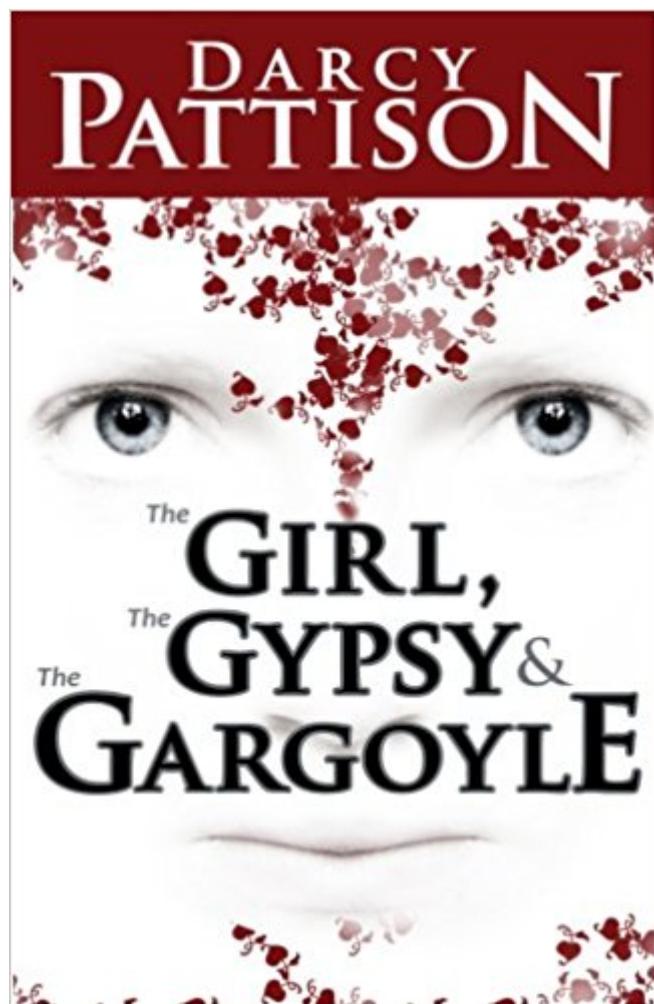


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The Girl, The Gypsy & The Gargoyle



Synopsis

Buy the paperback, get the ebook free!"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? And can miracles come from tragedy? Threatened with the loss of the only home she's known, Laurel listens to a proposal from Master Gimpel, a deformed stone carver. He 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. This is a rich, surprising and sometimes disturbing tale of gargoyles and those who carve the creatures from solid stone. There's plenty of darkness in this cautionary tale that nevertheless pulls off not one, but two miracles--and in a surprising twist, brings Laurel home to stay.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THIS STORY COME FROM? Sometimes you run across a line about a mythological creature or object and the description grabs at you. In mythology about trolls, I learned that they are creatures of the night. If they are caught out after dawn, a single ray of light can change them into stone. That made me think of gargoyles and I went searching for more about

the carved stone ornaments on cathedrals. Did you know that they were originally used as a way to decorate the end of a rain spout or gutter? But the art form developed far past that. It was interesting to read about contemporary stone carvers in Marjorie Hunt's book, *The Stone Carvers: Master Craftsmen of Washington National Cathedral*. About the same time, a character came to me. "She was small, like a hummingbird." I liked the contrast between a small girl and a massive stone cathedral. Last, but certainly not least, there was another part of the troll's myth that fascinated me. When sunlight turns them to stone, it was said that their eyes became rubies. One obscure reference said that you'd be a fool to look through the troll's eye because what's good would become bad, and what's bad would become good. Those three threads--gargoyle carvers, a tiny girl, and a cursed ruby--came together in this story. Please read Laurel's harrowing journey toward miracles. And we appreciate reviews!

