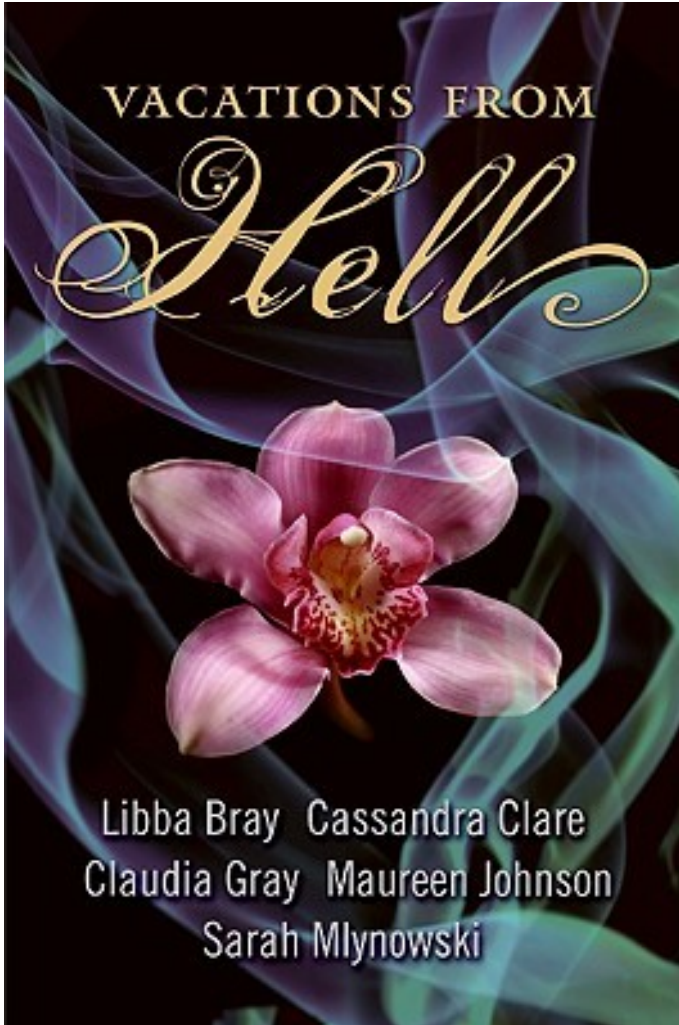

Libba Bray

Vacations from Hell (Short Stories from Hell)



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Author: Libba Bray

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Description

Life's a beach . . . and then you're undead?

in this must-have collection, five of today's hottest writers--Libba Bray (A Great and Terrible Beauty), Cassandra Clare (City of Bones), Claudia Gray (Evernight), Maureen Johnson (13 Little Blue Envelopes), and Sarah Mlynowski (Bras & Broomsticks)--tell supernatural tales of vacations gone awry. Lost luggage is only mildly unpleasant compared to bunking with a witch who holds a grudge. And a sunburn might be embarrassing and painful, but it doesn't last as long as a curse. Of course, even in the most hellish of situations, love can thrive. . . .

From light and funny to dark and creepy, these stories have something for everyone. You definitely won't want to leave this collection at home!

Insightful reviews

Brigid *Flying Kick-a-pow!*: Omg, I was in heaven. Libba Bray, Maureen Johnson, and Cassandra Clare all in one book! *dies of happiness!* It was really good; I read the whole thing in one sitting. Very fun, suspenseful, scary stories that kept me reading. My favorite was definitely Maureen Johnson's ... very creepy indeed. :D Loved it – great collection.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Self-Proclaimed Book Ninja): Lessons learned from reading this book:

- 1)Do not go on a cruise for your vacation...There might be vampires aboard.
- 2)Be aware of childhood rivals that you go on family vacations with...They might be evil witches.
- 3)Never spend your vacation in the French countryside, and by all means, avoid striking up a conversation with a garrulous Frenchman...It could very well be deadly to you and yours.
- 4)If you go to Jamaica, avoid the strange house with mirrors on it...Just take my word for it.
- 5)Never, ever take a backpacking trip through strange European countries with even stranger names like Necratul. Trust me on that!

