



# Magic and Macaroons

*Bailey Cates*

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**From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Some Enchanted Éclair* comes a tale of delicious desserts and supernatural sleuthing...**

For magical baker Katie Lightfoot, the only way to beat the Savannah summer heat is to whip up some cool treats for the Honeybee Bakery's patrons. But when a meeting of the spellbook club is interrupted by a stranger collapsing on the floor of her shop, mumbling something about a voodoo talisman, Katie drops everything to begin investigating.

Her search for answers quickly leads her into a dangerous blend of Savannah's infamous voodoo queens, a powerful missing charm—and a deadly witch who seems to be targeting the city's magical community. And with the case getting hotter by the second, Katie will have to work fast to track down the talisman and the killer before the timer runs out...

## RECIPES INCLUDED

## Magic and Macaroons Details

Date : Published July 7th 2015 by Penguin Random House

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Author : Bailey Cates

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# From Reader Review Magic and Macaroons for online ebook

## Mary Ann says

"“Those are macarons,” I said, then spelled the word. “Though sometimes it’s spelled the same as the coconut-based cookies we have here. Macarons don’t typically have any coconut at all.”

As the ladies of the Spell Book Club are having their meeting, a woman comes and starts banging on the door and saying that she was sent by her uncle to find Katie Lightfoot. Then she collapses and goes into a coma. Katie feels that she needs to find out who this woman is, who her uncle is and then what really happened to them both. Along the way, she meets her former flame's new girlfriend and quickly fiancée. She learns about voodoo and meets some practitioners.

This book took me awhile because it was on a tablet and then I would just get sidelined by other stories and just kept having to work on it a little at a time.

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## Linda says

During a meeting of the spellbook club, Katie Lightfoot and her friends are interrupted by a woman frantically knocking on the Honeybee's window. When Katie goes to check it out, the woman collapses to the ground, but before she falls unconscious, she manages to say that she is seeking Katie Lightfoot for help and that her uncle sent her. Her last coherent words to Katie are to find the missing gris-gris and seek out Savannah's voodoo queen. This sets Katie on a quest unlike any other as she learns more about her mysterious visitor request. I enjoy this series and all the quirky characters that surround Katie, including her friends, family of Lucy and Ben, and hunky firefighter boyfriend, Declan. This story explores a type of magic that Katie has not yet encountered, but it also gives her an opportunity to spend more time with her friend Cookie, as they try to find the missing gris-gris, despite Cookie's misgivings about being involved with voodoo. I look forward to the next book in this series.

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## Laura Resau says

I love every book in this series, and this one is no exception. The voodoo elements give the mystery a really unique and creepy flavor... yet there's still so much love in the book-- Katie's deepening relationship with Declan, the warmth of the community of witches at Honeybee, and of course, our beloved Mungo the dog. Reading this was a delicious and sensual treat, and I'm already eager for the next one... Highly recommended!

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## Maria says

I am not liking this book, and have no plans to finish it. I checked it out of the library because it had a cute cover and it sounded like a cute fairy-tale-like story with ghosts and magic wands. You know -- fun! This story is not like that, and from the reviews of people who started the series on Book 1 (I didn't know it was a

series until I'd started reading it), this is the least favorite so far.

This is a story that takes place in the South amongst a community of wiccans and voodoo (or vudu) practitioners, using magic potions and spells and influencing the lives of her customers by selling them teas and cookies infused with magic potions and spells to help them with their lives.

Then you throw in a dead body and a murder mystery gets added to the mix.

And even though this is fiction, it's not based on some fantasy, make-believe kind of magic, this is the magic that is being practiced by real people in real places. And this makes me uncomfortable. I felt like I was being taught how to be a witch, that I was being carefully led down the path to belief and conversion. It was dark and disturbing. So I stopped reading.

I was listening to the audio version of this book, and the reader kind of was getting on my nerves, as well. At first, I thought she sounded a lot like Siri, reading in a voice that's a lot like the computerized narrative that used to be available on Kindle books. You get the words, but not a lot of inflection. It gets better later on, but by then I was not liking the story a whole lot, so I'm done.

