

A Discovery of Witches

Deborah Harkness

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“A Discovery of Witches” surrounds the life of Diana Bishop who is born to two of the most powerful witches, Rebecca and Stephen Bishop. After her parent’s tragic death, Diana refuses to use her magic since it reminds her of them and the destruction magic can cause. She now lives her years becoming a historian and researcher at the University of Oxford. On the night of a witch holiday, Diana was able to call Ashmole 782 from the library stacks. As soon as she picked it up, a powerful, magical presence was recognized, causing her to jolt back. After looking through the old manuscript, Diana realizes that three pages were torn out of it. She took notes on the book and returned it to the library before any other weird magic makes an appearance. When Dr. Bishop came back the next day, she could feel the presence of other supernatural beings such as fellow witches, daemons, and even vampires. That following week, Bishop’s guard was up 24/7, aiming to protect herself from the odd number of supernaturals in this human library. One night, Diana found herself alone in the library sans some harmless humans. She slowly let her guard down, traveling between the library’s sections and exploring different books for her research projects. While her guard was down, Bishop encountered Professor Matthew de Clairmont, a well-known, powerful vampire. Due to the tension between the supernatural species, Diana introduced herself quickly and exited the library before Matthew could cause too much attention. Claremont was spotted several times following her after the incident and Diana has never been more afraid. When Matthew finally approached Diana again, he asked her about Ashmole 782, and the information that she obtained, stating that this book could solve all of the supernaturals questions. This story follows Diana’s adventure to retrieve the book again, while understanding Matthew and why he would want Ashmole 782 and her herself.

Diana and Matthew have the perfect love story. Going from enemies to lovers, their relationship was one of the best parts of this book. Diana’s character is also extremely admirable, due to her courageous personality and down-to-Earth style. Diana also tends to act more “human” compared to the other supernaturals because of the time she spent immersed with them, making her a more relatable character. Her emotions and feelings are understandable, giving her circumstances, making her a very well-liked character. Using his instincts as a vampire to protect Diana, Matthew is also a likable character due to his charm and sarcastic tone. His admiration and fondness towards Diana portray just how amazing and strong their relationship is.

I would recommend this book to people ages 16 and up due to its torture scenes, minor gore, and some intimate content. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in a romance novel, especially if they are a fan of the enemies to lovers trope. The plot of this book was so enjoyable and was perfect for reading on a quiet day out. This book also mentions

discrimination between species of supernaturals and how Diana and Matthew fight against the norms of society to be together. One could relate this story to more real-world problems, taking the next step to analyze the environment around the plot. Overall, this book is one of my favorites, balancing out romance with action, constantly keeping you on your toes!

Recommended Titles:

Shadow of Night by Deborah Harkness

Vampire Academy by Rachael Mead

The Coldest Girl in Coldtown by Holly Black