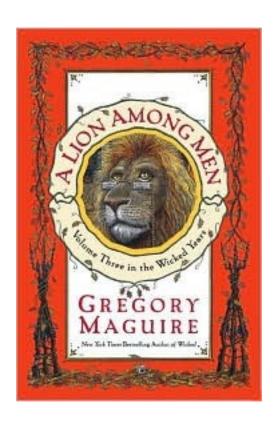
Gregory Maguire

A Lion Among Men (The Wicked Years #3)



Title: A Lion Among Men (The Wicked Years

#3)

Author: Gregory Maguire

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Description

In this much-anticipated third volume of the Wicked Years, we return to Oz, seen now through the eyes of the Cowardly Lion - the once tiny cub defended by Elphaba in Wicked. While civil war looms, a tetchy oracle named Yackle prepares for death. Before her final hour, an enigmatic figure known as Brrr - the Cowardly Lion - arrives searching for information about Elphaba Thropp, the Wicked Witch of the West. As payment, Yackle demands some answers of her own. Brrr surrenders his story: abandoned as a cub, his earliest memories are gluey hazes, and his life's path is no Yellow Brick Road. A Lion Among Men chronicles a battle of wits hastened by the Emerald City's approaching armies. At once a portrait of a would-be survivor and a panoramic glimpse of a world gone shrill with war fever, Gregory Maguire's new novel is written with the sympathy and power that have made his books contemporary classics.

Insightful reviews

Cindi (cheesygiraffe): It took me ages to get into this book. It's not the best of the series by far. I didn't even Like Brr or Yackle. You do learn a lot more about Yackle though. It is funny in parts too. The ending left room for more books. Eh...

Bruce: What a disappointment! Wicked was an act of amazing and original brilliance, taking a world that we are all familiar with, and turning it completely upside down. Brilliantly imagined and equally brilliantly realized, one of its strongest suits was the way in which Maguire took elements of the original books, (not just Wizard) and wove them together into a familiar and yet wholly new world.

Since then, his approach to the series feels labored and incomprehensible to me. Son of a Witch was weak, and left you waiting for resolution of a number of issues at the end of the book. With Lion Among Men, these issues all remain unresolved, and a convoluted, and confusing tale is told about the Lion. There are flashes of Maguires brilliance in the first few chapters, but then the story just gets too difficult to follow, and the characters never reach the power or internal complexity of Elphaba or Gallinda.

I am sorry to say this, but I thought this book was a waste. If you read Son of A Witch and thought it was terrific, then knock yourself out, you'll probably like this one as well. If you were left wondering what happened to Oz, then I'd probably pass on Lion.

Suzanne: Arg! Just finished this last night, and it has the same curse as "Son of a Witch," in that it reveals just so much, but leaves you with so many more questions. I'd really hoped, for the satement of my curiosity, that this would be the last book, in which all is revealed. But, no. Which some day will be magnificent, when we sit down with the many books in this series, a cup of coffee, a warm blanket, and days and days ahead to gorge on this delightful brain candy. For now, I am agonized over the several years it's likely to take before I get another smidgen of insight into what the freak went on in Oz and beyond.

I took away a star because it left me hanging, again.

The development is a little slow - less action takes place - most in the present is in one building, over one day. But you get a lot of the backstory from the other two books. And are left really wanting to know more. Here's to Gregory Maguire's swift completion of the *next* book in this series.

Elaine: the ultimate e-book of Gregory Maguire's trilogy loses not one of the magic and chew of depraved and flows extra simply than Son of a Witch, maybe since it does not wander away within the dungeons of Emerald urban as that one did. Maguire's prose is itself usually magical. We see starry nights as outstanding as Van Gogh's, listen track from oak string trees, and spot characters morfing as in an Anime movie or perhaps a cartoon. the superb collection of characters continue: dwarfs, Munchkins, Animals, animals, winged women, but, without Elphaba, no eco-friendly ones. The satires on society and politics continue, and, to them, is additional religion. He makes an interesting--and shrewdpermanent case for the impossibility in their being tune in heaven, headquartered at the incontrovertible fact that track is time-based and heaven is not. (If I understood him, or particularly the nature who acknowledged it, correctly.) There is one brilliantly erotic scene among Animals of other species. The paragraphs on foodstuff are mouthwatering, even if you possibly can hardly ever reproduce the foodstuff this part of Oz.It's unusual that I enjoyed those books as, whilst a child, I by no means learn fairy tales, or the ounces books. I did learn fact dependent kids' sequence just like the Bobbsey Twins, Heidi, and all of Louisa might Alcott. I additionally learn the entire grownup novels in my parents' library for the reason that i used to be blessedly unattended many of the time. the one ebook I did learn that handled animals as humans used to be a interest in my parents' library called, Lightfoot the jumping Goat, which, besides Heidi and the Alcott books, I learn and reread not less than fifty instances each. i cannot clarify that aberration. Nor am i able to clarify the aberration of The depraved Years. i do not like fantasy. Nor do i admire technology fiction. Do you ever ask yourself why you're keen on the books you do? it isn't in simple terms their inventive worth, even if Maguire's prose is particularly fine, very vivid, wickedly satiric, yet by no means with a bludgeon.

