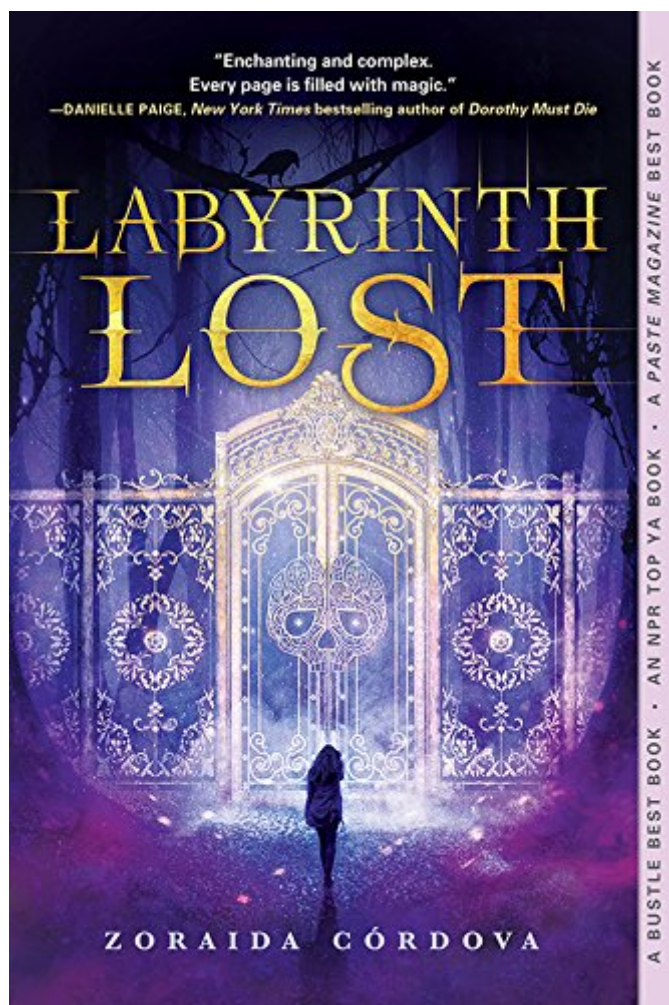


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Labyrinth Lost (Brooklyn Brujas Book 1)



Synopsis

An NPR Best Young Adult Book of 2016
Tor.com's Best YA SFF of 2016
A Bustle Best Book of 2016
Selection
A Paste Magazine's Best Books of 2016
The only way to get her family back is to travel to a land in between, as dark as Limbo and as strange as Wonderland... Alex is a bruja, the most powerful witch in a generation... and she hates magic. At her Deathday celebration, Alex performs a spell to rid herself of her power. But it backfires. Her whole family vanishes into thin air, leaving her alone with Nova, a brujo boy she's not sure she can trust, but who may be Alex's only chance at saving her family.
Praise for Labyrinth Lost: "Enchanting and complex. Every page is filled with magic." -Danielle Paige, New York Times best-selling author of *Dorothy Must Die* "... enchants from start to finish. Labyrinth Lost is pure magic." -Melissa Grey, author of *The Girl at Midnight* "Magical and empowering, Labyrinth Lost is an incredible heroine's journey filled with mythos come to life; but at its heart, honors the importance of love and family." -Cindy Pon, author of *Serpentine* and *Silver Phoenix* "A brilliant brown-girl-in-Brooklyn update on Alice in Wonderland and Dante's Inferno. Very creepy, very magical, very necessary." -Daniel Jose Older, author of *Shadowshaper*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought *Labyrinth Lost* on Kindle and 20% into the book, I ordered a hardback copy. It's that good. *Labyrinth Lost* revolves around Alex, a bruja living in Brooklyn with her mother and two sisters who also have magical abilities. The problem is that Alex doesn't want to be a bruja and on the day she's supposed to receive her blessing from her ancestors, she tries to wish her powers away- and ends up exiling her family to Los Lagos. Realizing her mistake, she sets out to bring them back but runs into a dark and sinister force in this other realm. When this book first came out, I saw it everywhere. Twitter, tumblr, blogs- I could not escape this beautiful cover. I decided to wait and give it a few weeks to let the hype settle down before I read it because I feel like a lot of times we get swept up in other people's exuberance for a book and miss the experience for ourselves. What I realized was that the hype around this book isn't actually hype- it's just that good. The plot is strong and the pacing flows. There were several parts where the author could have bogged us down with details and chose not to which kept the plot pushing forward. I've seen reviews where people are criticizing the handful of unanswered questions we were left with and that cliffhanger ending, but hello! Sequel!!! loved all of the characters and I think the author did a pretty good job on hashing out their personalities except for one character and it was almost enough for me to drop a star from the rating. Alex has two love interests in this story- Nova and Rishi. Nova is fleshed out and given an entire backstory and has a very strong personality. Rishi, on the other hand, we don't get much about her besides the fact that she likes Alex and she jumped into a portal. That's it. I can give you all sorts of facts about Nova but really nothing about Rishi. Which was terribly disappointing to me. I felt like I was forced to want Alex to go for Nova because I know all these things about him. Rishi felt very bland and dry and I really didn't care if anything happened between her and Alex. And this is coming from someone who generally always prefer f/f ships to m/f ships. There is also PROPER BISEXUAL REPRESENTATION in this book. None of this "half gay" stuff or "gay for you" or "straight for you". PROPER. BISEXUAL. REPRESENTATION. Let that sink in. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes magical girls, magical boys, sarcasm, and ancestors being sassy.

I'm not normally one for witch stories, but these are brujas. I have to admit that I don't see a lot out there that mix magical realism with Latinx characters, so I just had to give this one a shot and I'm so glad that I did. The reviews of several other book bloggers, particularly diverse book bloggers may have helped too. That blurb doesn't really begin to tell the reader the half of it. Don't get me wrong, I

don't expect spoilers in the blurb, but simply saying that she hates magic is a little off, in my opinion. She hates magic in that Elsa from Frozen kind of way. She's not ridding herself of a measly amount of power that isn't all that useful anyway or some part of herself that she doesn't feel like she identifies with. She's ridding herself of the dangerous power that she feels overwhelming her ability to control it and out of fear of what might happen were she to lose control. Sure, there are some other reasons in there and they are perfectly understandable 'I wanna be a normal girl' reasons, but I feel like those would have been manageable if not under the colossal weight of her power. The setup is done well and I felt like I had a good grasp of the characters and where everyone stood when the plot took off. Then there's Los Lagos and the insanity ensues. I enjoyed the darkness of it. Rather than Wonderland, which is what the back cover uses, I found Los Lagos reminded me of Oz. There is an order to things, no matter how unsettling they are and the inhabitants know what that order is. Moreover, each one is just trying to do the best they can within their circumstances in much the same way as the inhabitants of Oz. they have their own motivations that are not tied to our protagonist which makes them a bit unpredictable to her and to the reader. The worlds that stories take place in are one of my favorite parts of reading, it's why I tend to lean toward paranormal and science fiction and one of the things that's been a new joy to historical fiction. I loved the world building of this book. It's not just Los Lagos but also the world building to create this community of brujas and integrate them into Brooklyn. It's beautifully done. I look forward to the next installment!

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