

The Boy Who Lost Fairyland

By Catherynne M. Valente

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When a young troll named Hawthorn is stolen from Fairyland by the Red Wind, he becomes a changeling-a human boy-in the strange city of Chicago, a place no less bizarre and magical than Fairyland. Left with a human family, Hawthorn struggles with his troll nature and his changeling fate, while attending school and learning about human kindnesses-and un-kindnesses.

In a starred review, *Kirkus* noted, "Every page of this book contains at least one stunning sentence. Valente's descriptions of the human world make it sound like an exotic place, even when she just lists things to see: "diamonds and dinosaur bones and Canadian geese and the Cathedral of Notre Dame and ballpoint pens." Readers may wish the words were food, so they could eat them up. And they may keep reading this series for just as long as people have been arguing about Oz."

Time magazine has praised Catherynne M. Valente's Fairyland books as "one of the most extraordinary works of fantasy, for adults or children, published so far this century." In this fourth installment of her saga, Valente's wisdom and wit will charm readers of all ages.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 5–8—In this fourth book in the fantastical series, a young troll named Hawthorn is stolen away by the Golden Wind and brought to live in Chicago as a changeling. When he turns 12, he finds a way back to Fairyland, a place now much changed from the magical realm he left. Fans of the series may be initially disappointed to discover that September makes only a brief appearance, but not to worry—Hawthorn's tale is just as compelling and his adventures just as extraordinary. Both the human and magical worlds are brought to vivid life through the young changelings' unique perspective. While readers unfamiliar with the series can certainly jump in with this novel, most will want to start at the beginning. A phenomenal fantasy series worthy of a spot in every library collection.

Review

“Valente's Fairyland is as bizarre and beautiful as ever, with a Wonderland-like un-logic that will keep readers both delighted and slightly off-balance.” ?*The Horn Book*

“A glorious balancing act between modernism and the Victorian Fairy Tale, done with heart and wisdom.” ?*Neil Gaiman, Newbery Award-winning author of The Graveyard Book*

“September is a clever, fun, stronghearted addition to the ranks of bold, adventurous girls. Valente's subversive storytelling is sheer magic.” ?*Tamora Pierce, author of The Immortals series*

“A mad, toothsome romp of a fairy tale--full of oddments, whimsy, and joy.” ?*Holly Black, author of the Spiderwick Chronicles*

“When I say that this book reminds me simultaneously of E. Nesbit, James Thurber, and the late Eva Ibbotson, I don't mean to take anything awy from its astonishing originality. It's a charmer from the first page, managing the remarkable parlay of being at once ridiculously funny and surprisingly suspenseful. Catherynne Valente is a find, at any age!” ?*Peter S. Beagle, author of The Last Unicorn*

About the Author

CATHERYNNE M. VALENTE is the author of over a dozen books of fiction and poetry, and is best-known for her urban speculative fiction, including *Palimpsest* (winner of the 2010 Lambda Award), and *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden*. *The Boy Who Lost Fairyland*, her first novel for young readers, was posted online in 2009 and won the Andre Norton Award?the first book to ever win before traditional publication. Cat Valente lives on an island off the coast of Maine with her partner, two dogs, and an enormous cat.

ANA JUAN is a world-renowned illustrator known in this country for her wonderful covers for the New Yorker magazine, as well as the children's books *The Night Eater*, and *Frida*, written by Jonah Winter. She lives in Spain.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fern Rodriquez:

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Cheryl Cooley:

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Richard Hunt:

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