



Jim Henson's Enchanted Sisters: Autumn's Secret Gift

Elise Allen

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Sisters Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer are nature's royalty. In Mother Nature's realm, they're responsible for each magical turn of the seasons. When they're not keeping all of nature in balance, the girls play, imagine, and explore their way around their enchanted world. And though they love harmony, the sisters often cross paths with the Weeds - wild boys who bring trouble with them wherever they go.

This charming new series comes from The Jim Henson Company and is perfectly suited for newly independent readers who love the Rainbow Fairies and Candy Fairies series. The series launches with Autumn when she loses a special gift from Mother Nature. Can the sisters find the gift before Mother Nature's party?

Jim Henson's Enchanted Sisters: Autumn's Secret Gift Details

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Author : Elise Allen

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From Reader Review Jim Henson's Enchanted Sisters: Autumn's Secret Gift for online ebook

Beyond the Pages says

Enchanted Sisters: Autumn's Secret Gift was a delightful tale that dealt with nature, magic, adventure and family. With beautifully crafted word pictures and appealing illustrations, this book drew me in quickly and easily. It totally rocked!

The author did a really good job of presenting a playful story while at the same time addressing some tough issues. Issues such as taking responsibility, living with integrity, sibling relations, teasing, the pressure to perform, self-doubt, fear, recklessness, betrayal, self-realization and acceptance were touched on in the deeper story. All in all, this was a pretty creative story with a fun twist. I loved the ending.

Plus Side: Creative, Magical, Word pictures, Team work, Problem solving, Image diversity

Minus Side: -

Rating: 4/5

Recommend: Yes

Bookshelf Worthy: Yes

Hard copy vs Digital copy: Hard copy

Audience: Grade 5 and up

Other: Family read for discussion, book club feature

A digital ARC was provide in exchange for an honest review.

Kristen says

This book does a lot of things well, especially considering the fluffy-sparkly-princess genre it's working in: the writing is decent, it explicitly features people of color in key roles (including the main character and the benevolent authority figure), and it has a gentle yet compelling plot.

However! This book is also sexist. All the female characters have unique personalities and are about as three-dimensional as you can get with this type of book (with the exception of Mother Nature, who is basically the grown-up, so that means giving her flaws would ruin the book for its audience). All the male characters on the other hand are drawn in the same unpleasant, caricature-ish way: they're loud, they're mean, they fight, they tease... basically, "Eww, boys!" is the feeling here. None have individual characteristics or personalities. Not only that, but the only males who are "good guys" are ANIMALS that serve the four main girl characters.

I'm not asking for complicated backstories, but come on. Even Rainbow Brite had a couple of boys in her Color Kids crew, and they had as much personality as the others. This book has no saving graces like that. The "Eww, boys!" thing might add to the appeal factor for the book's demographic, but that doesn't make it right or even acceptable. We're only going to stop seeing sexist B.S. when we stop MAKING sexist B.S., and reversing the genders so that boys are caricatures and girls are people contributes to the problem.

Sara says

It's about four sisters who are named after all the seasons. Mother nature (their mom) gives Autumn a blanket for Serenity's birthday. She's a bird. They lost the blanket doing a competition with their powers. They tried catching it on their rainbow but they cannot grab anything on it.

Lorie says

Mother Nature gives Autumn a special blanket that she made for Serenity as a birthday present so Autumn can help it stay a surprise, but she is careless and the blanket flies away and must be gotten back before the party.

This book is from the series Enchanted Sisters. The Enchanted Sisters will be a Henson's Studio TV show as well.

The concept and writing in/of this series is fine, better than most fairy and magic series that are published for the chapter book crowd. That said; I still felt disappointed with the subject matter especially as the appeal for the series is young girls. Its characters and plot are predictable and the writing drifts too much into the didactic sisterhood mode for it to be exceptional.

The subject matter of the Enchanted Sisters will appeal to girls who are most likely ages 5-7, but the text level and length of the book is age 8-10 making it hard to give to a younger child interested in the subject matter unless read to them by an adult. It will be interesting to see the television show and what age child it will appeal in the end.

