



## Miles and the Magic Flute

*Heidi Cullinan*

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When unemployed Miles Larson retreats to his friend's Minnesota pawnshop to lick his wounds, he discovers that a few notes on a magical instrument reveal an erotic fairyland where the sorrows weighing on his heart don't exist at all.

Yet fantasy comes with a price, and soon Miles must choose a path. He can surrender his soul to the dreamlord to sustain his pleasure... or he can defeat the faerie and save the mysterious beast-man who promises love. Miles would choose love over pleasure in a heartbeat—if only to seize it he didn't first have to acknowledge the pain inside.

Is Miles strong enough to learn that sometimes to find happiness, we must face down our sorrows?

*Publisher's Note: This title has been previously published and has been revised from its original release.*

## Miles and the Magic Flute Details

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# From Reader Review Miles and the Magic Flute for online ebook

## April says

I won this book in a good reads giveaway. The cover looked interesting.. and after reading the first few sentences of the description, I figured, what the hell! And clicked enter..

After I won, I read the description fully and realized this was a M/M romance themed book. Not something I would pick off a shelf at Borders to read, but I'm far from homophobic, so I didn't see that being much of an issue. It certainly puts a funny spin on the title though.

"Miles and the Magic Flute" my first thought was.. (cheesy gay porno), and honestly.. I wasn't far off! The only thing missing was the corny music.

I'm gonna be honest in saying.. I was not blown away by this book. I really did hope it was going to be better. I don't think the writing was all that great. It wasn't horrible, the actual writing style itself wasn't too bad.. it just seemed so misplaced.. I think it jumped around too much. One minute I think there is gonna be some story... some background as to who everyone is.. and it's interrupted by Miles masterbating.. or getting his dick sucked.. or something along the lines of that..

Don't get me wrong.. I'm not prude at all.. and I'm definitely not knocking on it because it's two men.. If it was men with women it would annoy me too. I have read many straight romances.. and very few of them have had this much sex in it.. lol.

I'm gonna quote a couple of my fav lines from this.. because they are too funny to resist...

"Is this some sort of super-faerie lube?"

"I have to take a phallus into my ass to protect myself?"

Too funny. lol

Seriously though, to me it seemed the sex scenes were all written and then tied together with as little plot as possible to connect them. Then to have life lessons thrown in there too... Let's face it.. the main focus of this book was about being fucked, sucked and fisted. The only thing about Miles that I really saw grow... was his asshole.

Overall, I don't think it was a bad book, I just don't think it was the book for me.. Just not what I was expecting.. I was thinking it would be a fantasy book with a love story between a man and another man. This was more like a gay porno on paper. Which is fine.. if that's what you're looking for, but it wasn't what I was looking for...

so it was just okay for me.. but she did use the word spunk, so that earned it an extra star!

One last complaint... I was kinda hoping the magic flute would end up in his ass.. I mean.. pretty much everything else did.. so that was a tiny disappointment. lmao.

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## Chris says

Excellent dark fantasy m/m romance about a man who's lost his job and his dream life and been forced to return to his small home town in Minnesota. When he finds a mysterious silver flute in the pawn shop where he now works, he becomes caught in a series of fantastical events he could not have predicted... or have believed.

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## Bookwatcher says

One word: magic... this book is not about magic, but IT'S magic itself!

## The enchanted story

Miles, the only narrator of this book, is broken in more than one meaning. He lost his work, and don't have money, but he is also broken in a more sad way... his soul is broken. Without hope, hating the world, and leaving with childhood friends he can't go on. He beg for something more, he deserve more, and want to do anything to have that... more... and something answer... The Lord of the Dreams.

## The spellbinding characters

About Miles there is little or nothing I can say. He is the personification of despair. But please do not think he is suicide or something like that. He is only what we all are... tired of fight after so many destroyed dreams.

Harry is a beast. It isn't his true name, but Miles decided to call him Harry... and Harry he was after that. This book is in my "Beauty-and-Beast" shelf because of this character. Miles will not see the beast, but something more... someone... and that someone he can love with all his heart.

Terris made me cry. Yes, I'm not ashamed to admit it. I DO cry when some character is so heartbreaking like him. What he is and what he want is something you must discover reading the book. I refuse to spoil your fun telling more. Just one thing: do not hate him right away... give him the benefit of the doubt... he will surprise you.

The Lord of Dreams will haunt and hunt Miles. His appalling call will be constant, and his terrifying presence too. Fear him like Miles do... and hide, he is invincible... or not?

