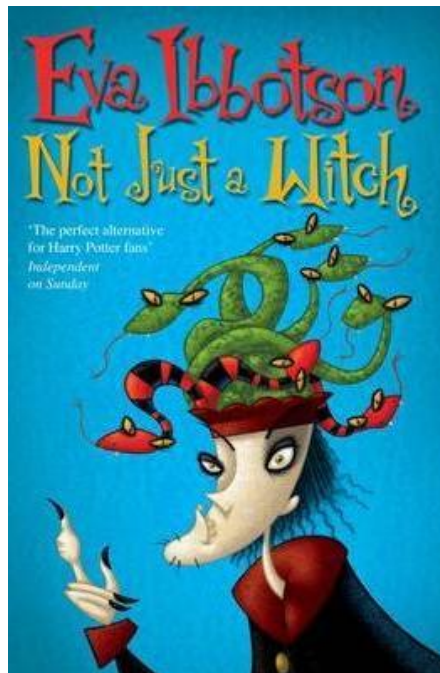




Not Just a Witch

Eva Ibbotson , Kevin Hawkes (Illustrations)

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Heckie is a young, kindly witch with a remarkable ability: She can change anything into an animal. So when she meets a boy, Daniel, after graduating from a good witch school, Heckie and her pal set out to eliminate the world of bad people by changing them into critters. After Heckie conjures up a friendly dragon who reacts to evildoers and transforms a nasty nursing home owner into a warthog, she meets a furrier (Lionel Knacksap) who suspiciously asks for her hand in marriage. Unfortunately, Heckie doesn't realize that her fiancé is only out for snow leopard pelts, but she reunites with a long-lost witch friend, and her two buddies - along with some other witches -- help Heckie get back on a good track.

Not Just a Witch Details

Date : Published August 19th 2004 by Puffin Books (first published 1989)

ISBN : 9780142402320

Author : Eva Ibbotson , Kevin Hawkes (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Fiction, Paranormal, Witches

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From Reader Review Not Just a Witch for online ebook

Thomas says

Ibbotson is a lovely storyteller but Not Just a Witch doesn't quite fit. It's difficult to figure out it's target audience. The prose is tightly written and the story isn't complicated, but it's not a book for beginners either. Ibbotson doesn't shirk on her varied vocabulary (a good thing) and doesn't talk down (also a good thing) but the ideas are a little haphazard and the story a little patchwork. Good readers who can cope with Ibbotson's writing have far more accessible and better humour/fantasy novels out there. And while Not Just a Witch has it's funny moments, it's not a laugh out loud book and often the jokes are subtle chuckles aimed at adults rather than children.

The titular witch, Heckie, has the power to turn people into animals and wishes, controversially, to root out evil and meanness and transform those offenders into a suitable piece of zoo fauna. She has fallen out with her oldest friend, another witch, and over the course of the book they both fall blindly in love with a creepy seller of animal furs who seduces them and sets them up with a wicked plan to transform the local prison inmates into snow leopards and skin them all. A slightly gruesome and amusing plot line except for how irritating the two unbelievably naive witches are; it doesn't fit to their initial characters and doesn't paint a very clever female image in the book. The young characters who befriend, help and try to rescue Heckie from her folly are largely ignored and undeveloped, although they have the potential to be more interesting characters.

Above all, Not Just a Witch seems a little rushed. It's a lightweight comedy with some silly action scenes and little or no background to the witchy characters that populate it, no real feel for the decorative aspects of fantasy and magic. It's not bad either; fun to read and intelligently written for good, mature young readers. But there's better out there, particularly from Ibbotson herself who has written much better novels than this. 4

Lisa Brown says

Set in the same world of witches as "Which Witch," this story begins with a friendship that began in school between Dora and Heckie. The best of friends, and both very powerful witches by their own right, they prepare to go out in the world and "do good" together. However, when they both show up at their graduation wearing the same hat, an argument ensues and a chain of events gets set in motion that neither of them can foresee. Lonely now, they head off to different cities to try and do good - Heckie by turning bad guys into animals, while Dora turns them into statues. When they both come in contact with one of the worst villains yet, will they be able to overcome their pride to work together, or to lose the day.

Just a cute and quirky book. I loved silly Heckie and her crazy toe of transformation, and I especially loved Daniel, the lonely little boy who befriends a good witch and tries to help her fight the bad guys. Great book for middle to younger grades, but anyone might enjoy it.

