



## **The Unicorn**

*Miguel Lopez de Leon*

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## **The Unicorn** Miguel Lopez de Leon

The Unicorn is a heartwarming urban fantasy novella about Alex and Jason, twin brothers who live an enchanted suburban life overflowing with magic and mystery! Soon though, their privileged existence comes crashing in around them with the sudden decay of their family life, as both brothers find themselves in a grisly and relentlessly toxic reality. The Unicorn is a touching tale full of guardian fairies, ancient water nymphs, obsessive-compulsive gingerbread men and two brothers who are forced to choose between a suffocating, draining home life, or leaving everything they know and love for a chance at something better.

## **The Unicorn Details**

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Author : Miguel Lopez de Leon

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review The Unicorn for online ebook**

### **Lindsey says**

Reading The Unicorn is like riding a roller coaster through an alternate universe which crash lands into the real world and turns into a horrible nightmare.

The Unicorn revolves around a very unique family that live a life filled with talking teacups, water nymphs, gingerbread men that come to life, and other fantastical happenings. This abnormal family is then faced with very real life problems as their fantasy world comes crashing down around them, only to be replaced by fabricated delusions that tear them apart. The Unicorn is such a heart-wrenchingly accurate portrayal of what happens when families are faced with change and difficult situations. Everyone reacts differently, some to the detriment of themselves and others.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book on many levels! I look forward to reading some of Miguel Lopez de Leon's other books as well!

I received a copy of this book through a Goodreads Firstreads Giveaway.

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### **Jae Park says**

I received a free copy of this book from Goodreads First Reads, thank you!

I read this story with my two boys, and they said they really liked it a lot. The story of Jason and Alex seemed to really capture their imaginations and sympathies.

Alex and Jason are twin brothers who seem to have an amazing life, with magical elements, such as a talking cup and birds who try to warn them of impending danger. They also have fairies who guard them while they sleep if they leave the window open at night.

But all that comes to a crashing halt when their father leaves their mother for another woman. Their mom turns into a manic and lying person, who can also be just plain mean if she doesn't get her own way.

At the end, when Jason and Alex leave to find their own way in the world, the fairies come back to guard them and life seems much better.

My sons liked this book and told me to give it a good review, so here I am!

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### **Keshia Driscoll-Cook says**

I won this book via the goodreads giveaway section. I am very happy to have received this novella.

Well...That was interesting! I wasn't expecting this book to be this way but I don't think that is a bad thing.

Alex and Jason have a pretty happy life until one day, something changes. Not in the abrupt way that most change happens, but in a peculiar way that is slow and almost unnoticed. The boys find themselves in situations that make everything they say and do more difficult and strained. Their mother is acting odd, and they aren't sure if this is normal or not.

I love the imagery in this book, with the fantastic descriptions of talking birds and military gingerbread men. There were a few grammatical errors but nothing substantial. I think this story could be drawn out more. It left quite a few loose ends that I would like to see tied up. Also that cliffhanger was like a RKO "outta nowhere!" I was actually really bummed how the story ended. I'd like to hear more on what happens to the family after all of this trauma.

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### **Natalie says**

I had mixed feelings about this book from beginning to end. I liked the main characters, and their relationship with each other, but beyond that the characters (Alex and Jason as well as all the rest) weren't really fleshed out much-- even for a novella. Because of this it was a bit hard to get attached to them. The smattering of fantasy creatures was a nice element and certainly unique, but it wasn't explored enough to add much to the book, which I felt was a pity. As for the plot, it seemed to be trying for something it couldn't quite reach, though I guess the main point got across, despite having a slightly messy ending. What I mean by "messy" is that the pieces of the story (concerning the mother, the sons, and how the problem was... resolved) diverged towards the stories finish and left many loose ends with only a few vague sentences to leave you thinking "Well... I guess its okay, then?."

I'm not saying that this story didn't have its charm, but it wasn't utilized enough, and the plot's errors left a dissatisfying taste.

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### **Kitty Austin says**

"The Unicorn" by Miguel Lopez de Leon is an extraordinary novella written in such a way as to incorporate modern fairytale magic into a contemporary story of a family struggling with real life problems. I won a copy of this book off of Goodreads and I am very pleased that I did. I truly enjoyed the way the author blended the magic of the fairy realm with the nuances of the perfect life and how things shifted dramatically when that life began to go bad and problems were introduced. The story was very reminiscent of how a good life can be almost like a fairytale and then one slip in the dynamic of things can cause that feel-good world to tumble down around you.

What was really important is how the book dealt with real problems in marriage, problems with depression, suicidal thoughts and tendencies and how family problems between the adults can have a dramatic affect on the children no matter what the age. I was the same age as the twins in this story when my parents divorced and oddly enough, my mother was delusional and had severe mental issues before and after the relationship ended. With only a slight bit of differences this story brought back memories of how it felt to go through this terrible time and how my own life had been much like the twins; perfect, and almost surreal. You feel that nothing can happen, nothing bad can ever take away your seemingly perfect life. I feel that many teens would enjoy this book and even some adults.