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## **Fred says**

Magic and Macaroons is the fifth book in the A Magical Bakery Mystery series.

I enjoy visiting Savannah, GA and stopping by to see Katie Lightfoot and her Aunt Lucy at the Honeybee Bakery where put a little "magic" into their baked goods.

Honeybee's has closed for the day, but Katie and Aunt Lucy are still there as they are having one of their frequent spellbook club meetings. Then there is a desperate knocking on the door. The young lady knocking says she needs to talk to Katie. After learning she is talking to Katie she says that her uncle has sent her and that the gris gris, a voodoo talisman of power is missing and only a priestess queen can help. She becomes unconscious before she can give Katie a clue as to she is or who the priestess is. Katie finds the girl's purse and learns that her uncle is the police detective Frank Taite. Shortly after the EMS personnel leave to take her to the hospital, Detective Quinn stops by to let Katie know that the body of Frank Taite has been found in an old abandon building.

Katie asks for the help of the members of the spellbook club to use their different expertise in finding the priestess queen so they can have some idea who has the gris gris and where it might be before this person uses it to do more evil doings.

All the main character from the other books, along with their familiars. They are enjoyable and very believable people that you would like to have as friends.

Also, recipes are included.

Looking forward to the next book.

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## **Erin ? \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

4.5

The best one of the group, by far. Although still a bit weighed down by cozy cliches in dialogue (such a profanity euphanisms that come across a bit silly at times), the story is juicy since it ties into voodoo, curses, hidden voodoo queens of the city, a certain detectives secretive past, and Katie finding out more about her personal power.

All regular characters have returned with enough page time to make me happy - we get Steve again (still have a hang-up for him even though Declan is sweet) - and he has a twisted side-story of his own involved. Declan fans will be happy to get bonding moments and a new revelation about him, and really Steve's love triangle possibility isn't strong since it seems more of a wrap-up against them to me.

We get plenty of time with the spellclub as well, even a new budding member, and a few more details for the backstory of Cookie's family. Quinn gets in on some of the secrets, and even the other familiars get page time. This one won with its cast of characters compared to the first four books, which made the book much more enjoyable.

I think the mystery part of this worked better than previously because it took some daring exploration into darker elements of magic and didn't keep everything so pure. Running into a powerful voodoo queen and having to flee her helped too, because frankly Katie sometimes has come across too purely powerful from the onset especially considering she is newer to her craft. It's good to have strong opponents for a change and not have the main character seem so highly above others in her league.

Despite the mystery being interesting, I wasn't surprised at the ending villain (there weren't that many people in the pot of suspects to pick from after all), but I didn't know the villain would be double and connected with someone who did kind of surprise me.

Throwing in some angst and trouble in Cookie's relationship added a more realistic dimension. It can get boring if the other club members have perfect lives with too easy to resolve issues. Throwing in a kink in the plans and struggle in a relationship makes more sense than everything being a bed of roses for them all the time.

It was hard to put down and ended with a nice bang. Will definitely be seeking out the sixth book soon.

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## **Diane ~Firefly~ says**

[Katie really needs to completely give up Steve. I hate reading things where she starts comparing traits to Declan and acting jealous whe

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## **ButYouGotMySoul says**

The mysteries in these novels keep getting more complex and intertwined. I am actually really enjoying them.

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## **Tina at A COZY GIRL READS AND WRITES Blog says**

Step into Honeybee Bakery, where every delicious treat is magical and once eaten will give you a added pep in your step. Katie is a hedgewich that specializes in garden and kitchen magic and Honeybee Bakery is known for adding just a little extra to the baked goods depending on what you may need in your life. Katie runs the bakery along with her aunt who is also a witch, Lucy and uncle Ben.

The exciting part of this bakery is the coven of witches and friends that are known as "The Spellbook Club" including Katie, Aunt Lucy, Cookie, Mimsey, Jaida, and Bianca. Another great part of Honeybee Bakery for me is the library when the witches have collected books for their customers Taylor made for them. When a meeting of the Spellbook Club is interrupted by a young girl named Dawn who hysterically makes her way into the bakery and suddenly collapses among the witches coven.

