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The Menagerie

Becky Jamieson

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Book Review

Title: The Menagerie
Author: Tui T. Sutherland and Kari Sutherland
Reviewer: Becky Jamieson
Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books
Publication Year: 2013
ISBN: 9780060780647
Number of Pages: 272
Interest Level: Intermediate
Rating: Excellent



Review

It's hard being the new kid in town for Logan Wilde. He is the only son of an overworked man and a woman who ran away from their family, and he has yet to make any friends in the small Wyoming town. However, his simple reality changes quickly when Logan finds a griffin in his bedroom. This young talking griffin leads Logan into the menagerie of magical creatures where he becomes friends with fellow seventh-graders Zoe and Blue. Logan helps Zoe and Blue find the other five griffin cubs that have escaped their enclosure at the menagerie and are hidden all around town before they are discovered by the town's ordinary citizens.

This is a fun high fantasy story that fans of books such as *Fablehaven* by Brandon Mull will enjoy. Like *Fablehaven*, this book has both relatable human main characters and a colorful setting filled with magical animals whose actions lead to conflicts for the humans. These actions are exciting for readers and also help the characters develop. Logan in particular moves from being a lonely kid to a brave young man that would sacrifice much for the wonderful menagerie of creatures he has gotten to know and love. Readers that have a love for their own pets will understand that to these creatures have become a part of Logan's family. A great strength of this book is that its ending both manages to complete the story arc and leave readers with enough unanswered questions that they are eager to read the next two books in the series.