2008

Stolen

Kate Reynolds

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Reviewer: Kate Reynolds
Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Fantasy fiction;
Subject: Amnesia--Juvenile fiction; Missing children--Juvenile fiction; Witches--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

A girl with no memory of who she is or where she is from is found wandering the woods after the villagers torch the old witch's home. A family in the village insists that she is their long lost daughter Isabelle, whom the witch stole years ago. Unsure of the truth, she goes along cautiously until an encounter with Honey, the family's oldest child, brings back all her memories.

Velde's latest offering is somewhat predictable, but nevertheless entertaining. Isabelle's confusion about her identity is well written, and the characters around her are deeper and more realistic than would normally be expected for a book of this length. The villain of the story pushes the envelope of believability a little bit; however, Velde handles the evil designs seriously without letting the whole story take too dark of a tone. Overall the story is tight, but with enough surprises and twists (the witch actually does steal children, but not for the reasons everyone believes) to keep readers until the end. Velde's fans will appreciate this piece and it also makes a good starting place for people unfamiliar with the author's work.

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