



The Wishmakers

Tyler Whitesides

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Twelve-year-old Ace's life is about to change in the most unexpected and magical ways—all because of a peanut butter jar.

When he opens it, he inadvertently releases a genie named Ridge. Now a Wishmaker, Ace is given a week to complete a seemingly impossible quest, and if he fails the world will end in the most tragic (but cuddly) way imaginable.

Luckily, Ridge can help by granting Ace an unlimited number of wishes...as long as Ace is willing to accept the consequences. The bigger the wish, the greater the consequence. So, if Ace wants to avoid having pogo sticks for legs or his clothes turn invisible, he'll have to be careful what he wishes for and get a little creative.

Perfect for fans of Dan Gutman and Max Brallier, this new middle grade series by Tyler Whitesides (author of the Janitors series) is a wonderful mix of unpredictable magic, zany humor, and daring adventure. You'll wish it never ends!

The Wishmakers Details

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From Reader Review The Wishmakers for online ebook

Heather WG says

Maybe 3.5 stars (from an adult's perspective). I read this because the author is coming to my kids' school as part of the read-a-thon week (that I'm in charge of planning...) it was a fun book that really clipped along. I think my kids would like it. I don't know that it's going to be of the books that would have as much crossover appeal for adults, but great for kids.

Lemon Orange says

I thought this was a funny book. However, I thought the end of the book was a bit off from the rest of the book.

Suzanne says

Genies, wishes and peanut butter jars combine to great effect in this adventure tale for middle-graders. In this version of the make-a-wish with a genie story, there are consequences for every wish, the universe demands balance. And with that new caveat, our protagonist-in-a-hurry stumbles into a quest that is fast and engaging. The tale ends with a mild set-up for the next book in the series, but not in a disappointing fashion. This book is a delight to read. I received my copy from the publisher through edelweiss.

Trisha Perry says

Twelve year old Ace's life changes in an instant the day he makes himself a PB &J sandwich for lunch but doesn't read the warning on the lid, but who reads the lid of their peanut butter? Now he is stuck with a genie, Ridge, who will grant him unlimited wishes for a week, sounds nice huh? But there is a catch, there is always a catch. Ace, must accept consequences for each wish, and he must save the world during this week of unlimited wishes.

This was such a fun and exciting book, quick to read and funny with a lot of quirky predicaments and non stop action, but it was a great story of friendship, understanding and diversity, and if you give the book a full read you will see it too.

Jessica Atwater says

Top marks for creativity and child-like humor. This book could be just your average middle grade humor/fantasy, if it were not for the clever use of the wishes/consequences idea. The funny consequences are the backdrop for real, thought provoking issues about what you are willing to do to get what you want. This book is worth a read.

(And I love the names Thackery and Jathon Anderthon. I couldn't help smiling every time I read them.)

Kevin R. says

This was a fun book to read! I'll try not to give too many spoilers away, but to talk about any fictional book, you have to spoil something, right?

This book is mostly about Ace, who, after opening what he thought was a jar of peanut butter, finds himself connected to a genie named Ridge. The genie informs him he has one week to complete a quest or else the world will be doomed by all dogs and cats turning into zombies. Soon Ace finds out that his quest intertwines with two other Wishmakers (kids who have genies) and somehow it seems impossible for all three of their quests to be successful.

The best concept behind this book is that for every wish someone makes, there is a consequence. Some consequences are minor and even a little silly (a shoelace coming untied whenever somebody claps). Other consequences are far more severe. Can the Wishmakers fulfill their quests without taking upon themselves consequences too dire? Every wish has a price, but when will that price be too steep?

This book also has a major cliff hanger, which is unusual to me for a first book in a series. I'm excited to read #2!

Christina Davis says

What a fun book for kids! I loved the premise, and how each wish comes with a consequence. Great message told in a super entertaining story. My 10 year old son recommended this book to me and I'm so glad I took his advice!

Heidi says

Having enjoyed Whitesides Janitors series I was thrilled to discover this new series. The concept behind this new series is a clever one, one I haven't seen in any other book I've read. Ace doesn't expect anything except peanut butter when he opens that peanut butter jar to make himself a sandwich. But what he gets is a genie offering him as many wishes as he wants. There are a couple of catches though. First, each wish has a consequence accompanying it. Some consequences are short term, some are permanent. The bigger the wish, the more uncomfortable the consequence. For example, Ace's first wish is for a lifetime supply of peanut butter sandwiches, which carries the consequence of a smudge of peanut butter constantly visible on his face for a year. The second catch is a quest that needs to be completed in seven days or the world will be destroyed by all the world's cats and dogs turning into zombies. Things get even more complicated when Ace runs into a couple of other kids (wishmakers) with quests of their own that seem to conflict with his. And as the consequences start to pile up, Ace has to decide just what price he is willing to pay to save the world. Whitesides has created another fun series opener full of both humor and heart. The occasional illustrations are a delightful addition. I look forward to seeing the unexpected places this series will take me.

A.L. Sowards says

What if you found a genie who would give you unlimited wishes for a week? And what if every wish came with a consequence? Want to fly? Okay, but every bird you see will poop on you. Want a lifetime supply of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches? Sure, but you'll have a peanut butter smear on your face for a year. Oh, and with the gene comes a quest. Fail to complete it, and it's the end of the world. Literally.