Marfita says

Ibbotson writes in the simple declarative sentences of someone telling a bedtime tale ... and then guides the reader gently by the hand into horror. Because it's a children's book, all has to turn out for the best. In the meantime, the most unimaginable cruelties can take place.

There are two witches who were best friends in witching school but had a falling out and went their separate ways. Because they are "good" witches, they try to do good. This seems to consist of finding very bad people and either turning them into interesting animals (that are now "nice" so they must be cared for) or to stone. If you are a child, this might make sense, and two out of the three children who get involved are happy to help. The third child, a very very smart Asian girl, is reluctant, but she loses her reservations when a white supremacist comes to town. Ah, how easily we respond to fear!

We can also be gulled by love, which steers the witches blindly into cruelty on a mass scale.

If the actions in this book seem horrifying, they are told in a fairytale style, softening them and making them seem palatable until the little snowball runs out of control and the avalanche ensues. This is a cautionary tale. It's about right and wrong. And Ibbotson has very clear ideas what constitutes right and wrong.

Barb Chansky says

Once again, I dare you to read Eva Ibbotson and not laugh out loud (never mind falling in love with her characters). Boris's idea about perfect air for balloons is genius! :)

Great story of friendship lost and found, and some great lessons learned along the way. Highly recommend to everyone (including my customers).

Mabel says

Ugh. Eva Ibbotson always gets me in the warm gushy feels.

Asriani says

Seperti satu kalimat dalam lirik sebuah lagu lamayang menuliskan kalimat Tak Selamanya Mendung Itu Kelabu, seperti itu pulalah dunia penyihir yang disajikan oleh Eva Ibbotson di setiap bukunya. Dunia penyihir tidak selamanya gelap. Tidak semua penyihir memiliki tampang seram dagu runcing dan kumpulan kutil yang menjijikan yang bisa membuat seseorang berubah jadi kodok ataupun hal hal kejam lainnya. Walaupun tetap dengan mantera dan sihirnya, Eva mencoba memberitahu dunia masih ada penyihir yang berniat menjadikan dunia tempat yang lebih baik.

Seperti Heckie dan sahabatnya, Dora.

Heckie dan Dora adalah dua sahabat yang bertemu di sekolah khusus para penyihir yang menjunjung tinggi kata-kata PENYIHIR ANTI KEKERASAN. Setelah 30 tahun di sekolah penyihir membuat Heckie dan Dora menjadi penyihir handal. Jika Heckie dapat merubah siapa pun menjadi hewan apapun yang diinginkannya dengan menyentuh mereka, Dora bisa mengubah seseorang menjadi batu hanya dengan memancingkan mata. Mereka bersumpah akan berbuat kebaikan dan menumpas kejahatan. Sayangnya, masalah sepele membuat mereka memutuskan untuk tinggal terpisah. Walaupun begitu Heckie tetap memutuskan untuk melakukan tujuannya untuk membuat dunia menjadi tempat yang lebih baik. .

Kota Wellbridge menjadi pilihan Heckie dan Ditemani oleh familiar yang dibuatnya sendiri, Daniel, Sumi dan para penyihir lain, dibentuklah Kelompok Pemburu Penjahat. Semua orang – orang tak peduli wanita ataupun pria, semua akan diubah menjadi hewan bila diketahui melakukan tindak kejahatan. Semua hewan-

hewan itu kebanyakan diberikan kepada Kebun Binatang. Karena toko hewan miliknya tak mungkin menampung semua hewan tersebut.

Tak seorang pun yang mengetahui rahasia ini sampai perampokan di Bank tempat Heckie menyeter penghasilannya setiap minggu. Seorang pria yang mengenalkan dirinya sebagai Mr Knacksap mengetahui rahasia Heckie. Kunjungan rutin pria yang cukup tampan membuat Heckie tak segan menceritakan semua rahasia termasuk pertengkarnya dengan Dora. Tawaran Mr Knacksap untuk membantu Heckie berdamai dengan Dora membuat penyihir ini jatuh hati. Sehingga tanpa berpikir panjang, Heckie menyanggupi semua keinginan Mr Knacksap yang sangat aneh. Daniel dan Sumi telah berusaha membuka mata Heckie, sayangnya cinta telah menutup mata wanita penyihir yang satu ini.

