



2005

Inkspell

Patricia Castelli

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Funke, Cornelia Caroline. *Inkspell*. Scholastic, 2005. ISBN 0439554004. \$19.99. 635 p.

Reviewer: Patricia Castelli

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Children's stories, German--Translations into English; Books and reading--Juvenile fiction;

Magic--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Although this sequel to *Inkheart* received excellent editorial reviews, it suffers drastically as too many plot threads are left dangling until the next installment. Long before the non-ending, the plot threads begin to unravel. Characters become less sympathetic as they journey along, fumbling from one disaster to another. Every one of them is inept. Meggie should work her magic to repair the world, but she never quite gets to it. Her aunt is a prisoner in her own house, held by a couple of buffoons whose motivations become murky after their boss disappears into Inkworld. Scene after scene, characters are mired in threatening circumstances, largely because of their lack of positive action.