Julie, Patty and Katie are the 3 feminine amazing characters that will try to help Miles during his terrible moments. I love them... truly love them.

The flute oh yes, it's a presence in this story... read it... and you will discover it's importance... and that in magic nothing is what it should be.

### **Do I recommend this book?**

Certainly YES, to all addicted of fantasy like me, but also to everyone searching a sweet love story, with suspense and mystery too. It's not a short story, but I certainly did not feel the weight of the pages. The writing is superb, and you will read it in one breath. It's just impossible to stop.

A little footnote: there is a fisting scene. A lot of readers (including myself) could be uncomfortable reading it, but it's so quick and not in an abuse context. So even if i knew about this scene, I would read this book without blink. Just loved it... and I think you should not waste this great opportunity. Read it, and then tell me.

### **5 stars**

And the HEA is there... under another most important message: Life is suffering and also love, but that's why it's such a miracle... nothing is perfect, why should your life be?  
Give up search for it... and you will be much more happy.

*"Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.  
\* Leonard Cohen*

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### **Jenre says**

I have to admit when I first started reading this book I wasn't sure I was going to enjoy it. This was mainly due to the character of the eponymous Miles who isn't particularly likeable when we first meet him. He's recently lost his high powered job in Atlanta and has moved back to his Minnesota small home town with his tail between his legs. Now, instead of a swanky office, a secretary and a hot city boyfriend, Miles has a job in a pawnbrokers and lives with friends in a trailer. His hot ex-boyfriend is sending gloating texts with pics of a new lover and all his Atlantan friends have abandoned him. Miles feels very sorry for himself indeed, and looks down his nose at the rustic lifestyle of his friends Julie and Patty who own the pawnbrokers. Miles also has a strange fascination with the woods behind the shop and he often goes there to sulk and rage at the world for the loss of his nice job and friends in Atlanta. Things change for Miles when a strange flute is brought into the shop and he's catapulted into a dream world filled with both beauty and horror.

As I said, Miles is rather difficult to like at the beginning. He's selfish and has a far too high opinion of himself, to be the slightest bit sympathetic. Having read further into the book, I began to realise that actually I wasn't supposed to like Miles at first, because as the story progresses Miles begins to realise that what he had in Atlanta wasn't so good after all, and that he's a better person in Minnesota than he was in Atlanta. It was this gradual change in Miles that I felt was perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the story, as he grows as a person and ends up stronger as a result of his strange experiences.

Another aspect which worked well was the fantasy dream world that drags Miles into a confusing place where looks can be deceiving. I liked the uneasy tone to the story during these parts, as Miles is unsure of who to trust and is pulled further and further into danger. Some parts were very tense, and others frustrated me, as I knew Miles' was making the wrong decisions time after time. Those of you who like a beauty and the beast storyline are going to like this book as Miles has to make a choice between the beautiful fae, Terris, whose handsome looks and sultry body appeal to Miles, and the enchanted beast Harry, whose rank breath, gigantic dick and threats of rape and torture frighten Miles but his kind eyes confuse and attract Miles. The fantasy story is complex and involving, but never so intricate that it got confusing. The usual fairy tale messages can be drawn from Miles' adventures – be true to yourself, always look beneath the surface for true meaning, don't be influenced by money or beauty – and I enjoyed the familiarity of the fantasy, along with the freshness of some of the ideas, such as the use of silver and the nature of the entrapment.

There were a couple of little niggles to the story which mostly related to the ending. Firstly, I was a little disappointed at the way the villain of the piece was so anti-climatically dispatched, in fact I found the villain to be an all round disappointment, especially as he's given a huge build-up – but I don't want to say too much about that for fear of spoilers. Secondly, the end was a little too Disney for me, and in some ways spoiled what had been quite a dark story with its sugary HEA for all concerned.

Despite these niggles, I still enjoyed *Miles and the Magic Flute*. The fantasy story was absorbing, the writing good and all the characters, including Julie and Patty, were well defined. If you like fantasy stories, especially those involving the faerie realm, then this book should be ideal for you. Recommended.

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## Heidi Cullinan says

This is the correct edition and cover for this book and should be set as the primary. Please don't change it. (I'm the author, and I approved this message.)

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## Teresa says

\*\*\*\*Reviewed for Prism Book Alliance\*\*\*\*

3.75 Stars

Miles and the Magic Flute was a beautifully written fairytale complete with a moral and a happily ever after.

Miles himself, though not terribly likeable at first, was wholly relatable. I think we would be lying to ourselves if we didn't acknowledge feeling the same way at some point in our lives, if only for a moment. His journey of self discovery was difficult and heart wrenching but necessary. It made me think and reflect

on my own life.

