



Evil Fairies Love Hair

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Ali and her middle school classmates are raising flocks of fairies to make their wishes come true. But growing a flock is harder than it sounds: the fairies eat only human hair, and the rules for dealing with them are confusing, misleading, and subject to change. As Ali and her friends struggle to earn their wishes, mistakes are made, spells go awry, and soon Ali is up against hundreds of two-inch-tall imps who have very big plans. Comedy and fantasy intertwine in this lively tale of intrigue, magic, and the power of hair.

Evil Fairies Love Hair Details

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From Reader Review Evil Fairies Love Hair for online ebook

Hilary says

Ali is raising a flock of fairies so she can have her wish come true. Ali plans to ask for “mental acuity,” so she can outshine her smart older sister. But growing a flock is more challenging than it sounds. Fairies eat only human hair and the rules for dealing with them are confusing, misleading, and subject to change. Ali soon discovers who her real friends are as all her classmates become enmeshed in Ali’s struggle to earn her wish.

Readers will relate to Ali. Despite a supportive, caring cadre of friends, Ali is insecure and feels inferior to her older sister. She wants to be clever, never realizing that she has become so by overcoming the challenges placed in her way. Readers will also appreciate that Ali is not the only kid who wants to earn a wish. The demands of growing a flock of fairies is widespread; many kids her age have cut or shaved their hair or started wearing severe buns to comply with the rules.

The quirky premise is a natural conduit to crazy situations and humorous antics. Combined with a slightly frenzied plot and mischievous characters, the text is entertaining. Readers will be intrigued by this light, original story.

Darlene Cruz says

My throat started to feel a bit icky after reading this, entertaining kind of way. Don't get me wrong, cute and fun with a dark overtone but a story to pull you in. Here you have 2-inch fairies with an appetite for hair. A contract is made between Ali and the fairies, she has to raise 100 fairies to get her wish. Ali made sure her hair is up in a bun with hair spray, why? Hair eating fairies that's why. The story goes on to make me laugh and those pesky fairies and rules. Here you have Ali and her friends growing and raising flocks of hair eating fairies for a wish. Outsmarting each other becomes the thrill of this story. So adorable and widely entertaining, especially the scenes when the children shrink down. Now it gets a bit out there and just take heed. The characters were believable that I kept on reading. Children disappearing and their memories are messed with. So much more to this story you should read it for yourself to really get the essence of it. I enjoyed the plot and the fantasy and the intrigued. I won this book from THE CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW GROWING READERS. I would like to thank, Bianca Schulze (founder) & Mary G. Thompson (author) for the book giveaway. Thank you, Darlene Cruz

Sarah says

I learned 5 things while reading Evil Fairies Love Hair:

- 1) Hair is delicious.
- 2) You can never trust magical creatures especially evil faeries masquerading as imps.
- 3) Evil faeries hate their jobs especially doling out rewards to good children.
- 4) Evil faeries don't play fair and are really awful at giving instructions.
- 5) Hair is delicious. This needs reiterating.

I always said that I will never outgrow reading Middle Grade novels. I crave for stories that keep me young

at heart and mind, and I'm confident in saying that some of the titles in this genre can be considered gems not only by children but also by adults. However, taking the plunge is not without risks. Sometimes it pays off, sometimes it doesn't. I fear that *Evil Fairies Love Hair* is leaning towards the latter result.

Certainly, this book has its merits. It's fun, light, and has wonderful illustrations that will surely catch its readers' eyes. Moreover, Ali is a protagonist anyone can relate to. She's insecure and feels inferior to her fabulous sister. The best thing about her is even though her *physical size* wasn't as stable as she wanted it to be throughout the novel, she had grown to be a clever girl despite not having received her wish. It doesn't need telling that she's not the only kid who wanted a wish. That's why growing a flock of faeries became so widespread that before long kids their age began shaving or wearing their hair in a bun, so they can comply with the rules.

While the story is adorable and original, it can get convoluted at times. It has a frantic quality to it that actually encouraged me to put the book down on several occasions. I couldn't get into the story no matter how hard I tried, and it makes me sad to say that this book failed to capture the wonder in me.

