



The Goblin Crown

Robert Hewitt Wolfe

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Billy Smith is having a rough first day of high school. The new kid at exclusive Francis Drake Prep, Billy embarrasses himself in front of fiery, beautiful Lexi Aquino. He makes an instant enemy in Kurt Novac, the school's surly star quarterback. Then suddenly Billy, Lexi, and Kurt are mysteriously transported to an underworld teeming with goblins, strange animal hybrids, and powerful magic the fact that they're stuck there is probably Billy's fault, too. With help from an unlikely goblin leader named Hop, the teens soon discover that goblins can be both fierce and friendly, with their own rich language, culture, and history a history that foretells of a human arriving to claim the Goblin Crown and lead them to victory against the deadly, invading Hanorians. Could Billy anxious, awkward Billy be the mythical Goblin King? Could saving the goblin race be his destiny and the key to getting him, Lexi, and Kurt back home?

The Goblin Crown Details

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From Reader Review The Goblin Crown for online ebook

A. Hunt says

When I managed to get this book- I was shocked outta my gourd! I didn't think I'd get it- but violà - The Goblin Crown by Robert Hewitt Wolfe! Here it is and I couldn't be happier. I have to say that for starters: the cover!

I am always loving on book covers and this one gives me great pleasure for a couple of reasons. Number one, it reminds me of The Hobbit, by J. R. R. Tolkien- the movie. Did you see the original, animated movie? The goblin on this cover reminds me so much of the style and features, thus reminding me of my dad. He's the one who got me in to books, especially fantasy! I'm also in love with the detailing. There was a war going on in this book, with a few children caught up in the crossfire and this cover shows just how hazardous that journey was! It's neither bright nor gory, it just shows what's to be expected and I appreciated that.

I'd never heard of Wolfe before The Goblin Crown: Billy Smith and the Goblins but I think I'll be looking for more. Then again, I had- I just hadn't realized it! The dude's hand are all over my favorite shows: The Dresden Files, The 4400 and Star Trek: Deep Space Nine! But this isn't about shows; my review is based on both my thoughts and those of my son on this tale.

The story is about three kids who are supernaturally taken from this world and transported into an underground domain of goblins, magic and mystifying creatures that remind you of the R.O.U.S.'s of The Princess Bride. Lexi, Kurt and Billy are on a mission to discover the identity of the heir to the goblin throne and a king who's desperately needed. There's non-stop action, lessons to be learned and some very admirable qualities that shine...

For the full review: <http://bit.ly/TheGoblinCrownNovel>

**Book is from Turner Publishing and available everywhere.

Lucien says

An entirely enjoyable read.

It wasn't a challenging read, but it was an enjoyable read.

I know it's aimed at a YA audience, so the philosophical site of things was a little lite on, but I liked the stoic philosophy of the goblins and think there's plenty of good role models here.

I look forward to seeing how the characters develop in future books.

Liz says

(Reviewed from a galley, courtesy of Turner Publishing)

The Goblin Crown falls somewhere between Hogwarts and The Shire. Action, adventure, magic, a bit of romance...this book has it all. As the first volume in a planned series, teens Billy, Kurt, and Lexi do all they can to keep the story moving from the time they are mysteriously transported from the human world to the underground goblin city of Kiranok. Along the way, they each discover hidden powers--although not all are

magic or otherworldly in nature--that may help uncover the true identity of the heir to the goblin throne and get them back home.

Overall, this was an easy, entertaining read but given the price point, I'm not sure if it is going to be marketed toward teens or middle grades (it should!). Nevertheless, older kids and kids at heart will enjoy the adventure and will look forward to the sequel.

Stacy Fetters says

"The greatest beast crushes the bravest man. The bravest man slaughters the wiliest fox. The wiliest fox preys on the most elusive bird. The most elusive bird pecks up the smallest insect. And with a single diseased bite, the smallest insect brings down the greatest beast. We are all carrion and eaters of carrion, fertilizer for the wheat that makes our bread. Place a crown over it. And call it paradise."

Received a galley edition of this book from Turner Publishing for an honest review!

They don't pull punches here and get right to the good stuff. It goes from a page of introducing the teenagers and then bam, goblins galore. (Please note that I'm sick, so if this makes you feel uncomfortable at any time... please step out of the train car.)

Billy is your typical nerdy student, except for these spells that cause him to get dizzy. Once he gets dizzy, he sees things and feels them. Like he's in another world.

Lexi tries to comfort him, but to no use. He brushes her off and things go from bad to worse. While during lunch, he stumbles again getting dizzy and drops his lunch all over the quarterback Kurt.

