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Jack MacFadden And The Faerie Realm: An Early Young Adult Fantasy



Synopsis

Since he was a young boy, Jack MacFadden's imaginary friend, Puck, has always been around, but now Jack's thirteen, and Puck's still shown no sign of leaving. And, if that wasn't enough, Jack's also been targeted for assassination by a faerie death squad...Audience/Genre:

Middle-grade-through-early-young-adult contemporary fantasyWord count: 25,000 words (novella)

Book Information

File Size: 238 KB

Print Length: 82 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: June 25, 2012

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008EYT4IS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #448,558 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #73

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Customer Reviews

I almost skipped this after the first few pages. Jack has troubles and gets bullied at school. His parents actively dislike him. He whinges. He's short and weak. blah, blah, blah. Oh, and he has a faerie companion named Puck who only he can see. This did not look good. Then, on his thirteenth birthday he masters the bully. When he gets home he's attacked by two goblins. Puck lets him in on a little secret. With Puck, a brownie named Tom, and the girl from school, Steph, for whom he has always had a bit of a sneaker, Jack is on the run from goblin assassins and on a quest to the faerie realm. Why is he suddenly so important, (apart from having come in to his "powers" on his thirteenth

birthday)? Dunno. Once this adventure starts, Jack transforms into a motivated, resourceful and focused man on a mission. Steph is brave, smart and rock solid. Puck develops a personality, and Tom provides light entertaining distraction. The story zips along at a breathless pace, the plot unfolds clearly, the whole faerie angle starts to make sense. And get this. The author writes action well, and dialogue, including light banter, exceptionally well. Jack loses all of his mopeyness and develops a certain dashing charm. Steph is a dependable and good humored companion and teammate. There is just a tiny hint of affection between the two that adds a pleasant dimension to the adventure. Puck has a dry sense of humor and a tendency toward deadpan understatement in moments of crisis. Tom is a fine and appealing third banana. The writing is brisk and to the point. This is just novella length and the story screams along. It wraps up quickly, but that's O.K. because the fun is the trip from the mortal world to the heart of the faerie realm. Anyone who has read middle grade quest fiction will know what the ending is going to be, but that doesn't take away from the fun. So, hang in through the first few pages and you'll get a pleasant, well made and entertaining story. This struck me as just right for confident middle grade readers ready to move beyond chapter books, and that's usually a tough order to fill. A nice find. Please note that I found this book while browsing Kindle freebies. I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

Well written, and the characters are not mini adults. They act and respond like children, as they should. Very refreshing to have an author who doesn't try to make them behave as other than they are.

Everything I said in my review of *The Serpent in the Glass* holds here. Fun to read, held my attention, will read it again.

I think this was a delightful story, a different coming of age for a young man. I can't wait for the next one

My daughter recently finished reading this book. She said that it lends itself quite well to a sequel and was heartbroken when there was not yet one available. When she finished reading it, before discussing sequels, when I asked what her review was to anyone who had not yet read it she responded, "Get it. Read it. Love it! This book is great for anyone, any age." What more can I say?

D.M. Andrews is a good storyteller, the characters are amusing and colorful! I did enjoy the story but found it lacking for adults, the story is geared kids and I feel they will really enjoy this story. It will hold a youthful minds attention and set them free into a Faerie Realm!

****NOTE**** I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Jack MacFadden has an imaginary friend who turns out not to be so imaginary. Jack is apparently a faerie prince and his imaginary friend is really a faerie named Puck who has been watching out for Jack in our world. When he turns 13, Jack finds out who he really is and an evil fairy named Connor the Dark starts sending evil minions to capture. Connor realizes that Jack is a powerful faerie and could get the rightful king and queen of the faerie realm back to their thrones. Jack escapes the attack with his classmate Steph, Puck, and a new friend, the brownie Old Tom, and they all vow to stop Connor. It will be a long and dangerous trip to the Faerie Realm with a lot of obstacles. Can Jack and his friends stop Connor from his evil reign? I loved this book. I liked all the talk about faeries. I like the Faerie Realm that Mr. Andrews created. I really liked Jack. He is the kind of character I would want for a hero. Kind, cool, calm, and just heroic! This book had tons of action in it and it was written really well for all ages! I also really like the cover art. The book is short, only 82 pages but it is a "novella" (which I had to look up what that was ;)) and I think the whole story was told really well in the book. I recommend this book to kids 9+.

When two Redcaps, ugly little creatures with gruesome faces, enter Jack's bedroom with evil intent, he is forced to flee, with the help of his faerie mentor Puck. Thus begins an adventure from which he will never return. But that's okay with Jack because his parents think he is a good-for-nothing lay-about who will never amount to anything. The first stop on his odyssey is the village bonfire celebrating Midsummer's Eve, where he encounters his classmate, Steph. Much to Jack's surprise, Steph can see Puck, for on this particular evening, the veil between the Fairie World and World of Men is thinnest. Steph shelters him for the night, but he is clearly still in danger. This time when he flees, Steph goes with him. Oh, and they also pick up a brownie named Tom who has been hanging out, unseen up until now at Steph's house. Through woods, up rivers, across bogs and into crystal caves, the foursome flees, not just from Redcaps, but from huge black dogs and underground monsters with oily black tentacles. Unbeknownst to Jack, while he is fleeing his enemies, he is also moving towards his destiny. The story is a well-crafted, fast moving fantasy sure to appeal to young readers of this genre. I recommend it to all middle grade fantasy lovers.

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