This was a fun middle grade adventure. I read it with my twins and we enjoyed it. Warning: MASSIVE cliffhanger at the end.

Yapha says

Every wish comes with a consequence, and it is up to the Wishmaker to decide if it is worth it. Ace did not expect to find a genie when he opened his jar of peanut butter, and he certainly didn't expect to have to save the world, but here he is. A great adventure with plenty of humor to keep it going. The first in a new series. Highly recommended for grades 4 & up.

Christy Johnson says

This was an engaging, laugh-filled, fantasy adventure right from the first page. The main characters Ace and Tina are relatable and fun to read. As they made wishes to complete their goals, it was entertaining and suspenseful to see how their consequences piled up for some unexpected twists. The author takes great care to keep track of all the consequences that pile up. I really like how the book is operating under the quests the children must complete within the timeline and has a larger frame of Ace's own personal quest he's seeking answers for. I'm eagerly awaiting the next book!

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Plus

Ace opens up a peanut butter jar without reading the warning label on the top... and unleashes a genie! Ridge is more than happy to grant wishes, but warns Ace that every wish requires some sort of sacrifice. The year's supply of peanut butter sandwiches comes at the cost of Ace wearing a smudge of peanut butter on his cheek for a year... and he gets all of the sandwiches at once! Even though they are individually bagged and will magically stay fresh a bit longer, this is not exactly what Ace meant. Ridge tells Ace that he must accept a quest or all of the cats and dogs in the world will turn into zombies. His quest is to find Thackary Anderthon and stop him from finding the Undiscovered Genie, who grants wishes that have no consequences. He can make wishes related to this quest to help him, but the price is usually high. (He does say no to replacing his legs with Pogo sticks-- permanently!) His quest becomes even more complicated when he meets fellow Wishmaker Tina and her genie Vale, and Tina's quest is to save a former Wishmaker... who happens to be Thackary Anderthone. When the quartet meet Thackery's son, Jathon, whose quest is also at cross purposes

to the others, the trio start to wonder exactly how they can save the universe. They must travel all over on bizarre quests in order to stave off either the zombie pets, the constant raining of pianos, or the other terrible fates that could befall the world if they are not successful in figuring out what the universe requires of them.

Strengths: This was very fast paced and just goofy enough to be a solid hit with middle grade readers. As an adult, I appreciated that our Wishmakers had to confront a lot of difficult choices about what they were willing to pay in order to get their wishes. The characters were all sympathetic and likable, the world building very solid, and the goofiness just right. Lots of funny details, like Ace having to eat cotton candy that would leave his tongue permanently green, sneezing large grapes, and Thackery talking like a pirate (which must be a consequence of a wish) come to a brilliant culmination where Ace recounts the effects that all of his consequence have on him (page 167 of E ARC) in a tour de force combination of tween grossness and humor. In fact, I am nominating that paragraph for the single best piece of writing since Jon Scieszka's Stuckey Pecan Log incident in Knucklehead.

Weaknesses: Ace's background was touching, and I wanted to know more about what happened to him.

What I really think: A little on the goofy side for my own personal tastes, but perfect for my readers!

Cara says

Readers in grades 4-6 looking for a hilarious new series will be thrilled to find The Wishmakers! Ace is a relatable, everyday kid pulled into an amazing quest that takes him on action-packed adventures, from fighting off rock-men at Mt. Rushmore to using his genie as an air shark to move across a speeding train. The consequences Ace suffers as a result of his wishes can often be funny, such as sneezing grapes or having wet socks. There is some heart to the novel, however, as both Ace and Tina are grappling with questions and fears about their family members, which motivate them to strive for the wish without a consequence, granted by the Undiscovered Genie. Although the tale will be continued in a series, the plotlines from the first book are resolved. A wide variety of readers will find something to enjoy in Whitesides' newest offering.

Sarah says

I received this through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

After Ace unexpectedly release a genie from a peanut butter jar, all of his wishes can be granted, but he must also save the world from complete destruction. All of Ace's wishes result in a consequence, the good with the bad, so he must decide what wishes he is willing to make to complete his quest. Along the way, Ace meets other wishmakers, but has trouble knowing who to trust.

This book was quirky and fun. I thought the exploration of wishes and the plot were interesting. I found myself laughing. While some of the situations seemed a bit disjointed, I thought the rocks and stuffed animals that came to life were fun and unique.

Bethany says

Who would've thought opening a peanut butter jar would've been the beginning to Ace's quest? He's given

the task to stop the Undiscovered Genie from being found because this genie can't grant wishes without consequences. Ridge (the Genie) can grant an unlimited amount of wishes to help Ace on his quest to stop Thackary Anderson from locating the Undiscovered Genie.

Ace is the only one who can save the world and on this quest he meets some interesting people, like Tina and her Genie Vale who have to help a former Wishmaker and Jathon, who is Thackary's son. Jathon wants to help his dad because he's had a troubled life and this will make up for it. With all of their paths crossing, how can Ace save the world?

This was such a fun book to read and it was very fast paced. I loved the story line and can't wait for the next one. THE WISHMAKERS is an original, unique story. I thought it was interesting that the genies came out of jars and can grant unlimited wishes. I also found myself eating a peanut butter sandwich while reading this.

Final Verdict: I would recommend this story to fans of magic, genies, and adventure. It was very entertaining and the second one can't come quick enough!
