

Castle in the Air

Diana Wynne Jones

Reviewed by: Nicole Izmaylov

Star Teen Book Reviewer of **Be the Star Are You Are! Charity**

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When I opened the book to the first page, I noticed the chapter headings. These include: “In which Abdullah [the main character] buys a carpet,” “In which Abdullah is mistaken for a young lady,” and “Which is rather full of princesses.” Quite instantly the tasteful, frank humor of Diane Wynne Jones draws in the reader like a spell. Rather than exaggerating the magical side of the story, Jones told the tale as if she was merely recounting her favorite way of eating cereal. This delightful way of making magic seem like everyday life creates a world both entirely believable and entirely unbelievable. Every character has a purpose, and every character returns in the finale in a completely unexpected yet wholly needed way. Thank you, my dear Abdullah, for taking me on a magic carpet ride to a world filled with babies-turned-kittens, cowardly genies, flowery carpet merchants, house-sized djinns, lives hidden in nose rings, and one very angry young princess. I recommend *Castle in the Air* to all those who have the slightest speck of humor, and perhaps even that is not needed to find oneself in a marvelous fantasy of fantastic proportions.