



Wicked Nix

Lena Coakley , Jaime Zollars (illustrator)

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Mischiefous woodland fairy Nix is up to no good. His beloved fairy queen has gone away, leaving him with a very important job: He must protect the forest from a most dangerous enemy—humans.

When a determined invader trespasses on his territory, Nix's skills are put to the test as he invents several wicked tricks to chase the sorry fellow away. But when his efforts don't go quite according to plan, it becomes clear that this intruder—and this sprite—may not be at all what they seem.

Wicked Nix Details

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Author : Lena Coakley , Jaime Zollars (illustrator)

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From Reader Review Wicked Nix for online ebook

Felicia Allen says

A beautiful modern fairy tale. Wicked Nix is sure to be a modern classic. I loved the depth of detail the author put into the setting and backstory, Wicked Nix has to be one of the funniest characters I have read.

Debbie Tanner says

I thought this was a terrific fairy story about a mischievous little fairy named Nix. I loved the author's notes that talk about the way that this story connected with her real life. I think my students are going to love this one.

Yaritzia says

Wicked Nix is a fairy full of tricks. The protector of the fairy forest will stop at nothing to rid himself of a human. Nix uses many tricks and spells to scare the human away. Half way through the story you are surprised to find out the human is family and the Nix is not a fairy. Nix and the human go to Fairy meadow to see the fairy queen. Nix realizes she isn't who he thought she was. Nix and the human work together to get Rose back to her mom. The cottage Nix was protecting was his past home and is reunite with his family. A fairy-tale full of tricks and courage.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Wicked Nix by Lena Coakley, illustrated by Jaime Zollars, 163 pages. CHAPTER BOOK. Amulet Books (Abrams), 2018. \$17. 9781419728693

BUYING ADVISORY: EL - OPTIONAL

AUDIENCE APPEAL: AVERAGE

A young fairy is upset because someone has moved into his part of the woods. The fairy tries all his tricks to get the man to leave, but he will not. When the two finally meet face to face we learn that Wicked Nix, the fairy, is not a fairy at all but a young boy. And not just any boy, but the man's long lost brother who was taken by the fairies and never aged.

I really enjoy a story set in the woods with characters like Mr. Green representing nature. I loved the setting and the characters and the whimsical nature of fairies mixed with the realities of the human world. What I really didn't like though was that this story hinges on a young boy being kidnapped as a child and includes one additional child kidnapping by fairies. I think this is more often than not anxiety inducing in young readers.

Lynn says

A wonderfully clever tale beautifully told that engages readers immediately and pulls them into an enchanting web. Nix, the foulest of fairies had been left behind when the others went home into the Summer Country. Was it to protect the forest for the Fairy Queen? Nix is uncertain but now a people has come to the abandoned cottage. Nix must get him to leave before Midsummer's Eve!

This is an enchanting story for young readers ready to step away from Disney fairies to classic fairy tales. There is the requisite hint of selfish cruelty in the fairies, an exploration of magic and self-deception and a heart-warming thread revealing the presence of love and family that triumphs over all.

Nix's voice is perfectly crafted, appealing and endearing, believable yet injecting doubt. Coakley achieves real magic here - a lyrical layered story told in simple vocabulary appropriate to readers just taking on chapter books. Lovely illustrations by Jaime Zollars add to a delightful book design that is a true pleasure to experience.

Stephanie says

Wicked Nix by Lena Coakley was short. The plot was simple. And at first I couldn't quite figure out what the point of the story was. And then suddenly I was opened up to a world of emotions. I began this book slowly thinking it would just be an okay story, one that children would likely enjoy but didn't really hold a lot of interest for me.

I was very wrong.

This story both broke my heart and mended it together again. Told from the eyes of the very wicked Nix himself, we're introduced to a young fairy determined to please the "Good Queen," as he calls her, by pestering the "man-people" who has moved into the small cottage in his forest. Certainly an unreliable narrator, the truth of Nix's existence is revealed to us slowly as he learns more and more about his own reality.

The man living in the cottage plays a very important role in building enlightenment for Nix and for a while I was starting to believe that perhaps the magic of this story didn't really exist. Beautifully told, the novel's middle and ending were the best and most emotionally moving I've read in some time. Despite how short this book is, Coakley does an excellent job of connecting you to the characters. While you are presented all the information through the voice of young Nix, readers are able to see through the misunderstandings of Nix to truly understand him. And it is this, I think, that captures the true emotion of the novel the best.

I didn't expect to be so impressed with Wicked Nix, nor did I expect it to make me cry. I loved this book and I definitely think it's worth reading.

