



2008

Igraine the Brave

Larysa Bordner

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Bordner, Larysa (2008) "Igraine the Brave," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 29 : Iss. 2 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol29/iss2/9>

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Funke, Cornelia. *Igraine the Brave*. Illustrated by Cornelia Funke. Chicken House, 2007. ISBN 9780439903790. \$16.99. 212 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Knights and knighthood--Juvenile fiction; Magic--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Igraine comes from a magical family, but she wants to change things the "old fashioned way" as a knight. Her family thinks it is unusual that she would not want to follow in their footsteps as a magician, especially because she is a girl. However, her family loves and supports her, which becomes essential when an evil, although not incredibly skilled, magician from another kingdom comes to take away their magic singing books. The evil magician could not have shown up at a worse time, since Igraine's parents have accidentally turned themselves into pigs and cannot help protect the castle. Igraine and her brother must learn to use their talents in a predicament to save their parents, the castle, and the singing books. Through it all, Igraine earns her name as a knight-- Igraine the Brave.

Igraine the Brave is an entertaining story for pre-teens and young teenagers. The novel's theme focuses on believing in one's self and leaning on friends and family in times of need. Funke does an exceptional job in keeping the reader interested in what will happen with Igraine next, and through Igraine, she shows how challenges can be handled in a confident, capable manner.

Volume 29, no.2 (November/December 2008)