Sihir memang punya kekuatan tersendiri yang membuat saya tetap terpikat walau disajikan dalam bentuk cerita apaun termasuk cerita yang cukup ringan ini. kalau Heckie ada di Indonesia, dijamin setiap kota pasti punya kebun bintang. Kekuatan yang dimiliki Heckie ini juga bisa meringankan tugas para polisi. setiap kota di Indonesia bisa lebih aman

Eileen says

It was cute, but not as good as Eva's other books. Maybe it was because the children weren't as involved in the story. They weren't the focus; Hecate and Dora's friendship and fight was more of the main storyline. Which was fine. It was a good story. Just not quite the same as the other stories I love by Eva Ibbotson.

Emrys says

This is the first Eva Ibbotson book that I've read in probably ten years but I easily fell back into love with her writing style. There is something so comfortably British about it. She writes in a very narrative way, rather than in a manner that makes you feel like you are getting the story from the perspective of any one or two characters. You kind of get to see everything and everyone, and make your own choices. This omniscient style particularly lends itself to usefulness in this book.

This is because this story was about a group of people who wish to be very good, and they do this by finding people who are very bad, and changing them forever. They have the power to do it, but the book lets the reader think about whether or not this is right. I found myself rooting for Heckie, and loving her all the more when she falls for a terrible man, and lets herself overlook all his lies.

Hecate is going out into the world as a witch for the first time since she's graduated, and so naturally she is very idealistic and energetic to Better The World. As an animal witch, she knows instinctively that animals are all innocent, beautiful, lovely, and in all ways generally superior to human beings. When she transforms a human into an animal, no matter how nasty that human may have been they take on all that purity of an animal. And so she finds her perfect way to rid the world of irrevocably wicked personalities.

Despite the feigned romance between her and the wicked Lionel, the real heart of the book is in the friendship between Heckie and Dora. They are pulled apart by the silliest thing, and kept apart longer by the cruelty of a man. Still, their love for each other remains, and neither lets past events overpower that loyalty. The other friendship is one between Heckie and Daniel, a lonely little boy who wants to let her take the place in his heart that his parents never filled.

Some of the book is disturbing because the wicked people in it are truly wicked, and the things they do would be wicked by any half-decent person's standards.

There is a touch of fantasy in it of course, mainly in the mention of some silly thing that a side character might be doing (a dancing cheese! a 30 lb carrot!), and of course there is the wonderfully unique and

charming little dragworm. You will wish by the end, that you could conjure one for yourself.

Eugenia says

Yes, it was amazing!! Saya memang penggemar kisah-kisah Eva Ibbotson. Sayangnya buku yang satu ini belum nemu, jadi terpaksa pinjam dulu ke taman bacaan dekat rumah. Lalu, seperti biasa, saya masuk ke dunia fantasi!

Senangnya bisa bertemu para penyihir unik. Selain Heckie si penyihir hewan dan Dora si penyihir batu, ada juga penyihir keju yang selalu menciptakan keju-keju bergerak-entah-untuk-apa, ada penyihir kebun yang tanpa kesulitan dapat menumbuhkan jenis buah atau sayur apa saja dengan ukuran besar-daripada-normal, juga penyihir mekanik dengan penelitian balon udara-bahan-omong-kosong.

Tokoh-tokoh unik ini berpadu dengan tiga bocah manusia normal. Sumi yang cerdas, Daniel yang terabaikan, dan Joe yang suka membantu di kebun binatang.

Hem, sudah terbayang petualangan seru mereka membuat dunia menjadi tempat yang lebih baik? Hihihi .. Bagian yang paling saya suka? Terbang dengan balon udara berbahan bakar omong kosong Menteri Pendidikan yang mengatakan bahwa anak-anak sekolah butuh lebih banyak lagi ujian. Dan tahukah kamu, balon itu langsung melesat ke udara!

Selain petualangan serunya, Not Just a Witch bercerita tentang persahabatan, pertengkaran, gengsi, dan kerinduan. Tentang keluarga. . Kasih sayang yang hilang, lalu ditemukan.

Untuk ukuran novel anak, cerita Not Just a Witch tidak mengandung selipan pesan atau ilmu pengetahuan disana-sini. Ceritanya mengalir begitu saja, menghibur. Namun, ketika kamu selesai membacanya, kamu tahu bahwa memburu binatang itu tidak baik. Kamu lantas berpikir, bahkan seorang penyihir pun ingin berbuat baik, bagaimana denganmu?

"Sekarang, aku mau bertanya padamu. Apakah kau pernah melihat kangguru melemparkan bom supermarket, membunuh anak-anak kecil? Apakah kau pernah melihat anteater, binatang pemakan semut, membajak pesawat terbang? Atau hamster yang memukuli kepala wanita-wanita tua lalu mencuri tas tangan mereka? Apakah kau pernah melihat hamster perampok? Masalahnya sangat sederhana. Hewan tidak jahat. Manusialah yang jahat...Aku berbuat baik dengan mengubah manusia jahat menjadi hewan." - Heckie, halaman 29-30.

