



2013

Clover Twig and the Perilous Path by Kaye Umansky

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McMillan, Tessa Joy (2013) "Clover Twig and the Perilous Path by Kaye Umansky," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss2/4>

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Author: Umansky, Kaye

Title: *Clover Twig and the Perilous Path*

Illustrator: Johanna Wright

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press

ISBN: 9781596437548

of pages: 256

Rating: Cannot Recommend

Reading/Interest Level: Primary; Intermediate

Keywords: Witches; Trails; Missing children; Quests; Fantasy

Review:



Mrs. Eckles warns Clover Twig that the Perilous Path has returned to the forest. The Perilous Path leads unsuspecting travelers through dangers tailored to their fears. When Mrs. Eckles believes she sees Herby—Clover Twig’s baby brother—go on the Path, Clover and Wilf decide to brave the magical trail to save him. Meanwhile, evil Mesmeranza follows Clover to enact her revenge by kidnapping Herby. But by the time Mesmeranza puts her plans into action, everyone discovers that they were following a creature wearing Herby’s clothes and that Herby has been safely home all along. Mrs. Eckles flies in her cottage to rescue Clover, Wilf, and two other traveling companions, leaving Mesmeranza trapped on the Path.

This story was, unfortunately, a big disappointment compared to the first book, *Clover Twig and the Magical Cottage*. There was wit and humor similar to that of the first book, but the ending fizzled out when readers discover that the characters’ quest was basically pointless. Also, the illustrations were too primitive at times and even distract from the story. For example, in several cases, the illustrations didn’t properly illustrate a location or a character being described. Definitely not the best work from Umansky, and readers would do well to just read or revisit the Clover’s original adventures.

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