



## The Snow Spider

*Jenny Nimmo*

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## **The Snow Spider** Jenny Nimmo

Jenny Nimmo's award-winning SNOW SPIDER TRILOGY is back as an exciting Orchard Books fantasy series!

On Gwyn's 9th birthday, his grandmother tells him he may be a magician, like his Welsh ancestors. She gives him five gifts to help him--a brooch, a piece of dried seaweed, a tin whistle, a scarf, and a broken toy horse. One blustery day, unsure what to do with his newfound magic, Gwyn throws the brooch to the wind and receives a silvery snow spider in return. Will he be able to use this special spider to bring his missing sister, Bethan, home? THE SNOW SPIDER spins an icy, sparkly web of mystical intrigue that sets the stage for the next two books in this outstanding trilogy!

## **The Snow Spider Details**

Date : Published September 1st 2006 by Orchard Books (NY) (first published July 30th 1986)

ISBN : 9780439896757

Author : Jenny Nimmo

Format : Hardcover 146 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Young Adult, Magic, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Snow Spider for online ebook

### Elle says

going to review these books separately as im reading a version with the whole trilogy inside.

it has really been some time since I have read this. And its weird because on reading I remembered all of the emotions I had reading it as a child, and wow this book kind of sucks! ok harsh, its just a bit "meh." Yet constantly, I cite this as being one of my favourite childhood series that I've read MULTIPLE TIMES. I don't really feel disappointed about my feelings reading this - rereading childhood favourites is always scary in case you discover the passion is gone, but im pretty sure that my feelings on this one is the same.

Making sense? no? well, the edition I used to read is the one I bought now, the 3in1 edition with all of the books inside. I never saw this book as a separate book. I was a fast reader as a kid, and I could read the entire thing in days. its simply written, this book comes to 120 pages. at no point did I ever consider the book as three separate things. now I see it as a single entity, the snow spider is a little bit... all over the place? things are really quick. a lot happens. you could say the events in this one book could in itself make three! But the magic in this series really comes in the books to come, so clearly this is just vital set up. however, like I said, I think I already knew this. I had memories of me trying to sludge through this first book to get to the good parts that I had completely forgotten because the other sections are SO GOOD.

the only thing I might add is I did cringe a little bit at gwyn and the other kids, like it just felt a bit make-believey for me at times and not actually real. and I LOVE EIRLYS SO MUCH, part of me cannot remember why BUT I DO, but oh my god WERE HER PARENTS REALLY TOO DUMB TO RECOGNISE THEIR OWN KID? REALLY. (also I think the characterisation for the dad went a bit too far, I don't think a parent would resent their kid so much for what happened like it was a bit weird)

Can I say I loved the welsh-ness of it however. Its rooted in tradition, and I love how gwyn is so tied to his landscape and nature around him through his powers (maybe its the wiccan in me idk). but its really nice, and I think probably (im not welsh) a very staple of welsh literature for kids in a world that is slowly losing large parts of its language, landscape and tradition. The grandmother being the only character who is consistently tied down to the language, landscape, and local lore is so telling and true: gwyn doesn't understand welsh until she gives him his powers and he is more tied to the nature around him. Its just really sweet and telling the themes about the key to keeping these traditions being through the connection of generations. Gwyn is disconnected from his dad, his dad disconnected from the grandmother: each of these disconnections down the generations results in a further distance from the culture of their surroundings which is only saved by reconnection. kind of sad really.

OK THERE ARE A FEW PROBLEMS AS STATED. but I cant wait to remember what the fuck this is about and why I loved it so much. loving the nostalgia of it all, rereads for the win.

