

I had the idea to write an adult paranormal novel during my book tour for *The Van Alen Legacy*. It had been a few years since the first *Blue Bloods* novel had been published and I realized my readers were growing up in front of me! They were no longer high school or middle school kids, they were college students, they were women in their twenties with new jobs and new lives. I also noticed a big crossover, with a healthy dose of moms and grandmothers interested in stories of supernatural romance, adventure and mythology.

So I began to wonder if I could write a story for this new audience, as I myself was in a different place from when I began my writing career. I was no longer a single girl in the city, I was now a married suburban mom, I was in my late 30s, and after a decade spent inhabiting the minds of characters who were in high school, in the throes of figuring out their identity, I began to itch to tell a story that didn't revolve around coming-of-age and instead would address a different set of issues.

The story of *Witches of East End* began with a longing to tell a story about life in a close-knit community, similar in fashion to Alexander McCall Smith's No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series about small-town Botswana life, and Agatha Christie's Miss Marple mysteries. But of course there would have to be some magic, and so I incorporated the tragic and beautiful tales from Norse mythology that I had loved as a child. I also wanted to write about sisterly bonds, and the complicated relationship between mothers and daughters.

After many years with my beloved vampires, I jumped at the opportunity to create a new cast of characters to hold dear. In a cool twist, the universe of my witches crosses with that of my vampires: Freya made an appearance in *Bloody Valentine*, and *Blue Blood* regulars Mimi Force and Oliver Hazard-Perry's journey takes them to consult with the Beauchamp witches.

This book is a fun, delicious, sexy and frothy romp that includes star-crossed lovers, zombies, vampires and the history of Salem, a ride that begins on the beaches of the fictional town of North Hampton and leads all the way to Valhalla. I hope you too, will enjoy the magical, witchy soap opera that is the *Witches of East End*.