Before Dawn collapses she wants to relay a message to a witch she has come to see, that witch is Katie about a missing gris-gris, a voodoo talisman of magical power. She wants Katie to help find the gris-gris . When there is a connection between Dawn and murdered homicide detective, Frank. Frank's death is suspicious because he died while a voodoo ritual was preformed. Katie then asked her friend and fellow witch Cookie for help who has experience in the voodoo world and together they look for a voodoo queen that would be suitable to help them in their quest to find the lost gris-gris before evil befalls them all and to find a murderer before it's too late.

Lately I have been wanting to delve into mysteries that are out of my comfort zone. Mysteries with magical and mystical elements and themes are way out of my comfort zone because I have a hard time understanding the language and dislike fantasy and snakes, it makes me shutter just thinking about it. But I like these witches and the bakery theme had me wanting to read Magic and Macaroons just to discover what magical treats these witches would whip up.

Katie and Cookie made a great team and they definitely put me under their spell. This series is in great company with and reminds me so much of Ellery Adams Magical Pie Shop Mysteries and Heather Blake's Wishcraft Mysteries, If you love magical mysteries I highly recommend. A complex and multi layered mystery with magical treats that i'm a big fan of and so will you.

FTC Disclosure: Thank you to the publisher for providing me a copy of this book for review. This did not influence my thoughts in any way. All the opinions of the book and review are my own and my reviews are honest.

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## **Moondance says**

**"Abracadabra?"**

The Spell book Club is having a meeting in the Honeybee Bakery when a young woman bangs on the glass looking for Katie. As she collapses, she begs Katie to find the "*gris-gris*". Katie learns that the woman is the niece of her friend Frank. In Taite and the mystery begins.

This installment of the Magical Bakery series is a little darker than previous books. The subject of voodoo has everyone on edge. Cookie is reluctant to get involved because of her family's past with voodoo, but soon realizes she may be the one to help.

A new woman in Steve's life has Katie curious and concerned. Although Katie and Declan are together she still worries about Steve.

The information about voodoo was well presented and added greatly to the spookiness of Savannah's haunted image. The various voodoo queens were well rounded characters. The "false" practitioners were creepy and upheld all the dark qualities of the religion.

I was saddened by the police findings early in the book as it does not allow Katie to have a sense of closure. She still has so much to learn about being a lightwitch.

I enjoy seeing Katie and Declan together. His new found powers add to the storyline and I can't wait to see where it goes.

This was a most enjoyable read. The description of the bakery goods always makes me drool. I was quite happy to find the recipe for macaroons in the book. They are a must do.

A very good series that I recommend,

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## **QNPoohBear says**

When a strange woman shows up at the Honeybee after hours looking for Katie claiming her uncle sent her and then collapses, Katie is perplexed. When she discovers the woman is the niece of Franklin Tate, Katie feels it's up to her to help. She goes searching for answers as to what happened to Taite, what exactly is a lightwitch and what is wrong with Ms. Taite. She discovers a dangerous voodoo practitioner has it out for the Taites and for Katie. It's going to take the whole spellbook club to get to the bottom of this mystery.

I really liked the mystery except that at the end, the magic element of the story ruins the suspense that comes in a normal mystery. I also wasn't entirely surprised at the reveal. I was partly surprised and partly not. I did like learning about voodoo and the different types and being introduced to new and fun secondary characters. I liked the romance aspect now that Katie has settled on Declan and now the angst has stopped. The romance is very sweet- and clean though Declan does spend the night at Katie's. It's only mentioned that he's snoring beside her but if that bothers you, don't read the book because it is a key scene in the story. There's some cute humor to balance out the dark mystery. I also enjoyed learning about different herbs and their non-magical but beneficial uses. I didn't like the Cookie-Oscar drama plot. It padded the story too much. I also didn't like the Steve romance drama either.