Hihi..

Selamat membaca, ya!

\(^-^)/

Chicco Padovan says

Eckie e Dora sono streghe amiche per la pelle. La prima punisce i cattivi trasformandoli in degli animali, mentre la seconda li fa diventare delle statue di pietra. Un giorno le due donne litigano e smettono di parlarsi. Eckie si trasferisce nella città di Wellbridge dove fa amicizia con Daniel, un adolescente trascurato dalla sua famiglia, e inizia a frequentare Lionel Nicknock, il pellicciaio del paese...

È difficile esprimere un parere su questo libro.

Parlando di streghe è inevitabile non pensare a Roald Dahl e al suo capolavoro *Le streghe*, e qui decisamente siamo ad anni luce dal genio e dalla sagacia di quest'ultimo. Allo stesso tempo, fare paragoni non è mai troppo corretto ed è innegabile che Eva Ibbotson sia una scrittrice sopraffina – stile immediato e scorrevole e prosa curata.

La storia è gradevole: parte in sordina, ma si riprende alla grande con l'introduzione del signor Nicknock, il corteggiatore truffaldino che seduce le due protagoniste con l'intenzione di servirsi di loro (non a caso il titolo *Streghe stregate*).

Il testo inoltre sfiora diversi temi a carattere sociale. Di solito non amo troppo i romanzi che giocano la carta dell'argomento impegnato per darsi un tono e fare colpo sul lettore, ma fortunatamente non è questo il caso. Anche gli argomenti più gravi in questo libro vengono trattati con leggerezza e in modo funzionale alla storia. Il racconto diventa così l'occasione per parlare di abbandono degli anziani, discriminazione razziale, allevamento intensivo degli animali destinati all'alimentazione umana e altro ancora.

Per concludere, un buon libro. Forse non il mio preferito sul tema streghe, ma comunque una lettura estremamente gradevole.

Mo says

2 1/2 stars read as an adult

You know, all of Ms. Ibbotson's books seem to contain lots of charming characters, which is a very good thing... but they also seem to contain some very dark and descriptive passages, which bothers me quite a bit.

"The light was poor and at first, mercifully, Danial could scarcely see. Only the smell hit him instantly: a truly awful smell of sickness and rotteness and decay.

Then came the sounds: half-strangled cries, desperate squawks...

But now his eyes were becoming used to the gloom. He could make out rows and rows of wire cages piled from floor to ceiling on either side of narrow concrete corridors that seemed to stretch away for miles.

And he could see what was inside the cages. Not one chicken, but two, packed so close together that they could hardly turn their heads or move. Unspeakable things were happening in those cages. In one, a bird had caught its throat in the wire and choked; in another, a chicken driven mad by overcrowding was trying to peck out its neighbor's eyes. There were cages in which one bird lay dead while the other was pressed against its corpse. And yet somehow, unbelievably, the wretched creatures went on laying eggs - large brown eggs which rolled on to the shelf below, ready to be driven to Wellbridge Market..."

I know that several very popular books for children contain graphic and gruesome events. I don't mind it QUITE so much when the happenings are fantastical and obviously make-believe, But when events stray into the factual here-and-now, then I have a big problem with it. I don't think a child needs to read a credible description of a chicken farm.

For me, passages like this sucks the "fun" out of this book.

Wetdryvac Wetdryvac says

When I saw that Ursula Vernon had listed Ibbotson as an influence, well, I had to check them out. Super extra specially pleased I did. It's a different sort of writing than much of Vernon's, but the same mix of good

cheer and cleverness applied to deserving characters.

I particularly like Ibbotson's mad takes on ethics which show up exceptionally well here.

Marta Álvarez says

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Cloe Gonçalves says

Livro muito bom. Consegue ser bonito,bem escrito e conter alguns factos sobre a vida. muito bom

Victoria Zigler says

This was a fun and entertaining read.

Jessica Ahlros says

Åh jag behövde en lättsam snabbläst bok och det är det här verkligen skrattade flera gånger. Högsta poäng!

