



2003

Triss

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Jacques, Brian. *Triss*. Philomel Books, 2002. ISBN 0399237232. \$23.99. 389 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Fry

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Adventure stories;

Subject: Animals--Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

A trio of slaves, Triss, Welfo, and Shogg, make their escape from evil Princess Kurda of Riftguard, but find themselves running from the royal Slave Catcher and a ship full of pirates. At the same time, Scarum, Sagax, and Shroova leave their home of Salamandastron to seek adventure. Deep in the protection of Mossflower Woods, two lost Dibbuns from Redwall Abbey find the location of the legendary Brockhall, the ancient hall of the Badger Lords. Each of the three individual stories has their own tightly woven plot line, but in the end the stories come together as Triss, Shogg, Scarum, Sagax, and Shroova find each other while trying to escape from the pirates and make a run for the sanctuary of Redwall Abbey. Once at the Abbey, the adventurers have their work cut out for them as they must help the Redwallers defend their home from the princess and her evil companions, as well as the monster that guards the corridors of Brockhall. No one beast can save the day in this novel, it is only through the help of every individual that Redwall Abbey can be saved.

The first few chapters of this novel are slow, as Jacques has to set up the three different story lines. Gradually the action begins to roll and the story becomes engrossing. All of the twists and intriguing characters that Jacques introduces the reader to make the book a worthwhile read. The only difficulty in this book may come from the various dialects that the different species of animals use. One way to overcome that obstacle would be by reading this book out loud, making the dialects easier to understand and giving children the chance to ask questions about the complex plot as you read.