



2007

Poor Little Witch Girl

Kate Reynolds

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Reynolds, Kate (2007) "Poor Little Witch Girl," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 28 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol28/iss1/11>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All 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.

Desplechin, Marie. *Poor Little Witch Girl*. Bloomsbury, 2007. ISBN 9781599901282. 144 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Fantasy stories;

Subject: Witchcraft--Juvenile fiction; Mothers and daughters--Juvenile fiction; Grandmothers--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Eleven-year-old Verbena hates the fact that she is destined to be a witch. She and her mother don't see eye to eye on their plans for her future, and so Verbena's grandmother steps in to take her granddaughter one day a week to help her understand more about her heritage.

The story is told in the first person by each character in turn: Verbena's mother, Ursala; Verbena's grandmother, Anastabotte; Verbena herself; and the boy she likes, Soufi. None of the characters really stand out or make the reader care about them in any way. The main conflict of the plot is that Verbena isn't so much afraid of being a witch as she is afraid of turning out like her mother; that however, is glossed over in the end with the almost random introduction of Verbena's father. Mediocre plot and even more mediocre writing (though this may be the result of the translation and not the author's style)--this book is probably only appropriate for exceptionally large collections looking for fantasy titles for girls not yet quite ready for Harry Potter.