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Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy

By Karen Foxlee



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Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy By Karen Foxlee

“Magic is “messy and dangerous and filled with longing,” we learn in this brave tale of grief, villainy and redemption that borrows from the story of the Snow Queen. Set in a vast, chilly museum, the tale brings together a valiant girl, a charmed boy, a magical sword and a clock ticking down to the end of the world.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

This is the story of unlikely heroine Ophelia Jane Worthington-Whittard who doesn't believe in anything that can't be proven by science. She and her sister Alice are still grieving for their dead mother when their father takes a job in a strange museum in a city where it always snows. On her very first day in the museum Ophelia discovers a boy locked away in a long forgotten room. He is a prisoner of Her Majesty, the Snow Queen. And he has been waiting for Ophelia's help.

As Ophelia embarks on an incredible journey to rescue the boy everything that she believes will be tested. Along the way she learns more and more about the boy's own remarkable journey to reach her and save the world.

A story within a story, this a modern day fairytale about the power of friendship, courage and love, and never ever giving up.

From the Hardcover edition.



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Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy By Karen Foxlee Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—This inventive and engaging fantasy, based on the story of the Snow Queen, will be a welcome addition to middle grade collections. Solidly scientific-minded Ophelia, whose mother has recently died, moves with her older sister and father to a snowy and wintry city, where her father is busy working on a museum exhibition of historical swords. Wandering through the museum, Ophelia discovers a boy who has been locked in a room for years, and who needs her help. Much to her own surprise Ophelia takes greater and greater risks in order to win his freedom, and, in the process, forges a strong connection with the memory and spirit of her mother. It is Ophelia's sister who plays the role of Kay, bewitched by the gifts given to her by the evil Miss Kaminski, the head of the museum. Foxlee's characters come alive immediately. While Ophelia is contemporary in her ordinariness, her courage and determination to save the people she cares about harkens back to archetypal fairy tale heroes and heroines. Foxlee skillfully reveals the story of the boy as the plot unfolds. The setting is carefully and at times spookily drawn, as Ophelia faces terrifying dangers in deserted museum corridors. The writing sparkles and the pleasing restraint of the style is happily reflected in the short length of the book. Foxlee's fresh and imaginative take on this classic tale will be snapped up by fantasy and adventure lovers alike.—Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Ophelia is a grieving 11-year-old who only believes in things that science can explain. Following her beloved mother's death, her father takes a job at an enormous museum in a city where it constantly snows. There Ophelia discovers the imprisoned Marvelous Boy, who discloses to her that in three days the Snow Queen will discharge her wretchedness upon mankind. He further reveals that he must save the world before that happens and that only Ophelia can help him. As the boy tells his story, Ophelia accepts the challenges required to release him from his three-hundred-year captivity. She faces magical snow leopards, child ghosts, a Spanish conquistador, and a monstrous misery bird—none of which, like the boy, can be scientifically explained. Nevertheless, Ophelia learns there are truths she never dreamed of and that courage is less about bravery than about the decision to help people in need. Loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*, this clever story-within-a-story reads easily yet offers deep lessons about trust, responsibility, and friendship. Grades 4-6. --Jeanne Fredriksen

Review

The Wall Street Journal, January 25, 2014:

"A present-day fairy tale that practically sparkles with its own icy menace...[a] memorable and ultimately moving novel for young readers."

The Christian Science Monitor, January 31, 2014:

"Foxlee's novel will be read and loved by youngsters who've grown up on fairy tales, graduated to Harry Potter, and appreciate gorgeous writing and complex storytelling. In this story of friendship and yes, even bravery, Ophelia shines as one of the first true heroines of the 2014 crop of fabulous middle-grade novels."

Starred Review, Kirkus, November 1, 2013:

"A well-wrought, poignant and original reworking of Andersen's 'The Snow Queen.'"

Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, November 11, 2013:

"Foxlee's writing is elegant and accessible, with a pervading melancholy... this story shines."

Starred Review, Booklist, December 15, 2013:

"This clever story-within-a-story reads easily yet offers deep lessons about trust, responsibility, and friendship."

Starred Review, The Bulletin, February 1, 2014:

"Foxlee inventively weaves familiar folkloric elements—an evil snow queen, a magic sword, a quest, a chosen one—into her modern setting, all the while evoking a mood of dreamlike foreboding."

Starred Review, School Library Journal, March 1, 2014:

"The writing sparkles . . . Foxlee's fresh and imaginative take on this classic tale will be snapped up by fantasy and adventure lovers alike."

The Horn Book, January/February 2014:

"Foxlee's deftness with characterization and setting...makes this a satisfying fantasy."

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bert Gomes:

The book Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make looking at a book Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy to be your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You may know everything if you like wide open and read a book Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this e-book?

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Jose Laney:

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Robert Harriman:

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