



Saint Philomene's Infirmary for Magical Creatures

W. Stone Cotter

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In this madcap adventure, a brother and sister find themselves in the underground hospital for magical creatures where they must save the lives of millions of magical creatures . . . and themselves.

Deep below ground, there is a secret hospital for magical creatures. At Saint Philomene's Infirmary, all creatures are welcome—except humans. So when twelve-year-old human boy Chance Jeopard unearths a plot to destroy the hospital and its millions of resident patients, he is launched into the role of unlikely—and unwelcome—hero. His infinitely pragmatic and skeptical sister, Pauline, thinks it's all nonsense until she finds herself swept up in the mission. It will take all their wit and courage for the brother and sister to save Saint Philomene's—and escape alive!

Saint Philomene's Infirmary for Magical Creatures Details

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From Reader Review Saint Philomene's Infirmary for Magical Creatures for online ebook

Heather Brown says

Chance is a natural risk-taker, but with the best of hearts. So when he accidentally stops an important letter from being delivered, Chance immediately seeks to remedy this error, even though it means climbing into a pipe several feet underground and hand-carrying it to supposedly magical creatures somewhere below. What Chance hadn't counted on was that humans are absolutely, positively NOT WELCOME. Soon Chance is running for his life, and the lives of every magical creature in the Infirmary, because another human has arrived in the Infirmary, and he is threatening to unleash a plague from up above unless he gets what he wants. With the help of Chance's sister and some open-minded creatures, Chance needs to use everything he's got to save the world.

The lexile level of this book will be up there with Series of Unfortunate Events- Love it!

That One Librarian says

This utterly goofy romp through an imaginary world of every creature created by human mind is sure to please middle grade readers of both action/adventure and fantasy. The main characters - a brother-sister duo - sport distinct yet familial personalities and have a relationship that will, hopefully, feel familiar to many readers. There are threads of heavier topics gently woven into the narrative, but they never weigh down the action. Astute eyes will take in these morsels for thought without slowing down even a bit. While the human cast is relatively homogeneous in color, the primary setting is flush with a near infinite variety of monstrous, whimsical, and magical beings. Recommended for a fun, middle grade read.

Serenity says

I received a free review copy of this book from the publisher through my district library services

This book didn't really click for me, but I can definitely see it having readers who love it. Very madcap (for me it jumped around a little too much, but that's just me) with a lot of neat creatures and interesting world-building.

Chance stumbles on an alternate world underground and his sister goes after him. They have to save the infirmary while not getting killed, helped and hindered by all sorts of wild creatures. It is a bit of a challenging read, but your fantasy-lovers will probably dig it.

Lynn says

Quirky romp that started strong. Wonderful for the right reader. It felt a bit indulgent after a while and I was ready to wind it up but I think it will tickle many funnybones.

Kristen says

Got about halfway through and didn't want to read on. Had no buy in to characters and the adventure/danger aspect did not capture my attention enough to care what would happen next.

Cara says

Even though the characters are middle grade, the plot is much lower. There were times when things came together so easily, that it was almost insulting. I'm not sure the target audience would appreciate this book.

Landon says

Strength of this book: VERY rich language. We read it together and there were a few words in it that sent us to the dictionary. The author also tends to use a lot of long sentences that almost feel like they are going to be a run-on, but aren't. Think Dickens. If you like stories that ride almost entirely on plot with little character development, this is a good pick.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edleweiss

Will pass on this. A bit younger than my fantasy fans usually want.

Mecca says

I wanted to love this book,
But found it a bot shallow with plot holes and convenient plants that didn't really follow any rules
Or struggle

Kim McGee says

Did you know that well underground there is a whole tunnel system that leads to a hospital for injured or sick magical creatures? Chance didn't either until his obsessive digging (it runs in the family) uncovered a mail pipe. He quickly understands that his taking one of the letters and reading its contents makes him responsible for the fate of all the wonderful creatures below. Too bad the creatures don't know that humans are trying to save them. A terrific older sister as daring as he is will come to rescue him. Fast paced and fun - for all those kids who want to believe there really is something magical if you just dig deep enough.

Stefanie Hughes says

Thank you, NetGalley, for this arc.

Every book its reader; every reader its book. This one wasn't for me, but I know it will find its audience with children who enjoy fantasy. This book I could encourage both boys and girls to read. I stress boys because of the male protagonist, Chase, who gets really dirty digging a big hole in his backyard. He ends up in another world far below the ground, where he meets all kinds of creatures and finds himself on an adventure to save himself and the infirmary. A wild romp!

Gwen - Chew & Digest Books - says

I adored this. Fun, nary a bad note to set up overly moral people's hackles (unless they have an issue with a world under ours filled with odd and interesting beings), siblings that learn to work as a tight team and such cool world building.

It might be scary for the wary youngsters (pun intended), should be fine for the mature younger readers and no issues with middle-grade readers at all.

You know, so often, I'll read a book for kids and love it, yet feel the need to point out where there might be something hinky or objectionable to either myself or the even more stringent parental figure. There isn't anything in this book, not even any magic for those uber-vigilant parents and I love the closing notes on courage versus bravery and the relationship between the siblings, Chance and Pauline, throughout.

I can't wait to pass this on to loved ones and 'handsell' at the library when they get their copy.

Abbie says

This is a quick fun read with excellent vocabulary and some crazy plot contrivances. Read the rest of my review at Bookish Adventures.

Rosemary says

Twelve-year-old Chance Jeopard digs a giant hole, cracks a pipe, and discovers a mysterious letter with an urgent message. He never knew that there was a hospital for magical creatures right underneath him until that moment, but St. Philomene's Infirmary for Magical Creatures - a 955-year-old underground infirmary with over 6,000 levels and 1.8 million patients - is in grave danger if he doesn't get this letter delivered. There's a human down there, ready to unleash a deadly virus, and this letter details the cure. The only problem? No. Humans. Allowed. Chance and his science-minded sister, Pauline, along with her best friend,

goth girl Mersey, are on a mission to save the day, as long as they avoid getting sniffed out by the current inhabitants. They'll encounter ghouls, vampires, Deviklopts, Geckasofts, and more as they race against time to save the Infirmary.

Saint Philomene's is madcap, crazy fun. Chance is an earnest, likable character who finds himself tossed into the middle of a crazy mission, when he really just wanted to be the messenger. Pauline is a pragmatic realist, and her friendship with goth Mersey make them wonderful foils for one another, especially once they find themselves pulled into the madness of Saint Philomene's. While the frenetic pacing may overwhelm some readers, fantasy fans will get a kick out of this one.

Liz Friend says

The story: Chance Jeopard would never have thought digging a hole would turn out to be so dangerous--although it was actually the underground mail system leading to Saint Philomene's that really got him into trouble. When he tries to hand-deliver a lost letter, he finds out that humans are NOT welcome here--and now he's trapped in an underground dungeon with a greasy dwarf-looking guy. If only his older sister Pauline would come looking for him! (Well!?!? That's not any less likely than a hospital for magical creatures under the ground in Lubbock, Texas.)

June Cleaver's ratings: Language PG; Violence PG; Sexual content G; Nudity G; Substance abuse PG; Magic & the occult PG; GLBT content G; adult themes (epidemic disease) PG; overall rating PG.

Liz's comments: This fantasy novel by first-time author Cotter has plenty of action and LOL moments. Hand it to boys who are looking for an action-packed story with magic (and who are tired of girls being the main character in all the latest fantasy novels).
