

The Pinhoe Egg (Chronicles of Chrestomanci Book 6)

By Diana Wynne Jones



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Cat Chant and Marianne Pinhoe have discovered something exciting—something truly precious, very strange, and valuable. An egg.

An egg that has been hidden away in an attic for who-knows-how-many years. An egg protected by some strong "Don't Notice" spells. An egg that Marianne gives to Cat, even though he lives at nearby Chrestomanci Castle. Chrestomanci himself, the strongest enchanter in the world, is sure to be interested in the egg—and interference from the Big Man is the *last* thing Marianne's family of secret rogue witches wants.

But how much longer can the Pinhoes keep their secrets? Gammer, the leader of the clan, has gone mad, a powerfulbad luck spell is wreaking havoc, and there's an unexplained plague of frogs. Not to mention the mysterious barrierCat finds in the forest.

Marianne and Cat may be the only two who can set things right. But first Marianne must accept her own powerful magic, and Cat must uncover the secrets behind the mystical Pinhoe Egg.

In this new Chrestomanci book, Diana Wynne Jones is at her most magical.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8—Fans of Harry Potter will enjoy exploring the magical world of Ulverscote, which is every bit as enchanting as that of Hogwarts, though humbler by far. Part coming-of-age tale, part fantastical mystery, this sixth entry in the series is chock-full of interesting characters. Gammer Pinhoe is a manipulative and mentally unstable matriarch who secretly starts an all-out witch war with the neighboring clan. Her plan is discovered by her granddaughter, Marianne, a young witch beginning to come into her own magical powers. Marianne meets up with Cat, nine-lived enchanter and resident of Chrestomanci Castle, as well as Chrestomanci himself. They find a mysterious egg in Gammer's attic, which the girl cares for until it hatches into a charming baby griffin. Meanwhile, Chrestomanci keeps a watchful eye over all of this as he tries to figure out the mystery of the enchanted woods. In the end, Marianne uses her inner strength to help Cat free the creatures in the woods, and Chrestomanci restores peace among the witch families of Ulverscote. Although some children may be put off by the complicated plot and unfamiliar wording and references, Jones does a good job of entertaining readers with an interesting new world, strong characters, and a satisfying ending.—Nicki Clausen-Grace, Carillon Elementary School, Oviedo, FL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From **Booklist**

There's magic afoot, and no wonder, for Jones' latest book extends her Chrestomanci fantasy series, which began with *Charmed Life* (1977). In the village of Ulverscote, young witch Marianne Pinhoe watches her aging, headstrong grandmother's mental decline, which is unfortunately unaccompanied by a waning of her magical powers. Meanwhile, at the nearby castle, another young enchanter, Cat, prefers riding his new horse, Syracuse, to teleportation, but while riding through the countryside, Cat discovers that something is amiss in the neighboring woodland. In the end, the wizard Chrestomanci separates local history from superstition and brings peace to the area. Magical creatures, spells, castles, and bicycles come together in Jones' alternate world, which offers a refreshing change from the settings of more traditional fantasies. A must for Chrestomanci fans, this solidly entertaining tale is also accessible to readers new to the series. *Carolyn Phelan*

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About the Author

Diana Wynne Jones has been writing outstanding fantasy novels for more than thirty years and is one of the most distinguished writers in this field. With unlimited imagination, she combines dazzling plots, an effervescent sense of humor, and emotional truths in stories that delight readers of all ages. Her books, published to international acclaim, have earned a wide array of honors, including two *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award Honors and the British Fantasy Society's Karl Edward Wagner Award for having made a significant impact on fantasy. Acclaimed director and animator Hayao Miyazaki adapted *Howl's Moving Castle* into a major motion picture, which was nominated for an Academy Award.

Diana Wynne Jones lives in Bristol, England, with her husband, a professor emeritus of English literature at Bristol University. They have three sons.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Caroline Petrie:

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Allen Ellis:

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Judy Marinez:

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