



Ogre Enchanted

Gail Carson Levine

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In this prequel to *Ella Enchanted*, which can stand on its own, young healer Evie is transformed into an ogre by the meddling fairy Lucinda. She'll turn back only if someone proposes and she accepts!

Returning to the land and many of the characters from her beloved Newbery Honor–winning *Ella Enchanted*, Gail Carson Levine has written a delightful tale about a clever and endearing heroine who is determined to defy expectations.

Evie is happiest when she is healing people, diagnosing symptoms, and prescribing medications, with the help of her devoted friend (and test subject) Wormy. So when Wormy unexpectedly proposes to her, she kindly turns him down; she has far too much to do to be marrying anyone. And besides, she simply isn't in love with him.

But a certain meddling fairy named Lucinda has been listening in, and she doesn't approve of Evie's rejection. Suddenly, Evie finds herself transformed from a girl into a hideous, hungry ogre. Evie now has only sixty-two days to accept another proposal—or else be stuck as an ogre forever.

Ogre Enchanted Details

Date : Published October 16th 2018 by HarperCollins

ISBN : 9780062561213

Author : Gail Carson Levine

Format : Hardcover 352 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fairy Tales, Young Adult, Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review *Ogre Enchanted* for online ebook

Juny says

This book kind of disappointed me because of my expectations. I mean it's set in *Ella Enchanted*'s world so of course it was interesting and good but just didn't enthrall me like *Ella Enchanted* did :(But what book can?

SPOILERS

I fan girked out whenever they mentioned a character from *Ella Enchanted*. I really liked that Lady Elenor was in this and we kind of got to know her and sort of compare her to Ella. At the same time getting to know Sir Peter more was just sadder. It made me dislike him even more than in *Ella Enchanted* since he was a lot meaner in this one. It made me sad, especially when Elenor realizes who he really is. I looved it at the end when they mention Jerrold and Daria's 1 year old son. AHHH and then Elenor who is pregnant. Basically I just want to read *Ella Enchanted* again.

Back to the actual main character of this story...

Evie was alright and so was Wormy but at the beginning when he proposed I wasn't really rooting for them. When she met Peter on the road I was like oh she's going to marry him and somehow her name will be changed, even though I've read *Ella Enchanted* that's how I thought the story was heading. Guess not. And no to Squire Jerrold either. It's amazing how that can be surprise even though I've read the first one multiple times...I did get tired of her constantly "falling in-love" with everyone and her being hungry and wanting to eat humans was kinda of weird but it does fit her ogre persona.

I thought the ending wrapped up a little too nicely. Like the story was rather slow going and then at the end it comes down to the last four hours. And in that time they reveal Squire Jerrold as the Prince and the King believes it and then Evie goes and proposes to multiple squirrels until she finds Wormy. Not the most romantic proposal...I suppose it was fitting for their characters but it just wasn't as engaging.

With that said it was still a decent book but mostly I feel like because I love *Ella Enchanted* and this was a prequel with the king's and Ella's parent's backstories which were interesting. But at the same time I feel like it definitely could've been better.

Kate Willis says

First off, I have been waiting for this book!!! I found it at the unlikeliest of libraries and immediately snatched it up to bring it home. (Look at the shiny cover. :D)

I can always count on Gail Carson Levine to write a love story I can get behind wholeheartedly. She has a message of true, respect- and friendship-based love that is so rare in fiction. And I love how her romantic characters' personalities always complement each to make them a great team. <3 I really appreciated that about this book. (Especially since Eevie was in a situation where she found everyone "attractive"--more on that later--and had to differentiate between true love and just plain attraction.) I couldn't have been happier with how it ended. :D

All of the healer stuff and the references to *Ella Enchanted* were a ton of fun too. No spoilers, but I loved it when another character or situation was revealed. The master was a great character too, very fair-minded and helpful, even if he is a bit indulgent of his grandson. ;)

I also really enjoyed it when Eevie would have a memory of things she'd done with Wormy. They had the most creative ideas of fun, and now I really want to make snow sculptures.

