



The Hidden Witch

Molly Ostertag

Download now

Read Online →

The Hidden Witch

Molly Ostertag

The Hidden Witch Molly Ostertag

Aster and his family are adjusting to his unconventional talent for witchery; unlike the other boys in his family, he isn't a shapeshifter. He's taking classes with his grandmother and helping to keep an eye on his great-uncle whose corrupted magic wreaked havoc on the family.

Meanwhile, Aster's friend from the non-magical part of town, Charlie, is having problems of her own -- a curse has tried to attach itself to her. She runs to Aster and escapes it, but now the friends must find the source of the curse before more people -- normal and magical alike -- get hurt.

The Hidden Witch Details

Date : Published October 30th 2018 by Scholastic Inc.

ISBN :

Author : Molly Ostertag

Format : ebook 224 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Comics, Young Adult, Fiction, Graphic Novels Comics

 [Download The Hidden Witch ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Hidden Witch ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Hidden Witch Molly Ostertag

From Reader Review The Hidden Witch for online ebook

Gemma says

A solid follow-up to the first book, consistent in themes, story substance, engaging visuals, and array of characters.

This is a touching story of developing self-confidence in one's abilities and interests, learning about / cultivating true friendship, redemption and learning to move forward from one's mistakes. In particular, I think one of the story's strengths is the author's portrayal of Charlie's empathy, her genuine and simple attempts to welcome the new girl, Ariel, into her small circle of friends (and to persevere in befriendng / helping her despite Ariel's threatening attitudes). Another is the author's portrayal of Mikasi's development from his monstrous state into his true self.

No graphic or explicit details, but content contains more weighty subject matter that may appeal to and be understood by older kids (ex. sending vengeful spirits after those who hurt you, becoming consumed by your hurt and corruption).

A recommended read for the middle school crowd!

Jessie Bond says

I didn't think I could love anything more than The Witch Boy, but then it got a sequel. <3 <3 <3

Sara says

Is there anything more marvelous when the second book in a series delivers on all the promise of the first? If you read my reviews you'll know I live in almost perpetual fear of what I call second novel syndrome. You read a terrific first book in a trilogy or new series and then BOOM everything goes to hell in a handbasket in book two. The fun, quirky sidekick with one or two clever bon mots in book one is now front and center spouting wisecracks every two minutes till you want to puke. The magic/sci fi badassery/ghostly hijinks are ten times as elaborate and a billion times as bright and also substituting for anything resembling a plot. Instead of one bad guy now there's ten! That hero you loved so much? Oh well now he's a total dickhead because of some brand new backstory you knew nothing about.

Blessedly Ms. Molly Ostertag clearly took her vaccinations against second novel syndrome because she delivers nothing but delights in the second in her "Witch Boy" series. We begin some time after the events in the first book with young Aster, the first (acknowledged) male witch in his families history, frustrated in his magic lessons. Though accepting on the surface his family still seems reluctant to actually train him. Everyone is also still dealing with the fallout from the attacks of his great uncle (a male witch like Aster who was ostracized by the family as a boy and subsequently became an evil shape shifter trapped in his beast form) that occurred in book one.

Meanwhile Aster's human friend Charlie has started school again after a summer apart from her friends.

She's feeling out of sync with almost everyone until she meets the new girl, Ariel who moves to the beat of her own drum just like Charlie. The trouble starts when a mysterious dark spirit being controlled by an unknown witch begins attacking Charlie and people around her. Now Aster and Charlie are going to have to confront their fears about moving forward and test their friendships to find out who the dark witch is and whether they can be saved or must instead be stopped forever.

Everything about this series just works beautifully. Charlie and Aster continue to be wonderful compliments to each other. Charlie is wise beyond her years and stunningly confident and I love it. She never, ever doubts herself and she trusts her own judgement. If Charlie likes you she will move heaven and earth to help you. But she's a realist too and she still gets scared and confused about what the right thing to do is. That's where Aster is such a great balance for her. He's the magic and fancifulness to her practical problem solver. The total lack of a romantic angle also couldn't be more important. Their friendship is so solid and so rooted in mutual respect and admiration you never question whether they have feelings for each other.

I also just love this world. Despite its fanciful setting there's something very grounded about Aster's family and their lives. I love the sense of ancient tradition that permeates everything and how that makes change so difficult. There's a gravity to Aster's family and their history. But as with Aster and Charlie is wonderfully balanced by Charlie's world where things move at a much faster pace and more easily.

Of course I'd be remiss to just leave out how well Ostertag incorporates social issues into her narrative because its so often done but so often done badly. What she does so brilliantly is simply set her stage and then move the story right along. She takes traditional fantasy tropes and quietly turns them on their head without saying a word. Its our heroine who is logic and reason and our hero who's free wheeling and spell casting. Sure the idea of magic versus shape shifting as a metaphor to the myriad identity issues real life teens face is obvious but the issues that Aster and his family deal with feel like their own thing. You don't read this and immediately go "oh "magic" just means "gay" in this world." There's other little touches too that just feel normal and right. Charlie has two dads, the waitress who serves the kids in a diner scene is wearing a hijab, tiny bits of character and seemingly unimportant moments that become important because they're so normal.

