

LoveReading Reader reviews of The Book Of Life by Deborah Harkness Part of the All Souls Trilogy

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

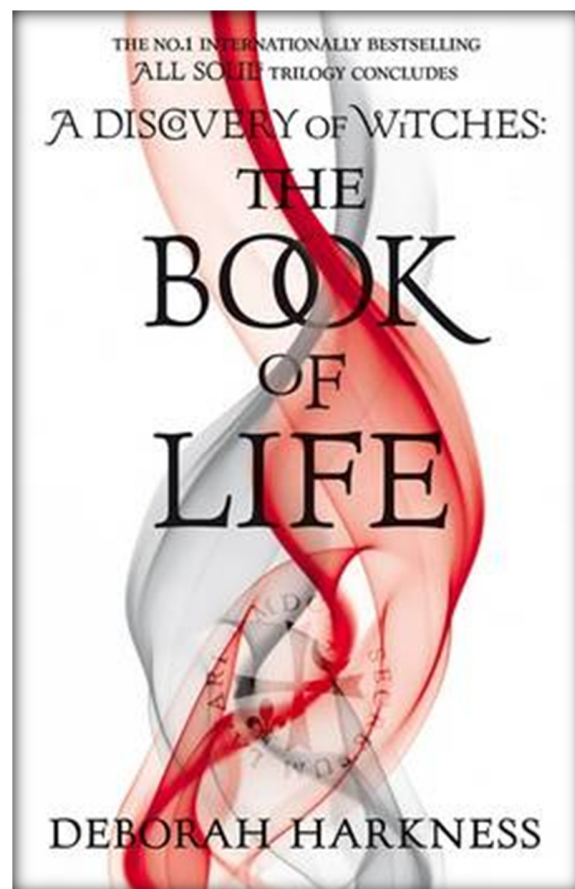
Cathy Petersen

In this, Deborah Harkness has brought to a stunning conclusion a paranormal romance trilogy of extraordinary depth, filled with such rich detail and populated by characters you either love, or love to hate. The

characters are so well drawn, their situations so tensely rendered that you can't help rooting for them, turning the next page, next chapter to see if they succeed. Science mixes with magic in a manner that perfectly suspends disbelief making the world of 'The Book of Life' one that you can believe in. The relationship between Matthew and Diana deepens and evolves during the various trials they undergo and

their romance is beautifully blended with the mystery and suspense elements of the story to make this book, and indeed the whole trilogy, stand head and shoulders above the rest of the genre.

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Jennifer Rainbow

This book is addictive, thrilling, magical and heart-wrenching. The reviews on the back cover do not do it justice- there's so much more to this

book than just romance. You will be left wanting more.

I have been eagerly awaiting this final book in the series, if you haven't read the other two you must read these first to understand the story. I am having trouble finding the words to truly explain how good this book is. The story continues with Diana and Matthew returning from the past and continuing to find Ashmole 782 but things are never easy and there's always more challenges and problems ahead.

I could not put this book down, it is just as addictive as the previous two.

The praise on the back cover does not do the book justice, it can't be compared to other books which do not have as much going on. This is a book full of action, love and magic. To sum it up in a few words won't do it justice. It's more than a book about magic, this book is about: good and evil, family, love, community... etc It's one of those books (and series of books) that will stay with you even when you've put the book away. These are characters you will love and care about, it's a story that will make you laugh, cry and sigh with relief.

The only flaws I found were in the beginning, I felt that there was so much going on that the scenes seemed too snappy and I felt like it could have been slower and that I would have enjoyed reading one scene about a party which is missed out. Also two characters from the previous book don't seem to be given any attention? But despite the flaws in the beginning, the rest of the book completely compensates for them and by the end I'd forgotten about being disappointed at the start. I am planning on rereading the entire series and would recommend this trilogy to anybody, especially if you love the supernatural and epic reads. Wish this wasn't the last.

Josie Barton

'The Book of Life' is the place where history, science, magic and romance combine and where the 'All Souls' trilogy finally reaches its dramatic conclusion.

'The Book of Life' is the third and final part of the All Souls trilogy in which vampire scientist, Matthew Clairmont and his wife, historian and witch, Diana Bishop, search for the elusive alchemical manuscript, Ashmole 782, which is also known as The Book of Life.

The story is intense, complicated and filled to bursting with historical references to vampires, witches and daemons, and as the search for the mysterious Ashmole 782 gets underway, nothing and no-one is allowed to get in Matthew

and Diana's way. The ever present threat to their ordered world is real, their fear is tangible and the terrifying urgency of their search is controlled in a remarkably realistic way. Old grudges are allowed to fester, whilst forgotten resentments and malevolent forces constantly seek to outwit them. However, with a little help from their friends, true goodness will overcome pure evil and light will eventually shine through the darkness.

As the story draws to its inevitable conclusion, there is a definite sense of wrapping up all the loose ends, and after such an epic journey it's gratifying to see some sort of resolution take place. My only criticism is that without prior knowledge of the previous two books in the trilogy, this book would be almost impossible to read, as so much of this story is reliant on what has gone before. My advice would be to start at the very beginning and take the journey into the 'All Souls' trilogy alongside Matthew and Diana. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

www.jaffareadstoo.blogspot.co.uk/

Debbie Patrick

Vampires, Witches & Deamons. A missing manuscript that gives the information on the species and their relationships to each other. New crises and old enemies.

