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Brambleheart #2: Bayberry Island

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Book Review

Title: Brambleheart #2: Bayberry Island

Author: Henry Cole

Reviewer: Olivia Noli

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books

Year: 2017

ISBN: 9780062245519

Pages: 157

Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Dependable



Review

The story picks up where Brambleheart left off as Twig, Lily, and Basil sail to bring their dragon home. After several mishaps, they shipwreck on a small island. Unsure what to do next, the three friends explore the island only to find three new baby dragons, but no parents. Soon, Professor Burdock, Basil's uncle and antagonist of the previous novel, arrives on the island to reveal that he and Basil were in league the whole time! He and Basil tie up the babies with the intention of enslaving them to The Hill. Luckily, the mother dragon arrives just in time to save them all.

Bayberry Island is just as charming as the previous novel, however it does share the same literary shortcomings as the first novel. There are issues with character development as well as plot. In the previous novel, Basil became a friend for apparently no reason. In this novel, Cole fails to explain the motivation behind his betrayal. Twig and Lily's friendship is explored more, however Lily remains a relatively flat character and Twig somehow becomes an expert at sailing within three days. While the story has its issues, it is still a pleasant read. Children will hardly notice these failings and should enjoy the story.