Kurt has special plans on getting them back at the end of the day. And after school, Kurt waits and waits for them to show face. Knowing what's to come, Lexi and Billy go another way to avoid this escapade. Kurt being who he is, know all and starts giving chase. Lexi and Billy escaping into a tunnel that they didn't know existed. And poof! They find themselves in a mysterious land. One that they have never seen before.

Welcome to the land of Kiranok!! The underground world of Goblins and magical creatures a like.

The Goblins have been at war with the Hanorians and the crown has been unclaimed. It is time for an unlikely creature to come and place the crown on their head. Once it is touched by the chosen one, the ruby jewel with shine bright and the world is to know that the king has returned home.

With some unfortunate events that occur while trying to not only save themselves but also save the Goblin race. One of those three teenagers is heir to the throne. But which one has it in them to save what is rightfully theirs?

This was one heck of an adventurous thrill ride. I felt that I was placed at the Shire waiting for someone to come and steal the ring. But instead of a ring we have a crown that needs to be placed with his rightful owner.

The pace seemed way out of whack, which took away from the story. It started off at the highest point and towards the middle dropped down, but seemed to pick up more speed before the crown found its owner and then it dropped again. A crazy ride of speeds and bumps in the road. I still look forward to seeing what Billy and his friends have in store.

Let the games begin!!!

Nancy says

A Fantasy Adventure with Goblins and Human Teens

Hop, the goblin, is having a rough day. The battlefield is strewn with bodies. He's been hiding under one of them but now the battle is over and he has to get away. The goblin army is on the run, and he doesn't want to be caught by the victorious Hanorians.

Billy Smith is also having a rough day. It's his first day in a new school. Billy has been in lots of new schools, and he hates it. He feels insecure and unlikable. True to form he embarrasses himself in front of Lexie, the only cute girl who is ever paid attention to him. When he tries to get to know her, he makes another mistake and becomes the enemy of Kurt Novac, the school's star quarterback. Lexie and Billy end up running from Kurt and the three of them fall into a cavern, a goblin cavern.

The book is reminiscent of Tolkein, but written for middle grade students. The characters, Lexie, Kurt, and particularly Billy are people young readers can identify with. Many middle grade students long to be heroes but see themselves as clumsy and insecure as Billy. The goblins are delightful characters. Hob tries to remain in the background, but finds he can't when the issue of the Goblin Crown becomes important.

I recommend this book for middle grade students. It's filled with magical creatures, wizards, giants, bats, and, of course, goblins. The story is fast paced, and the characters are well drawn.

I received this book from Turner Publishing for this review.

Cam says

Cute young adult goblin story featuring three young humans magically transported to another world in dire need of a new goblin king. There's a tradition of a line of human kings arriving in times of trouble, and Billy Smith is next in line - even though he doesn't know it. He accidentally brings along a cutie named Lexi, who turns out to be a witch in this world, and the quarterback Kurt for good measure. They find a world at war; a human empire has slowly driven goblins off their lowlands and into the mountains. A goblin General, inspired by a crazy elven oracle, has just lost a huge battle and the human Hanorians are on their way into the mountains to finish off the goblins once and for all. There's more to it, of course, and very good world building especially for a YA fantasy novel. The characters are introspective and grow to meet the challenges of the plot, or don't as the case may be. There's plenty of action and a bit of humor. Very much in the groove for this genre of Tolkien-lite novel.

Michael says

I bought this because RHW was one of the writers of one of the greatest TV shows of all time, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. I really enjoyed it. It was a fun, YA fantasy world. My oldest son (9) loved it even more than I did.

Renee Guill says

I admit I had trouble at first, since I normally do not like YA. But the more I read the better it got. RHW is a genius when it comes to world building, there were many breathtaking scenes. Some of it might be a bit gory. I loved how it teaches people that bullying is not the answer, it is better to be friends or allies. It has a

nice little twist at the end too, which I loved. Definitely a classic good versus evil story for all ages.

Kim says

This book was provided to me as an uncorrected digital proof by the publisher, via Edelweiss.

Billy Smith is having a rough first day of high school. The new kid at exclusive Francis Drake Prep, Billy embarrasses himself in front of fiery, beautiful Lexi Aquino. He makes an instant enemy in Kurt Novac, the school's surly star quarterback. Then suddenly Billy, Lexi, and Kurt are mysteriously transported to an underworld teeming with goblins, strange animal hybrids, and powerful magic the fact that they are stuck there is probably Billy's fault, too. With help from an unlikely goblin leader named Hop, the teens soon discover that goblins can be both fierce and friendly, with their own rich language, culture, and history a history that foretells of a human arriving to claim the Goblin Crown and lead them to victory against the deadly, invading Hanorians. Could Billy anxious, awkward Billy be the mythical Goblin King? Could saving the goblin race be his destiny and the key to getting him, Lexi, and Kurt back home?