Unfortunately, I found this book too gross and awkward to read according to my tastes. This will likely include some minor spoilers, so BEWARE. XD

Eevie was under an enchantment as an ogre which included being huge, having tons of hair EVERYWHERE (so she's constantly shaving), stinking like you wouldn't believe, and being generally hungry and prone to anger. Not exactly the most loveable character. :P But on top of that, she now had a taste for human flesh that she was constantly fighting, and every single last person she came into contact with made her "tingle". It was neat that it could be metaphorical of physical attraction, but it was conceptually disturbing to read about her thinking of people as literally meat. (She did a good job fighting it though! And I loved how she tried to keep the other ogres from eating "creatures with speech" as she put it.)

Also, apparently ogres eat their prey while it's still alive. WHAT. And humans who kill ogres display their heads. Lovely. There was also a plague in this book that brought about some gross/sad/disturbing descriptions of how and what condition people died in. :(

Just a note, there was one instance of chanting a spell, and ogres used a type of hypnosis to calm their "prey". (I would have liked a little more said on the ethics--or lack thereof--of that.) A character lies his way into favor with people, and another briefly leads a young woman on though feels remorseful and attempts to apologize later.

Best quote: (view spoiler)

Altogether, I loved the sweet romance and the connections to *Ella Enchanted*, but in the end, I didn't enjoy this book.

Clephiro (The Book Coven) says

Evie is a healer. She and her best friend Wormy live in Jenn. They are happy there until the day that Wormy proposes to Evie. Evie, having not thought much of marriage yet, turns him down. Unfortunately, Lucinda, the most irresponsible fairy godmother ever, was watching. Lucinda turns Evie into an ogre with just two months to find someone to marry her in order for her to be changed back. Evie sets out on a quest to see about finding someone to love her.

This is a prequel to *Ella Enchanted*, which I adored as a child. The prequel features a new set of characters, though it does have a lot of cameos of some of the parents of the characters we know and love from *Ella Enchanted*.

The book was cute. It's middle grade, so obviously the language and plot are rather simple, but I found that it gave it charm. I absolutely loved catching up to the world of *Ella Enchanted* again, and the new characters were lovely. Wormy was so wonderful. Overall, the book was just an adorable fairytale that recaptured the

magic of one of my favourite childhood series.

Zazu says

This one is hard to judge because I am so attached to Ella Enchanted that I kept constantly comparing it and trying to figure out who Evie was in relation to Ella. Which may be slightly unfair, but then again, there's no way GCL didn't think that's what we were all going to do! We grew up with Ella! We love her! (And if anyone dares mention the movie, I will gut you faster than an ogre.)

We DO get some more backstory on Ella's fam, but, without spoiling anything, I can definitely say that Evie is not any of the people I theorized she was going to be. So I have to give credit where credit is due-- the decoy hints, definitely intentional on Levine's part-- worked! That gave the reading some bits of excitement and tension that I really liked.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, there were some low moments where I couldn't stop myself from making a face at how fast this girl (with, usually, a backbone of steel) falls in love. Thankfully, it's not all quite what it seems again, but that didn't make having to plod through those parts any more enjoyable. I think it's important to keep in mind that this is a naive 14-year-old girl (which honestly is very hard to reconcile with her very grownup skills and demeanor) who doesn't even really understand what a crush feels like and can't conceive of what makes two people want to get married. She's just clueless, looking at every guy (I had an exciting moment where I thought she'd get with a lady, but nope) wondering if this is her "it". I guess it's honest but still super cringeworthy. I'm guessing kids will like this aspect more than adults. It may get kids' attention and help open their eyes to what healthy romance is and is not.

As far as the overall story goes... It meandered. Nothing too exciting yet at the same time, I did inhale most of it in one go. That's really a testament to the writing quality. The setting was as delightful as Ella's. The thing I'm really disappointed about was that the clues dropped about the age-old ogre/dragon rivalry didn't amount to anything! There is some seriously cool lore there (I won't spoil the tiny bit that we DO get), and it would have been amazing for that to have been woven into the plot more. I thought Evie was going to have a hand in uncovering/fixing something there, and that would have elevated the story from love-oriented. It would have given Evie a REASON to have been an ogre and she could have done some good with it. I do not get why that storyline was dropped suddenly in the middle of the book.

