



Revenge of the Witch

Joseph Delaney , Patrick Arrasmith (Illustrations)

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For years, Old Gregory has been the Spook for the county, ridding the local villages of evil. Now his time is coming to an end. But who will take over for him? Twenty-nine apprentices have tried—some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive.

Only Thomas Ward is left. He's the last hope, the last apprentice.

Revenge of the Witch Details

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Author : Joseph Delaney , Patrick Arrasmith (Illustrations)

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Download and Read Free Online Revenge of the Witch Joseph Delaney , Patrick Arrasmith (Illustrations)

The middle felt downright boring. The premise was good (seventh son of a seventh son? Bring on The Dark

is Rising!) and I loved the whole idea of a Spook! I wanted to know more about the Spook though. He seemed like a really flat character since he barely spent any time training Tom. He just kind of left Tom here to face this, or "go take this there, Tom, try not to die" or "I'm leaving for a week"... He did next to no training. What even is this?! I want to see master's interacting with their apprentices not just hoping the apprentice picks it up on the way.

Unimpressed, very unimpressed.

BUT. The ending was interesting. I loved the mesh of "what is really evil" and "you can choose to be good or bad". That was really awesome and dancing more in the grey areas is something I don't see a lot of in MG. SO YAY! I liked Alice and Tom's friendship and definitely want to see if they grow into best-friends or something tears them apart. Eeeh, do I read on? Do I not? I probably will! I want to know *more* and hopefully I won't be doused with too much more dry writing and flat characters. And who knows? Maybe the Spook will actually teach his apprentice something... Miracles do happen.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I'd really rather give this one 4.5 stars, because it was an excellent book. Although a young adult book, it is definitely sophisticated enough for an adult to enjoy it (I don't consider myself sophisticated, but I still think a person who is would like it). I liked that the suspense builds. There are no cheap thrills or shock value scares. Instead, the author takes his time and builds up the menace so that you spend your time trying to prepare yourself for the scare. Even still, you won't hear someone yelling 'boo.' Instead the moment of dread will come and you will think, whoa, "I'm glad I'm not in Tom's shoes right now." I do love stories where a character comes into their destiny, and this is one of them. Tom wasn't really sure that he wanted to be a spook after all. But he didn't have any other trade in mind, and he definitely didn't like farming. But it turned out his destiny was waiting for him as the seventh son of the seventh son. He was apprenticed to train as the next Spook, which is a person who rids the towns of evil, supernatural creatures. It is a job that is looked down on by others, and promises to bring the bearer a lonely life. But at the time, Tom figures it's better than farming, and his mother doesn't really give him much of a choice. Let's just say she had his destiny determined long before he was born. You get to see Tom struggle with his role as the Spook's Apprentice, several times, deciding to quit but having his mind changed in various ways. He makes some mistakes along the way, but learns from them, so there is also a good coming of age story in this book.

I like that there is definitely good and evil in this book. But there are also humans who could go either way. Yes there are bad witches, but there are some that are benign. There is one character that is likely to be in-between, and she has a very pivotal role. I believe that she will have a very important place in Tom's life as he matures. Perhaps there will be a romantic future for Tom and Alice when they get older.

The parts with the witches really did unnerve me. They are horrible creatures who kill and eat people and use their bones for dark magic. It was refreshing to read a book that actually had bad witches for once. I was very proud of young Tom for facing off on not one, but two witches that were out for his blood and his bones, and saving a young child that was likely to be one of their victims.

The author really did a great job of setting a sinister tone. It wasn't over the top, but very subtle and building. His use of words drew a very vivid image, where I felt as though I was standing there and the witch was crawling out of the grave to get me.

Another thing I liked was that this story was not predictable. You don't know how it's going to end. You don't know the way in which the witch will manifest herself. She could have possessed any one of the people in the house during the climax moments of this story.

Tom was a sympathetic, likable narrator. He was realistic for his age, but I truly did admire his bravery although he was scared when a rational person would have been scared. He was often left to deal with situations that would have been challenging for a grown-up, much less a boy of twelve. He risked his life to do the right thing, and that was very admirable to me.