As I've stated in previous reviews, I appreciate a middle grade book that isn't afraid to be serious. This book fits that bill. The main character, Billy, is an awkward outsider who is uncomfortable in his own skin. He doesn't feel that he can fit in; much less make an impact, anywhere. Many kids will relate to this character. We are also allowed some time in Lexi's head. She struggles with impulse control, and now that she has special abilities, it's especially important that she learn to be mindful of her thoughts, words, and actions. We don't get much insight into Kurt (perhaps that will change in future books), but it's clear that he's a young man accustomed to being held to unreasonable standards, and when he can't meet those standards, he is very hard on himself. These characters are easy to relate to, but surprisingly, to me at least, the most relatable character was Hop, the goblin. He's a strange mixture of cowardliness and bravery, and he's not afraid to admit it. These attributes work together to make him a true hero in this book. While the book was a little slow going at first, within a few chapters I was immersed, and now feel invested in continuing the series. There are still numerous characters to be developed, and I'm looking forward to learning more about them. I would recommend this book to readers 12 and older, because there is some violence and death. This should be a satisfying read for anyone who enjoys fantasy involving battles.

Charlie Anders says

I got an early review copy of this book -- and I was dying to read it, because Robert Hewitt Wolfe is one of my favorite TV writers. He worked on Star Trek: Deep Space Nine and tons of other shows, and he has an amazing grasp of storytelling. The Goblin Crown is no exception. It's sort of a "chosen one" story with a portal fantasy setting -- a special Earth child is supposed to travel to a magical realm and become King of the Goblins. And the Goblins are facing their most perilous hour, so there's some urgency here. What makes this book stand out is first of all Wolfe's amazing sense of pacing, and secondly, his fresh take on the material. This is a chosen one story where the hero really has to grow and change in order to step up, and meanwhile, the story also has a really nuanced, smart take on war and on the costs of violence. Also, this book has a super diverse human cast. Great stuff.

Cassie says

I really enjoyed this book. It's a fun take on a typical fantasy story. The point of view jumps around quite a lot so it may be difficult for some kids to follow, but it also helps to build tension. The characters are interesting and decently developed. There are a lot of lessons about resilience and leadership. I'm looking forward to the next in the series.

Katherine Tomlinson says

Like Guy Gavriel Kay's *FIONAVAR TAPESTRY* and Suzanne Collins' wonderful *UNDERLAND CHRONICLES* or C.S. Lewis' *CHRONICLES OF NARNIA*, Robert Hewitt Wolfe's *THE GOBLIN CROWN*, is a story of ordinary people suddenly thrust into an extraordinary, magical world. We know up front that this world is a dangerous place and that the stakes—whatever they are—will be real and that actions will have consequences for Billy, Lexi, and Kurt, as well as all they meet.

Billy, our hero, is an outsider, a kid who has NEVER felt he fit in anywhere and who certainly doesn't expect that his high school experience is going to be any different. Billy is, a familiar enough character, but Wolfe nails him, bringing him to vivid life on the page. But pretty Filipina Lexi—who really isn't very good at minding her own business—and bullying jock Kurt are also three-dimensional and believable people. These characters are grounded—no, rooted—in reality and we believe they act in a way that has context. (There's a lovely, magical moment when Billy meets all the freckle-faced, redheaded men who came before him and takes courage from the encounter.

The magical creatures in this world, from Hob on down, also act out of recognizable motives and desires and dreams. This is not a book where a character is just evil “because” or “the chosen one” because that's what's needed to tell the story.

From the opening pages of this book, when a goblin is musing on the inevitable fate of those who are known by titles such as, “The Dark Lady,” or “The Emperor of Night,” readers will know they're in for a rare treat—a book that honors the tropes of fantasy but with an edge of intelligent humor that never lapses into the sometimes unfortunate hijinks found in works by Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett.

It's clear the author has a deep love for the genre and has put time and effort into creating the world of his story. His thoughtful epilogue about goblin naming traditions shows just how “deep” this world goes. (This is, huzzah, the first in a trilogy, so there are two more books we can look forward to with anticipation.)

This is a wonderful read and destined, I think, to become a classic.

Irene says

What a fun and action packed story!

