



Hatching Magic

Ann Downer-Hazell

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"You never know when magic will hatch...." Poor Theodora Oglethorpe! Her biologist father has gone off to explore the jungles of Laos without her, her best friends are away on vacation, and a long, hot, lonely Boston summer is all she has to look forward to.

Poor Gideon! Wycca, his pet wyvern, has disappeared through a magic hole in time in search of a place to lay her egg. Kobold, Gideon's wizard rival, wants nothing more than to get his hands on Wycca. In a desperate attempt to rescue Wycca from Kovold's evil clutches, Gideon follows her through the magic hole...and finds himself transported from thirteenth-century England to the terryfyingly modern world of Boston, Massachusetts, in the twenty-first century.

Soon Theodora's involved with a chocoholic baby wyvern, a mysterious wyvern playing card, a couple of desperate wizards -- and the summer vacation of her life!

Hatching Magic Details

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From Reader Review Hatching Magic for online ebook

Bev says

I read this book because I wanted to see whether it was something my 10-year-old brother might like.

I really enjoyed it. It's fun, full of adventure and doesn't patronise like some children's books seem to. And there are dragons (well, wyverns), which is always a good thing in my opinion.

Kat Heckenbach says

I actually read the sequel to this first, having picked it up at a used book sale unaware that it was part of a series. I enjoyed that book so much I decided I needed to read the first one. (For the record--the second book did a great job of standing on its own.)

As with the other book, I loved the characters in this one. Theodora is easy to relate to and empathize with. She's smart and spunky and realistic. The other characters come to life as well and are distinctive, particularly the Wizard Gideon.

The author's voice is down to earth yet quirky. Lots of humor in the story, but never, ever overdone. The writing and pacing are just right.

And of course, the whole premise of the story. Dragons and wizards and portals in time and space!

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My YA fantasy series:

book 1

book 2

Catherine says

Again, another book that was slightly too unrealistic, but who am I to complain? I'm one of the biggest fantasy fiction lovers out there! I have to wonder, though... why was the evil wizard Kobold so anxious to get rid of his rival, Gideon? Was he truly vengeful, because of how Gideon beat him out for the position of Sorcerer Royal, or was he working under someone else's bidding? And for what prize? As said by Merlin near the end of the book, "'Think about it, my friend, what is a greater prize even than Wild Magic? ... controlling... a gateway to Never-Was' (240). This shows that Kobold may not have wanted his nemesis/half-brother dead for revenge, but for the opportunity to have control over the non-existent. To be able to terrorize nations with a mirage. Who (an evil who) wouldn't want that?

Willow says

I'm in the middle of reading this book and so far, I like it. I love how the main character, who's from the 13th century, refers to 21st century things as magical things when they're just ordinary objects such as dishwashers or stove tops. I agree with some of the other reviews saying it's confusing and weird but if you like magic and fantasies then you should give this book a chance. It has a Harry Potter ring to it with all the spells, enchantments, and items and it has varying ingredients to potions that sound familiar such as a newt eye or a basilisk feather. If you liked Harry Potter then you'll like this book

Monika says

omg... this book was sooooo good. although i read it in like 3rd grade, this book is a must read for any fantasy lovers!!!

Janeen-san says

Wycca is a wyvern, the most catlike of dragons. She belongs to the wizard Gideon, a busy twelfth-century wizard. Wycca is about to lay an egg, and none of the places she's searched so far in the castle have seemed *just right*. Then, all of the sudden, what does she find in the melon patch--but a Bolt Hole through Time itself.

Gideon discovers Wycca is missing. Then he also finds the Bolt Hole. Packing up his trusty familiars and a few spells, he goes through the Hole, certain that his wyvern must be there.

And in the blink of an eye, he finds himself in the strange world of 2002! How will he find Wycca *now*?

I thought this book was great. I laughed a number of times, and I really loved Gideon's personality. The author describes things with a bit of mystery in them, leaving the reader to discover exactly what it is themselves. What a great book!

Bill Tillman says

Fun book, interesting plot.

Julian says

an another fiction novel to your list. an definite to read

Rebecca McNutt says

Hatching Magic was a pretty good book story-wise, but I couldn't really relate to the characters and the book wasn't very descriptive, either.

Rachel Delaney Craft says

In a word, magical! I can't believe I didn't discover this book 15 years ago when it came out, because I would have loved it at that age. But I loved it as an adult too. It's a sweet, lighthearted read, yet also witty and intelligent. And the magical elements are so clever!