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## **Deborah O'Carroll says**

For my review of the overall series, see my series review on The Page Dreamer:  
<https://thepagedreamer.wordpress.com/...>

Brief thoughts on this individual one:

I remember starting this out, accidentally, late one night, and then staying up to finish it. I was thinking, near the end, of possibly giving it 4 stars, since it was rather intriguing and some of the writing was pretty, and I tend to be fairly generous in my star-ratings. Then the ending was a little flat for me, so I settled on 3 stars. It's not a bad book, it was just... okay for me. I wished a few things had turned out slightly different, and some of it wasn't well explained. But I did enjoy it okay and it kept me interested, and the Welsh setting/legends were fantastic. (It's also quite appropriate how Gwyn's birthday/when people disappear and all, is on Samhain.)

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## **Kailey (BooksforMKs) says**

I was absolutely enchanted by this story of a young boy searching for his lost sister. Gwyn discovers that he is a magician, and he can use his magical abilities to call his sister, Bethan, back home. She has been missing for four years, and Gwyn's family is broken by her loss. Through a series of magical encounters, Gwyn searches for his sister and discovers his own powers.

The setting is in the Welsh countryside, which immediately gives a sense of legend and myth to the story. The magic system that Gwyn learns is very wild and mysterious. The magic seems to work more on instinct than by any rules or definite actions. If Gwyn wishes for something and focuses on what he wants, his magic will go out into the world and bring something back to him that will help him accomplish his goals. That is how Gwyn first releases the Snow Spider, and gains her help in his quest for his lost sister.

I loved Gwyn's character! He is so plucky and brave, but he also has a moral courage and an optimism in the face of darkness that really impressed me in so young a child. Seeing his relationship with his father was upsetting at first, but gratifying in the end. Their relationship is one of the main developments in the story, and it's beautifully written.

As always, Jenny Nimmo's writing is charming and delightful. It pulls you into the story with such original and imaginative details. I just love her books! I can't wait to read the rest of this trilogy!

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## **Cory says**

I love Charlie Bone, so I was disappointed by this slim volume. Something about the narrative style made it very difficult to connect to the characters. Maybe it was that everything happened freakishly easily, but without any explanation. You need to tell me why the main character shouted Welsh words into the wind, and why that made things happen. Also? The things that happened that were "magic"? Not so much with the impressive/fun/magic/interesting.

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### **Sara says**

I read this book when I was in elementary school. I remember very few books that I read at those ages, but the *feel* of the Snow Spider Trilogy stuck with me. I like the dreamy, intuitive feel of the magic.

On my recent reread, though, I realized that the grandmother is a terrible person. She's wanted to be magic her entire life but she didn't inherit it, so she positioned herself as close to the magical world as possible. When she realized her grandchild did inherit magic, she pushed him into it with very little explanation or guidance.

Then she got mad at him when he let a bad spirit loose, even though the whole thing could have been prevented if she had bothered to ease him in, maybe give him some books on mythology or just STRAIGHT UP TELL HIM the origin of the creepy horse toy.

I bet she also knew what happened to his sister but just didn't feel like mentioning it.

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### **Nick Swarbrick says**

A book I'd read with my daughter and sort of enjoyed; a TV series that was held together by a major actor and whose SFX seemed creaky: revisiting The Snow Spider was a bit of an act of loyalty. I was wrong. I'll leave it to others with a better grasp of Welsh countryside, culture and mythology to pass judgment on all of that, central though they are, but I have to say I was drawn in. Unspoken tensions following the loss of a child on a Welsh hill farm concentrate on her surviving brother, whose magical inheritance seemed at once completely fantastic and also believable: think Susan Cooper's Will and Bran as the subject of playground gossip and bullying; think of Garner's own Gwyn, but younger.

Enchanting from first to last.

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### **Candy Boisvert says**

Title: The Snow Spider

Author: Jenny Nimmo

Copyright date: 1986

Publisher: Egmont

How many pages: 122 pgs

How long it took me to read: 2 days

Category: Fiction

I learned about this book from: going on a search looking for something to read after Harry Potter.