*The 3rd and final part of the 'Discovery of Witches' books. **I enjoyed all 3 of these books and feel quite disappointed now that they are finished.***

Like all good books they got you involved in the story of Diana (a witch) and Matthew (a vampire) & their assorted friends and families and the discovery of the Book Of Life and what it means for Vampires, Witches, Deamons & Humankind.

Well recommended.

Angie Rhodes

Once again, we can step into a world filled with magic, witches and vampires.

Diane and Matthew are on the trail of Ashmole 782 and it's missing pages, for this is the manuscript that will enable them to see what the witches discovered all those years ago.

This will not be easy as Diane is pregnant with twins, and there are those that are against this happening, and the marriage to a witch, is not in Matthews

favour, with some of the relations. Close friends are there to help, and Matthew and Diane need all the help they can get.

I was looking for something to fill the gap, after Twilight and this trilogy is it!

Sarah Jones

The final part of this captivating trilogy. The world will never be the same...

Diana and Matthew are back in the twenty first century with some very interesting companions. They need to protect those they love, fight the Congregation and discover the secrets of Ashmole 782.

A very satisfying conclusion to the trilogy. So many tiny pieces of information start to make sense and the plot details are carefully tied together. A lot of answers (even to questions you didn't know you had!) and resolutions, with a large dose of romance for a number of the main supporting characters. Oh Gallowglass! Plus a good introduction to some new characters who were still well rounded and interesting even though there was little time left in which to tell their stories. Diana, Matthew and their friends make some fascinating discoveries and the world they live in is changed forever.

I thoroughly enjoyed this trilogy, even if some of the science baffled me at times. This was an apt ending and if you've read the previous two books you will want to know how it all ends. I think you'll like it!

Fiona Ellwood

A glorious romp!

'The Book of Life' appears, from the range of star ratings it has been given, to be something of a "Marmite" book – readers either love or hate it.

Whilst I wouldn't exactly say I loved it, I thought it was a glorious romp, and much faster paced than 'Shadow of Night', which at times really dragged. Some reviewers have suggested that there are too many "minor" characters in the book. For me, that was a plus point – some characters which had been established in 'Shadow of Night' were seemingly abandoned, and it was nice to meet them again.

This brings me to the main criticism I have of the book. It is no doubt a very personal one, but I felt that the ending was just too neat – fresh groups of

witches seemed to appear whenever they were needed, allowing all the loose ends to be tied up. All the characters seemed to become very domesticated at the end. Perhaps I'm missing the point, and Harkness wanted to create a world where witches, vampires and demons have normal family lives, and a support network of helpful friends to fall back on in time of need, but I thought this lessened the book.

Despite that, I did enjoy it, and would recommend it as a satisfactory ending.

Sharon Lowe

The conclusion of the 'All Souls' trilogy - thrilling captivating, page turning tale of love, witchcraft, time walking, vampires, everything in this story better than Twilight series.

The 'All Souls' series ends with 'The Book of Life', the last book in the series, which I thought was really well written, it flowed lovely with the arrival of the twins, Diana's witchcraft skills, Mathews blood rage, to the battle at the end, and afterwards, I could not put this book down as I wanted to find out what was happening. The author has that unique talent of making you see the characters in your minds eye, feel the love between Diana and Mathew, her relationship with his family. I liked Gallowglass. I do hope that we will see more of this author, and hopefully more from Mathew and Diana. A series that was very well thought out and written, will they go after Gerbert? I can see other possibilities of story lines, that is why I hope Deborah Harkness will write more.

Alison Greenacre

Loved it! A very satisfying end to an incredible trilogy.

For anyone who hasn't read 'A Discovery of Witches' and 'Shadow of Night', should do so now. This is proper grown up writing about witches, vampires and demons. Brilliantly thought out story line and so well written, the language is exquisite. I don't need to say anymore just go and read it.

Susan Walsh – Twitter @truckermercedes

Another thrilling tale in the 'All Souls' Trilogy

Like her first book 'A Discovery Of Witches', this concluding saga is simply wonderful reading.

The search for Ashmole 782 & its missing pages continue...

If you are not drawn in completely by this latest offering, you will miss out on a feast of Vampire & Witch which will have you utterly spell bound from the first chapter.

From time hopping, to the Sept -Tours Chateau in France,

Diana & Matthew take you into their amazing world of all things Creature.

Not to be missed, I thoroughly enjoyed this

10/10 loved it 😊

Edel Waugh

*This was **a superb ending to the 'All Souls' Trilogy** that I have read from the beginning. We have followed Diana and Matthew through a long and bitter journey to be together without those of both their kinds (witch, vampire) trying to destroy them. In this book the battle really commences and there are surprises and joy in store for them as well as terror. The loyalty of their true friends will be revealed when their enemies try to cause them the most harm, and the tension builds from the very beginning of the story and does not let up the entire way through the book. If you enjoy books about Vampires and Witches then I recommend this book! It can be read alone but I recommend the entire trilogy as all the books have such detail put into them. I was really impressed by the amount of research that must have gone into this trilogy. Diana is a very strong female lead character and seeing the story through her eyes was very enjoyable.*

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.com>