If I describe the characters then it will spoil the mystery but I'll make it general. There are a couple of voodoo practitioners in the story. I liked meeting them and seeing how they helped the other characters come to an understanding about their own gifts and in Cookie's case, her past. The ladies of the coven are very

kind and caring towards Katie and their love shows in this book more than in the past. I'm still indifferent towards Katie. I am on board with the hedgewitch thing but the lightwitch thing I don't get or find interesting. The new employee, Iris, seems like a fun character and I hope she plays a larger role in the next book.

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### **Alex says**

Every book in this series so far has not disappointed and this one was no exception.

I mean, holy cow, it was quite amazing. Every book in the series so far has had a completely different murder, with a completely different mystery to solve. I think this one was the most diverse so far. I really loved it.

I was laughing at the snarkiness, gasping at the revelations, and smiling at the romance.

I realized about halfway through, that not only did I continue this series for the amazing mysteries, but I am really continuing it for some of the romance. It builds in every book and that's what makes this series even better. No matter the change in mystery, the basis and romance never change, but build instead.

It's an amazing series overall, one of my favorites.

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### **Sharon Mariampillai says**

#### **Actual Rating: 3.5**

This was an enjoyable read. I thought that this book was not as good as the last four books. I think there were some bits that annoyed me in this story. I did not like the fact that the love triangle was reintroduced. I wish that the author will continue to keep Katie with Declan. It is just irritating to see how she gets around Steve, while she is with Declan. It does not seem fair. I wish there was more Uncle Ben in the story as well. However, despite that I did enjoy reading this book. The mystery was interesting and the secondary characters brought a bit of comedy into the mix. I can't wait to read book 6. Overall, a great read.

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### **Casceil says**

I'm going through this series like popcorn.

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### **Lisa Ks Book Reviews says**

The cozy genre is seeing more and more paracozies on the market these days, and out of all those series on the list the Magical Bakery Mystery series is one of the most recognized.

I'll be honest, books with witches and magic aren't my go to reads. I was sent this book from the publisher in



exchange for an honest review. I'm happy it was because I found author Bailey Cates to be a gifted writer and her words flowed smart and smooth.

I love the description of the Honeybee Bakery. I mean really, a bakery with a reading area and floor to ceiling book shelves? Who wouldn't want to spend all their time there? They'd have to kick me out at closing time.

The characters in this were very enjoyable to read and get to know. Protagonist Katie Lightfoot was extremely likeable, as was the supporting cast of characters.

Even though the subject isn't something I would normally read, I can't and won't deny this was a well written mystery filled with intrigue, and had a twist of an ending.

Fans of Ms. Cates, as well as readers who like to read about magic, are in for a bewitching time with MAGIC AND MACAROONS. I know someone who will simply adore this book and I am going to send it off to her.

Remember to check out the yummy recipes at the back of the book!

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### **Ali says**

Solid entry in a very enjoyable series. I like most everything about this series, I like the setting, the characters, and the mysteries are good as well. No complaints!

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### **Betsy says**

As much as I enjoyed some of the books in this series, Magic and Macaroons just did not enthrall me. I am not liking the direction that this series is taking. I will probably not be reading any more in this series. There are much better cozies with animals in them. 2 stars

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### **Amy "the book-bat" says**

I wish this bakery was real. I would have loved to have worked there when I was a student at SCAD.

The look at voodoo in this book was interesting since I don't know much about it. The snakes were creepy to me, but then I have never been too keen on them. Some are pretty though. The case was interesting and kept me involved. I hope this series continues after the next book!

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### **Kevin says**

[love potions. It looks like the druids aren't as powerful as the voodoo worshipers, because Steve is totally

saved by Katie. (hide spoiler)]

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## **Cheryl says**

Another great mystery book. I can't wait for the next one.

Katie once again learns more about her powers when she gets thrown into another mystery while working at the Honeybee Bakery.

Can you say VOOOODOOO?? Cookie decides that she needs to help Katie with this mystery because she has a strong background in voodoo.

Great author and wonderful writing. Again she kept me guessing until the end.

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