Award-winning children's book author DARCY PATTISON has received starred reviews from PW, Kirkus, and BCCB. Her title, *The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman* received an Irma Black Picture Book Honor award. Twice her books have been named NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books. Known for her Novel Revision Workshop, she has helped shepherd many debut novels. Her novels include stories of troubled families, fantasy worlds, and aliens shipwrecked on Earth. "Compelling. . . hopeful," critics say of *SAUCY AND BUBBA*, which is a contemporary retelling of Hansel and Gretel. *VAGABONDS* leads fantasy readers into a stone world where everything is twisted and backwards. She is the 2007 recipient of the Arkansas Governor's Arts Award for Individual Artist for her contributions to children's literature. For more, see DarcyPattison.com/About

This story surprised me. At first intrigued by the setting of a cathedral and stone carvings of gargoyle and an architect's daughter pushing against the conventions of her time, I was soon caught up in a far larger tale about what this girl Laurel was really willing to do, what cost to herself she would pay to save her father's position as designer to complete the cathedral? Would she really risk her friend Jassy's life, as well as her own by using the mysterious power of the troll's eye? And boldly go forward without fully understanding what that all meant? The deeper into the story I read, the more engrossed I became until I had to read through to the end to discover what would become of these two adventurers. I would never have guessed the ending. Pattison does not disappoint! But I am still wondering, if Laurel had it to do over again, would she choose differently?

This was a fantastic journey with intriguing characters embedded in medieval mystery. I fell in love

with them from the beginning thanks to Darcy Pattison's keen skills in drawing persons in well-researched and realistic times and places. The surprise ending has the potential to become a legend in your heart and mind.

The basic plot of this book is a young girl uses magic to try to fulfill her wishes. The magic adventure is unpleasant and the ending is unexpected.

I listened to the Audible version of the book, and I adored the voice of the narrator, Paula Bodin. She brought the story to life for me, accenting character voices differently to allow the listener to distinguish them. She brought tension and excitement as the story required, but mostly provided a sweet, expressive, melodic tone that conveyed a genuine love of the tale and characters. The book itself is well-written, instantly drawing the reader/listener into the medieval world of stone masons and cathedral builders, gypsies and herbalists...and gargoyles. The characters are well-developed and likable, and the story progresses at a pace to keep the reader wanting to go further. The foreshadowing at the beginning prepares the reader for the ending, but in a subtle way that doesn't spoil, but entices. The story brings personality, color, and fantasy to history, with lessons to be learned from the characters' decisions. Highly recommend for young and older readers/listeners!

This book was a gift to me from the author. Because I enjoy her books, I was eager to read it though I must admit I view gargoyles with revulsion. That said the highly imaginative fantasy world that the author created held my interest from the beginning. Laurel and Jassy are well drawn, their personal goals worthwhile, and their determination to reach them together lead them into hair-raising escapades. Lucy's behavior surprised me when she broke the rule that put their lives in even more danger. I couldn't read fast enough to see how this nail-bitter was going to end. Middle readers who enjoy scary books will appreciate this one (but I still don't like gargoyles!) -Hope Irvin Marston, author of EYE ON THE IDITAROD, AISLING'S QUEST.

Adventure, history, wonderful characters in too short a book. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a sequel? But then anytime a character captures my heart, and her adventures keep me up at night, reading, then I just don't want to let go of her when I finish the book. Laurel could stay home and watch her future, her father's, Antonio's, and the cathedral's futures just roll on, but instead she risks everything, and travels through The Troll's Eye. And what she finds there . . .

This fantasy book really brings you into Laurel's beautiful and fascinating world (she is a very strong female lead) There is a good and entertaining story here and the narrator brings you right in. Best of all it is a story you can fall into and not want to stop, then the ending comes that one would not expect. Scary for the very young but just right for the older reader.

Paula Bodin's narration really brought the story alive. At times, it really felt like something out of Lord of the Rings the way the eye took over. I still enjoyed this book. This was gifted to me as an Audible for an honest review.

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