Elley Murray says

Wicked Nix is such a cute middle grade chapter book about a fairy who has been left behind when all of the other fairies return to their home in the summer country after their Midsummer celebration in the human lands, so he takes it upon himself to protect his little patch of forest from an encroaching human. However, he doesn't have any magic, so when "a people" starts moving into a little abandoned cottage on his turf, he has to get creative with his tricks.

This book is so surprising and endearing. I'd definitely recommend for any kids who are into fairy tales, fairies, goblins, playing tricks and jokes, and general naughtiness. I definitely plan on reading this with my own little trouble-maker once he's a bit older.

Hilary Scroggie says

Sharp and sweet and unexpected.

Heather M. O'Connor says

Sweet, wistful, charming. A book for the lost child in all of us.

Teresa Grabs says

Wonderful, entertaining story told from a very unique perspective. Not everything, and everyone, is what they first appear to be.

Laura Gardner says

Wicked Nix, a fairy who lives in the woods, is angry. A man-people has moved into the cottage in his part of the woods and Nix considers it his duty to expel him before Midsummer's Eve when the fairy Queen will return. He goes to his friends wise Rose (a young black girl) and Mr. Green for help, but none of the tricks Nix plays work. Slowly he discovers that things are not what he thought they were. Coakley has created a beautiful, secret-filled tale that will surprise readers with the eventual conclusion. Nix turns out to be an unreliable narrator, which will be a fun concept for young readers to puzzle out. I think this would make a wonderful read aloud. Illustrations by Jaime Zollars throughout are stunning (black and white).

Also -- this is one of the most beautiful covers I have ever seen -- it is glossy and metallic-like. The colors are gorgeous. I only wish the illustrations in the book were in color!

Tia says

What a beautiful little book. I loved the whole foresty magical feel and voice of the characters and the illustrations were just perfect and lovely. Its a short read, but really gets inside of you!

Story Eater says

Nix is a nasty little fairy who hates humans, particularly the human who has recently decided to take up residence in the house next to his tree in the fairy woods. He decides to frighten the human off, but he's in for quite a surprise when the human fights back and refuses to be intimidated by Nix's tricks.

Nix steps up his game with the help of a forest friend and a local little girl named Rose, whom Nix loves because she has magic and understands fairy logic. Together, they throw everything they have at the pesky human-and the human gives in, but only if Nix will let the human tell him a story...

Wicked Nix is a fun, fast-paced fairy story full of mischief, imagination, and surprises. Though it is classified as middle-grade, this story reads well, particularly aloud, to any age child. In fact, had the author not given some hints before the story started, I would have been caught completely off guard with the ending (without guessing it before I got there). I will definitely be sharing this little gem with my readers.

Paige says

Nix has been abandoned by his beloved Fairy Queen and he believes that the only way to return to her good graces is to drive out any humans from her forest. And he must do so by Midsummer's Eve. This premise sets up a magical modern fairy tale where fairies exist, magic is real, and nothing is what it seems. The writing style is consistent and builds very nicely for its intended middle school readers who, I believe, will be equally captivated by Nix.

What I truly thought was great in this story was the gradual development of Nix from an incorrigible trickster into someone with a deep vulnerability and then finally into someone who can care about others' welfare. I feel that even though as adults, we can predict what would happen, middle school readers can definitely get a magical experience from *Wicked Nix*.

Rating

Story: 4 Stars

Writing: 4 Stars

Characters: 5 Stars

Enjoyability: 5 Stars

Notes: Many thanks to Netgalley and ABRAMS Kids for providing a copy of this book.

Hannah Greendale says

Click here to watch a video review of this book on my channel, *From Beginning to Bookend*.

Mix sun-dappled leaves with loam, stir in one cup of imagination and one-half cup of lore, add a pinch of sorrow, a dash of mystery, and a drizzle of sunlit honey. Stir with whimsy, then bake under moonlight until the wolves howl. Voila! A recipe for Wicked Nix, foulest of the fairies - a tricksy creature of the wood who finds himself plagued by a "people" who has taken up residence in a previously abandoned cottage at the heart of the forest. Fanciful mayhem ensues.

*Then I heard Mr. Green's voice in the sighing of the wind, in the clicking of the frozen branches. He reminded me that my family was all around me: The animals sleeping in their dens. The frogs sleeping in the mud under the frozen river. Grandfather Mountain and Grandmother Moon. Even the wolves were my wild brothers, he told me. He said that I should do as they did and howl my loneliness away. And so I did.**

*Note: Quote taken from an uncorrected proof.