



2006

Endymion Spring

Laura Wadley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wadley, Laura (2006) "Endymion Spring," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 27 : Iss. 1 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol27/iss1/19>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Skelton, Matthew. *Endymion Spring*. Delacorte, 2006. ISBN 0385733801. \$17.95. 400 p.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Adventure stories; Historical fiction; Mystery and detective stories;

Subject: Books and reading--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; Gutenberg, Johann, 1397?-1468--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Endymion Spring, printer's devil to Johann Gutenberg, discovers and opens a book from Eden, bound in the skin of a leaf dragon, and opaque to all but the purest hearts and hands. In modern-day England, Blake Winters, visiting Oxford University with his scholar mother, is "chosen" by Endymion Spring's long-lost book to find its missing pages and create *The Last Book*, repository of all knowledge. A collection of ne'er-do-wells want the book as well, and Blake and his little sister Duck must evade the evil-intentioned and their own cranky mother to solve the mystery of the ages.

Although Mr. Skelton's premise is promising and pleasantly bookish, his characters are sketchily drawn and mostly unappealing. The narrative in the 1400s is much livelier than the contemporary one, but the whole story is unhappily overwritten, slowed and sometimes derailed by an overabundance of clunky similes and descriptions of Blake's heart stopping, skipping beats, and hammering against his ribs until a cardiologist seems in order. The story itself is gappy and confusing, but compelling, so it may be that children will like it in spite of its flaws.