There are questions that I would still like answers to, but reading the next books in the series, will definitely give insight into the enigmatic Spook, and Tom's mother, who has gifts that are still somewhat mysterious at this point.

If you want to read a young adult book that has the appeal of giving a good, sustained scare instead of a series of shock value, short-lived scares, I think you would enjoy this one. A cool bonus with this book is pages of Tom's journal, a map of the areas in the book, and the key to the codes used by a Spook in his trade.

Jonathan Terrington says

As Goodreads has grown it seems there are more and more people looking for recommendations for YA series in a similar vein to Harry Potter or The Hunger Games. As you can guess from the tangent I'm making: this is one of those books.

If you're not into Dark Young Adult Fantasy then it may take you a minute to adjust to this book. And I must warn you that the series gets darker and darker - highlighting the 'adult' part of young adult. But all that said, there is a film adaptation on the way, along with the final book and the series constantly has heroes which are good despite certain compromises.

In fact, it is the battle between what is 'good' and 'evil' (characterised by Light and Dark) which drives the entire series. At times compromises are made for the good of the world in which the series is set and at times evil seems to win out with good finally triumphing at a cost. Yet, the storytelling is not found in the final foregone conclusions. It is found in the ability of Joseph Delaney to spin and hold the reader with twists and turns. It is the suspenseful atmosphere and the horror of the tale which are the true hallmarks of a great storyteller. In short it is a wonderfully written series of stories.

Fully recommended for those looking for the next Young Adult series that they haven't read yet. In this particular novel you will meet the characters - for the most part; be introduced to some key secrets; meet a couple of the villains (witches) and in general get a real taste for the wonderfully spooky world-building of Delaney. This is the perfect mature, subtle and brilliant young adult series in my view that is remarkably, wonderfully consistent in its brilliance.

Victoria says

Vraiment très sympa ! C'est jeunesse, mais certains moments font frissonner, et l'univers en général est très

intéressant, avec diverses créatures maléfiques, et une ambiance qui s'assombrit... Je lirai avec plaisir la suite à l'occasion !

Mention spéciale pour les petits bonus de mon édition: une carte, une présentation des personnages, des pages du carnet de Tom...

Shadowdenizen says

I liked this book overall, certainly far better than the movie based on it!

A little slow-paced initially, but very moody and evocative, and certainly seems to set the stage for some plot threads to be followed up in further books.

3.5 stars(Rounded up to 4.)

Netta says

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XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

I read YA and survived. Imagine that.

Now now, no need to be slightly horrified, my Little Barnacles, or fear for the future of the planet. The fact that **I did not convulse** while reading the book doesn't mean I loved it. Which means **doom and destruction** will have to wait for a bit [*insert sighs of utter, total and complete relief here*]. Okay, to be honestly honest, I didn't, you know, **NOT love the book** and stuff. ~~I might even have enjoyed it a little.~~ ← *I never wrote this and you didn't read it. Go home, you're drunk.* But I didn't, you know, lurve it and stuff, either. Which means, you know, that I'm still me and stuff. Feel better now? Good. **You're welcome.**

► **I didn't go in Full YA-Allergy Mode (FYAM™)** while reading this **Surprisingly Non Suicide-Inducing Piece of YA Literature (SNSIPoAYL™)** because:

- ✓ ~~The writing is pretty good~~ It's **not badly written**.
- ✓ ~~The story is fast paced~~ It's **not too boring**.
- ✓ ~~The youngish hero is quite likable~~ The disgustingly underage MC is **neither totally unlikable nor exasperatingly immature**.

► **I will not bother reading the rest of this series because:**

- ✗ The story isn't bad but **desperately lacks originality**.
- ✗ YA Fantasy coming of age stories = **YAWN**.
- ✗ The story isn't bad but is horrifyingly lacking in the **Deliciously Horrific Stuff Department** (DHSD™).
- ✗ YA Fantasy coming of age stories = **YAWN**.
- ✗ The story isn't bad but revoltingly lacks **Scrumptious Rated R Moments** (SRRM™).
- ✗ YA Fantasy coming of age stories = **YAWN**.
- ✗ **I can't be bothered**.
- ✗ YA Fantasy coming of age stories = **YAWN**.
- ✗ **I can't be bothered**. Ha.

