



2006

The Dream-Maker's Magic

Kate Reynolds

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Shinn, Sharon. *The Dream-Maker's Magic*. Viking, 2006. ISBN 0670060704. \$16.99. 272 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Mistaken identity--Juvenile fiction; Fantasy--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

The Dream-Maker's Magic is the third story set in Shinn's magical world first introduced in *The Safe-Keeper's Secret* and continued in *The Truth-Teller's Tale*. This story introduces readers to Kellen, a unique heroine whose mother insists on raising her as a boy. Due to her odd upbringing she is an outcast among both boys and girls her own age. She finds a friend in Gryffin, whose physical deformities set him apart from his peers as well. As the two grow, Kellen struggles to find a place she fits in. Everything changes when Gryffin becomes the kingdom's Dream-Maker, leaving Kellen wondering if she has lost him just as she starts contemplating more than friendship in their relationship.

Shinn's story is pleasant, but once again she relies on the same type of mistaken identity that she uses in the previous two novels. The ending is much too perfect and full of coincidences to retain any believability. Kellen's character is the biggest redeeming quality of this work: Shinn depicts her confusion and discovery of her own identity with respect and gentleness. As with the other two books, this one can stand alone.

This easy-to-read romantic fantasy, with its themes of friendship and self-determination, will appeal to many young teenage girls, but more mature readers may see it as fluff.