Gayle: i am not rather definite why I preserve interpreting this series, as i locate the tale line does not work. it is just like the entire Land of oz. factor is an obsession for the writer and he makes it up as he is going alongside instead of having a starting and an ending. i have misplaced curiosity within the machinations of a few of the warring factions and the crucial characters will not be even that likeable - the Lion the following fairly is a crashing smug bore. However.... Maguire is a smart writer, with lashings of incredible humour and a superb flip of word from time to time which retains me going. i suppose i will end the total sequence and whinge approximately it.

Marcie: LOVING this book. any other web page i need to mark a quote. notion depraved was once intriguing, Son of a Witch, fabulous. this can be even better. Maguire is both an Asperger's individual or in detail understands an individual who is, as he so completely describes the adventure of a personality who grew up with out social interplay deserted in a woodland (King of the Forest?), and slowly learns the artwork of dialog and working with humans and relationships via eventual painful lifestyles experience. superbly and brilliantly done. I have a son with Asperger's...how attention-grabbing to view him as a "lion between men," no longer relatively

becoming in regardless of his skill to talk a similar language. and the way very fascinating to view "cowardice" as state of being inactive in response to the lack to think empathy or a reference to others. yet this can be a clever lion who contains a tin image of courage, simply because he does one way or the other feel this can be anything he lacks...and through having the actual medal, he as a result has corrected the problem, right? So literal, so Asperger's.I additionally love the stumble upon with Cubbins, the kid endure who's in control of the Northern undergo clan. Whoever is youngest is "in charge" (ain't that the reality in actual life! and what a pithy statement approximately little toddlers in general, or the pull among mom and dad and children) simply because because the bears get older, they forget...particularly poignant for me as my genuine grandfather's Alzheimer's progresses and we carry round conversations over and over, caught in a by no means finishing loop, precisely like a nonsensical conversation in Alice in Wonderland.Did I point out how intellectually fulfilling Maguire is?! it appears each second I spend with one in all his novels is time spent well. i'm going to without doubt owe the silly library 5 greenbacks by the point i am performed with this one.____Some readers of Son of a Witch complained that Liir moped and groused and whined and laid in a figurative and literal coma for pages and pages ahead of taking action, gratifying his destiny, achieving his potential. i may see them rather tearing their hair out over this terrible "cowardly" Lion.I occur to actually benefit from the highbrow workout of studying Maguire. he is been referred to as a "wordsmith," yet he is an "ideasmith" simply as surely. i believe he is fascinating. In this third depraved novel, Maguire additional explores perspective. What if the depraved Witch, visible from a distinct angle, was once fairly a misperceived freedom fighter, an highbrow hothead radical, and the Wizard an evil suspicious fraud. Now let's reexamine the Lion as a nursing cub ripped from his mom to turn into topic to laboratory experiments then thrown again into the forest, alone. He has no family, no social system, no language. We simply know how tough it needs to be to grasp language (or the facility to be understood or actually communicate) with no all of the social context. But, there's a lot more that is going with it similar to the power to believe empathy, and create bonds, genuine relationships. it's this loss of bonds and the ensuing persecution from others that leads this Lion to being categorised "cowardly." Some humans decide to no longer input precise relationships with others, worry holds them back. thankfully our Lion is extra like an Asperger's person, who didn't select this or his missing common reactions. he's in a position to studying tips to relate, via plenty of hard, confusing, real-life experience, giving him one piece of the puzzle at a time. Love the poignant ending. He ultimately learns the way to be a friend, easy methods to really care approximately another. Maguire is ready to flip famous kid's myth the other way up as an workout in point of view and purpose simply because he supplies the tale a realism that permits us to droop our disbelief and associate with him on his ride. What a fascinating trip -- the dialogue, wry humor, the surprises, and the deep philosophical observations. The Lion is so socially awkward! i cannot support yet cheer for him as he struggles to hook up with his humanity.

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