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# The Vengekeep Prophecies by Brian Farrey

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Author: Farrey, Brian

Title: *The Vengekeep Prophecies*

Illustrator: Helquist, Brett

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books

ISBN: 9870062049285

Number of pages: 390

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate

Keywords: Thieves; Magic; Prophecy; Disaster; Quests; Family; Plants; Friendship; Betrayal; Traditions; Fantasy; Novel

Review:

Grimjinxes have lived in the village of Vengekeep for generations. One step ahead of the law they make a living by conning, and bilking their neighbors. Da is an accomplished thief, Ma is a great forger, little sister Aubrin is good at picking pockets. Only one person in the history of Grimjinxes has ever been really bad at the family business, twelve year old Jaxter. His only talents seem to be a love of plants and herbs and the ability to notice detail. But after Jaxter's first 'job' lands the family in jail and a contingency plan backfires, the family is called upon to protect and the town from prophecies that unexpectedly come true.

Brian Farrey's plot gallops along from chapter to chapter, each prefaced with an amusing quote from the thief's creed, a Grimjinx ancestor, or an ancient proverb. Chapters are short and descriptive, making it easy for young readers to pick up the book and read a chapter or two in a short amount of time. Tension and interest in the story is produced as the reader is pulled from one fantastic adventure to the next. Familial characters are developed early in the story through their concern and love for one another. But the reader gets to particularly know Jaxter quite well as it is through his eyes the story progresses. Throughout the book Jaxter is torn between things he is expected to be good at and things that really interest him. But as he comes to know that his talents and interests have value, readers will also see that their differences can make them uniquely important.

Reviewer: Cynthia Frazier

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