This turned out to be a very good short story collection. I was kind of worried at how the first story, "Cruisin'", by Sarah Mlynowski, started. I thought, "Crap. This is like the CW teenie-bopper shows I avoid like the plague. Young girls out to get laid, 17 going on 35." I'm glad I kept reading. Just when I was about to give up, it got interesting. I have to admit that she threw me for a loop with the unexpected twist. Nicely played, Ms. Mlynowski. 4 stars.

"I Don't Like Your Girlfriend" by Claudia Gray took an interesting look at childhood rivalries between two girls whose mothers are both initiating them into their lives as witches. Cecily is a by-the-book girl, following all the rules of the Craft faithfully. Kathleen, her nemesis, has no problem breaking one of the first rules of witchcraft, not using your power to influence others. And to make it even worse, she's using it over her sweet boyfriend, Scott, who Cecily has a crush on. Cecily is out to see justice done. This was a pretty good story. Not really a subject I'm that interested in, but it kept my interest. 4 stars.

"The Law of Suspects" by Maureen Johnson struck me as such a well-done story. It starts out so funny in a completely sarcastic way. I was laughing out loud at Charlie's observations of her trip to France. And then, suddenly this story became as creepy as heck! Imagine being stranded in a country where you barely speak the language, and there is a weird French guy telling you an incredibly unsettling story. You know something is Just Not Right about this guy. Then, there's a very cute French guy who shows up. He tells you that you and your sister's lives are in danger. What do you do? What do you do? Man, this was a suspenseful story. I had no idea how it was going to end. Was Gerard telling Charlie the truth? Argh! I was holding my breath! When it ends, there's still this lingering fear. Is it over? What a good story. 5 stars.

"The Mirror House" by Cassandra Clare unnerved me, enthralled and riveted me. Ms. Clare used her prose very skillfully, creating a story that was beautiful and sinister. Despite the sunbleached brightness of the Jamaican beach, there was a dark undertone to everything. Along with Violet, I feared for young Evan. I had no clue initially what the threat was, but when I found out, I really liked the direction that Ms. Clare took. Brimming with atmosphere and intensity, this was a 5 star story for me.

"Nowhere is Safe" by Libba Bray. Man, oh, man. I'd rather have the most boring summer on earth than have the vacation from you know where that this group of friends had. I couldn't believe how scary this story got. Imagine going to a town where the townspeople had a pact with the Devil, sacrificing their children for prosperity for many years. They haven't done that in over one hundred and fifty years. But, some traditions aren't easily forgotten. I loved that the main character was half-Asian. He was subjected to prejudice because of his heritage, but he is heir to a special ability that may very well be the saving of his friends. He's sweet on his best friend, Izzy, whose parents were Haitian refugees, and who understands very well being a stranger in one's own land. Can he and his friends survive the nefarious plans of the villagers on their last Feast before their village is uprooted to build a power plant? Boy, this was not an ideal story to read before bedtime. Although the ending was a bit rushed, I still give it 5 stars for really scaring me, and for the hidden themes of prejudice and identity that I think it handled very well.

I was very happily surprised with this story collection. It was a quick but fulfilling read. I didn't expect these stories to be quite so scary, but it was, and in the best ways! Although this is a young adult collection, I think a lot of older readers would enjoy it too.

Overall rating: **4.5 out of 5.0 stars**

Amy Beer: "Cruisin" By Sarah Mlynowski

A well written story with a very surprising twist ending! Not at all what I was expecting, but was definitely a good shock.

4 Stars

"I Don't Like Your Girlfriend" By Claudia Gray

A fantastic story. Incredibly well written, great characters who you love and hate (some both at

the same time) and a storyline that kept me gripped from beginning to end. My only problem was the slight predictability in the evil spell used by Kathleen, I saw that coming for a few pages before Cecily did, but the end result was definitely not what I was expecting. I'm keeping my fingers crossed hoping Gray decides to write more stories with these characters.

