



## The Secrets of Hexbridge Castle

*Gabrielle Kent*

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**A exciting story of magic, adventure and a mysterious inheritance. Perfect for fans of ENID BLYTON, ROALD DAHL, and J K ROWLING.**

Alfie Bloom's life is dull. Dull and lonely, and this summer is set to be the most boring yet. All of that changes when he is summoned to the bizarre offices of mysterious solicitor, Caspian Bone, where he discovers he has inherited a castle full of wonders that has been sealed for centuries. Alfie is astounded to learn he was born in that very castle six hundred years ago during a magical timeslip. There, Orin Hopcraft, the last of the druids hid an ancient magic inside him, which others seek but should never be used. With the help of his cousins Madeleine and Robin, and Artan the flying bearskin rug, Alfie must keep the magic from terrifying adversaries and ensure that the secrets of Hexbridge castle stay secret, forever!

## **The Secrets of Hexbridge Castle Details**

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Author : Gabrielle Kent

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## **From Reader Review The Secrets of Hexbridge Castle for online ebook**

### **Jessica McKenna says**

This is the first book I've read that professes to be something fans of Harry Potter will like that I actually felt most fans of Harry Potter would like.

It's charming and crazy the way the first HP novel is charming and crazy - A Harry Potter for an even younger audience, that seems to maintain its status as kid-friendly.

If you're a parent of a kid who you feel might be too young to read the more serious aspects of the Harry Potter stories (basically books 4-7....), this is a good starter that will be fun for both of you to visit.

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### **Absome Dude says**

This book is the perfect adventure to mystery ratio. I never wanted to put it down because of the amazingly structured, clever characters, the interesting, fun plot, and the never ending phenomenal details. Every book and cranny of this book made me want to read more. This book had a great intro and outro that really helped wrap it up. I loved it even though sometimes it could be a little confusing.

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### **Yapha says**

Alfie Bloom has been miserable since his mother died. His father spends most of his time either working or trying to invent things. He has only one friend at school and she will be out of town all summer. All of this changes on the last day of school, when Alfie learns that he has inherited the mysterious Hexbridge Castle. He knows of the castle of course, his cousins live nearby. But he never imagined the magical secrets that the castle has held on to all of these years and the role he is to play. Full of adventures, twists, and plenty of magic, this first book in a new series will keep readers on the edge of their seats. Highly recommended for grades 4 & up.

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### **Lindy MacLaine says**

Imaginative, great characters, fun-filled, playful mystery and adventure.

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### **Ellen says**

I bought this book to read to my 7 year old daughter and 9 year old son. We finished reading on Saturday and they are already demanding a second reading! My son loved Artan, the flying bearskin rug, but my daughter's favourite (and mine) was definitely Amy Sui! We're both hoping she appears much more in the

next book.

A great tale of magic and mystery. I'd recommend it to anyone who misses Harry Potter. It also has a charm that will appeal to fans of Enid Blyton, and a wit that appeals to adults as well as children.

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### **Clare says**

One of the most readable novels I've read in some time, Gabrielle Kent has crafted a finely woven mash-up of some of the best known children's literature and created her own excellent adventure. Alfie Bloom, poor and bullied, receives a peculiar summons from an even stranger solicitor and discovers that he has inherited an extraordinary castle. Added to this, he appears to be the custodian of a potent magic, part of which allows him to 'timeslip' back hundreds of years. Once living in his castle, he realises that there is a dangerous force roaming the fields, trying to take his magic from him, and he must fight it to save himself and the local village.

There are numerous hidden references and allusions in this book to the great children's writers. The headmistresses of the local school to which Alfie is transferred hail from the realms of Dahl. Named Murkle and Snitch, one short, one tall, yet with Trunchbull-like punishments and glee in issuing them. They are superbly imagined. Alfie's friendship with his cousins, and their tree house, as well as the sumptuous meals described, hark back to Enid Blyton, and the flying bear rug speaks to many a fantasy author's imagination – it reminded me of Mary Norton's bedknob. To read more of my review visit <http://www.minervareads.com/?p=1333>

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### **Molly Sheridan says**

I thought Alfie Bloom and the Secrets of Hexbridge Castle was a very good and well written book. All the characters were very well thought and easy to relate to. When i was reading the book I would stop and while i was doing something else i would think of the characters and what would happen next. This was a very captivating and magical book. I loved the characters and their secrets. Hands down this was great book and i can't wait for the next one.

