



Wish Upon a Unicorn

Vicki Blum, Alan Barnard (Illustrator)

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When Arica falls through a crack in her grandmother's kitchen floor, she finds herself in a strange world of fairies, trolls, elves and--best of all--unicorns.

Wish Upon a Unicorn Details

Date : Published 1999 by scholastic Canada

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Author : Vicki Blum , Alan Barnard (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Wish Upon a Unicorn for online ebook

David says

Picked this up again since I don't think I ever finished it the first time and because Vicki is a friend of the family. I was pleasantly surprised at the style of writing and smooth plot, which was fast-paced yet didn't seem to jump between scenes. I'll have to read her other books, even if they are for middle school aged kids.

Christine Meunier says

Nine year old Arica felt there was something unusual about her grandmother, but it wasn't until a visit to water some plants resulted in her slipping through a crack and into another world, that she realised her feelings were fact. Having been kidnapped by two trolls, Arica discovers a world of unicorns, elves, fairies and evil trolls.

As Arica is taken through this unusual land astride a captured unicorn, she questions what the trolls could possibly want with a human girl. When they arrive at their destination, she is dismayed to find that she will continue to be held captive, enslaved to work in a mine. To make things worse, the elves that are also enslaved, want nothing to do with her.

Arica finds assurance with the captive unicorns, but cannot explain how she can understand their thoughts. Desperate to escape and get back home, Arica is determined to befriend the elves and find a way home, and the reason she came to be in this unusual land that has an evil fairy who seems so familiar.

Wish Upon a Unicorn is a great adventure about a young girl with an unusual gift. It is fast paced and finishes well. I have no doubt it will appeal to the younger reader.

Jelena says

One of the best series I read and re-read as a child. Forever upset I never managed to get my own copy of one of the books in the middle of the series. Thinking about it, this series might have had some minor influence on my career in politics...

C. says

I looked forward to a warm, magical, feeling centering on unicorns. Any adventure with any suspense or drama would have rough patches but the tone of this book - not just along the way but right from the start - is far too ugly for children. It struck me as exceedingly too harsh especially for a nine year-old protagonist. The terrible focus on slavery, captivity, and deprivation lasted most of the novel! If the dreariness let up from time to time or were relegated to one awful scene; I wouldn't feel as I do about such heaviness. No youth is looking for that when they see the exquisite cover, or read a synopsis about mysterious excitement. A child drops into a world of which she had no knowledge and there is no exploring. She is instantly nabbed.

Two frustrating observations: many, many times, *Arica* could have snipped a unicorn's chain; freeing their unrivalled power to zap villains. Lastly, a very presumptuous narrating style became an irritant. Instead of: "That's when I saw the wolf"; say "Suddenly, I saw *a* wolf". The above expressed, I certainly credit this author for visually vibrant originality. The genre of mystery is wide open to diversity but it must be difficult to create a unique world and premise in fantasy and **Vicki Blum** accomplished it very tangibly.

The identity of the fairy queen was a climactic surprise and her instant love for unicorns, reciprocated by them, is strongly-expressed and inspiring. The various stages of *Arica*'s adventure, when not jailed at a mine, encompass many memorable layers of vastly distinct terrains and creatures, as well as states of mind when they are traversed. She meets people who become important to her too and I didn't wait long to find out where the second novel took us.

Sarah (sarahandherbookshelves) says

I have a signed copy of this book that I got when I was 9! The author was my librarian :)

Heidi Middlebrough says

I LOVED this series when I was a kid. I reread *Wish Upon A Unicorn* more times than I remember. My mom put me in touch with Vicki Blum after she noticed how much I enjoyed the first book (the others hadn't been written yet). I spoke to Vicki on the phone, and then we wrote to each other for the duration of her writing the series.

At the time, I had wanted to become a writer when I grew up. Blum gave me a lot of advice. My love of writing continued even after I changed my future career goals, but her encouragement wasn't lost on me. Thank You, Vicki, for taking the time to respond to a fan. It meant a LOT to me as a kid.

- Heidi

Brheanna says

The description in this series is both fairy colourful but also lacking. I never read the first of this series, at least from what I can recall. I own books #2 and #3 and while I haven't re-read them, I do remember always feeling confused about what was necessarily happening. There are big time gaps of hours or days between chapters which may end on an exciting development, and then the characters will sit around calmly and talk about it on the next page with the chapter header. It's a little jarring. It's nice to know at least that my childhood self wasn't the only one thinking it was hard to exactly picture what was happening, though I could picture the characters with a (albeit cartoonish) clarity.

The book doesn't pull punches with the threats, which I like. Unlike another unicorn series of the same age range and date of publication, *Wish Upon A Unicorn* felt like the characters were actually in danger, and one character even died! I remember appreciating this kind of honesty in the series as a kid and not be talked down to and have my hand held through the series with pats on the head and constant assurance that everything is going to work out in the end. This book has simple writing and simple solutions as a children's books do. But it doesn't feel condescending.

There was one "As You Know" moment where the characters clumsily explained to the reader what was going on for the benefit of the main character and the reader, since both parties within the conversation knew well enough. I think I might have noticed something like that as a kid, but wouldn't have known why that felt weird and shrugged it off.

It's an entertaining read if not a little jarring with how floaty things were. But the characters and world building were at least solid enough.

Stephanie says

One of our family's favorites.

A fun read.

A great choice for every child's bookshelf.

Marah says

Loved the idea of this series.

Shawnna says

This was one of the first fantasy novels I ever read. It's about a young girl transported to another world when she falls through the cracks in her grandmother's basement. It's a well-crafted story that emphasizes family, friendship, loyalty, and redemption. I read it when I was about six and it definitely influenced my interests! It is one of the many books my parents bought for my sister and I when we were growing up; reading has always been a priority in our household.

Natalya says

Read this when I was 9 and just found it again. I vaguely remembered reading an awesome book about unicorns and it took me a week to figure out what one it was. TAH DAH. This is the first in a series I read, and recommend it to young readers!

Twyla says

two trolls pulled Arica through the crack in her grandmothers kitchen floor. her uncle wouldn't let her go home to the real world where she lived then they finaly got free then her grandmother who was the fairy queen sent her back home with wish the unicorn. I learned that some Aunts and uncles don't like you because Aricas uncle didn't like her Auryn 7yo

Rosalie says

This was the first of the unicorn books that drew me in, but only was able to get the 1, 3, and 5th at the time. Maybe later I can fill out what I missed before. I quick read, but enjoyable for the younger and up crowd :)

Kisarael Elementum says

It was a really nice, easy to read book. Quite interesting and magical. It is not something that epic but it is totally worth the read :)
I like it.

Sarah Butler says

My favorite childhood read!