Sally says

Oh what a wonderful book! :D It was just so delightful to read. Also, I enjoyed how Heckie and Dora were just that little bit slashy. "Perhaps if we met by accident, Heckie and I would fall into each other's arms?" Aww. ;)

I also love Eva Ibbotson's style of writing for children, because you can tell that she is also writing for the adults who may be reading these books to their kids. Things like filling hot air balloons with the hot air as spoken by politicians! Awesome. ;) This one was especially good because it wasn't just fluffy fun, it actually had some pretty strong messages about racism and animal cruelty.

And the dragworm is up there with the mist-maker in terms of adorable creatures. :D

Mackenzy says

My book title is Not Just a Witch. The author is Eva Ibbotson. The genre is fantasy, and it has 185 pages.

My story starts out with Heckie and Dora two witches that are friends and are going to witch school and they are about to graduate witch school. At the graduation Heckie and Dora are both wearing the same hat and

they start to rip each others hats apart. Heckie moved to Wellbridge and opened her own pet shop. Another character Daniel and his friend Sumi are babysitting and they just put the baby boy down for a nap. Daniel went to check on him and instead of the boy was a bulldog. Sumi was sleeping so Daniel snuck out the back door. He had noticed Heckie's pet shop before but never payed much attention, for some reason he knew that she was the one who put the bulldog there. When he arrived Heckie greeted Daniel, She admitted to changing the boy in to Daniel and they went back. Heckie changed the bulldog back in to the boy. Daniel was a lonely boy whose parents were professors and never payed any attention to him. Heckie wanted to be his friend. The next day Heckie told Daniel that she was a witch and wanted to be his friend. Heckie and Daniel came up with the idea that next time they see an animal that wished his life was over Heckie would change it into a chinese dragon. The next day when they where walking through the park they noticed a duck that was down on himself this was the perfect opportunity for them to make their dragon. When Daniel came back the next day, he was surprised, there was a Dragworm Heckie had messed up and there was a dragon/worm instead. This was not suppose to happen. When there was a wicked person near the Dragworm he would swell up like a balloon. Heckie met a man in the bank, his name was Lionel Knachsap. He was very handsome Heckie fell in love. Heckie did not know he was very evil and wicked. He claimed that he would swell up if he saw her dragworm. Dora moved in to the same town that Heckie was in she opened her own stone carving business. Dora had also fell in love with Lionel Knachsap. Heckie and Dora both got engaged on the same day to the same guy. They did not know they were living in the same town but now engaged to the same guy. Dora missed Heckie and Heckie missed Dora. Lionel Knachsap was a Man that own a business for fur coats he had a order for 300 snow leopard coats. He made Dora turn all of the prison guards at the prison in Wellbridge into stone. He made Heckie turn all of the prisoners there into snow leopards. Heckie and Dora started to feel like he was a bad person but were not convinced. Heckie was taking the Dragworm for a walk and Dora was going to the store. When Dora drove by Heckie She immediately stopped.

I loved this book it was fun and had many scary parts. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to be on the edge of scary.

Nathan Dehoff says

Two witches who were best friends growing up have a falling out and long to see each other again, but are each afraid that the other is still angry. So instead, they concentrate on their work of transforming nasty people in order to make the world a better place. As with the dark wizard and witches in *Which Witch?*, there's a bit of gray morality at work here. One turns people into animals, and the other to stone. They're also both taken in by a furrier who feigns romance with them in a scheme to make money by selling animal skins and stone statues. There's also a neglected child helping out the animal witch, because there generally is in these stories. I have to say I was rooting for the witches to rekindle their friendship, which they eventually do.

Amalie says

Eva Ibbotson really does have an interesting way with words. She is a good writer, you'll never get confused in her books and you can be sure: she'll make you laugh and will never make you feel bored .

Everyone knows that her ghosts and witches are THE BEST! But over-all each one of her characters is outrageous, their names are the silliest and they do the craziest and stupidest things (the villains do the worst things). They are all here in "Not Just A Witch" again.

Here's how it goes: Hectate Tenbury-Smith aka Heckie is a recent graduate of WAW(witches against wickedness) school. Get this straight, she is not JUST a witch - she's a good witch who wants to make the world a better place by transforming wicked people into nice animals. Heckie meets a boy named Daniel and soon they start a private club: "The Wellbridge Wickedness Hunters" which includes 3 kids, dragworm (read and find what?), a former witch beauty queen, a garden witch and two "crazy" wizards. Meanwhile a scheming furrier named Lionel Knacksap makes Heckie fall in love with him... Red Alarm! Red Alarm!

The only problem I find here is, there is too much violence. So more suitable for upper graders: Grade 6-8.
