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A Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom

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Author: Healy, Christopher

Title: *A Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*

Illustrator: Harris, Todd

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Walden Pond Press

ISBN: 9780062117434

Number of pages: 438

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Fantasy; Novel; Princes; Witches; Fairytales



Review:

In the songs by the bards, Prince Charming charmed Cinderella, kissed Snow White, awakened Sleeping Beauty, and rescued Rapunzel. In reality, four very different and individual princes accomplished these fairy tale feats: Prince Frederic, Prince Duncan, Prince Liam, and Prince Gustav. Feeling cheated by the vague press, the princes leave their kingdoms in pursuit of heroic deeds and better recognition. But right under their noses, the evil witch, Zaubera, is capturing all the kingdoms' bards to lure royalty away from their kingdoms and into her clutches. Adventure-driven Ella—also known as Cinderella—discovers Zaubera's plans and tries to free the captured bards. During their adventures, the princes finally stumble upon Zaubera's plans and they join Ella in defeating the evil witch.

Healy's interpretation of Grimm's fairy tales is incredibly humorous and imaginative. The book does answer some realistic questions for readers about the Grimm stories: Would Snow White be socially awkward if she only talked to animals and dwarfs? Would the prince who "rescued" Rapunzel feel jilted because he did not really rescue her? What kind of prince would let other people discover his Cinderella? This would be a great read-aloud book for children and even adults. Readers can look forward to more books to come as this is the first book in Healy's debut series.

Reviewers Name: Tessa McMillan

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