-Molly Sheridan

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### **Aubrey says**

This book has the perfect mix of adventure and mystery. It doesn't blab on but does incorporate clever characters and a fun plot. It is a little confusing, but if you are not to young this is an exciting element.

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### **Karsyn says**

I LOVED this book!! Loved the characters, loved the story. loved the Castle. loved the friendships, loved it ALL!! Can't wait to read the next!

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### **Suad Shamma says**

This was such a fun middle grade read, with all the right elements for a fantasy adventure mystery. Strange inheritance? A castle? Two creepy headmistresses? Magic? A flying bear rug?! Time travel?!

Yep, the story includes all these points and so much more. Alfie Bloom is a really likable protagonist, who seems to settle into his new role a bit too quickly, but proves to have what it takes to go on this unexpected magical quest that is thrust upon him.

When Alfie meets an unnerving solicitor who gives him the news that he has just inherited a castle, he is baffled and excited, and turns to his dad for questions. Surprisingly, his dad seems to know why Alfie had inherited this castle, and is even aware of which castle they speak of. However, there is one condition to receiving this inheritance, Alfie and his dad must live in it. To Alfie, that sounds like the best news he's received in a very very long time, his dad is a little more wary of the situation, but agrees to the terms. Soon enough, in a matter of days, they move to the castle that is conveniently located near his cousins, and starts school with his cousins.

The school is run by two very creepy and short-tempered headmistresses, Murkle and Snitch - need I say more?

Here's a little more then: strangely, no matter how abusive and cruel Murkle and Snitch are with the children, the moment the parents confront them angrily, they come back dazed, confused and very compliant with some strange story of how their children were at fault and lying about everything that had happened.

Alfie soon realizes that all is not as perfect as it seems, and that he had inherited a lot more than the castle. He soon discovers that he is guardian of a great and terrible magic that was given to him when he was born in this same castle 600 years prior, due to a time slip. And we all know, with great power comes great responsibility. Alfie is excited about the things he can do, but is also extremely overwhelmed. He can't trust anyone aside from his cousins and the flying bear-rug that he found in the castle, who is entertaining and also an extremely helpful mode of transportation. In the meantime, as animals continue to keep going missing, Alfie thinks he spotted a fire-breathing dragon, learns how to go back in time to meet the man who passed this terrible magic to him, and tries to avoid getting in trouble as he finds out that someone is determined to snatch this magic away from him.

Fun read with great and vibrant characters, and is set up nicely for future installments. Not something I'd continue reading or pick up again, but definitely something middle-graders would highly enjoy.

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### **Teresa Edmunds says**

Afie is an average boy with one best friend and a dad who fiddles with inventions. His life becomes more exciting when a strange message arrives informing him of a midnight meeting with a dark stranger. This book is full of magic, mystery, friendship, and even a dragon. I have high hopes for this series.

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## **Bev says**

I absolutely loved this. It has all my favourite ingredients - a mysterious benefactor, a surprise inheritance, good friendships, magic, intrigue and a sprinkling of myths and legends. I've already ordered book 2!

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## **Jo Clarke says**

I started reading this today and got so caught up in this amazing story I couldn't put it down. It tells the story of Alfie Bloom who inherits a magical castle and learns lots of mysterious wonders about himself and the castle. It was full of adventure and suspense with a nice twist at the end. For me it invoked memories of so many great books I've read as a child. We got to meet lots of wonderful characters and they were so vividly told I could clearly picture them. I was totally gripped with this and am looking forward to the next book to find out more about Alfie. I will definitely be recommending to the Year 5/6 children in my school!

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## **Russell Sanderson says**

Alfie Bloom is living a normal, if humdrum life with his inventor father, when a letter from an unfamiliar firm of solicitors changes his life forever. When Alfie meets Caspian Bone, the raven-like solicitor, he's amazed to learn that he has inherited a castle - with one condition - Alfie and his father have to live in it.

To Alfie, this presents no problem at all. Firstly, the castle is next to the village of Hexbridge, where his favourite cousins live. Secondly – he's going to have his own castle - how cool is that? Within days, Alfie and his father have moved in and this is where the adventure begins. The story has a definite Roald Dahl feel to it at times and in the early chapters I was very much reminded of Charlie and the Chocolate factory in terms of atmosphere.

