same time. Well, when they weren't trying to suck the blood from ya!

Overall, it was a cute book with some danger, twists, turns, and some wicked vampires. I loved seeing her friends again and more about their lives. I kind of wish I was in this little town because it sounds awesome!

Elley Murray says

Rating: 3.5 stars

OK, maybe this wasn't the best book to read while on a low carb diet, haha. Once again this book goes pretty heavily into the details of the things Anise is baking, so if you're into watching *The Great British Bake-Off* and *Charmed* then this book might be for you! If cooking shows bore you, you might want to move along...

After her exploits in *Deadly Sweet*, Anise's fire magic is left tainted with death magic and she can't bake. If you've read the first book in the series, this is basically game over, life is ruined for Anise. (And if you haven't read the first book in the series, what are you even doing here? This is the second book in a series, and no, it can't be read as a stand alone. Go read *Deadly Sweet* first, then come back, you weirdo.) She's desperate to get her baking mojo back - by any means necessary, even if it means baking murder macaroons for a local vampire who is not-quite-right-in-the-head. Especially once she finds out the terms of Wynn's contract, and realizes that there's a way she can use this unwanted power to his advantage.

I love that we get a look inside Gabi's family's cryptozoology vet clinic in this book! I'd have loved to get a little more of a look into that aspect of the world, but they pretty much say that because of Anise's fire magic (to say nothing of being tainted with death magic) she'll have a hard time getting the creatures to warm up to her, so she doesn't get to go exploring much. It feels like there are a lot of little threads of possible storylines that get sort of picked up in this book and then never actually lead anywhere, which was disappointing. Still, it was a fun story, and I enjoyed reading about Wynn opening up a little more with Anise, as well as reading about her power continuing to grow. **BUT WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?! SHE MISSED SO MUCH CLASS AND NOBODY CARES!! AHHH!** The Ravenclaw in me is not OK with this!!

Nora Eliana says

Sugar Spells is the second installment in a cozy little witch series. It's perfect if you want to celebrate the spooky season without actually reading spooky books. Or just want a cute little book about witches, baking, and lots of magic.

I read the first book nearly a year ago and I quite enjoyed it. If you want to you can check out my review of it here.

But to quickly recap (no spoilers, don't worry) the first book Deadly Sweet was a lot of fun and a very new reading experience for me. Usually, I gravitate towards dark and gritty books not a lot of cozy, or happy books. But that's exactly what both books are. Now there is trouble Anise the mc has to go through. But the atmosphere is just ... so homey. It was very predictable though.

Now, this book, Sugar Spells, has the same atmosphere with some darker undertones mixed in. And it was a little less predictable. I enjoyed reading it a lot. It's still a very quick read, but was great for that. I am curious to see what happens in the third books. Towards the end, a lot of things happened where I want to see how they play out. And I've grown to care for these people.

I love the characters and how helpful everyone is. That's so good to see. The family relationships are great and the friendships! It a huge strength of these books and something I very much appreciate. It's not that often to see in books (especially the kind of books I usually read)

Just a thing you should know ... you'll have a lot of baking to do.

I baked brownies the day after finishing Sugar spells.

There is so much talk about all the delicious things Anise bakes or Agatha, her great-aunt, sells in her shop and just ..I mean you just have to look at the covers to know what to expect. they represent perfectly how the books are. And their stunning!

Maureen Moyes says

I read the first book, Deadly Sweet, after being approved to read second book on Netgalley.

I enjoyed the first read and this book continued and was as enjoyable. These are simple stories with lots of wonderful tasty bakes and a cozy magical feel. Perfect read for on the couch with a snuggle blanket on a wet afternoon.

Thank you to NetGalley, Inscribe Digital and Lola Dodge for the opportunity to read and review this novel prior to publication.

All reviews are available on my blog www.momobookdiary.com

Lindsay says

The story picks up exactly where Deadly Sweet left off. Anise has death magic rattling through her body and can no longer bake at her great-aunt's bakery until the magic is dispelled. Her friends try and help wean the green coated magic from Anise, but the process is relentless. No matter how much Anise drains the magic through baking charred concoctions, it still remains inside of her. Upon meeting a shady vampire named Giraar and learning more about Wynn's past, Anise decides to strike a deal with the vamp so everybody wins: her necromancy magic will be drained through constant baking, the macaroons she bakes will be given to Giraar since he loves death magic, and in payment Giraar will hand over gems and gold coins that will be saved up and used to buy Wynn's freedom from his Shield life. So what could go wrong?