Also, some ~~ill-intentioned nemeses~~ well-intentioned friends told me **later books in this series were really bad**. So QED and stuff.

My case I rest.

Because Evgeny described this as *"Harry Potter set in medieval times written as horror with the main character having zero magic power."*

So let's get crazy! Let's read YA! I am strong! can do this!

Xabi1990 says

Bah!, nada nuevo ni especialmente bien contado. Brujas secuestraniños y un aprendiz de brujo (en terminología Sapkovskiana) que aquí llaman Espectro.

Lo dicho, prescindible.

Tres estrellas porque al menos me lo he acabado. ¡Anda, si hay peli del libro! Pues para la famosa madre del topo.

Tatjana says

Simpati?na pri?a predominantno YA žanra, no lako je mentalno se vratiti u te godine obzirom na izuzetno lagan, pitak stil pisanja. Kome treba psihi?ko opuštanje - topla preporuka!

Cooper says

Although clearly written as a children's book (over explanation and reminders of what has previously occurred) - it is quite dark, with bone witches and strip the flesh from fresh corpses and blood witches that drain blood from living children, eat babies and make blood cakes to increase their strength. It does a good

job of watering these parts down, but they are still there, I would not recommend it for it's target audience, and it definitely would not be night time reading for that age unless you wanted to encourage nightmares. I think it would be fine for teenagers, though they would NOT find the writing style challenging enough. I think it is definitely darker than the early Harry Potter books, and I am also not a particular fan of those for the target audience. I enjoyed it as a light book for an adult, and will save full judgement until I have seen more of the series, which I will continue with. (It has a different title for the US market)

Mike (the Paladin) says

Okay...first let give a sort of introduction. I liked this book, and that's a relief as the last several YA books I've read have been, disappointing. Since I read the Harry Potter books (each as it came out) "with" my own children (though they were grown by the time the series completed) I've continued occasionally reading a YA book as some of them are excellent and not to be missed...even if "we" are old, grown-up, and decrepit. LOL

Now as to this book. I considered giving it a lower rating, and after this I'll say why. First I want to say I like the book. It's a good idea, it's handled well, and well told. I wanted to say all that as some might wonder why I'd rate a book 4 stars and then spend a lot of time on it's failings. Well, it's because a lot of what "I" found wanting here "may" be because I am an adult and have read literally thousands of books. What I find predictable or even a little trite may not be so to others, especially younger readers...

So, here goes.

Yes, this is a good book. BUT I would be sure that the "youth" reading it has a good "reality concept". In spite of my own local public library calling it or rating it "juvenile" I'd say the description "young adult" would be more apt. There are a lot of fairly "creepy" scenes including danger to children and reference to the death of children.

There is the slightly negative view of religion here that has become so prevalent of late, but it's mild and left open to later interpretation/reinterpretation in later books. The view seems to be based on the kind of negative impression that can be left by "religious" folk of an overly legalistic or judgmental mindset.

And some parents may share those views, so to them it may not seem as much of a problem.

I'd say these and any other "drawbacks" could be handled by a parent/guardian/responsible adult who loves the young person in question reading the book either with or before the youth and being ready to explain, discuss and otherwise guide the said youth.

***Possible Spoiler Below ***

(view spoiler)

Evgeny says

Warning: my long and boring rants follow. There are some things that bug me and this review happened to be a good place for them. Sorry.

If you own a farm you never split it between your children, otherwise several generations later there will be nothing left to split. You give the farm to the oldest child which leaves you a very tough problem to find a place in life for the rest of your kids. Now imagine you have seven sons - and you yourself were the seventh son, but managed to come up with some money to buy a farm. This was exactly the problem the father of young Tom Ward was facing. Tom was the last son and as such his father was at loss at what to do with him.

Fortunately being a seventh son of a seventh son made a good Spook material out of Tom, so the local Spook took him as an apprentice. Spook's job is to deal with all kind of supernatural troublemakers: ghosts, ghastrs, bogarts, evil witches, and such. Spooks do not possess any magic; they do their job using only their wits, brains, and experience. The whole nature of the work makes them, well, spooky and as such they do not have any friends and people while being glad to be rid of supernatural troubles, make their best to avoid Spooks in everyday life. This is the life which awaits Tom is he manages to be good enough to enter the full apprenticeship.

