

[PDF] The Unicorn Chronicles #1: Into The Land Of The Unicorns

Bruce Coville - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: The Unicorn Chronicles #1: In

Author: Bruce Coville

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Coville's (My Teacher Is an Alien) mild fantasy, the first in the projected Unicorn Chronicles, opens promisingly, with a suspenseful chase scene, but somewhat dissipates its force. A nameless hunter pursues Cara and her grandmother into an empty church, where the grandmother gives Cara her amulet-along with the bewildering instructions to jump from the church tower at the twelfth toll of the bell. The girl lands in Luster, the land of the unicorns, and tries to unravel the mystery surrounding the amulet even as she continues to elude the hunter. Aided by a young unicorn and an assortment of odd creatures, including Dimblethum ("He looked like a bear that had started to become a man but hadn't finished the process") and Squijum ("a cross between a monkey and a squirrel"), Cara embarks on a number of dangerous adventures. The plot jumps from

one episode to the next, and can be confusing. But drama builds with the revelation that the hunter is none other than Cara's father (who long ago abandoned her); no stock villain, he is given plausible motives for his inimical deeds. Cara's loyalties are severely tested, leaving plenty of room for a sequel. Fantasy fans might be content with the headlong pacing, but most will hope that future installments will include more fluid writing and less convoluted plot lines. Ages 8-12.

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From School Library Journal Grade 3-8-Bruce Coville's fantasy adventure (Scholastic, 1994) is well-recorded in this "Words Take Wings Repertory" production. Cara and her grandmother find themselves followed by a strange man. Before she knows what is happening, Cara is leaping into a different world where, aided by a unicorn and other "mythical" beasts, she undertakes a quest to take her grandmother's amulet to "the Old One," the Unicorn Queen. While confronting various creatures bent on impeding her, Cara senses she is being followed. The follower is her father who had abandoned her when she was a very young child. Cara must finally choose between her father and the unicorn society her father has sworn to destroy. The story is recorded virtually word-for-word, only some "s/he saids" are omitted. Actors read the dialogue of each character while Coville reads the narration. This has both plusses and minuses. The dramatic reading adds immediacy to the recording, making it more exciting and "real" for many listeners. On the other hand, the acting is uneven in quality. Cara often sounds more like a disinterested teenager than a young girl having a fantastic and life-threatening adventure. The grandmother also often lacks conviction. The transition from narration to dialogue is not always seamless. None of this will bother most listeners, however, and given the exciting story and the popularity of unicorns, this recording will have no trouble finding a wide audience in both school and public libraries who will be clamoring for the second book in the series.

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