A great read and an even greater moralistic and valuable insight. I truly loved it.

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### **Alicia says**

Ummmm, this is not a heartwarming fantasy nor is it magically enchanting. The story does not come close to

what the title or back cover says it is. It could be a good story if it wasn't trying to be a fantasy or something.  
\*received from goodreads giveaway\*

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## **Hannah Chaplin says**

A lot of people have been dissing this book, I understand why, but it doesn't deserve as much hate as people have been putting out there. The author has reasons on how he wrote. Everyday was perfect at the beginning for the boys, the best details about it the more it seemed like a regular day. The more details we got is when everything turned south, all of those bad memories rushing back to your head if you have gone through something similar. The traumatic experience of what it is like being on, abusing, or seeing someone that you love and care about on hard drugs like that, it's the way it was in real life experiences. I do not understand the magic involved, I believe that it is the innocence of the twins, and how it is stripped away from them when they no longer have the light in their room. That is just what I understood from the book, but if he made the kids younger it would have made more sense for a few of their actions. Over all it was a good book, not the best I have read, but I understand the actions the author took in the structure of this novella. Would I read one of his books again? Probably, I won't go out of my way to find them, but if I see one I would pick it up.

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## **Llewellyn says**

I read and enjoyed Galadria: Peter Huddleston & the Rites of Passage a few months ago. And I love books with fairies, and nymphs, and unicorns. So I was really excited when I won The Unicorn from GoodReads First Reads. But it ended up falling a bit flat for me.

The book is really short, only about 80 pages. The cover is mostly purple and shows two young boys and a unicorn. The main characters are teens. Galadria: Peter Huddleston & the Rites of Passage is a pre-teen book with a main character who's around 10. And of course the title of this book is The Unicorn. So given all that, you'd think this was a pre-teen, or maybe teen, book.

But it's surprisingly adult yet.. not exactly adult?

First there was the language. This book contained words and insults (such as strip bar, moron, bastard, jerk, idiot, piss, damn, hell, whore, and stupid) all within the first few pages, which surprised me because I went into this thinking it was a pre-teen book...

Then there's the content. We dealt with assault, animal abuse, (view spoiler)

And that's all crammed into only about 80 pages! And really it should have been even less than that because the first two chapters had weird spacing issues and large empty gaps. So the first two chapters take up 25 pages but should have taken about half that.

The magic part was also *highly* exaggerated. There was one mention of a unicorn, but it was brief and nothing but a kids halloween costume. There were a couple of mentions of nymphs and fairies, but they were brief, totally unexplained, and didn't seem to even remotely have anything to do with the plot or even to fit in with the rest of the world or the feel of the story.

I don't even know how to feel about this book. It's interesting. It's entertaining. It's memorable. It's a good idea. But it also could have been done better and marketed better. I personally would have left out the magic because it didn't enhance (or even relate to) the story in any way in my opinion, darkened up the cover, and marketed it as a dark and realistic (view spoiler) story for mature teens.

I'm going to go smack dab in the middle and give it three stars.

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### **Kas says**

I received a copy of this through Goodread's First Reads giveaway. I was very excited to start reading this book. A heartwarming story about twins in a magic modern world? I love this stuff. Unfortunately, this book is rather... lacking. Just at first glance, the formatting inside the book needs a lot of help. The story feels like a first draft; a quick run through of the story to get started so the real meat can be added into the second draft. There are so many unanswered questions and so much that could use a good editing.

The synopsis calls this story heartwarming and I really wouldn't call it that at all. It's mostly of a muddle of confusion and anguish. The story is hardly full of the promised magic, either. The fairies, nymphs, and sentient gingerbread men are certainly there, but they don't seem to serve any purpose and their existence is never explained.

(view spoiler)

It's a really wonderful quote that I think anyone who struggled through abuse from a parental figure could identify with. And after how Alex has been feeling like he's going crazy, trying to rectify his mother's words and actions with what he's seeing himself, it's good to hear. It's so good to see him recognize this and not give in when his mother continues on with how she has been behaving this whole time.

Unfortunately, the story ends incredibly abruptly. Catherine attacks her sister and leaves her in a pool of blood--and then the narrative shifts back to the boys in their motel room and tells us how they go on to lead a life full of everything they ever dreamed and talked of. But what happened to Aunt Haddy? Did their mother ever get help? Was there more magic in their life? Is magic normal in this world or just something special about Alex and Jason? (hide spoiler)]

In the end, I really feel like this story could be fleshed out and become something a lot stronger.

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### **Tamberleigh says**

I'm sorry to say it, but this is not a good book.