This is a young adult horror novel. I would not say it is very scary, but it does have quite a few really spooky (sorry, I seems to overuse the word) moments. Thus the rant moment came. It seems to me the US writers and publishers are busy writing and publishing angst romance novel calling them young adult (YA) literature to the point where it is impossible to find any non-romance centered YA book. I have nothing against angst-ridden romances and they have their place in literature, but I really do not understand why this is considered to be the only type of YA genre.

At the same time British writers still remember the distinction between YA and romance. For the good example of YA without too much romance look no further than Harry Potter. This series is another example of this. This is a fairly short, fast and easy read with some horror elements. I was not completely satisfied with some characters as they seem to be two-dimensional, but this is the first book of the series, so there is still hope for them.

My rating would be something between 3.5 stars and 4, but I will round it up and reserve my right to change it after I read other books of the series - and I will most definitely continue reading them.

Another rant is coming. Why oh why do US publishers consider changing the titles of the books published in GB to be their first and foremost duty? We were lucky with Harry Potter as only the first book suffered this fate, but in case of this series I think all the titles were butchered. UK title: The Spook's Apprentice. US title: Revenge of the Witch. What was so exotic and hard to understand about the UK - original - title so it had to be changed? Does US publishing industry consider its readers to be complete retards unable to understand some local UK terms? I think they do add flavor and color to the tale. Luckily it is possible for Canadians to find books published in UK in local bookstores and this is what I will do for this series. Rant off.

For a good example of US YA horror take a look at Nightfall Gardens trilogy by Allen Houston.

Nikoleta says

Ο μαθητευόμενος του Σπουκ είναι να καλ? παραδοσιακ? βιβλ?ο φαντασ?ας, σε μερικ?ς στιγμ?ς του λ?γο πιο σκοτειν? και για αυτ? το λ?γο παρ?τι ακολουθε? τη πεπατημ?νη, ε?ναι ακατ?λληλο για τις πιο μικρ?ς ηλικ?ες αναγνωστ?v. ?μως στ?θηκε αδ?νατον να μην το αγαπ?σω ιδια?τερα, δι?τι ναι αγαπ? τις πολυτελε?ς βιβλιοδεσ?ες. Το παραδ?χομαι. Το δι?βασα πολ? πιο ευχ?ριστα μ?νο και μ?νο γιατί? ?γγιζα τη σκληρ?δετη ?κδοση και ξεφ?λλιζα τα σκιτσ?κια στην αρχ? κ?θε κεφαλα?ου. Τι να πω; Ε?μαι κακομαθημ?νη αναγν?στρια...μακ?ρι ?λα τα βιβλ?α να ε?χαν τ?σο πολυτελε?ς βιβλιοδεσ?ες. Εννοε?ται θα διαβ?σω και τα επ?μενα.

Gorgona Grim says

"Baukov šegrt" je prva od 13 knjiga u serijalu, kod nas je naravno i jedina prevedena (hvala Goodreadsu i Googleu na postojanju). Pomalo mi je krivo zbog toga jer je ovo jedna od boljih knjiga za mlade koju sam pro?itala u poslednjih nekoliko godina.

Pre svega, otvara nam se novi svet u kojem postoje raznolika bi?a za koje smo delimi?no ?uli: veštice, bukavci, duhovi, a tu su i razli?ite biljke koje je potrebno izu?avati u okviru botanike i mnogo toga drugog. Kako bi se održao mir i zaštitili nedužni, sa zlo?estim i zlim stvorenjima na kraj izlaze bauci. Na po?etku ove pri?e upoznajemo se sa trinaestogodišnjim Tomijem, sedmim sinom sedmog sina (gle ?uda), ?ija je sudbina da postane baukov šegrt. Obuka nije ni malo naivna, a put šegrtovanja i život bauka je samotan život uz puno odricanja i neprestane opasnosti. Najbolji pokazatelj jesu prethodni šegrti koji nisu završili svoju pet godina dugu obuku usled pogibije.