Overall: Fun, enjoyable, though I was left craving more depth and nuance. Definitely best only for tweens.

PS- thank you GCL for making her sleep under a bridge just once, I couldn't stop laughing

PPS- do NOT google "meat stick"

McKenna says

I was not a fan of this particular book and skimmed the last half to finish. I think Levine struggled to capture the magic of Ella Enchanted in this new novel set in the same world, even with some of the same characters. However, in an effort to connect the two books, I feel like she muddied some of the characters' backstories

with unrealistic plot twists (and they are unrealistic and goofy even considering this is a magical land lol) just to name drop, in a sense. This book generally is about a girl turned into an ogre after she turns down a friend's marriage proposal. The main character is really flat to read about. I didn't struggle with her age—she starts out 15, turns 16, and gets married at 18—rather, I struggled with how obtuse and boring she was. I felt like she had a very shallow understanding of “love”. And the ogre thing was meh- there were way more interesting cultures to explore. Anyways, I could nitpick a lot of things I found unsatisfying with this book, but basically, I felt like it was a weak storyline, with boring and unbelievable characters. Read some of Levine's other work instead, like *Ella Enchanted* (the best and one of my favorite books when I was younger) or *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*.

Ella says

I have a lot of thoughts that I'm hoping to articulate more at book club, but I think the main impression is that Gail is definitely an elementary/middle-grade author and I had a different experience reading "Ogre" than I did reading "Ella" for the first time so long ago. I did have a bit of a hard time getting into it, probably because it took a while for familiar characters to start showing up, and Evie, while fun, just didn't capture my heart the way Ella did. The romance as well wasn't quite there for me as the characters weren't as dynamic as I had come to expect. All that said, though, it was so much fun to have more insight into the older "Ella" characters, especially Peter and Eleanor. A lot of things make more sense to me that I always wondered about.

Jen says

Not to be rude, but I just can't read this book straight through. I jumped around enough to get the picture and I'm done.

This breaks my heart, because I LOVED *Ella Enchanted*, but this is nothing like it at all.

Don't let my negativity affect your enjoyment of the book. The cover is GOEGEOUS and the writing isn't bad, it's just not in line with what I was expecting. I think dashed expectations are what is really filling me with such unhappiness regarding this book. If no *Ella Enchanted*, this book wouldn't be a bad one, but in comparison, fair or not, it doesn't hold a candle to it.

2.5 stars, rounded up because of Ella and the cover.

Brandy Painter says

Ogre Enchanted is a prequel to *Ella Enchanted*. It follows a young healer named Evie who is turned into an Ogre by Lucinda. This is Evie's punishment for refusing a marriage proposal from her best friend Wormie. Honestly, I found the story to be rather slow in many places, and it was hard to not roll my eyes frequently at both the way Evie talked and at her antics as she believes herself to be in love with a person she meets as an ogre. I admit it didn't help knowing who that person was. I do wonder how readers who are experiencing the world of Frell for the first time in this book will feel about the world and characters. Unfortunately, I can't undo my years long love of *Ella Enchanted* and view it as its own thing.

Vicky Who Reads says

3 stars

It felt underdeveloped. Not as endearing as *A Tale as Two Castles*, not as addictive as *Fairest or Ever*, and not as fresh as *Ella Enchanted*. Somewhat underwhelming--I wish Levine did a little more with the ogre element rather than just "i'm hangry boo hoo"

Robin (Bridge Four) says

I was afraid that *Ogre Enchanted* would feel a little like *Shrek* but it didn't. I'm not sure if that is a good thing or a bad one.

Evie and Wormy have been friends forever but they are at an age where maybe one of them is starting to feel a little more for the other. When Lucinda shows up and Evie doesn't accept a proposal from Wormy she is 'punished' for her own good and turned into an Ogre with only two months to find someone to fall in love with her and propose.

