



The Third Coin

J.A. Howard

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Bea Brightman is smart; smart enough to know that being popular matters. And after attending eight schools in as many years, she's got making friends down to a science. That is until her famed archaeologist father moves them to New York City in search of an ever-elusive coin. There she meets Nisha Lakewood who may hold the key to finding it. The only problem is, Nisha wants nothing to do with her.

Nisha Lakewood is freak with the power to make children fly; or at least that's what the kids at school say. But at home, her fortunetelling Aunt Faye finds her disappointingly lacking in "talent". However, as Nisha approaches her thirteenth birthday, things begin to change. The magic she never believed she had is suddenly showing up when she least expects it and the nosy new girl, Bea Brightman, is on to her secret.

When Bea and Indy, a boy from the neighborhood, decide to pay Aunt Faye a visit, the three almost-teens find themselves caught up in a dangerous quest to find the missing Third Coin of Avalon. To do so they must take an unbreakable oath, solve a mysterious prophecy, master magical objects and face a ruthless druid, all while dealing with the horrors of middle school.

The Third Coin Details

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From Reader Review The Third Coin for online ebook

Manvinder says

After constantly changing my mind about whether I should read this book and if it was worth my time, I was pleasantly surprised that I had enjoyed this book very much!

Although it is aimed for middle-graders/young young adult demographic, I found this book not too simple yet not too mature, which means if you're not a middle-grade kid, then I suggest you go for it still!

I really liked the friendship between Bea, Indy, and Nisha and I also liked that Nisha was a POC. I think that makes other people, especially girls, become able to relate to her in more ways.

The whole concept of a quest/adventure is definitely suited to the target demographic and the weaving in of Arthurian legends was also a nice added touch; it made the plot much more detailed and developed the story much further.

All in all, I would recommend this to anyone looking for a nice dose of fantasy set in a real world, and I am patiently waiting for a sequel (because of that sorta-cliffhanger at the end!)

Connie Huddleston says

Full of mystery and delightful characters. Howard's The Third Coin delves into the world of Avalon from modern times using three early teen characters and a lot of mysticism to tell a fast, exciting story of a search to prevent evil.

Theresa says

Bea is tired of moving around and tired of being the perfect daughter. When they land in New York on their quest for the ever elusive coin, Bea hopes things might just change. I think she received more than she bargained for.

She soon meet Nisha, and they have a strange bond that neither of the girls understand. Then Indy comes along to round out the trio. They soon find out that they are The Finders.

There is a lot going on in this story. Many intricate layers.

Bea has always managed to get into the popular crowd in every school she's ended up in, yet Nisha is far from the popular crowd. Bea has to realize how much more Nisha means to her, and Nisha has to learn to trust.

There is also a Arthurian layer going on. Nisha's aunt is one of the Daughters of the Lake and that means that Nisha and her family have magic. That is what brings them on this crazy adventure to save the world and get the coin.

I love the relationship between the three friends, and I feel like the author left a lot hanging. Maybe there is

going to be another adventure? I'd hate to think she left it so vague because she didn't want to upset parents. I was expecting something so different from the kissing stone.

Also the last paragraph that she wrote. Almost ruined it for me. It didn't make a lot of sense and it wasn't necessary.

I was so glad that a lot of the things I was assuming through the story ended up true. She uses just the right amount of foreshadowing that the reader can get excited to see if their theory is correct.

April says

I enjoyed this story that meshes Avalon, magic, King Arthur, a love story and three kids with fun personalities.

Bea's dad has been looking for a special coin all her life. It has led to seven schools in Bea's 12 years. She arrives in New York to attend a new school and meets a boy on a skateboard and a girl that seems like a gypsy.

There follows an adventure to find the coin on their own since it is needed to restore balance to the world. Bickering and insecurity of youth hamper their progress.

But they work together and in the end there are some surprises for all three.

