



The Girl in the Tower

Lisa Schroeder

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Ever since she can remember, ten-year-old Violet and her mother have been locked away in a tower by the evil Queen Bogdana, who has the kingdom under her spell. The queen has everything she wants except for one thing -- beauty. Violet possesses this beauty. She also has a secret: although she is very small, both her spirit and her heart are mighty.

When Violet is summoned by Bogdana to start training to become a real princess, it seems as if her life might be taking a turn for the better. But hope quickly fades when Violet's mother is banished from the castle, and she and Violet are forbidden to see each other ever again. With everyone's lives in the balance, it's up to Violet to break the spell and reunite her family.

The Girl in the Tower Details

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Author : Lisa Schroeder

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From Reader Review The Girl in the Tower for online ebook

Lisa says

Novel Novice says: "The Girl in the Tower will charm you with its big heart, sweet story, and enchanting writing."

Publisher's Weekly says: "Kids will find it easy to root for determined Violet as she sets out to secure her family's freedom. . . her courage and hope light up the pages."

School Library journal says: "Forced to decide between her true destiny and the luxurious life of a princess, Violet makes tough decisions based on character and courage rather than fantasy and greed. Recommended for fans of fairy tales and modern Disney princesses."

Available now, this book is about a girl banished to a tower who has a great imagination and a heart of gold. There's a secret garden, an evil queen who is really a witch, magical spells, traveling minstrels, and two very special birds.

The artwork by Nicoletta Ceccoli throughout the book is just so very special and I feel incredibly fortunate to have her attached to the project.

Tracy says

The library gave me this book instead of other book of the same name (Winternight Trilogy #2). Probably I goofed up when I requested it. The whole time I was reading I was wondering why I requested this book and how it got on my list. But I read it anyways!

It's cute. I would've loved it as a little girl.

Dianna says

This book appealed to my seven-year-old daughter. This is a big deal; she is the pickiest reader I've ever met, and she won't touch most books. So, points for that.

A couple of hours after she went up to bed, I checked on her. She was halfway through this book, and she was sobbing. The witch is TOO MEAN! She's EVIL! She wouldn't read any more. I told her I would read it and tell her if it was worth finishing.

The beginning of this book is kind of a downer. A girl has been locked in a tower all her life (with her mother), just so the evil witch/queen can use her in a spell when she turns 11. It's pretty bleak—and then it gets worse. That's where I caught my poor daughter. It does look up in the end, I promise—and I'll try to

convince her that she can make it through the rest of the book.

I liked the overall message of this book—that the way you are is more important than the way you look. But the story was kind of flat for me; none of the characters felt real. Also, I didn't think the writing was very good—the story felt told more than shown. However, it was very real for my daughter, and this book wasn't written for adults, it was written for children. I guess it's just right for a seven-year-old. A less sensitive one than mine, that is.

Update: She finished it! And she liked the ending.

Erica says

Violet has been in the castle tower since she was born because of her purple eyes. Luckily she has dear friends that help her find happiness in her situation. When the Queen finds her in the secret garden she tries to make her stay. What happens when Violet discovers the Queen's plan with her?

cookiemonger says

It's cute. The illustrations are pretty. Although the first half is rather twee and almost all of the conflict resolution is decidedly inorganic, there is a show of strength from the titular girl near the end that manages to save it. It's probably better when shared with a young reader.

Lisa Albert says

I adored this book and was lucky enough to read in manuscript form. Looking forward to the final version and reading it again in book form!

A.C. Paige says

The dialogue seemed forced

Rachel says

Lovely! And wonderful message in it about true beauty, happiness, and love. Love the birds!

Vivian says

A witch who has taken over a kingdom and transformed nearly everything in it consults her book of spells

for a recipe for beauty. All she needs is a long black hair from a girl with lavender eyes who has reached the age of 11 but not yet turned twelve and a feather from a hummingbird.

The story which unfolds includes a castle tower, kind servants, a secret garden, traveling musicians, devoted parents, imagination, hope, help, and wits to overcome the many obstacles that arise.

Ellen Hamilton says

On pg. 43 when George brings cinnamon cookies for Violet, she "licked her lips". Then, on pg. 71, when she's "hunting for treasure", she "licked her lips as she studied the map." The second time it was written, it did not fit in somehow. And it struck me as odd, that's how I can remember it! Another phrase that was repeated enough to attract attention was: "Ever so slowly".

Apart from those slight "annoyances", for I get annoyed when a phrase is repeated enough times to get on my radar (unfortunately), the book was good. I liked the story, it was quite original with well-known and well-loved elements woven into it quite cleverly.

When Maggie plays the harp, and can't recall how she knows how to play it, I suspected that she was under a spell. But I was, in no way, prepared for the surprise at the end! A very pleasant surprise too.

It's a long story, a thick book, but my ten-year-old sister read it in three days. So, I guess kids aged 10-14 would enjoy this? I liked it well enough and was pleasantly entertained for a few long hours.

Megan says

5/5 stars

I loved this book.

