How to Catch a Bogle #2: A Plague of Bogles

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Review

Jem Barbary has left his thieving life behind since his past employer, Sarah Pickles, sold him to be bogle bait. With Sarah Pickles still at large, Jem is having a difficult time finding his place. But with Birdie leaving Alfred to live with Miss Eames, Alfred accepts Jem as his new apprentice. However, the two notice that one London neighborhood is swarming with bogles, an odd behavior for these solitary demons. In the midst of this bogle infestation, Jem recognizes Sarah Pickles’ daughter living near the cursed neighborhood. He follows her and sees that the infamous butcher, Salty Jack Gammon, is hiding both Sarah Pickles and her baby farming scheme. Jem realizes Sarah Pickles is behind the bogle plague because she was feeding babies to the creatures. Sarah is arrested but Salty Jack escapes. Alfred’s bogle work gains government attention and his group is hired full-time by The Committee for the Regulation of Subterranean Anomalies.

Jinks does it again by maintaining the same level of heightened suspense, wit, and pacing she started in How to Catch a Bogle. In this book, readers see Jinks’s world through Jem’s eyes. Jem has only known a life of petty crime. When that lifestyle betrays him, he has a hard time doing regular work for orphan boys his age. Luckily his bogling experience leads him back to the stern, but kind Alfred Bunce. However, Alfred tries to forgo his bogling job for a safer career, but too many missing children return him to his profession. Like Birdie in the first book, Jem starts to feel threatened his apprenticeship will be taken away by Birdie, Ned Roach, or by his own unwise actions. This fear is fostered by his past treatment from Sarah Pickles. Through Birdie, Jem learns that Alfred has a caring heart and he would never turn Jem away. Again, violence is only eluded to and not shown except when a bogle is destroyed. The final book in the trilogy is called The Last Bogler.