There's something magical swept into the pages of this series, and it took me so long to finish because I knew I had to wait until March for the next installment. We learned about Wynn's past which resulted in a friendship slowly blooming between Wynn and Anise (and hopefully something more in the next book). Unlike Deadly Sweet, the main focus was on Wynn and Anise as they struck a deal with the devil and paid the consequences. I didn't mind not having the other characters in the spotlight since I loved the interactions between Wynn and Anise. The only reason I rated this four stars was because the last ~15% felt weird compared to the rest of the story.

March cannot arrive fast enough and I excitedly look forward to the next adventure!

Thank you Edelweiss for an ARC.

Rebecca Reviews says

Lola Dodge's *Sugar Spells* is a quick, entertaining, and well-written read filled with magic and delicious baked treats. Although I wish some of the characters and certain elements of the plot were more developed, this is a great read. It's an excellent second addition to *The Spellwork Syndicate* series.

Our protagonist is teen baker and kitchen witch Anise Wise who is recovering from her brush with death at the hands of a murderous warlock. She can't wait to get back to whipping up magical treats but life isn't so simple. She is tainted with death magic and everything she bakes turns out disastrously. Her new powers also attract the attention of unsavoury magical beings. She's also trying to find a way to free her Shield, Wynn from servitude. When Anise combines baking the death magic out with attempting to earn enough money to free Wynn, things go terribly wrong.

I love that this book delves deeper into the magic world. Dodge gives us enough to keep us invested but does not overwhelm us. The introduction to the other magical beings in Taos is really well-done. The plot is interesting and well-paced. But, I would have liked more mystery with regards to the creepy Girror. I also wish the main villain's storyline was more developed and better explained.

Dodge touches on heavy issues but deftly avoids being heavy-handed or too superficial. The book explores indentured servitude in the magical world as well as how Anise copes with the changes within herself and her magic.

Anise is a great and likable protagonist. She's relatable and realistic. I like Wynn's character development and I enjoyed seeing him show more personality than just being grumpy. I love how the relationship evolves between Wynn and Anise as they grow to trust and understand each other. I sense Dodge may be heading towards a romance and I'm looking forward to it because she's taken the time to build up a great rapport between them. I actually really like that Dodge barely features romance in this series but instead, focuses on character development and platonic relationships which is so rarely seen in YA literature.

But, I would have liked more of Anise's friends, Gabi and Blair. They are interesting but underutilized. I would have also liked a more substantial relationship between Anise and great-aunt Agatha.

Sugar Spells is a fun magical read. Although I would've liked some more development of character and plot, I absolutely recommend this book. I cannot wait for book three!

Thank you to NetGalley and Ink Monster, LLC for this book in exchange for an honest review.

Erin Sky says

Sugar Spells fulfills the promise of *Deadly Sweet*, becoming everything I had hoped this series would be!

Don't you just love these covers? The first one sucked me right in, and I love this one even more. But what's true of the covers is just as true of the books!

Anise is still in Taos, but her previous adventures did not leave her unscathed. Without spoilers (for either this book or book one), she finds herself more deeply immersed in the world of magic, becoming more aware of its darker side—whether she wants to or not. Now she's struggling to figure out how she fits in, who she's going to be, and what exactly is happening to her powers.

The first book, *Deadly Sweet*, intrigued me enough to request the second. With *Sugar Spells*, Lola Dodge's Spellwork Syndicate series has become one of my fun-read favorites. I wanted to see Anise come more into her own, learning from past mistakes and making better choices, and she's definitely doing her best to rise to the hero's call. Better yet, she's doing it believably, with her own personal style. Anise is never going to be a smooth, cut-off-your-head-with-a-scimitar kind of heroine, and she isn't trying to be. She just Anise, only, you know, more heroic.

The world also becomes richer in this novel. We get to see a bit more of the different kinds of magic, and we're introduced to a few new venues. But my personal favorite thing is that we get to delve deeper into characters who weren't fully explored in book one. Anise's future in Taos is on the line, and while she's had friends here from the beginning, it's time for her to start building a real team—if she wants to survive.

Loved it, loved it, loved it! Can't wait for book three!!!

