



The Little Witch

Lucas Ege Mautner

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Astrid Lamb doesn't want to be a witch. She'd rather lead her gang of teenage miscreants into battle against their rival groups. Unfortunately, her 16th birthday is approaching, and she'll be expected to learn magic and assist her mother in the family trade. But when the elder witch is arrested by the aristocratic Magicians' Guild for performing illegal magic, Astrid's world is flipped upside down. She learns that her mother is more than a simple brewer of potions – she is the leader of the Left Hand, a revolutionary group that is dedicated to overthrowing the Guild.

Astrid will have to team up with an astonishing assortment of allies: an airship captain who smuggles magical contraband, a sympathetic magician and his son, a Brazilian sharpshooter, and a pair of sorcerers. Even with all of the help, the situation is grim. If the Guild can extract the sensitive information that Astrid's mother holds, all will be lost. How can a 16-year-old kid from the slums stand up against a thousand-year-old institution?

The Little Witch Details

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From Reader Review The Little Witch for online ebook

Chris Meads says

I really enjoyed this story about a young girl, Astrid, who becomes a witch at the age of 16. She gets her wand from her mother who is also a witch and is one of the principals of the Left Hand, an organization against the Magicians Guild. Astrid rescues a cat who becomes her familiar so to speak and a broom from an old woman.

Her mother gets captured by the Magicians Guild and it's up to Astrid and the Left Hand to rescue her. That they do in the end. Astrid has plenty of adventures through out the book.

The only problem that I find with the book is that there are several missing words and misspelled ones (most were missing a letter).

I won this book through the goodreads giveaway.

Scott Spotson says

I am impressed. I see I am the first reviewer to review this on Goodreads. Interesting product placement, as it is not available on Amazon website, and is not available electronically, but only as paperback. Way to go for striking up an independent product!

This is an amazing book. I do not know the author personally, but I loved this book.

The author strikes up many incredible feats while writing.

- He is a young / middle-aged male, but he conveys a 16-year-old girl's voice very effectively. Moreover, this lead character is not among the whiny / insipid teenage girls' voices you see so often among young adult novels these days.

- His biography (in the back of the book) states that he grew up in Florida and moved to New York. Yet this book is wholly based in England. He manages to convey the feeling / character of English society, both poor and wealthy, in which feels like the turn of the 20th century.

Very few authors can continually evoke descriptive scenes throughout the book without causing boredom or impatience in the reader. He does it very well. He wisely avoids overuse of metaphors, and instead, uses simple, direct detail using very appropriately matching adjectives. I don't know how he does it.

And, he builds up the story, with a very talented juxtaposition of excitement and character development. In other words, he avoids the novice mistake of cramming in scenes of intense action at the beginning or middle of the book in order to solely entertain the reader, at the expense of the plot or the reader's trust. All the action scenes are necessary to the plot and all are logical.

Maximilian is an intriguing character. Even though he came in a bit late in the book, he held my interest. It is hard to make a character who inherits great wealth and education an interesting character, but the author

pulls it off. I would have loved to read another story about Astrid and Maximilian together provided the author can keep up this delicate balance. The author wisely refrains from developing a love interest between the two (as is so common in so many books) and lets us enjoy the story with them as male and female protagonists with their differing perspectives due to their gender. It also keeps the story as a children's tale, although all young adults and adults of all ages would love it. In fact, I would hesitate to characterize the genre of this book too narrowly, as all ages would love this book.

The ending of the book is, simply, magic. I have rarely been so satisfied with an ending like this one. It is very creative, thrilling, and intelligent. I didn't need such a great ending anyway... the entire book leaves you spellbound.

Well done, and I'm amazed.

The only grumbling I would do is for the cover. The mood and message delivered by the cover is fine, but it would have been so much better as an artist's original work, rather than computer-generated like an old computer graphics children's movie. The computer graphics look fake when examined closely.

The story however is MAGIC! Go buy your copy, wait for it in the mail, you'll be glad you did! It's meant to be treated like any book, lovingly passed from person to person, especially children!

Sarah-Jayne Briggs says

(I received this book for free as part of Goodreads First Reads giveaways).

(This review may contain spoilers).

I did have to wait a little while to read this book, but once it did finally arrive, I found myself really enjoying it.

Astrid was quite an interesting character. I felt her way of speaking came across really well - I could almost hear her street voice. I also liked the relationships she formed with the other characters. I especially liked how resourceful she was, without being over the top.

I liked quite a few of the other characters, too, though I got a bit confused with some of them at times. I felt there was a nice variety of characters and that the challenges they faced came across as really real.

I was a bit confused about the setting of this book. There were times I felt it was set in an alternate Victorian London and other times when it just seemed to be set in a different world altogether. I liked the Atlantis-angle used in the book, too.

There were some amusing moments in the book, but I do think that Astrid was referred to as 'the little witch' far too many times.

All told, I did quite enjoy reading this book and I thought it was mostly well-written, though I did notice a

number of errors. The characters were well-written and it kept my attention throughout. If there's a sequel to this book, I would probably read it at some point in the future.

Dina Roberts says

I'm not a fan of heavy descriptions, so it was hard for me to enjoy this book. It seems to me that at least half the sentences in the book are used to describe things.

I personally don't feel the need to know the eye color of each character.

I don't need details about the exterior of every building that makes an appearance.

The other thing is the author often refers to Astrid, the main character of the story, as "the little witch" instead of her name. I thought that it felt awkward and it made me feel somewhat distant from the character.

Besides all that though....it was a pretty good story. It's about a young witch on a rescue mission to save her witchy mother. It's basically an adventure...with a lot of description.