Billy Smith has never felt like he belonged. He has always been uncomfortable everywhere he goes. He just doesn't quite fit in. On his first day of high school, with his nerves already on edge, and spying the beautiful

Lexi who is a bit of a chatterbox he accidentally runs afoul of Kurt. When Lexi tries to speak up for him she unintentionally makes things a bit worse. Lexi suffers an injury as they are fleeing, and it is then we find out that Kurt is more bark than bite. In trying to get help for Lexi, Billy transports them to a magical land where Goblins and Humans have been at war, Rabbits are the size of cows and ships fly through the sky powered by giant bats. Some goblins are friendlier than others and not all will welcome these unlikely human heroes. The target age group for this book is middle school and up, but if you are a kid at heart you too will be enchanted by this captivating tale.

I received an advance copy for review

Nathan Albright says

[Note: This book was provided by Turner Publishing Company in exchange for an honest review.]

In a book review like this it is best to begin with some honesty. I could honestly relate far too well to the clumsy bi-racial perennial outsider of this novel who happens to be the main hero, Billy Smith. I too have loved my fair share, and perhaps more than my fair share, of fiery and beautiful young women with a fondness for the color red while ending up embarrassing myself as Billy does with the beautiful Filipina Lexi Aquino, and created more than my fair share of trouble as happens here when the two of them anger a jock who ends up joining them in a strange journey to a fantasy planet inhabited by a brutal human empire, a beleaguered goblin society, and some crazy elves. Although I am not the ideal audience for this book, as someone who reads a great deal of teen and YA fiction [1], this has the look of a book that is destined for a film adaptation of some kind.

What is it about this book that has such strong adaptation credentials? For one, the author comes from a background of television scriptwriting, and that craft shows here. For another, this is a story that works on several levels. It serves as a hidden prince story where the hero is viewed as a screw-up and a nobody by nearly everyone until he proves himself in immensely difficult circumstances. It serves as story about outsiders banding together against impossible odds, of the mourning over past loss, the living in fear and terror over impending loss, and the experience of a great deal of loss. The book is not only heavy on compelling action, including multiple plot lines that end up converging in a horrible way, but it is also full of emotional depth, and lessons that are easily applicable for the readers in the real world who have to deal with social embarrassments and feeling as if they are misfits and outsiders who don't belong. Best yet, the story ends on a strong cliffhanger note that is natural and well-earned, leaving the reader looking forward to the next installment in this compelling and exciting tale.

Aside from the story, there is a great deal to appreciate about the story. The cast of characters is rich and diverse. Billy and his friends form a strong multi-ethnic group, and they end up finding allies and friends among a diverse and complicated group of goblins as well as human exiles among the Goblins whose dualistic faith leads them to be viewed as archheretics among the evil human empire that Billy and his friends fight. Also, and not least, it should be noted, the book is full of great lessons about courage as well as self-control, lessons provided through the story itself and its complicated characters, and lessons that ought to be rewarding to the readers of this story. This is the sort of story that will not only excite, but also encourage a strong set of values about learning how to communicate and respect and get along with others as well as stand up for what is right without being swallowed up in the use and exercise of power. This is a book that seems destined to be a well-loved fantasy series for teen and YA readers and also seems likely to

be headed to a multiplex near you once it finds its large and enthusiastic audience.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.wordpress...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.wordpress...>

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Bibliophile Wonderland Reviews says

What caught my eye about reading this book was the author Robert Hewitt Wolfe. When I learned that he wrote a couple of episodes for Star Trek I was already sold. I mean a if he could write those episodes imagine how great the book is going to be. The Goblin Crown: Billy Smith And The Goblins was whirlwind like a world within another world.

We meet Billy Smith in his first day in a new school in California. Can you imagine he was a bundle of nerves and not wanting to be stepping on anybodies toes. He meets Lexi in a embracing way that end up in him being humiliated by accident. To top that off he now is a target for the most popular guy in school who happens to be the star football quarterback. Somehow Billy transports himself Kurt and Lexi to the City of Stone.

The City of Stone has been war for sometime now between humans and goblins and Billy just landed smack dab in the middle of it. Thats when the adventure truly begins. It's so action packed that you don't find it overwhelming because of how well the book's storyline is paced. We see goblins and how well the author emerges the reader in the goblin culture. The magic where we find out some surprises this is one magical book where anything can happen even the unthinkable.

Anybody who loves Young Adult, Fantasy this is the book for you. Essentially this is a book about a teenager coming into their own skin and being confident with themselves. Accepting who they are and loving themselves and not being able to conform into a typical mold but, being happy with your weirdness if that makes any sense. This book I felt was related to me from my high school experience. Any reader that

reads this I feel like they might resonate with this a bit. Be warned their is a cliffhanger in the end of this book. The story will continue with The Fallen Star Billy Smith and The Goblins keep your eyes on the look out.

I was give a Galley by the publisher in exchange for a honest review.
