



The Story Trap

Masha du Toit

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A contemporary fantasy set in Cape Town, South Africa.

Rebecca never expected to meet a witch, least of all in a second-hand bookshop in Mowbray. Surely she had nothing to fear from an old lady holding a box of children's books. But on the train home Rebecca collapses and is rushed to hospital, deep in a coma.

Rebecca's sisters, Pippa and Anmarie, are confronted by a frightening mystery: her body might be in the hospital bed, but where was Rebecca?

The Story Trap Details

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From Reader Review The Story Trap for online ebook

Allisyn says

I devoured this story in a single sitting and it was a great way to spend a few hours. The story starts right in on the action without any unnecessary exposition. I loved the parallel plot lines of Rebecca's adventures and the efforts of her sisters to reconnect her mind and body. The progression of Rebecca's fantasy world was captivating and interesting and the reveal to her sisters was well executed. The character of the Witch was well developed and I really appreciated having an antagonist with an actual motivation beyond greed.

There was one part of the story that I struggled with some because in some senses it felt like a wasted opportunity. One of the sisters gets injured in a way that was probably meant to raise the stakes but falls flat. I was prepared for more tension and an emotional response but was disappointed by a brush off and keep going resolution. It didn't detract from my enjoyment of the story but it made me wonder what the point of the injury was.

Another factor that added to the experience of The Story Trap was the addition of small illustrations that were peppered throughout the story. It was fun to see small graphics that helped build a sense of the world being shared. This story has a lot of fun things going for it: magic, sisterhood, illustrations and a engaging fairy tale feel. I enjoyed reading The Story Trap and definitely recommend that you add it to your reading list.

Dilys says

Read this in one sitting I couldn't put it down. A modern day fairy story. Characters are great especially the witches, loved the little drawings they were a lovely touch. Bit disappointed to realise this was the first in a series & would have to wait for the final journey to this story. WON THIS ON GOODREADS GIVE-AWAY.

J.Aleksandr Wootton says

We have seen tales that send real people into books (*Myst*, *Inkheart*, *The Eyre Affair*); we haven't seen it done quite like this before.

We haven't seen a family of three sisters, still struggling with the recent death of their mother, suddenly plunged all over again into a world of stark hospitals and puzzled doctors.

We haven't seen a villain in whom the aims of the sorcerer and the scientist are revealed to be identical; we haven't seen a witch all-too-willing to sacrifice a few (not including herself, of course) for the good of the many.

We haven't seen an impulsive younger sibling, with every "right" to let loss become bitterness, moral indignation become hatred, and trauma become disability, choose, instead, to offer herself as incarnate compassion.

We haven't seen a coma-trapped heroine wandering from story to story, altering them as she goes according to her own kindness and resourcefulness. We haven't seen old and new stories collide such that a prick from Thorn Rose's spindle can send a girl and her genetically-engineered robot-dog into the midst of an African folktale, there to spend a dark night under Baba Yaga's roof.

Above all, we haven't seen a story populated with such a depth of characters and ideas expressed in such deceptively simple strokes. *The Story Trap* is calm and beautiful as the sunny seas, and possessed of a quick current that draws the reader swiftly in.

Masha du Toit's villain may require a stolen lock of your hair to lure you into a story; Masha herself has a stronger art, and needs only this book. There is more than one reason for titling it *The Story Trap*.

Andrea says

I have to admit, I have a soft spot for stories in which the heroine (who is almost always female, from my experience) gets trapped in another world. Particularly when she has friends/family back home trying to help. The Story Trap certainly hit those soft spots for me, but there were a few things I didn't love about it.

The Bad: The ending left me wanting more. Not in the good way that you feel when you've just finished a really good book; it just felt like there should have been more to it. There was no climax, and not much conflict. Even the characters felt unresolved at the end of the story. There is a sequel, which probably ties up most of the loose ends, but the story felt like it could have been complete on its own with just a little bit more.

The Good: Every minute of this far-too-short book was enjoyable; I devoured it in only a few hours. The basis for the story was great: what would you do if someone stole the life of someone close to you in order to save the entire planet? I'm not sure I know which I would choose if there was no other option.

Another thing that I liked was the setting, Cape Town in South Africa. It's only a minor detail and doesn't impact the story at all, but most of the other books that I've read take place in either North America or Europe.

Overall, The Story Trap was a great, if short, read, and I would definitely recommend it. Just make sure that you have easy access to the sequel before starting!
