



The Girl, the Gypsy and the Gargoyle

Darcy Pattison

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“Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.”

—Michelangelo

But what if an unscrupulous sculptor could trap someone inside a block of stone, just so he could carve them?

Master Gimpel, a deformed stone carver, intrigues Laurel and Jassy, her gypsy friend, when he offers a path to untold riches. Master Gimpel explains that his Troll’s Eye, a red jewel, is a doorway into the stone world where a treasure cave awaits. From the moment Laurel looks through the Troll’s Eye, she and her gypsy companion enter a dangerous race for their lives. Two go in, two must come out.

The Girl, the Gypsy and the Gargoyle Details

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From Reader Review The Girl, the Gypsy and the Gargoyle for online ebook

Heidi The Hippie Reader says

I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads First Reads. FTC guidelines: check!

The Girl, The Gypsy & The Gargoyle is the story of Laurel, the daughter of a master mason. Her world is thrown into chaos when Father Goossens announces that construction on the cathedral is complete and that he doesn't intend to build the western tower. Laurel's father, Master Raymond, has planned the western tower and was relying on that work to continue for the next decade. Laurel has always lived in the shadow of the cathedral, where will she go when that is no longer her home?

A gypsy named Jassy and his companions encounter some difficulties with their dancing bear while performing on the street in town and the injuries that his uncle, Antonio, sustains are life threatening. What will Jassy do if he loses his uncle, the man who has always provided for him?

So, when Master Gimple, a stone carver, offers Laurel and Jassy a fantastical trip through the Troll's Eye to a cavern filled with treasure and a pathway lined with miraculously healing flowers, how could either of them refuse? Gimple describes a curse that befalls the one who looks through the eye, a monstrous guardian who will maim anyone who takes more than a "troll's weight" of treasure, and the need for the travelers to be there and back again in three days. If you remain in the land of the Troll's Eye for more than three days, you are stuck there forever. Despite these dangers, Laurel and Jassy decide to take their chances...

I liked the set up for the adventure into the troll's eye. I thought that both Laurel and Jassy had compelling reasons to go, despite the dangers that they knew were there. However, I didn't much like their actual journey once they were there. Perhaps the author was trying to convey the inevitability of the curse, but it seemed like Laurel lost all ability to reason once she began the journey.

In the beginning of the story, she was a competent crafts(wo)man, the town healer, adept with herbs and bandages, and a burgeoning stone carver. However, once she and Jassy were through the troll eye, she screams at every shadow, doesn't trust to logic, doesn't understand what's important and what's not. The shift was too unbelievable for me. I'm also much too trusting, I suppose, to believe in the major betrayal that occurred at the end.

I know that this is considered a book for middle grade readers, but that doesn't mean that the story can't be explained well or the characters well fleshed out. I really disliked the ending and it gave me a "creeped out" feeling to know that even though Laurel did the best that she could at the time and with what she knew that it still led to such a grim fate. Master Gimple, who has such a huge role, is hardly described at all except for the obligatory back story. There could have been so much more to this tale than what was written.

Younger fantasy readers and fans of Lauren Oliver's The Spindlers may enjoy this story.