This is difficult for Evie because one she is an Ogre and smells horrible and wants to eat anything meat based. Two it is bad because she can sense how others feel around her in her home town and it makes it impossible to stay. Evie needs to learn how to coerce like other Ogres do just to stay alive and so she leaves to set off on an adventure looking for love and a way to stay alive 2 months or longer if she is stuck this way forever.

I liked the backstory to *Ella Enchanted* that can be found in this. It was interesting to see the beginning of Ella's parents and a few others that have been 'blessed' by Lucinda for their own happiness. There are some fun adventures along the way and living with the Ogres was interesting, culturally speaking.

The downfall was so much of it was focused on finding someone to fall in love with Evie and propose. It was clear that Wormy was the one for her and she just needed to realize it. Also, Wormy's plan while sweet was a bit silly too.

I am happy with the ending to the story.

It was an entertaining read and I think I would have liked it a little more if I were younger around 8-13 years old which is the age group for this book.

Jen says

This was a tough read. I loved *Ella Enchanted*, and loved the world that Gail Carson Levine has created, but this one had some problematic messages, that I felt would deter me from handing to a child. This book felt older than the 8-12 age range as well, as it is about a teen being forced to marry, or else remain an ogre

forever (she rejected a proposal and is being punished by the fairy, Lucinda). The main character goes through the book thinking that every person she meets could be the love of her life, even when their character attributes aren't great, or she barely knows them. She also flirts with the idea of using magical persuasion to convince someone to propose...

I understand that the point of this book was to talk about real love versus perceived love, and good versus bad people? However, I feel like it could have discussed these themes in a better way.

I still feel that Gail is a wonderful writer, and you can still tell from this book. It was very well written, with great details and imagination. The characters were also really well fleshed out. I also listened to this book on Libro.Fm & the narrator was great.

All in all, I just felt that this book could have been better & also maybe should have been marketed as Young Adult (for teens who want to read YA, but need something without anything inappropriate)?

I'd love to discuss this, if you've read it. Let me know what you think!

Jessica says

Evie has a one-track mind: healing. She lives to heal people, to diagnose, to create remedies. When a friend shocks her with a proposal, though they are very young and she has never thought of him (or anyone!) romantically, she immediately refuses, to the disgust of the Fairy Lucinda. Cursed to be an ogre until someone proposes to her, Evie embarks on a series of adventures, trying to find a cure or come to terms with her new nature- because who would propose to a beast?

I loved how Evie was just unapologetically herself: practical, serious, and more concerned with the health of those around her than her own condition, though there were many painful reminders of her ugly, smelly state that even someone who isn't vain couldn't ignore. I love, as I always have, the richness of Levine's world, and the realistic way that not all kings are wise, not all bad guys get punished, and friendships can form in some very unlikely places!

Valerie Cotnoir says

I've been looking forward to this Beauty and the Beast retelling easily for 4 years. And I was not disappointed. Heartfelt, earnest and hilarious, this book kept me guessing until the end. I loved how simple Evie's desires were and how relatable her struggles were. I also loved the depictions of the different suitors and their strengths and weaknesses and how there is someone just right for everybody. I read the last third today...couldn't read fast enough. ?

Elley Murray says

First of all, HOW IS THERE NOT MORE HYPE OUT THERE ABOUT THIS?! Gail Carson Levine does it again. This is another amazing installment in the world of *Ella Enchanted*, *Fairest*, and *Ever*. Lucinda is at it again with her "gifts," and they're just as terrible as ever. This book takes place before the events of *Ella*

Enchanted, and you might even recognize some of the characters (like Ella's mother and fairy godmother!)

This is such a fun fantasy with some romantic elements. It's written for middle-grade readers, but it's so well written that it was entirely enjoyable for this 30-something adult reader (who, admittedly, refuses to grow up...) Gail Carson Levine proves again and again that you can write books that are accessible to a younger audience while still being enjoyable for an adult audience as well, and that you don't have to write "down to" children in order to write books for them.

Iris says

A prequel to *Ella Enchanted*? That book practically WAS my childhood. I don't even know how many times I read it! So obviously I need this in my life.