Thompson newest novel is quite eccentric and wild in a way that it will lure a certain kind of reader. This Middle Grade novel will mostly appeal to young readers who love their plot slightly frenzied and their characters' naughty and full of mischief.

This review is also posted at Smitten over Books. A copy was provided by the publisher at no cost via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Angie says

Ali is determined to raise her flock of fairies and get her wish. She wants to be smarter so she won't be compared unfavorably to her sister anymore. Raising fairies isn't easy however. There are lots of rules that have to be followed and you have to feed them constantly. What do fairies eat? Hair of course. That is why you must wear your hair up in a bun and spray it with hairspray so the fairies don't get your hair. Ali doesn't know it but the fairies have a plan of their own. They don't want to be tied to children and hair anymore and just need a few more flocks to complete their plan. Ali learns that all is not as it seems. Breaking fairy rules have consequences like being turned into a fairy slave. Ali must convince her friends to stop the fairies and free the slaves. This was definitely not my favorite book. I thought the concept was kind of clever but the execution was a bit tedious. I really didn't want to finish the book and ended up skimming the last third of it to see how it all turned out. I think the story could have been streamlined a bit to make it more readable.

Sarah says

How could you not love a book with this title? The first chapters live up to all the promise of the cover, with a zany mixture of pyramid/chain letter schemes, school crazes and fairy mythology. It could be too crazy for its own good but this is balanced with believable characters who develop, sometimes in unexpected ways, throughout the book.

My nine-year-old daughter tells me I have to give it five stars; I would give it four just because there are so many plot twists and climaxes that the overall narrative arc gets lost in the frenzy. Hmm... I've just read that last sentence and realised that it's a pretentious way of saying I completely lost track of what was going on at the end, who was casting which spell, what the spells were supposed to do and who was on which side. But I

guess that's the point - a free-for-all literary food fight to reflect the climactic scene in the fast food joint. We are assuming (and desperately hoping) that there will be a sequel; until then we will be chanting, 'Hair, hair' in fairy voices.

Tammi says

Ali has to grow 100 flock-starter fairies in order to get her wish. She needs to feed them hair in order to grow. You'd think it would be easy to get hair; go to your local salon. However, the local salon is the headquarters for the evil fairies. Ali has to try to grow her fairies and save her family, friends and town from the evil fairy plan.

I picked up the book because of the title and the book summary. I was very disappointed. I think the premise for the book was good, but I didn't like the execution. I wanted to put the book down after a few chapters but I kept going because I hoped it was going to get better. The ending part was probably the best, but it left it open for another book. I sure hope there is not a sequel. I won't be reading it.

Kristen says

Evil Fairies Love Hair captured my attention from the first page. If I could have grown a flock of fairies in middle school and gotten a wish, I wonder if I would have gone for beauty. Ali is sick of feeling like the dumb sister, so she decides to grow her fairies so she can gain more aptitude. The only problem is there are a lot of rules and ones that don't appear until it's too late. A boy named Michael passed them onto her and if she doesn't succeed, he won't get his wish either – which is to gain more sports talent.

Ali has a rough start with the fairies, as what they eat is human hair and she has to cut off her sister's hair to get enough. Even more complicated is when she stumbles upon what looks to be a human taken over by a fairy at the hair salon and the mystery of where the kids go who don't complete their flock or break the rules. Ali takes it in that she will help save them all, but she still clings to wanting her wish at the same time. It's a tricky thing to try to not break the rules while doing something against the fairies.

Of course, the story is much more than that, as the fairies aren't actually fairies but Divvy Imps who were sick of enslavement to children and in turn are enslaved to children but in a different way. The head fairy thinks she will be able to fix their enslavement, but Ali keeps getting in her way. I really enjoyed the different twists and the somewhat humorous way that fairies crave hair. I found Ali to be a bit brazen and although she doesn't think she is smart, she proves time and again to come up with ideas that will get them out of the bind they are in.

There was a lot going on in Evil Fairies Love Hair and I think the author balanced the background well with what was happening in present time. I loved learning about the fairies' background and getting a glimpse into what they were planning and why. Ali and her family are somewhat typical, she feels belittled by her smarter and prettier older sister, but realizes later the importance of her family and being herself.