The twins Alex and Jason are supposed to be 17. However they come across more like pre-teen boys, or maybe very young 13 year olds. They have a 'gift', of sorts, with Alex being able to make animals talk and Jason sharing a similar rapport with inanimate objects. Or so I assume. Talking birds, tea cups and sea sprites show up for a fraction of a scene and vanish into thin air, with no more notice taken of them by the characters than a stop sign.

This is the only part of the book I almost liked. If this had been the focus of the story, two boys - and their family - treating these magical events like commonplace things and using them as an ordinary person might use a phone or a door, it could have lent an interesting angle to any story.

But it was a thought that was never fully explored. In fact, nothing in this novella is fully explored. When the twins and some fellow students beat another student bloody - after he's bullied the twins - it's shrugged off in a 'boys will be boys' excuse. There are no consequences, and no character growth. It's just a scene there to prove to us these boys are, what, not afraid to stand up to bullies?

Unfortunately, it's handled so poorly and briefly that it adds nothing to the story.

What little story there is revolves around their father's affair - abruptly tossed into the story a third of the way in - and their mother's falling apart when he leaves her. This part of the book could have been - and perhaps was meant to be - the focus of the story. Unfortunately her breakdown is handled clumsily, cartoonishly, and almost insultingly.

Because this is more a short story than a full length novel not everything could be gone into in any detail, but I think it could have been done better than this. I do not recommend this book to anyone.

\* I received a free copy of this book through Good Reads First Reads program in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sue says**

I received this book free from Good Reads.

As my grandmother once said, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." So, I'm saying nothing at all.

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### **Kitty Lusby says**

I received this book from Goodreads First Reads. Generally, I find a bit of good in every bad, but this is a tough one...

Perhaps the author had good intentions, and maybe even had a good story in mind, but couldn't quite communicate it on paper.

I don't really know what audience The Unicorn hopes to find. Dessert for breakfast, child main characters, and the fantasy world and crudely written humor seem to be geared towards children, but the constant use of

words like whore, bastard, damn, twit, tramp, piss...those are not remotely appropriate for a children's book.

The writing is juvenile, contrived, at times hard to follow, and just downright painful to read. Suddenly, in chapter 3, the formatting changes. The characters aren't consistent - one minute the mother is talking like a gutter whore, the next she's elucidating weirdly about a story everybody knows as if nobody has heard it before. The author flip-flops between trying to create eloquent, beautiful writing (which comes across mostly as trying too hard) and being straightforward, or maybe whimsical. Most of the text is unimaginative dialogue with NO speech or action tags so mostly the reader gets the impression of reading a script for a play written by an elementary school student with tourettes.

Overall, I wouldn't only NOT recommend this novella, I'd recommend avoiding it completely.

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## **Heidi says**

So, first off, I got this book as a Goodreads Giveaway. I'm grateful for that, and I hesitate to give the review I'm going to, but I feel I should be honest.

I don't know what was going on in this book. I know it was a novella, so perhaps I can forgive the jumpiness of the storyline because of that but at the same time, it's hard to, because I felt like a lot of it didn't really connect. It was random scenes that would sometimes go together, but other times, I struggled to follow what was going on. I feel a lot of that is because of the dialogue (and frankly, language). It wasn't always clear or specified who was talking when. I also feel there was a lot of unnecessary dialogue. The story could have been fleshed out, and made clearer by more descriptions, rather than mediocre dialogue and still be a novella length story.

Some of the writing was quite eloquent. The descriptives I felt were nicely worded at times, with similes/metaphors, nice imagery and what not. It made the writing feel inconsistent. I think the storyline has potential. I can see that it would be story I would normally be interested in, boys whose world falls apart, and mother has mental issues; Suicide attempts and craziness. That is interesting, but I struggled to get anything out of this, because it feels very amateur in writing.

Nit-picky things, the formatting seemed, for lack of a better word, wonky. The constant use of all caps seemed excessive. Descriptives in writing could have been used to indicate shouting. Though, often the anger seemed abrupt and unwarranted in the situation.

I had a hard time seeing the "magical" things connecting. It felt like it was just thrown into the novel at random points, rather than explained or worked into the storyline well. Also, "heartwarming" and magical? I'm not sure the back cover description matches what is inside the book.

Overall, this has potential. It really does. There is some good writing, there is a good basic storyline, but I believe it needs some more work. A few minor things, like fixing dialogue, could go a long way to making this a "goodread."

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## **Sandy says**



I received this book in exchange for an honest review.  
Here it is

This was the most bazaar book I've read and for that reason I didn't like it.I would find it really hard to recommend it to anyone.

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### **Lauren says**

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review, although I'm not sure how honest the author would like for me to be. The best thing I can say about this work is at least it is brief, otherwise I would not have finished it. Luckily, due to its brevity, I was able to finish it in one sitting and be done with it. Yes, it's that bad. I rarely give one star reviews, but this one definitely deserves it. The story is bizarre, the diction is laughable, and throughout the entire "plot" I never understood what the driving idea was. Needless to say, I am wiping my hands of anything else by this author.

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