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Juniper



Synopsis

Though Juniper enjoys the easy life of a medieval princess, she chooses to learn about herbs, healing, and the magic within nature from her strange and difficult godmother. As her training comes to an end, Juniper discovers that her power-hungry aunt is using black magic to seize the throne. Juniper must use her as-yet-untested powers to stop herâ before the kingdom is destroyed!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 208 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 4.1 x 0.5 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (65 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #54,031 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #509 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up &

Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women #2162 inÂ Books >

Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up-- A rich, deeply colored novel of a young girl's coming of age. Ninnoc is the indulged only child of King Mark of Cornwall as Christianity is beginning to overcome the ancient Celtic religion of the Mother Goddess. She has abilities as a healer and the ambition to rule her father's small kingdom. She is sent to her unusual and unappealing godmother, who teaches her to become a doran , a sort of wise woman or white witch. Euny is no fairy godmother--her lessons are hard, slow, and obscure. Ninnoc returns home to find her father's kingdom under her evil aunt Meroot's enchantment. She then realizes that she must use her new powers to save both herself and her cousin Gamal, the gentle musician whom Meroot is forcing to become a warrior knight. Furlong's story, the prequel to *Wise Child* (Knopf, 1987), is neatly constructed, with several interesting parallels embellishing the story line. Background details are vivid and smoothly incorporated. The

feminist perspective is clear but not obtrusive; characters of both sexes are well drawn and balanced as to appeal and interest. The pace is sure and steady with light touches of humor. The action is quite believable given the beliefs of the time, and our own growing knowledge of psychology, herbalism, and pre-Christian religions. Historical fantasy of the calibre of Bradley's *Mists of Avalon* (Knopf, 1982), and just as satisfying. --Barbara Hutcheson, Greater Victoria Public Library, B.C., Canada
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â œThis prequel to *Wise Child* recounts the childhood and spiritual initiation of Juniper, who will in turn pass down the secret teachings of the dorans to *Wise Child*. Readers will again enjoy the details of herb-gathering, spell-casting and mystic rituals. An atmospheric story that will both satisfy confirmed fantasy fans and involve readers new to the genre.â •â "The Bulletin

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