Lora says

My daughter loves this book and rereads it regularly even though she is nearly out of high school. She asked me to finally read it, so I did. It was sweet and appealing, and the annoying parts, like interruptions from some unseen editorial commentator, or the abrupt switching back and forth between characters and settings, would not have bothered me as a kid. I would have felt as if I had been included into special magical secrets and absorbed it all up with a free and equal relish. So the weaknesses are mainly such in my mid aged eyes. It's a fun little book and has what for a young kid might be a little bit of nerve chilling description of bad guys. Oh, and a baby dragon in distress. That might bother some sensitive kids.

Good book.

Anna says

I got this advanced reader's copy from my high school librarian for free. Naturally, I was interested because dragons.

But it turned out to be a grave disappointment. The pacing/story telling was horrible. This is a book about a young girl and her encounter with a dragon, and yet she doesn't meet the dragon until 3/4 way through the book (even then, she only meets the chick, not the mother). The slow narrative up until the climax was intolerable - I was not intrigued by any of the hiccups along the way. There were far too many "for some reason"'s in this book to indicate the use of plot devices. There were a lot of moments where something was described that seemed important but never came to fruition (Theodora's father seemed like a pretty important character, but he was gone all the time; Theodora's thinking tree was mentioned late in the book, and it should've been mentioned earlier; Mikko's mysterious past was forgotten instantly; Theodora's obsession with being in the card club;etc.). The POV changed sporadically. I couldn't believe that Theodora accepted the existence of wyverns so easily - loving them in mythology is different from believing they are real, and there was no indication in the book before that point that she did. FINALLY, why did the wizards make Mikko and Andy forget about the dragon and not anyone else? There was no reason for that.

The only reason I finished this book was because I felt obligated, having owned it so long and because I love dragons.

Heather Hayden says

Picked this up on a whim at one of my favorite used bookstores. It's a cute story about a wyvern just trying to find a safe place to hatch her egg and a young girl who stumbles upon a very magical card! There's also a pair of wizards who are awesome and I would love to have tea with.

I'm glad to see it's a series--this book was a complete tale but hinted at so much more behind the scenes... Now I'm going to need to hunt down the sequels as well.

Hannah Christensen says

This book was so captivating when I was in middle school, but still holds up a little

Faith says

Theodora's father gets to go explore the jungles of Laos and she is left with her nanny, Mikko. Theodora's best friends, her only friends, are off on vacation, leaving Theodora alone for the entire summer. She thinks this will be the worst summer, but it won't be at all.

Reasons why I like this book-

Reason 1- I couldn't stop reading.

Reason 2- I could imagine what was happening.

Reason 3- It made me wonder, do dragon's really exist?

Alexandra says

Kid liked that is was based on magic and time travel and and his quest. Different views from all the characters was a great strategy for the story too.

Bethany says

I am honestly disappointed with this story. It had so much potential and the beginning was really interesting, but nothing was happening until 3/4ths of the way in. The end of the book was really good, and the conclusion left me feeling satisfied. I would have liked this a lot more if the story had actually progressed evenly. But overall this was a good story, and I would recommend it to kids in middle school.

Bee says

I wasn't allowed to read this book when I was a kid because it has tarot cards in it. My cousin owned it, and I tried to sneak it around my Mom, but she confiscated it.

Anyway, I remembered the cover 13 years later and tried finding it on the internet. With a quick search of "book with picture of demon hatching from an egg on the cover," I found it!

Except it isn't a demon on the cover. It is a wyvern, a cat-like type of dragon. This book is so adorable and clever. I really couldn't put it down. It is for kids, but it doesn't dumb down the magical material. The wyvern's name is Wycca, some wizards accidentally summon a Ying-Long, there is a snake familiar called Ouroboros, etc. It is packed with clever references.

I loved it. I would have loved it as a kid.

Doris says

I enjoyed this story, although it was obviously written for a young audience. The version I have is a Scholastic Book Fair edition, sold only in schools, but was in great condition.

The story line was a little confusing as it switched back and forth between 3 different groups of people, all of whom are moving towards the same goals (even if they don't know it). The main sets are the wizard from the 13th century and the wizard-to-be from the 21st century. They also happen to be the most likable, although surprisingly the demon was a likable character - of sorts.

I enjoyed the conflict, as it wasn't too harrowing for a youngster, but still enough to keep my interest. Some of it was predictable, but overall a well written story with a likable main character, and just enough mystery to make you wonder if there will be a sequel.

I would recommend this for a fun summer read, or for a cozy evening.

Ardis says

This book was boring, and not all that well written. As Casey says, in another review, it's recommended for kids who read and enjoyed Harry Potter, however, it's really for a younger set of readers. I wanted to like it, as it was written by a local author, and I lived in the area the book took place in, but alas, I never recommended this book to any of the kids that came to the children's library I worked in.
