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Spiderwick Chronicles: The Seeing Stone

Jessica Waite

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Diterlizzi, Tony and Holly Black. *Spiderwick chronicles: the seeing stone*. Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003. ISBN 0689859376. \$9.95. 108 pp.

Reviewer: Jessica Waite;

Reading Level: Intermediate;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Fairy tales;

Subject: Goblins--Juvenile fiction; Brothers and sisters--Juvenile fiction; Single-parent families--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

The second installment of the *Spiderwick Chronicles* is just as great as the first. In *The Seeing Stone*, we once again join Jared Grace and his siblings, Mallory and Simon, as they learn more about the fantastical new home in which they find themselves. After refusing to give up the field guide, Jared is faced with a huge problem when the local gang of goblins decides to kidnap Simon and hold him for ransom. Jared and Mallory struggle to find a way to keep the field guide safe while rescuing Simon at the same time. In this adventure, they find a friend and much needed help in Hogsqueal, a hobgoblin. They also cross paths with a huge troll and tree sprites.

Now that Jared can see the real world around him, thanks to a stone courtesy of the house brownie, he and Mallory stand a fighting chance against their fantastical opponents. This is a great continuation of the Grace children's story. We find out more about the mystery of the field guide and how it came to be. This book also raises more questions as to why these creatures want the book so badly. This is a wonderful book for the young reader who has a fancy for the fantasy world.