Violet(10 years old) and her mother, Nuri, have been trapped in a tower since Violet was born. This is because an evil queen, Bogdana(who's actually a witch), needs Violet for a spell to make herself beautiful when she turns eleven.

One day, Bogdana takes Violet away from Nuri and tells Violet that she will become a princess. Violet doesn't like this idea because she doesn't want to be separated from her mother.

The plot of the story is for Violet to reunite with her family.

I really enjoyed reading this book because it kept me wanting more. I always wanted to continue reading, especially at the end, when Violet tries to escape from the castle.

In the book, they often change POVs(third person), but I like that about the story because it gave the book a lot of character.

Violet was a very enjoyable character; I really like how she was kind and loving. I loved her bond with the

hummingbirds in the story; they loved each other and could never be separated. She was also very brave, and I liked that about her.

One of my favourite characters is Harry, a kitchen boy who helps Violet escape from the tower.

I also liked Maggie and George, two married maidservants who help Nuri and Violet.

Spoiler Alert!

My favourite part of the book is at the very end when bogdana's spell was broken and we discover that Maggie and George are the true king and queen. I wasn't expecting it, and it was really exciting.

I would recommend this book to young girls who like brave main characters. I hope they enjoy it as much as I did.

Megan:)

Krys says

The Girl in the Tower is an upcoming fantasy novel written by Lisa Schroeder. I downloaded it hoping for a fun read, thinking it was a play upon Rapunzel. For its similarities, I found it to be nothing like that tale. Instead it's a precious, enjoyable romp about a young girl who spends her youth growing up in captivity. It sounds dark and sinister but I assure you that it isn't. It is sweet and charming and full of gorgeous illustrations by Nicoletta Ceccoli. I loved it so very much.

Violet was born in a castle after her mother, Nuri, went into labor on the road. Nuri traveled with a pack of wandering minstrels, including her husband Marko. The Queen of the realm, Bogdana (a witch in disguise), met with Nuri and her daughter and decided to keep them locked away in a tower. Bogdana has a spell that she needs Violet for; a spell that will keep them under lock and key for over a decade until Bogdana may cast the enchantment.

Nuri tries to make life the best that she can for Violet. She invents games and lessons to occupy their time, all the while hoping that her husband will find them. Violet, small and inquisitive, knows little else than the tower itself until the gardener, George, and his wife, Maggie, take pity on her. George builds her a secret garden to further her play, encouraging her to sneak into it as frequently as possible.

But this is only the beginning of an enchanting and magical tale that finds young Violet and her jewel-like Hummingbirds in possession of Queen Bogdana, who wants her to become the princess of the land.

I found this book to be exactly what I wanted. It reminds me of classic books that I read as a child; of fairy tales and folklore and so many things that I love. It's simple and it's straight-forward though it's carefully crafted and exquisitely detailed in tandem. I loved the soft elegance of it.

Violet is a dreamer, a girl full of life and of love. She is trusting and sweet and brimming with ideas. She's the type of heroine that parents will want their children to read, the kind that embody all of the good-natured qualities of children. Against Bogdana she is a perfect foil of light versus dark, of good versus bad, and

beauty versus ugly. She is an innocent curious child wrapped up in a world out to get her, and she handles herself very well. She is a self-possessed girl with many tricks up her sleeve, and she will surprise you on many turns.

The illustrations, as mentioned, are gorgeous. Ceccoli's skill is deft and subtle, a loose rendering style that relies upon hatch-marks and precision. The style is playful and aids to enhance the old-fashioned quality of this book. I tried to imagine it without the images and came up short. It would have been a pity to have read an advanced copy without them, and I am so glad that they were included in the preview.

High on whimsy, light on terrors, this sweet novel of hope, perseverance, and optimism will delight younger readers. It's smart and funny and very cute. I want to read it to a child of mine in the future, and I cannot think of any higher praise than that.

5 out of 5 stars.

- review courtesy of www.bibliopunkkreads.com

Alexa says

This novel is pretty darn precious. It felt like reading a fairytale, and in spite of the similarities it bears to fairytales I've read, it certainly has its own spin to it. Pretty delightful, and a quick read!

Carrie says

This was a cute little story. A retelling of Rapunzel-like story. A girl and her mother are locked in the tower by an evil queen for her own gain. This queen's ultimate desire is to be pretty. To do that, she goes to any length to get the things she needs in order to achieve this.

The girl, on the other hand, is the true beauty because her heart is beautiful. Instead of a prince coming to the rescue, a family is reunited. These are the morals of the story.

I could really see this being a great "starter" book for chapter book reading. I plan on purchasing this for my daughter as she loves the whole princess thing (because they wear pretty dresses). She is not confident in her reading. She isn't comfortable to go on her own, always having to read aloud to me. I think a book like this will help. Also, the chapters are a few pages in length and there's *usually* a picture to accompany every chapter. The art work is adorable; I really enjoyed them.

Don't over analyze the story and try reading it from a young reader's POV. I thought it was perfect.

Mei-Ling says

I like this book because the girl in it is resourceful and not a shrinking violet. It is a sweet little fairy-type tale

and would be a good pick for young readers.