Verdict:

A solid middle grade novel with fairies, family, friendship and an evil plot to stop.

Leonca says

This was delightfully silly. I loved it. While not quite as complex and engaging as the book that brought Thompson to my attention, Wuftoom, it leaves me eager to see what tale she'll produce next.

Despite a lighter tone, Evil Fairies Love Hair shares many similarities with Wuftoom. A child discovers a secret world of mischievous creatures. Unlikely friendships are formed. Most interestingly, Thompson has a skill for describing a strange experience (such as eating hair, or in the case of Wuftoom drinking sewage) in a way that feels so natural to the characters that you can almost stop finding the idea strange.

The ending did feel a bit rushed, but other than that a wonderful read.

Aimee Massey says

The title drew my attention, and the premise seemed somewhat promising, at least to someone like me who doesn't particularly enjoy fantasy stories.

Alison Butler is an ordinary eighth-grader who feels she's compared unfavorably to her older sister Hannah, who is something of an overachiever and happy to show it off. Ali could easily pull down better grades than she's been doing, but being only human, she'd rather just magically become a genius. So when shady schoolmate Michael offers to let her raise a flock of fairies, she jumps at the chance. How hard can it be? The deal is, a child raises a flock of a hundred and makes a wish, but that child can't get the wish granted till they've passed a pair of "flock starters" on to another child and that child's fairies have been grown to maturity. Only then does the first child's wish get granted, and the second child's wish is granted after they have passed on the job to yet another child.

It seems simple enough at first: Ali makes a mound in her backyard and puts the flock starters into it and feeds them on human hair. She has a sheet of instructions which she must follow, and it seems simple ... but of course it isn't.

The fairies are really imps masquerading as fairies, who are apparently higher up on the magical pecking order, and they are tired of being enslaved to children, having to reward their good behavior; they'd much rather punish their bad behavior and never seem to get to dole out as many punishments as they'd like. They are using the greedy kids in Ali's school to grow enough flocks to revolt and become full-sized so they can be free to wreak havoc, eat junk food and have birthday parties like the children they so resent.

The flock-raising instructions are devious and dishonest, and Ali soon realizes that raising fairies is more trouble than she ever thought possible. She begins to understand the danger the fairies pose, and with Michael's help, and the help of her best friend Crista, who is disgusted that Ali ever got mixed up in this fairy business, Ali sets out to foil the fairies' evil plans.

The book is mildly humorous in many places; the flock starter fairies have names like Ringlet, Frizzcontrol, Pilose and Lockner, and they frequently recite hair-centric songs and spells. The kids who have raised flocks have wished for everything from being a star athlete (Michael) to having a fine singing voice (Natalie, whose speaking voice is still screechy) to Jonathan's nasty hex on his cousin, whom he wished to be turned into the ugliest boy in four states.

But the pacing was slow up till the end, and the minutiae of the fairies' plans and the rules they and the children must follow often got boring and even confusing. It's meant for middle-grade readers but even I sometimes had trouble keeping it all straight, and I ended up just wanting it to hurry up and be over.

Elle says

It was a confusing book for me. It was a children's book but I think it is more of a teen book. One of the characters is an avid smoker. I find this strange. There is this thing where divvy imps take control of children and they eat hair. They are trying to be grown ups and be independent of their responsibility to children. They are manipulative and sneaky. I don't think I like the lack of parenting in this story. It's alarming to me but I'm a parent so a kid may love this book. I was more of a Freaky Friday type of person. I don't know. I guess it was okay. Not my type of book and I'm not sure I would let me children read this book. That's where I am.

Rachel says

I was privileged to be granted a Galley copy of Mary G. Thompson's story "Evil Fairies Love Hair." As suggested, I have written a review of my intake based on this book.