4.5 Stars

"The Law of Suspects" By Maureen Johnson

A good, well written story that kept me guessing and intrigued all the way through. My only problem was the ending, I'm a sucker for happy endings so the lack of one in this story, plus an irritating sister who did nothing but get on my nerves the entire time as well as a slightly slow beginning are the reasons this story has lost a star.

4 Stars

"The Mirror House" By Cassandra Clare

A great story by a great author. I would live for Clare to write a continuation of this story as I would live to find out what happens next.

4.5 Stars

"Nowhere Is Safe" By Libba Bray

A decent story with a fairly slow beginning that picked up towards the end. This story definitely improved about halfway through and turned into a story that I wouldn't mind reading more of if Bray ever decides to write more with these characters. However, while I was fairly bored at the beginning of the story, I was also thoroughly creeped out the entire time. Bray definitely did a good job in making a story that you don't want to read in your house alone at night.

3.5 Stars

Overall, some very good stories, most of which I would like to read more of. This book gets a well-deserved 4 Stars from me.

Joy Rathman: it's not that I am an immense fan of brief stories, so this ebook most likely wasn't the neatest factor to read. However, I do locate supernatural issues interesting, so it wasn't an entire waste of time. Lots of the tales have been lovely seen and also you may well nearly bet what used to be going to ensue within the end. Even if I did not like how "teenager-y" those tales were, I did like that I used to be capable of see how varied authors had alternative ways of writing and that I was once capable of have a kind of pattern in their styles. Basically, it was once like a platter choked with samplers you can get as an appetizer, so it tastes good, however it does not absolutely fulfill you. I didn't benefit from the booklet simply because they have been such a lot of stories. While reading, I take pleasure in having a unmarried plot line to target and know about instead of several. I additionally didn't just like the incontrovertible fact that the writing and tales have been thinking about children who I assumed appeared very shallow and in contrast to young children (so stereotypical!) If you do take pleasure in brief tales approximately childrens facing supernatural issues, this can be certainly the ebook for you! Otherwise, it's your decision to appear someplace else.

Le Cirque Du Livre -Kya: Esta colección de libros "Pequeños Relatos del Infierno" ya lo había visto hacía tiempo, pero entre unas y otras cosas no me habían terminado de llamar los