I would recommend this as an optional purchase for libraries. It will have an appeal for those who enjoy fairy stories.

This book was provided by the publisher for review by SWON Libraries

Katie Fitzgerald says

Autumn and her sisters, the Sparkles, are each responsible for one season of the year, and they are accountable to Mother Nature, whom they all love very much. When Mother asks Autumn to keep watch over a special blanket, Autumn vows to guard it carefully and return it to Mother in perfect condition. When the blanket is suddenly whisked away in the wind, Autumn is devastated. Thankfully, her sisters are there to help her chase it through all four of their realms and to fight off the Weeds, a group of mischievous boys who seek to thwart the girls' efforts.

Though this is the first book in the Enchanted Sisters series, it does not provide sufficient exposition early enough in the story to properly orient the reader to the setting. Throughout the book, new information about this fantastical world emerges piecemeal, with no logical progression, leaving the reader scrambling to make sense of things. Some of the details of the world are quite clever: each girl's pet is related to her season, and

the Weed nemesis for each realm uses bad weather associated with that season to wreak havoc. Unfortunately, even these facts are established in a slapdash fashion that makes them hard to pin down.

Also disappointing is the fact that this book is overrun by stereotypes. Though the characters are racially diverse, which is a plus, the treatment of girls as sparkly do-gooders and boys as dull troublemakers transparently upholds ridiculous misconceptions about gender. By introducing this battle of the sexes mentality, the story defeats its own message of girl power. It is also problematic that the blonde-haired sister is portrayed as a clueless ditz, especially when the other sisters - especially Autumn - are fairly well-developed.

The quest aspect of the story, and the relationships between the sisters will easily draw in girls who have devoured the Rainbow Magic and Secret Kingdom series. Indeed, this book is better written than those painfully predictable tales, even if it does sound a lot like the script to a television show. (The Jim Henson Company has said that they hope this book will "engage our audience in such a way that they will seek out their stories across multiple platforms" so this is likely not an accident. Just because the books came first does not mean they are not media tie-ins.)

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

Mixed feelings about this one. For starters why are all the good people in the story girls and why are all the bad people boys? I liked, though, how the girls used the boys' tendency to fight among themselves to their advantage. I also liked how the plot was cleverly resolved by having all the girls and boys come together in the end in a way that was quite possible. And I liked it that Mother Nature saw a need for the bad boys in her scheme. But the girls and their love of sparkle was a bit too much.

Wendy says

Jim Henson's "Enchanted Sisters" which I won through Goodreads Giveaways is a magical adventure in Mother Nature's kingdom where the Sparkles -Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter - transform the seasons at a Sparkle Ceremony. When Autumn becomes distracted and the spell almost goes awry, instead of getting angry Mother Nature gives Autumn the responsibility of keeping Serenity's birthday gift safe for her big day. But, the present is swept away by a wind. The sisters pursue it and begin an adventure that takes them across their Sparkledoms, and into the path of the troublesome Weeds who are known for chaos and disorder.

This unexpected journey gives the four enchanting sisters new insight into taking responsibility, accepting others, overcoming fear, telling the truth and the danger of impulsiveness. With these lessons comes a new awareness about friendship, their sisterly bond and love. Even the troublesome boys with all their amusing but disruptive shenanigans find a bit of happiness at the end. This is a tale enriched with delightfully appealing drawings that will warm every little girl's heart and have them yearning to be a Sparkle.

With skilful ingenuity Jim Henson has created unique and enchanting characters that captivate a young reader; like Autumn the practical planner and thinker who learns how to have fun; trusting and high-spirited Spring; fun-loving and daring Winter as well as resourceful and feisty Summer. Even kind and powerful Mother Nature brings a slice of wisdom to the story when she's asked why she doesn't rid the land of the pesky Weeds and troublesome villain Bluster, only to answer that they bring balance to nature.

This is an easy-to-read book that is instructive and entertaining. It will captivate young readers and I highly recommend it.

Jenna Friebel says

Give this to kids who love Rainbow Magic Fairies and Goddess Girls.