Mary G. Thompson's "Evil Fairies Love Hair," is a not-so-typical tale of fairies and children. Alison E.B. Butler's one true desire is to be a genius. She always manages to disappoint her parents, especially in comparison with her all-too-perfect sister, Hannah. However in a world where if you raise a flock of fairies you are granted a wish, anything can change... In Thompson's world, a child in order to earn their wish (either a self-improvement or a hex for another human) must first raise one hundred fairies (one complete flock) before entrusting the flock-starters to another child. Once the second child has raised a flock, the first receives his or her wish. When a boy named Michael entrusts two flock-starters to Ali, her wish for brainpower seems within grasp! However, challenges soon arise... The fairies in order to be grown must only consume human hair. This story tells of the humorous struggles of Ali and her friends as they attempt to raise -and outsmart- fairies. Thompson's novel, "Evil Fairies Love Hair," in a funny, original, view on the classic creatures with many plot twists and an ending filled with surprises! The main characters are likable and well developed, and although I rated this book four out of five stars (it is targeted towards a younger audience and at some points the characters' naivety annoyed me), I enjoyed the opportunity to review this book. Mary G. Thompson's story will have many guessing till the end and I would recommend this story.

Small Review says

I can't believe how much I loved this book! Full review to come.

Originally posted at Small Review

Sara Grochowski says

Alison Butler has a secret. In exchange for one wish, she must raise a flock of 100 fairies. Sounds easy peasy... Fairies are cute and little and sprinkle fairy dust, right? Wrong! These fairies are evil, hair-eating bullies with one or two secrets themselves. Can Alison fulfill her end of the ever-changing contract and earn her wish or will the fairies achieve their evil goal? Evil Fairies Love Hair is a lively, creative story about fairies and the power of hair, with a lesson or two about hard work and friendship.

Watch out, these are not your mother's fairies! They might be small, but they've got a sinister plan up their little sleeves. I love how different this book is... and the fact that the cover completely fits the story, right down to the fact that the girl has her hair up in a tight bun (otherwise the fairies will latch on and nothing good will happen after that!).

Even though the main character, Ali, has flaws - she does, after all, sign a contract with evil fairies - she's determined to do the right thing after she realizes the error of her ways, no matter the cost. There are some great messages interwoven into this novel, but young readers will never feel like positive messages are being foisted upon them. All of the characters feel realistic, some wishing for beauty, others using their wishes to cast hexes.

Evil Fairies Love Hair is a great read for both boys and girls... and everyone who's ever thought a magical wish would make their lives easier.

Rebekah Crain says

I have mixed feelings about this book. The story was cute, but the plot was lacking. The little bit of backstory there was was boring, and I found the book to be simply quite dull at many points. Oh, and the ending was abrupt and didn't feel conclusive to me. Yet, maybe as an adult I'm being too hard on this book. As it is a YA title I am sure that the marketed audience would be less critical of much of this and would likely quite enjoy it for the most part. My soon to be 11 yr old was interested based on the title, so we will see what she thinks. I suspect though that the dull parts are still going to be dull no matter what the age of the reader.

Received an ARC of this book from NetGalley for review. Thanks to them, the author, and the publisher for this opportunity.

3.5 of 5 stars

Ms. Yingling says

Ali is determined to raise a flock of 100 fairies so that she can get her wish. She has gotten the flock starters from seedy neighbor Michael, who won't get HIS wish until she has succeeded. She's glanced at the rule book, made the mounds in the back yard, and made sure her hair is up in a bun and coated with hair spray so the fairies don't attack her. These fairies survive on hair, but there are lots of rules about where it can come from. Ali steals some from the floor of a salon, but finds out later that the woman running it is a giant fairy. Some of the children who have raised flocks have gotten their wishes, including one girl who is beautiful and a boy who wished to make his cousin ugly. There is evil afoot, however, because the fairies are tired of existing on hair and want to be full sized. The leaders have come up with a plan to put a spell in place, but they need a certain number of flocks in order to make it work. Ali finds that raising the fairies is very difficult and very dangerous-- breaking the rules results in all manner of bad things, including being turned into a fairy herself! Even her friend Crista, who thinks the plan is nuts, is not immune from the fairies rules. When the fairies get closer and closer to making their plan work, the danger increases for Ali and her friends.

Strengths: This started out with great world building, and I liked that the characters were all struggling with who they wanted to be. Ali, for example, hopes to become smarter since she feels she can't keep up with her older sister. The details of feeding and raising the fairies intrigued me.

Weaknesses: This got bogged down in all of the fairy legalities toward the end. The story would have been more successful for me if the rules were more streamlined and less confusing.