Luupi "The Reading Queen" says

If you haven't read Deadly Sweet, you definitely should do it!

This second book is so sweet, inspiring and just fun to read. On one of my status I mentioned that the cover represents really well the inside and it's because everything feels like a *princess fairytale* and I would definitely read these books to my kids if I had them ❤️?.

"Is there anything else I can do?" "Live" Peggy said. "Dance, kiss, love and don't fixate on what's wrong. If you can be passionately yourself, death will never hold sway over you."

Our main character, Anise, is still one of my favorites. I love how she's always paying attention to the people around her trying to help and the beautiful way she uses her powers. It was heartbreaking to see her struggling to bake, the thing she loves doing the most. However, at the same time, it made me realise how there was so many people trying to help her because everyone just adore her like I do.

"Could you just try not killing as a go-to? At least in the name of protecting me?" "No."

One of those people protecting Anise is our Shield, Wynn. ***I love him*** and I would love to be like him too, such a badass and always trying to start a fight haha. Here we get to know a little bit of his past because he starts opening up bit by bit and let me tell you, saying I got angry and I wanted to protect him (*IDK how I would do it haha*) is an understatement.

Another character we get to know better was Gabi, one of Anise best friends. I just adore their friendship, how all three of them have each others back and would do anything at anytime to help. Also, ***I would love to live in Gabi's house*** since she's a vet her house is full of unique creatures that just take your breath away ?.

The character that made me laugh at loud anytime it was there was Carrot (view spoiler) hahaha, she goes straight to the point and doesn't hesitate when she has to say something.

However, the aspect I loved the most was the ending, it was heartwarming and left me wanting to go and do stuff because we are so lucky we're alive ?. I have to admit it was a little bit unrealistic but I didn't mind.

I don't like writing a review with everything positive so I'll say some things other people maybe won't like but that for me it was fine :P One of them that I noticed was, it only has two conflicts and one is a result of the other so I'll probably count it as only one, therefore if you're looking for a lot of action this may not be it. Another one is that Anise isn't such a badass but because that's just her personality, she doesn't like fighting and I think it was ok since not everyone has to be a badass (*like me ?*)

All in all, ***I would 100% recommend this trilogy to everyone!*** It's sweet, heartwarming, it talks a lot about desserts and it has magic, what else could make it better?

Tracy Fritts says

These is the second book in the Spellwork Syndicate series. I enjoyed reading this story and thought it was well written and a good storyline.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a honest review the opinions are of my own.

Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

A fun, quick read, filled with bits of magic and sweetness.

Anise again finds herself in danger for reasons beyond her control, but once again with the help of her loyal friends and her somewhat reluctant bodyguard she will overcome all the obstacles in her way.

Full review to Come

Kristy Mauna says

Lola Dodge delivers a sweet follow-up through her next book in the *Spellwork Syndicate* series. *Sugar Spells* is fun, magical, and everything I wanted from the previous book and more!

The story begins right where *Deadly Sweet* ended and we find that Anise is now at odds with her magic after the previous events occurred. She's finally found a sense of home and feels more like herself than she ever has, but now she's afraid she'll have to leave the bakery because of this magic she possess.

“Is there anything else I can do?”

“Live,” Peggy said. “Dance, kiss, love and don’t fixate on what’s wrong. If you can be passionately yourself, death will never hold sway over you.”

It was easy to dive back into this world Lola Dodge has created and follow along with the story. I felt for Anise and how she's constantly finding herself in trouble, but at the same time I loved reading about her magic in this book. There were certain areas in the first book where I wanted more from the magic descriptions, but in *Sugar Spells* there were fantastic explanations behind everything! Lola Dodge's writing continues to grow and that makes me super excited to read the next book in this series!

And the baking!! We get to see a different side to Anise's baking this time around. Her new magic helps her create what she describes as “killer Oreos” and it strangely made me want to eat some? You'll understand why that's weird once you read the book.. But in all seriousness, you probably shouldn't read *Sugar Spells* while hungry.

As usual, the girl power and friendships in this series are on point. But the most interesting part of this book was the relationship between Anise and Wynn, her bodyguard. We learn more about mysterious Wynn and his back story as the story progresses and I loved it all.

“When we get out of here, I’ll take you to a real movie. A comedy. And we’ll eat all the snacks.”

We popped out of the tunnel I hadn't paying attention to and Wynn paused to look back at me. His lips tilted in the rarest of Wynn-spressions.