Sadašnji bauk je Gregori, bivši sveštenik koji godinama obu?ava šegrt. Prili?no je rezervisan u po?etku i tek pomalo uspevamo da vidimo naznake njegove duhovitosti i pravog karaktera. Kao u?itelj je obazriv i strog, što donekle obeshrabruje Tomija. Kada na?ini grešku i oslobodi vešticu, lekcije koje je dobio od bauka su mu pomogle da zaštiti porodicu i spasile život. Shvataju?i da ima potencijal za bauka, Tomi odlu?uje da nastavi sa obukom.

Na?in na koji je predstavljena de?ja naivnost i ?injenje grešaka donosi olakšanje i utehu ?itaocu, pokazuju?i mu da ne postoji nerešivih problema ve? samo neadekvatan pristup njihovom rešavanju. Pravi pristup savladavamo kroz iskustvo, a njega opet sti?emo kroz ceo život. Kao važna lekcija izdvaja se poverenje, pre svega u sebe, a potom i u druge. Zbog toga su mi najdragoceniji bili razgovori koje je Tomi vodio sa svojom majkom, uz njenu konstataciju da niko ne može biti usamljen jer uvek imamo sami sebe.

Mel says

This was pretty good! I enjoyed it. It wasn't much and it wasn't complicated but I liked this as a simple middle grade fantasy series.

I don't have a lot to say about it, but I will likely continue with the series!

Mario says

'Warning: Not to be Read after Dark'

This is written on the back of the book. And I really wish I took that advice. Cause for a children's/ya book, this one is freaking scary.

From the beginning this book grabbed my attention, and it held it all the way to the end. I liked the characters, especially Tom and Alice. I loved how Tom grew throughout this book, and I enjoyed reading about his journey.

I liked the world, this was set in. I also really liked where the story went, and there were even some plot twists that I didn't see coming.

Amazing start of the series, and hopefully I'll get my hands on the second one, cause I'm dying to know what'll happen next.

Amelia, the pragmatic idealist says

Excellent! Excellent! Excellent!

I have a very, very good feeling about the rest of the books in the *Wardstone Chronicles* after completing this book (it's called *Revenge of the Witch* in the US)...

- First of all, a very, very engaging and rather original plot! It's similar to HARRY POTTER in this: both take place in England, and both have a lot to do with folkloric creatures and legends: witches, boggarts, and the like. But there's where the similarities end. You can read the synopsis up at the top and know that this will be the story of Thomas J. Ward, the seventh son of a seventh son (hey Angie Sage--that's like your story!) who becomes the apprentice of the County's Spook (hold your horses - fellow Americans! That's the dude's title) and through all sorts of adventures learns the lessons of the trade.

- Second, I am a new, big fan of Joseph Delaney's writing style. His prose is simple (not highfalutin' like some other authors out there!) and yet incredibly descriptive; he draws you fully into the world of his story. Every word is engaging, every word flows with ease to create an image in your mind.

- With that in mind, I do want to make a declaration: I READ THIS BOOK AFTER DARK! The book warns readers specifically not to do that. And I huffed and I puffed and I said, "this book won't be scary! I'm 21 years old now!" and within a few minutes I was opening up my roommate's door just to make sure I wasn't alone. So this book isn't really *scary* so much as it's incredibly eerie in some sections. There are parts that read like a good'ol fashion ghost story. In my opinion, Delaney doesn't overdo himself and really hammer home what's going on - rather he paces everything so that you are drawn in to the suspicion and the intensity of the story and you can't put the book down!

- Now here's my fine-print: I think this book would be enjoyed best by the +13 crowd. I got the number 13 just because that's the age of the main character and I personally think that anyone lower than maybe 7th-8th grade might potentially have a hard time with some details of the story. However, I didn't find anything "inappropriate" per se, and if there are any fellow religious people out there, this info is for you: there are a couple parts where characters speak critically of priests. Not God, priests. It all seems reasonable within the story, and if it didn't bother an ultra-sensitive person like me, it probably won't bother you, either. :)

So CHECK OUT this book!!!! Again, in America, it's called *Revenge of the Witch* and it's part of the *Last Apprentice* series. I usually don't give out 5-stars, but most every aspect of the story was superb! Definitely

recommended---to the +13 crowd!
