



2019

The Little Leftover Witch

Katie Irion

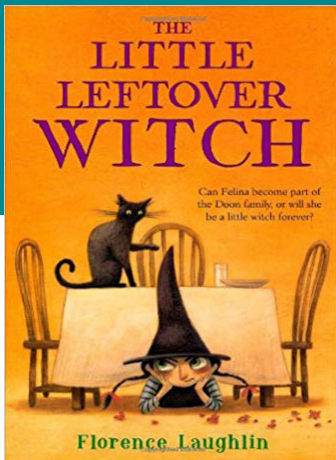
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Book Review

The Little Leftover Witch

Author

Florence Laughlin

Illustrator

Reviewer

Katie Irion

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

Pages

74

Year

2013

Publisher

Simon and Schuster

ISBN

9781442486720

The Doon's life is very ordinary until one Halloween night when little Felina's broomstick breaks. Since witches are only allowed to fly on Halloween night and no other broomstick in the house is enchanted, Felina will be with them for at least a year. At first the witch has a very difficult time. Witches only eat bats and gizzards, they never take baths, and they never take off their hats because that is where they keep their magic. The Doons help her find happiness though and eventually Felina learns that going to school, eating chicken and dumplings, having a grandfather, and celebrating a birthday is even better than being a witch. Instead of going back to the land of witches, Halloween finds Felina at home, enjoying time with family.

Florence Laughlin first published this darling story in 1960. There are a handful of clues that date the book, a job at the newspaper being one of them, but the fact that she wrote it almost eighty years ago does not take away from its charm. The little witch, Felina, begins the narrative as a very grumpy, unloved child but over the course of the story, sheds her walls and harsh outlook on life and ends the narrative as a very kind, curious, happy child who finds herself through her family and through their love. The themes of family, friendship, acceptance, and love are universal and not hindered by time. Whether you are reading this book in 1960 or 2019, the themes resonate and the idea of someone being "different" but still loving them is still very appropriate and timely. The Doons are loving examples of helping a child through trauma and helping them find acceptance within themselves. This is a charming story that could lead to some thoughtful discussion with young children.