Everything is not perfect for Alfie however. His new school is run by two horrible headmistresses, Murkle and Snitch, who are fond of cruel and unusual punishments and seem able to win over any parents who try to complain. In the Hexbridge farms, animals are going missing and a local farmer has disappeared - and most importantly of all, Alfie discovers he is now the guardian of a terrible and dangerous magic, a responsibility passed to him when he was born during a magical time slip 600 years into the past - and someone in Hexbridge is determined to take it for themselves.

Alfie himself is likable, brave, inquisitive and funny; Murkle and Snitch are deliciously evil and all sorts of other interesting characters populate the world including my favourite – a talking, flying bear rug who's given to telling terrible puns.

It's a great middle grade fantasy adventure, with sufficient magic, mystery and humour in the world to give plenty of scope for further adventures in the next two books.

Highly recommended.

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## **Manu/flatter says**

Über die Autorin:

Gabrielle Kent hat fünfzehn Jahre in der Videospiel-Branche gearbeitet. Zurzeit unterrichtet sie Spieleentwicklung und -design und organisiert Animex, Englands größtes Games-and-Animation-Festival. 2006 wurde sie vom amerikanischen Next Gen Magazine unter die hundert einflussreichsten Frauen in der Spieleindustrie gewählt. Alfie Bloom ist ihr erster Roman.

Zum Inhalt: Klapptext

Der elfjährige Alfie macht sich auf die langweiligsten Ferien aller Zeiten gefasst, da erreicht ihn eine unglaubliche Nachricht. Er hat eine Burg geerbt! Burg Hexbridge übertrifft Alfies kühnste Träume. Neben Geheimgängen, Falltüren und versteckten Verliesen ist seine fantastischste Entdeckung ein sprechendes, fliegendes Bärenfell namens Artan. Die Freundschaft zwischen den beiden erweist sich bald schon als absoluter Glücksfall. Denn dank Artans Flugkünsten gelingt den beiden die Flucht vor einem finsternen Wesen mit zwei Köpfen, glutroten Augen und einem langen schuppigen Schwanz. Was zum Teufel war das? Alfie begibt sich auf Spurensuche, und die führt ausgerechnet zu seiner Burg ...

Meine Meinung:

Das Buch hatte schon von Anfang an in seine Fänge gezogen. Alfie und sein Vater sind einfach nur großartig. Alfie ist wissbegierig, abenteuerlustig, ein toller Freund und ein toller Cousin. Sein Vater ist sehr liebenswert total verplant und etwas schusselig. Aber eine ganz zauberhafte Weise und als Erfinder steht ihm das auch zu. Er und Alfie sind ein tolles Team und sie haben eine tolle Familie. Alle halten zusammen und verstehen sich wunderbar. Die Charaktere sind klasse gestaltet und absolut glaubwürdig. Die zwei Schuldirektorinnen kann man wunderbar verabscheuen und es hat einen riesen Spaß gemacht, mit Alfie die Burg zu erkunden. Mein besonderer Liebling ist Artan. Er ist direkt in mein Herz geflogen. Die Geschichte ist spannend und fesselnd und der Schreibstil zieht den Leser in die Geschichte hinein. Absolut gut durchdacht und in sich schlüssig und die magischen Wesen machen das Ganze noch superspannend. Die Phantasie der Autorin ist großartig und sie hat eine wundervolle magische Welt geschaffen in die ich hineinspringen und darin leben möchte. Die Situationskomik ist sehr gekonnt eingesetzt und die Ideen der Kids sind wagemutig und spannend. Ständig passiert etwas und manchmal geht es Schlag auf Schlag und man kommt beim Lesen überhaupt nicht zum Luftholen.

Cover:

Magisch, düster und geheimnisvoll, ein absoluter Eyeatcher der sehr neugierig auf die Geschichte macht.

Fazit:

Dieses Buch hat alles, was eine phantastische Geschichte braucht: Großartig Story, abenteuerlustige Charaktere und ganz schreckliche magische Wesen. Ich habe es an einem Tag verschlungen und kann Band

2 nicht erwarten.

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