Blessed with a gift...cursed with a secret.

Everybody knows Cate Cahill and her sisters are eccentric. Too pretty, too reclusive, and far too educated for their own good. But the truth is even worse: they're witches. And if their secret is discovered by the priests of the Brotherhood, it would mean an asylum, a prison ship - or an early grave.

Before her mother died, Cate promised to protect her sisters. But with only six months left to choose between marriage and the Sisterhood, she might not be able to keep her word... especially after she finds her mother's diary, uncovering a secret that could spell her family's destruction. Desperate to find alternatives to their fate, Cate starts scouring banned books and questioning rebellious new friends, all while juggling tea parties, shocking marriage proposals, and a forbidden romance with the completely unsuitable Finn Belastra.

If what her mother wrote is true, the Cahill girls aren't safe. Not from the Brotherhood, the Sisterhood - not even from each other.

Born Wicked is about three sisters, with the eldest, Cate telling the tale. Nearing her birthday, Cate must soon choose her future: Marriage to a man she may or may not have a choice in, or spending her life with the Sisterhood. Either choice means leaving her sisters, sisters that have not always made the smartest decisions about hiding the magic they have. In
early New England, the hunt for witches has gone to an extreme, and The Brotherhood takes girls who are even suspicious of having magic to an asylum, are forced to hard labor, or in more extreme cases, kill them. The Brotherhood preaches that women should be meek and mild, and discourages them of having passions.

Cate has taken care of her sisters since their Mothers death as best she can, however her Father is having a new Governess brought in. New people means greater risk of exposure, and Cate already has a hard enough time keeping her younger sisters in check. Now with new dangers coming at her from all sides and the discovery of a prophecy almost certainly about their family that puts them even more in danger, Cate is put to the test.

I enjoyed Born Wicked quite a bit, and I found the world intriguing. As someone whom always been curious about the Salem Witch Trials, its interesting to see a twist on a world where this is taken to an extreme. Cate is an interesting character who does the best she can with the rotten hand shes been dealt, and I felt for her continuously throughout the book. No decision she makes is easy, and she often left between choosing from bad to worse. That said, the romance in Born Wicked leaves something to be desired, and definitely screams `insta-love!. I had a hard time really feeling the emotions Finn and Cate as they seem to happen without any real evolution. While Cate has known Finn since childhood, she never really paid attention to him in the past, nor him with her. The characters seem to go from `friends to `risking their lives for each other in mere days.

In regards to Cates sisters, I often wanted to throttle Maura, her next eldest sister. Headstrong and stuck in her ways, Maura listens to nothing Cate tries to tell her, and is continually putting not just herself, but her entire family at risk for completely selfish reasons. The youngest sibling, Tess is much more interesting, perhaps because we really see so little of her. Not being old enough to be involved in the social situations happening around Cate and Maura, Tess is often left to the background. A middle ground between Maura and Cate, Tess wants to learn how to use her magic but isn't as foolish as her sister about it, and she is the character Im much more interested in seeing in the future.

While I had some problems with conclusions being leapt to that had no forethought leading to them, Im interested to see what comes next for the sisters. The prophecy has yet to really come into play, and like any book in a good series, leaves off at a point where I need to know what happens next. Despite some slow pacing in the beginning, Born Wicked picks up in the latter half and Id recommend it to fantasy fans.

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