The sex was plentiful and kinky, but skirted the edge of uncomfortable for me. To be honest, I didn't really feel the connection between Miles and his eventual love match. I got Miles feelings to a degree but questioned the returned affection. However, in the confines of a fairytale, I was willing to buy into it.

The story was enthralling and magical, but not without its flaws. However, worth the read!

I would like to thank Wilde City Press for providing me with the eRC of this title in exchange for my honest opinion.

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### **Liz (Bugetta) says**

This was a nice surprise. Very different from Heidi Cullinan's usual stuff (though the kink was familiar :)). The story had a dream-like quality and the ending was perhaps a bit cheesy but it still grabbed me from the moment I started and left me with a big grin.

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### **Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says**

[I didn't like Miles he was just weak and whined the whole book. It is hard to like a character when all they do is complain. I also didn't like that he never really developed he started weak and he pretty much stayed that way (you could say he was strong in the end but he was sharing his body with the Fae guy so he still seemed weak IMO). I pretty much stopped caring about him when he was just going to let Warren push his head into the flushed toilet.

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### **Libby Drew says**

This is my favorite book of Heidi's to date. I have a few personal reasons for this. For one, the idea for Miles came to Heidi mere days before NANO last year, and rather than shelve it for later, she dove right in, determined to capture the magic and momentum of the story. I admire that sort of dedication and tenacity.

For many writers, this whirlwind of creativity might have given birth to a decent if sketchy story—because just how many novels get written in three weeks?—but rather than scratch the surface of something deep and serpentine and emotive, Miles delivers the whole package. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Heidi's characters are so damn real. They're you and me and everybody else we know, beaten down by a bad economy and betrayed by lovers, settling for less than what they want, but dreaming for more. Imperfect, but bursting with potential.

The faerie world that Miles discovers drips with beauty. It is as rich as the frigid Minnesota landscape of reality is stark and unforgiving. These settings strike an appropriate parallel to Miles's quest. They open his eyes to the true difference between dreams and reality—differences that have little to do with magic.

I must mention the colorful cast of supporting characters. They breathe so much life into the narrative that you know, upon finishing the book, that the story wouldn't have been the same without them.

I heartily recommend this one, friends. And congratulations, Heidi! You should be very proud.

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### **Jess Candela says**

The moralizing at the end seemed pretty heavy-handed. I agreed with it, but didn't appreciate being hit over the head with it. A bit more subtlety would have been nice. Still, a nice story and enjoyable read.

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### **~☆~Dāni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says**

I worship Heidi Cullinan. I have given 4 or 5 stars to every Cullian book I've read (and I've read them all, or nearly so).

*Miles and the Magic Flute* is a beautifully written, dark faerie tale; a fantastical, creative, homoerotic story seeped in a stark, evocative landscape.

### **But it left me cold.**

Miles, the narrator and MC, is weak. He whines and pouts, and loathes his life. When he finds a magic flute, he is transported into a faerie forest, a sort of alternate plane, a surreal dimension. There he meets various creatures, including the Lord of Dreams and Harry, a beast/human, who is cursed to fall in love with every human he meets.

Miles has sex with various magical creatures, including Harry, but Harry becomes his one and only. But if Miles dies, does the dream die or does the body? And which story is the dream?

The sex was plentiful and kinky, but it had an ethereal quality that lacked passion. There is such a detached quality to the narrative, and so many ideas are brushed aside with an explanation of "It's magic so believe." I wanted to FEEL but couldn't.

Ultimately, I didn't connect with the narrative or characters, and left feeling strangely unsettled and vaguely unhappy. But if you love erotic, dark stories that make you squirm, this one's for you.

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### **MLE says**

This looks like another one where I'm going to be in the minority opinion.

There were aspects of this story I really liked, and then there were parts that just didn't work for me. I have always been a sucker for a good fairy tale, and this story did a good job delving into the darker, more traditional aspects of the genre. For all his faults, I even liked Miles. I understand how frustrated he must feel by the direction his life took. Being set back to the place he desperately wanted to escape from was his



worst nightmare. I think his growth over the course of the book was a little too forced, and something about the progression felt off to me.