I love how Ostertag is expanding her universe slowly so you have time to take everything in. Her artwork continues to be out of sight with hints of old school superhero styles and just a touch of fairy tale mystique. She loves bright, rich colors (Aster's world being more brown and red while Charlie's leans more toward blues and blacks) and there's a wonderful wild energy to her scenes no matter what is happening. Even her tableau's give off this sense of strong, pulsing life.

The Witch Boy books explore the traditional themes of friendship and growing up that YA books have been telling for years but Ostertag's voice is wonderfully fresh and fun. I love that she celebrates the strength and spirit of young adulthood even while she highlights the insecurity and fear that comes with it. Too often we tend to zero in on the dark stuff and the bad feelings and the pain of being a teen. Ostertag provides a beautiful, funny, and exciting reminder that its a time of wonder and magic as well.

Highly, highly recommended.

Misty says

I found this an improvement on the first volume, and am curious to see more from the world and characters, should the series continue.

Review here (live 10/19/18).

Jenna says

[Is it just me, or is there a little bit more going on with Ariel? There are many pointed glances and blushes whenever she looks at Charlie...hmmmmm. (hide spoiler)]

Christy says

This was so beautiful and I may have shed some tears at the end. Full review to come!

David Schaafsma says

A solid and perhaps even better entry into the series about Aster, a boy who doesn't want to do what boys are raised to do, which is become shape-shifters. He wants to be a witch, which (!) requires some adjustment by his family and friends and society in general. His friend is Charlie, a girl who is neither a witch nor a shape-shifter, but is what J.K. Rowling would call a muggle (i.e., us). Charlie has a new friend, Ariel, a foster child, that seems to coincide with her being bothered by what Aster names as a Fetch, a spirit that would seem to resemble a Dementor (but you can see my frame of reference may be limited here, not being a total fantasy geek here).

Making a commitment to friending Ariel proves difficult, and takes up the bulk of the volume, though we also another friend doesn't want to be a shape-shifter. He wants to go to a human school with Charlie and study math and science. A dramatic event happens involving Charlie's once possessed grandfather, but overall good things happen, kids are becoming who they wanna be, friendships are forming. 3.5 stars, rounded up because actual middle grade readers in my house urge me to round up.

Danica says

Adore seeing the characters grow and change. Hope this will be a long series over the years.

Lizzy // The Bookish Unicorn says

I love this series so much, I can't wait for more!

Nicole says

Good, way more predictable than the first and seems like more of a middle filler than a sequel. While I read the first as more of an analogy for the trans experience, this one resonates with anyone being bullied for an outcast with a less than subtle metaphor for letting the anger fester inside you/the victim mentality.

I hope the author continues the series, the world is great and I wish to see more.

Bookish says

Halloween may be long over, but I like to keep things witchy throughout the entire fall season. Last year I read and loved Molly Knox Ostertag's *The Witch Boy*, so I was thrilled to pick up a copy of the sequel *The Hidden Witch*. This book picks up shortly after the last left off with Aster beginning to learn the art of witchcraft and struggling to prove himself. When a new witch comes to town and her powers threaten his friend Charlie, Aster must use all of his newfound knowledge to save her. Both books in this series focus on the idea that people who are hurting often lash out and hurt others. Their behavior is never excused: They're held accountable for their actions, but they're never treated as irredeemable villains. They're given support and understanding and second chances—something this new witch desperately needs. I love the way Ostertag handles this theme, and I can't wait to see where the next book in this series leads! —Kelly (excerpted from Bookish's Staff Reads)

Kim Clifton says

Turns out this series could get even sweeter, and it did. I'm a huge fan.

Rod Brown says

While falling a little short of the first book, this is a pretty strong follow-up that establishes an appealing Scooby gang for ongoing adventures, which I will gladly read.

Colona Public Library says

Still and excellent and strong title. Seems like they are exploring characters and creating bonds preparing for future volumes! A solid and strong follow up to the first book, I didn't enjoy it as much the first BUT I feel like there are some really good things to come. I really love the art style and am looking forward to future volumes.

~Ashley

Kim says

This is a worthy sequel to *The Witch Boy*. *The Hidden Witch* is a story of redemption and finding one's place in the world. The main characters this time around include a new girl at school, Ariel, as well as Charlie and Aster. Ariel has lived a hard life and is currently in the foster system. There's no information about how long she's been in care, but she doesn't seem to know much to anything about her parents, so it appears that she may have been raised by the state. Her current family doesn't seem to be very attached to her, and she was bullied in her previous school, so she carries around a lot of anger and fear. She's a very good addition to this cast of characters.

I would recommend *The Hidden Witch* to any young reader who questions their place in the world, and/or feels they don't fit in.