A smile.

"Promise?"

Anise learns the truth of how the two of them are connected and what the terms of his Shield contract are. And with that, they form a somewhat friendship as they try to achieve the same goal of releasing him from his duties. This is really when the story started to pick up for me. Honestly, if Anise and Wynn end up together this has got to be one of my favorite slow-burn romances EVER. (Thank you, Lola.)

"You think you can experience what you experience and not be changed? You went through the fire again, cupcake. Never expect things to be the same on the other side."

Overall, I really enjoyed this book! It was the perfect weekend read when I needed a quick escape from the world. I recommend it to anyone looking for some magic in their lives!

Kibby says

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Sugar Spells was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher at my request. All thoughts and opinions expressed in this review are strictly my own and are not influenced in

Katie Harder-schauer says

I received a copy of this book from the publisher through Netgalley. This is my honest review.

First off, I wish I'd realized this was the second book in a series (and it was probably made clear in the books description when I requested it, but I was so spellbound by the cover that I wasn't even paying attention to that). There was definitely some backstory I was missing out on, and while I felt like the major points that were necessary for this story to make sense were covered, I still felt like I was playing catch-up for most of this story. I think I probably missed out on some of the excitement of this story because I was playing catch-up.

I was drawn to this book because it was pretty clearly about magic and baking, so I was disappointed to find out that there just wasn't a whole lot of baking going on, at least not the type of baking that would result in treats I would want to eat.

Read the rest of my review on my blog. --> <https://justanothergirlandherbooks.blogspot.com/2017/07/sugar-spells-by-ashley-campbell.html>

Amanda says

You can also read my review here: <https://devouringbooks2017.wordpress.com/2017/07/17/sugar-spells-by-ashley-campbell/>

4 1/2 stars

This book might have been better than the first book in the series. It had the same amazing characters in the amazing world that was built with a whole new plot. Anise's baking magic wound up entangled with death magic from her near death experience in the previous book. She still makes baked goods, but now with death enchantments. Mannikans also come into play, they are non-human supernaturals, like vampires and werewolves.

I loved the character growth in this novel. We got to know Wynn better and also got to see what Gabi's magic was like. Anise also continued to grow as a witch. I love these characters and I will follow them through the rest of this series because they are so much fun to read about,

What I think made this novel better than the first is the plot. Don't get me wrong, the first book is amazing, but this one was even better. I was a little scared, because typically sequels suffer from second-book-syndrome, but that wasn't the case here at all. While in the first book I felt that the climax was diminished by prior big events in the book, in this book the climax was executed perfectly. I also loved the addition of vampires to the world.

I am so glad to have discovered this series. I absolutely love these characters and am so glad to have gotten to read about them in two novels and will continue to follow them through the rest of the series. This world is so unique and the plot was amazing. I can't wait to read the next book in the series and hopefully read other books by Lola Dodge.

Annemieke / A Dance with Books says

Thank you to netgalley and the publisher for the review copy in exchange for an honest review.

I read the first book, Deadly Sweet, at the start of the year and was quite pleased to see this second book appear on Netgalley. While I did have some critics on the first book it was still an enjoyable read. The second book moved on in the same direction and it was just what I needed.

Don't go into these books expecting a very complex magical system or very complex plot. What you see is what you get. Sugar Spells is a true cozy, feel good, magical book. These books are perfect to curl up on the couch under a blanket and read in one sitting this Winter. Sugar Spells isn't too long nor does it move to fast. The baking and the main character give of something homely and comforting, and that is what I needed at the time of reading.

What I also appreciate is how the romance is being approached. I suspect there is a slow burn romance at work here and the ground work for that was laid down in this book. One can't be in a relationship if there is an unequalness in the relationship. 'Employer', and employee that can't leave. This was talked about without the romance in it actually. That is how slow burn it is.

Anise also reminds me of myself. The bad luck, the complete unflattering wardrobe when she stays in, the constant push to fix what is wrong, feeling crap so eating ice scream it is. And yes she is clearly the 'heroine' who wants to fix everything and always chooses the right thing. But there is more to her than that and that is why I enjoy her character.

This book is being targeted at young adult however I do have my questions regarding that. Anise is out of

high school and working on a career. So I would say this series also borders on new adult in that context. Having said that there is also barely anything triggering in these books.