Puck says

A lovely middle-grade fantasy novel about family, friendship, and magic. I highly recommend this read.

Richard says

The first part of this book really sucked me in. I just loved it to bits, even well before things started to get moving with the magical parts of the plot. I felt an immediate connection with the protagonist, Bea, who was very interesting. That feeling doubled when she met Nisha, and I really liked the way the friendship was handled, and the personalities of those two.

As the book goes on, there's a connection to Avalon and Arthurian legend, so I had some squee moments here and there when that started to unfold. As an adult reader, I sometimes have a bit of trouble completely buying into plots where "chosen" or pre-destined children set out to save the world... But overall, I was charmed by the novel and found it hard to put down... Almost a 5-star book for me. (And, it could probably be turned into a good film, too.)

This is an indy publication. The editing is good, aside from a few typos missed in copy-edit, and there's something wonky about the chapter header format. I obtained this on a Kindle free giveaway day... And yes, I'm way outside the target demographic for this book.

Alison says

This book had me from the first page. I am reading it before I read it to my children and I can already tell that they will love it!

Jacy Hahn says

Really enjoyed this book. Looking forward to reading the next one. This is a good Young Adult series. Hopefully I can get my son to read them with me, since there is some magic, mystery and fantasy involved and one of the main characters is a boy that loves his skateboarding.

Priss says

I really enjoyed this book and have already recommended it to two young friends. It is well written and I loved bringing the King Arthur and Lady of the Lake story to young readers so that they may hopefully look in to them more for themselves Strong characters, especially the girls, made this a great read.

Lily Waterflower says

Your writing style is enticing. I love the characters and the plot. The references to Avalon are perfect. Nisha is my favorite. I would love to read any sequels or other books by you. Thank you for the giveaway

Stephanie Cover2CoverBlog says

Pitched as a great book for Harry Potter and Percy Jackson fans, this was a wonderful read and it did not disappoint! It has fantasy, magic, mystery, friendship, and adventure all rolled into a nice neat package.

The book follows two girls, Bea and Nisha, who have to come together to find a mysterious, lost coin - that if not returned could end the world as they know it. This was such a great story, it had friendship and issues, it has problem solving and mystery and it was a grand adventure. The book took a little while to pick up and get going but once you hit the half way point, the plot just chugs along.

The characters were all very interesting, I think I related most with the misfit - Nisha versus Bea -who seemed to have things figured out. Indy was a great addition to their group, he was a great personality and I loved that he wrangled the girls when they needed it. My only disappointment here was that the boy was cast as the protector and I think a girl would have been just as capable. BUT overall it was a wonderful character dynamic and I enjoyed them all together.

The plot was a bit strange and took a good amount of build up but it came together well and there were a few twists at the very end that I really was not expecting and really enjoyed them.

I think that original pitch stands true - if you were/are a fan of Harry Potter or the Percy Jackson series, this

is a wonderful book.

Heidi says

I loved this YA fantasy so much! The twist/surprise was obvs and the end felt a bit anticlimactic but I loved the characters too much to care. The ending was open to sequels so I really do hope there are a few!

Catherine F Druitt says

Arthurian Magic

This is a charming story woven around the legends of King Arthur. The characters are full of life, with the insecurities and inconsistencies of 13 year olds well displayed. The plot has magical elements, cliff hanging developments, and excellent clues for the satisfying denouement. It would be enjoyed by all ages who enjoy fantasy.

Brian Hood says

This book is a fun and light magical romp featuring wisps of Arthurian legends, gypsies and prophecies. It also has a strong empowering message to those who suffer bullying in a middle school environment, which is heartening to read. A good message wrapped in an entertaining story for a niece or daughter to read.

Willow Moon says

I got this book as a freebie on my Kindle and goodness I was not expecting such a good story. The characters were really well written and the story was well thought out with twists and turns. I was delighted I stumbled across the Third Coin because boy it was worth my time. :)
