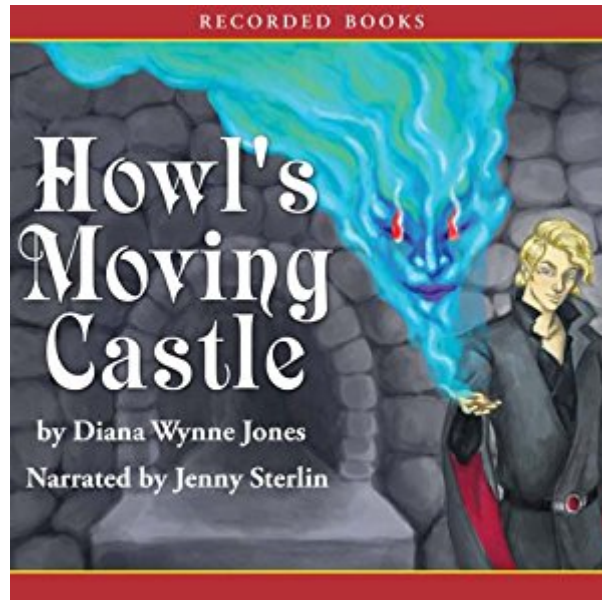




The book was found

Howl's Moving Castle



Synopsis

Sophie has the great misfortune of being the eldest of three daughters, destined to fail miserably should she ever leave home to seek her fate. But when she unwittingly attracts the ire of the Witch of the Waste, Sophie finds herself under a horrid spell that transforms her into an old lady. Her only chance at breaking it lies in the ever-moving castle in the hills: the Wizard Howl's castle. To untangle the enchantment, Sophie must handle the heartless Howl, strike a bargain with a fire demon, and meet the Witch of the Waste head-on. Along the way, she discovers that there's far more to Howl and herself than first meets the eye. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm enjoying this story alot; it's original & cute, and it gets right to the point, unabashed at its suspension of reality. I can see where it's a inspiration for Harry Potter.I hope to read more stories like this in the future; inspires to try a little magic in your own life.

I really enjoyed this book. It's a fantasy romance novel that uses many established tropes: a wicked wizard (who isn't really wicked), a wicked witch, three sisters, a moving castle, a wicked (not really) stepmother. The heroine spends too much time believing in tropes herself, and this book is all about doing what you want to do rather than what's expected of you: a lesson her sisters figure out much faster than she does. It also comments on how it might be a relief, in a way, to grow old: young pretty girls get a lot of attention, while old women are often either invisible or feared. Old women can act as they like and not be reviled as a young girl

would be. There's a quite satisfying mystery too, and a very melodramatic climax complete with a Bollywood style family reunion. If you like fantasies and/or mysteries, try this out. I didn't like everything about it, but it was a very fun read with no nasty misogyny to turn me off.

I recall reading this book many years ago when I was just a little girl and becoming mesmerized by Diana Wynne Jones's marvelous ability to convince the reader of endless impossible beliefs. I've always treasured fantasy stories above all others. Lewis Carroll, J.R.R. Tolkien, J.K. Rowling to name a few, have entranced me. But the works of Diana Wynne Jones stand out as being exceptionally diverse and complex. Her characters, in particular, Howl, Sophie and Calcifer show what it is to be a being of both light and dark. They are full of good intentions yet oft cowardly or acting without thought. We need more literature that paint characters in this realistic light. I recommend these books to anyone that asks me for great suggestions. Five stars cannot say enough how much I love the stories. But isn't it appropriate for without stars, dreams would not come true.

A very charming tale that has a lot of the elements of good-old fantasy throughout. The unassuming heroes of the tale have you rooting for them more so for their simplicity and everyday relatability than for any extreme acts of heroism. A terrific read good for anyone who enjoys tales of magic, wizards, and ordinary people setting out to seek their fortune and control their own destinies.

This book is a must read for any fan of the fantasy genre. Like most of Diana Wynne Jones' stories this tilts fantasy genre staples a little on their head while maintaining the love of magic and the genre itself. I'm almost scared to write anything related to the plot so as not to give anything away. If you love magic and romance (or making fun of it) this is the book for you. The characters are a lot of fun and fallible. I've had to buy this book more than once because copies I lent out never seem to get back to me, but if that means there is another fan of this fantastic author I'm more than willing to buy another copy. I can't find any higher praise than that.

I have adored the Hayao Miyazaki's interpretation of Howl's Moving Castle for years. I must know the movie in its entirety by heart now. With that said, I cannot tell you how ashamed I am that I didn't know this was a book first (something I normally always check first) until a few years ago. When I found out I actually refused to read it for so long because I was afraid that the book was going to be

monumentally better and I wouldn't get the same good feeling I did when I watched my favorite movie. (That's forgivable right?) Well, it wasn't until this last month that I ran out of books that interested me that I finally worked up the nerve and bought Diana Wynne Jones' Howl's Moving Castle. My fear came true in a sense, I loved every word. I found this book very difficult to put down, and when I got about halfway through I immediately went and ordered the sequel. I found the characters quite different from those I already love. Sophie is so witty and despite how she would get down on herself she was very strong (that whole inner strength thing right?). She wasn't intimidated by Howl and the way they would go back and forth at each other made their entire relationship so much better. Howl, is a selfish, childish, lazy (but works hard to be lazy if that makes sense), yet entirely loveable wizard who, yes, I did manage to fall a little in love with. All the characters are well developed and the story is strong. Though if I had a negative, toward the end I did get a little confused as everything was playing out. So, is my love for the movie totally sabotaged? Not at all. I found Miyazaki's film, while it has all the same characters and setting, the plot lines are very different. Yes, Sophie is turned into an old woman and finds her way into Howl's castle but other than that there are very few other similarities. Which as it turns out I like, I get a fantastic movie and two books and it all feels like 3 different stories to me. As for recommending it to others, go for it. As it turns out I had just finished the entire Harry Potter series (I know like 10 years later) before I read this and as I was reading through I couldn't help but think that maybe, just maybe J.K. Rowling might have read this book at one point in her life. That's my sneaking suspicion anyway. All I know is that the magic and fantasy of Howl's Moving Castle gave me a very Harry Potter feel. But that's just me. To wrap things up, I have a new favorite. Which is saying something because I'm often hard to please book wise (I'm very picky, can't help it), but I'm very much looking forward to reading this again very soon (which is also saying something because I hardly ever read the same book more than once).

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