



2018

The Lost Kingdom of Bamarre

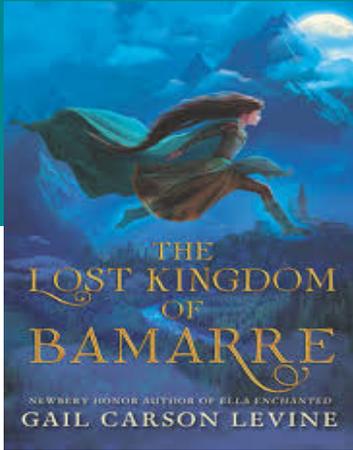
Taylor Harris

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Book Review

The Lost Kingdom of Bamarre

Author

Gail Carson Levine

Illustrator

Reviewer

Taylor Harris

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate, Young
Adult

Pages

385

Year

2017

Publisher

Harper

ISBN

9780062074669

Stolen from the Bamarre as a baby, Perry grows up as royalty in the Lakti kingdom. However, when a fairy reveals Perry's true identity as a Bamarre along with a command to free her people, her father—who once loved her—seeks to kill her. The people of Bamarre start rebelling in small ways, such as pulling the peas to let the weeds grow. When the Lakti take the Bamarre children and send them into battle, Perry, disguised as old Aunt Nadira, goes to save them. There she meets Tove, her old father, and challenges him to a match in exchange for the Bamarre freedom. They are to duel in Old Lakti, a land ridden with monsters which they and their parties must fight off. Before returning to New Lakti, both Tove and the Lakti king die, making Perry's adopted Mother queen. She, being a just ruler, frees the people of Bamarre allowing them to leave and reconquer Old Lakti.

A spin off the traditional tale of Rapunzel, *The Lost Kingdom of Bamarre* brings together elements of magic, adventure, and romance for a delightful story. The plot is well-paced and unexpected, urging readers to come back for more. The characters were lovable, though some could have been better developed. Lady Mother, who kidnaps Perry, is not your traditional witch that steals Rapunzel, which adds an interesting and refreshing spin to the story. Themes of discrimination and prejudice, as well as moral justice run heavily throughout the plot as the Lakti's strong desire to conquer leads them to dominate all other people and view them as inferior. This story also addresses the matter of self-identity. The classic deliberation between nature vs. nurture is settled with a satisfying combination of both as Perry works through her two identities as Bamarre-born and Lakti-raised. An exciting and engaging read, that middle grade and on will love!

*Contains moderate violence.