I liked most of the arc with the Lord of Dreams, but Harry's part didn't work for me. I didn't feel the connection between he and Miles like I was supposed to. The scene in the circle struck me as unnecessary, and didn't add anything to their relationship for me. Then when I found out about Harry's nature (view spoiler) made that aspect even less believable. I think if they had more time to get to know each other, or understand each other it wouldn't have bothered me. I actually liked that (view spoiler)

The ending also didn't really work for me. The final battle felt anti-climatic, and the resolution with Harry felt like an excuse for some pretty heavy smut rather than a natural part of the story. I also felt like she tried a little too hard not to have a perfect happy ending, but the obstacles she talks about seem small in light of the magic that was worked.

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## Deja Dei says

3.5. This is a little difficult to review because I admit some of my personal preferences influenced my enjoyment. I really like fantasy and I love, LOVE faeries. (Go ahead and make jokes at my expense, I know you want to, LOL) When I first met Miles, the protagonist, I really didn't like him because he was whining, entitled, and basically just wallowing in self pity after he lost his job. I realized as I read further that the author made him that way on purpose, to show a contrast as he gradually became less selfish and less inclined to complain that life isn't fair and he deserves better. Miles is staying with friends and working at a pawn shop. He feels pulled to the woods nearby, where he eventually meets a beautiful fey named Terris and a beastly creature that Miles names Harry. He's given a choice between them, and of course he chooses the pretty faerie over the nasty, stinky creature intent on catching and raping him. This begins a series of odd events that take Miles to various dream and nightmare like realms as he tries to discover what is happening to him and how he can save himself from the Lord of Dreams.

Terris is great. I loved him. He's a true faerie: cold, manipulative, deceitful, vain and selfish. I know that doesn't sound very likable, but he's really well done, has some tragic back story to explain his motivations and...I really like faeries. Harry I couldn't understand. We're told he's good and noble, but I never saw it. I never understood why Miles fell so in love with him so fast, to the point where he's thinking about Harry while having amazing sex with perfect, beautiful Terris. I thought Harry was just gross. He's hideous, smells bad, and wants to rape Miles. Eventually Miles decides he wants to save Harry and Terris from the Dream Lord, though he eventually sort of abandons Terris and focuses on Harry. To do so, he enlists the help of his friends, three lesbian witches who started out kind of cliched but eventually ended up fleshed-out and likable. He also must learn how to use the magic flute he finds in the pawn shop, and that's an interesting, intricate plot thread.

Unfortunately, at least for me, Miles has to do some pretty bizarre sexual stuff in his quest to save Harry. Some of this stuff is clap your hand over your mouth awful, especially when he has sex with Harry in his beast form. It was awful, I almost stopped reading. There are ginormous, magical sex toys, too much fisting, and magic faerie lube that facilitates the fisting. While I like the story, the interesting and inventive plot, the creative conflicts and unpredictability of it all, the sex was just not hot. Not at all, after the initial Terris scene, which wasn't romantic, but was at least pretty. After that I felt like I was watching a train wreck. This is just my opinion of course, but it was way outside my comfort zone.

Also, it wraps up a little too neatly in the end, and the last battle was a let down. Other than that, I did enjoy the story, some of the characters, and the fantasy setting. Just not the sex. Still, it deserves a good rating for an inventive story that I really did want to see resolved, and an interesting world, and some very cool characters.

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### **Vivian says**

Life is a fairytale, both tragedy and happiness await. But living means there is no end, no HEA rather a HFN that needs constant attention.

Nothing the human heart does is rational.

Miles is sullen and unhappy. He spews what he feels and it isn't until he starts to see beyond himself that he sees himself--and the metamorphosis begins. His journey is filled with doubt, of himself and by others. Aid is given, but he must act and his fate hinges on what he does.

There is a mystery to solve. Who Miles should trust. What he should do. And in the end it is his decision to make. There is nice trickery and deception as befits a fae story. Like Miles, the reader is wondering how much to believe at any one time. I liked the characterizations of the four principles and enjoyed the storyline additions provided by the secondary characters. It was a rich reading experience.

Ending was a whirlwind summary and drawn out so that all the "t"s were crossed and "i"s dotted. I would have been happy with that cord cut sooner and left it without all the tidy wrapping up.

### **3.5 Stars**

Favorite quote:

Life is beauty, but it must be pain, too, and humans deal with that by choosing what they wish to see.

~~A copy was provided to me for a No Glitter Blown review~~

~~~**Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews**~~~

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### **Jason Bradley says**

I love the way Heidi always keeps the reader guessing at where her stories are going. There are no cookie cutter plots in her books where you can nod knowingly as the bad guy enters from stage left. This book had more twists and turns than Mr Toad's Wild Ride! :) The characters are beautifully shaped and real...even when they have horns and cloven hooves.