angeles atención, entre ellas, el hecho de que sean relativamente libros cortos/delgados y de relatos [cinco para ser exactos] Tuve l. a. oportunidad de comprarme tres [y creo que hay otros tres más] por el precio de uno... así que no lo dude y los hice míos [eso de que pongan descuentos en los Supers por tener los libros un poco maltratados o sin cubierta llega a convenir] y sin irme más por las ramas les diré bien de que va todo =) La trama es justo lo que el título cube "VACACIONES en el infierno"; cinco relatos de cinco distintas autoras con base de que todo sucede un vacaciones... easy y conciso. En términos generales el libro entra entre lo pasable y lo bueno. Solo fueron dos relatos los que lograron atraparme, pero, en conjunto todos los relatos son entretenidos y ayudan a que si no conoces a todas las autoras veas un poco como escriben y te interese buscar algo más de ellas =3 Hablaré un poco más a detalle de cada relato. El primer relato es "En el Crucero" de Sarah Mlynowski [Gimme a Call, Diez Cosas que Hicimos, etc.] Dos amigas de vacaciones en un crucero mientras noticias sobre extrañas desapariciones en altamar ocurren. l. a. historia esta sencilla y fresca, llega a caer en lo predecible PERO sigue siendo un buen relato =3 El segundo relato es "Tu Novia no me Cae Bien" de Claudia grey [Medianoche, Spellcaster, etc] Cecily pertenece a un grupo de madres e hijas [o aquelarre de brujas como le quieran decir] que se junta en vacaciones, incluida su eterna enemiga Kathleen. Que será lo que haga interesante el viaje de éste año. Sinceramente ésta segunda historia es los angeles que menos me gusto y hasta podría decir que en mi opinión llega a bajarle puntos al libro... y muchos. los angeles trama cae en lo soso, los personajes no son interesante y el ultimate es =/ equis. El tercer relato es "La Ley de sospechosos" de Maureen Johnson [Devilish, colours of London, etc] Dos hermanas se van de vacaciones a París para conocer a parte de su familia materna, pero, lo que parecía ser un viaje de lo más glamuroso termina convirtiéndose en una carrera para salvar sus vidas contra algo imposible. Éste es uno de mis relatos favoritos [si no es que es que mi favorito] a introducción hace que te piques, y el desarrollo de los angeles historia los angeles hace sumamente atrapante; es el tipo de tramas en las cuales tienes miles de hipótesis de todo lo que puede llegar a pasar y te tiene con el corazón a mil por hora. Definitivamente buscaré más de ésta autora. El cuarto relato es "La Casa de los Espejos" de l. a. ya muy muy famosa Cassandra Clare [Cazadores de Sombras, Las Crónicas de Bane, etc] Violet tiene l. a. luna de miel de su madre [osea sus vacaciones] para adaptarse a su nuevo padrastro y hermanastro en una extraña y medio desolada playa. Siendo Cassandra Clare, esperaba un poco más de su relato. l. a. historia es basic y hasta un punto repetitiva... vamos, creo que l. a. thought de amor entre hermanos [incesto] es algo que le taladra l. a. cabeza y el ultimate de los angeles historia me pareció muy tajante. No me satisfizo por completo =/ Y por último, el quinto relato es "No Existe Lugar Seguro" de Libaa Bray [Gemma Doyle, The Diviners, etc] Un grupo de amigos make a decision recorrer Europa de mochileros, pero cuando el dinero comienza a escasear deciden alejarse de "los lugares concurridos" y buscar más aventura por el Lado Éste de Europa, o mejor dicho el lado tenebroso. Éste es el otro relato que compite con el de Maureen por el puesto de primer lugar. Me sentí viendo algo al estilo de l. a. Bruja de Blair o así [mis películas mentales al leer déjenme] L narración es hermosa y te deja atrapado en un suspenso que te pone los pelos de punta a cada instante. Literalmente, al terminar de leer tuve que ponerme a escuchar música y prender las luces de mi casa porque me dejó toda mentalizada. En definitiva, un libro que si recomiendo, pero no puedo considerarlo vital =3

SkliP : Cruisin' through Sarah Mlynowski: Really bizarre in my opinion. i used to be type of waiting for Jay to be the vampire yet seems it used to be Kristin and Liz. Oh and Hailey seeing

that she acquired changed. particularly confusing, when you consider that Liz and Kristin saved asserting through the tale that Kristin was once simply attempting to unfastened her virginity. Why the heck did she begin nomming on people?I don't love Your female friend by means of Claudia Gray:Like this one much because it was once hyperlink with Wicca traditions. i assumed it was once hilarious how Scott became out to be an empty-headed boy whom Kathleen became the proper individual for herself. certainly a extra funnier one than thrilling.The legislations of Suspects by means of Maureen Johnson:This one freaked me out only a little. i myself don't think within the "Law of Suspects" yet i assume it really works for the book. It received complicated in the direction of the tip in view that Charlie (Charlotte) type of went crazy. i am assuming she simply determined she loved being taken care of as a psychological sufferer the place she could not kill Marylou (Mary-Louise), and Marylou could not get to Charlie?The reflect apartment through Cassandra Clare:Ooooooh, this one was once probably a beautiful chilling one. Stealing souls from younger males and containing them in mirrors? appears like a very good learn to me. I simply type of want Clare had went on for only a little more, and instructed the reader what occurred for the reason that Phillip used to be long gone and what occurred among her and Evan.Nowhere is secure by means of Libba Bray:Hmmm, this one was once somewhat disorienting, yet i used to be happy that poetic justice prevailed within the end, AKA Mariana, Vasul, and Dovka getting nommed on through the lifeless children. i feel this tale should be persevered and increased considering that Mrs. Smith stated there has been extra to come back for Poe.

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