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# The Magic Half



## Synopsis

Miri is the non-twin child in a family with two sets of them – colder brothers and younger sisters. When her family moves to an old farmhouse in a new town, the only good thing seems to be Miri's ten-sided attic bedroom. But when Miri gets sent to her room after accidentally bashing her big brother on the head, she finds herself in the same room . . . only not quite. Without meaning to, she has found a way to travel back in time to 1935 where she discovers Molly, a girl her own age very much in need of a loving family. A highly satisfying classic-in-the-making full of spine-tingling moments, this is delightful time-travel story will have readers clamoring for another treat of twin-inspired magic in the follow up *Magic in the Mix*.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4 – The middle child between two sets of twins, Miri often feels left out, overlooked, and unremarkable. When her family moves to a new home, she feels lonelier than ever. She soon learns from an elderly neighbor of a legend surrounding her house. According to town lore, many years earlier a thief left buried treasure somewhere on her property. Quickly, the siblings race to uncover it. Soon after the hunt begins she notices a small piece of glass taped to her wall. Looking through the lens, Miri finds herself still in her room, but in 1935. It is here that she meets Molly, a girl badly in need of help to escape her abusive situation, but Miri accidentally returns to her

own time before she can save her new friend. Alone again, she must figure out how to rescue Molly before it's too late. This fast-paced story will delight anyone who has ever believed in magic, longed for a twin, or imagined the secrets their home might hold. The characters and setting are realistic despite the subtle elements of magic and time travel. Barrows conjures up a delightful tale brimming with mystery, magic, and adventure that will surely enchant readers everywhere. --Laura Butler, Mount Laurel Library, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Barrows, author of the well-received *Ivy and Bean* (2006), tries her hand at a time-slip story. Miri is the cheese in a twin sandwich. Her older brothers torment, while her toddler sisters annoy. But soon after the family moves to an old Victorian house, Miri has something to take her mind off her siblings. Looking through the lens of an old eyeglass, she is transported back to 1935. There she meets Molly, who lived in the same house, under the thumb of her violent cousin. Miri becomes committed to bringing Molly to the present, but how is she going to do that? Finally, she puts together a plan, but so much depends on timing, to say nothing of the nature of time itself. Although Barrows once again presents utterly real kids, time travel is the core of the story, and though the logic seems thought out, readers may feel as Miri does: that getting their heads around the slippery concept gives them a headache. Still, this is pleasing fare that adds a bit of history and a tad of mystery into the mix. Grades 3-6. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

My 7 year old daughter and I have thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Barrow's Ivy and Bean series and were excited to find this book. It was excellent! It was interesting and original throughout and kept our attentions the entire way through. I don't know who enjoyed it more, myself or my daughter!

This is a story I would have enjoyed reading when I was 9 or 10 or 11. Miri is the only non-twin among her brothers and sisters and she feels left out. Like a fifth wheel. One day on time out in her bedroom, she notices a lens from a pair of eyeglasses taped to the baseboard. She is a girl with imagination and curiosity so she peels off the tape and looks through the lens (her own glasses were broken during a tussle with one of her brothers) to check out the lens. There's a special magic that occurs which takes her back 75 years to her bedroom in the year 1935. She meets Molly, a girl exactly her age who needs magical help.

I was having a hard time getting my daughter to read anything other than Ivy and Bean, she just keeps rereading them over and over and didn't want to try anything else she loved them so much. I bought her this and told her the same author wrote it. She loved it, and I loved that she read something more challenging.

Loved this delightful little book! I'm an adult but this would appeal to the 10-13 year old group as well, I think. As a fan of Edward Eager and Elizabeth Enright, I'm always on the lookout for similar books - books that contain magic and a bit of mystery, and that take us back to our childhood days when anything is possible, fairies exist, and time travel is easily achieved! LOVED this book!!

A few days ago, after celebrating my deceased mother's birthday, I had a flash of memory of her reading this book to me when I was younger. I loved it then, and I love it now! I'm fifteen, and I loved the aspects of time travel and magic. I finished this book in a day. It was exciting, suspenseful, and had me on my toes the whole time! This needs to be a fandom (if any of you parents can pick up on what I'm saying). I love this book. You probably will, too. Read it to your kids. Read it to yourself. This book is extremely memorable, much more than the Ivy and Bean series.

I am 19 and just finished reading this book. I thought it was a pretty good book. It is geared more to a younger age and it is very simply written but I still liked it. The story line is very cool and though I liked it ok for what it was I feel like it could have been more elaborate and taken to another level. I would say it's perfect for about a 5th grader which is ironic since the lead character is a 5th grader.

It was awesome. It was weird. I loved it. Great story. It was magic. I wish there were a few pictures.  
(Malia, age7)

I read this book after recommendation from my granddaughter, to be able to discuss it with her. It held my interest well enough, the time travel isn't crazy stuff, and so it was a pleasant book. I love to be able to have things to talk about with them in their down time reads. This will work out well.

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