



2003

### Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide

Jessica Waite

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DiTerlizzi, Tony and Holly Black. *Spiderwick chronicles: the field guide*. Simon and Schurster Books for Young Readers, 2003. ISBN 0689859368. \$9.95. 107 pp.

Reviewer: Jessica Waite;

Reading Level: Intermediate;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Fairy tales; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Fairies--Juvenile fiction; Brothers and Sisters--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

If you enjoyed Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events*, you will really enjoy the *Spiderwick Chronicles*. The first book of the series, *The field guide*, introduces the characters and situation with mystery and intrigue. The Grace children, Mallory and twin brothers, Jared and Simon, find themselves in an uncomfortably new situation when they are forced to move into an old mansion after their father leaves their mother and them without any means of support. They begin noticing strange noises and occurrences in this mysterious house from the moment they step through the door. After searching the house, Jared with his siblings in tow, discovers a secret library that once belonged to their great uncle. In the library, Jared finds the *Field guide*, a book describing the surrounding area and the fantastical creatures that live there. They soon realize the existence of fairies, house brownies, and goblins right in their own back yard!

This is a great introduction to a fun and exciting new series. The Grace children instantly find a way into your heart as you experience their adventures right along with them. This fast, fun read is perfect for kids interested in fantasy but not quite ready for the heftier novels in the genre.