This book was purchased at: Chapter's

This book is: for anybody who has an imagination

Other books by this author: Emlyn's moon, The chestnut soldier, Midnight for Charlie Bone, The time

Twister, The blue boa, The castle of mirrors, The renaldi ring, Milo's wolves, Griffin's castle, Ill will well nell, Hot dog cool cat, Tatty apple, Delilah and the dogspell, Delilah and the dishwasher dogs, and Delilah alone

Favorite characters: Gwyn, Bethan, Nain

Least favorite Characters: Alun, Gwyn's Dad

When and Where the story takes place: Wales

Plot in a nutshell: When Gwyn's mother gives him 5 objects for his birthday - a brooch, a piece of seaweed, a yellow scarf, a tin whistle and a small broken horse, she tells him that these 5 objects would tell him if he was a magician or not and these 5 objects would give him his heart's desire if he was.

Main characters: Gwyn, Gwyn's parents, Nain, Alun

What I liked best: It captured my attention and kept it before I had time to second think my decision of reading it in the first place.

What I liked least: I think the author has issues beginning a story because everytime I start a book by her, I have to read the first two pages again because I feel like I missed a chunk. She just rushes right into the story without stopping to realise that we aren't in her brain and can't see what she's thinking.

Overall rating: It's a pretty cool fantasy book.

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### **Kenneth Zhu says**

I have chosen this book because it looks so exciting to me that I want to read it. I like to read a books about magic, magical stuff will surprise the readers of how they did, where they learnt etc. The static image of the book cover were OUTSTANDING to me because they used a magical stuff in it. I just attention to it and I just wanted to start reading it!

This book will fit in the category of fantasy book because it creating our imagination of how the snow spider glow their white snow light in the dark. This kind of fancy magic to me and unbelievable.

My favourite character is Gynn because he is so funny. His parents always asking him where have you been? Why you covered in the snow? All he is saying that he gone out to see his grandma, or fall into the snow etc. They told that he is a magician person. This become magician after saw the snow spider for the first time in years. He takes them inside the houses to his bedroom without letting his parents see what it is happening. When he put the spider in his room, the spider glow the snow light and it nearly brighten up his bedroom! This is so magical that he thinks he is a magician. He is very keen to found out what his grandmother do as she is a magician person. Sometimes, His dad was angry at him sometimes because he wants to rid of something he wants to get rid of stuff he got.

My favourite quote in the book is "just shrank, sort of faded away, and so did the bars of ice until there was nothing there except.." This quote makes me think that he got away with the idea he got. He just got it blocked when Gynn was talking to him about how to get the magic from his grandma, maybe secretly ask her what the magic is, I don't know!!! Also, this quotes described him as he is shy as a cow to talk and he missed all the ideas he got right here.

I learned from this book is to tell the truth to the people to make sure it believe him, later in the story, when he came home to go to his bedroom, his mum asked "Where have you been Gynn" He told her mother that he was at the Grandmother house but actually, the real thing he has gone is to the mountain to look for the snow spider as he is interested in magical stuff. This is also one of our MAGS school rules, be trustworthy to

each other, he isn't trustworthy to his family. DO NOT LEARN FROM HIM!!!

Overall, I think that book I thought in the book review is excellent because it talks about magical things and it makes people more entertained and sense of humour while reading the book. I would recommended this book to someone else who interested in this book.

At the end of the story, the girl called Eyera has disappeared from Gynn's house as she was being recovered from her injury two days ago after Gynn's Dad found her cover in a thick brown mud.

One of the thing you didn't know during my book review is about gifts for his birthday. The story was set in the past. Gynn has received 5 gifts for his birthday. They are to do with magical things. He got is black watch with moon in there (He needs this watch because he looks at the moon every night!! She thinks it would be funny).... More information about the gifts if you read this book.

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### **Nick Weeks says**

A nice story about a Welsh boy who finds out he is a magician and uses his new tools in his adventure. He lives in a rural mountainside area and it is against this well described backdrop, that his adventure plays out. His sister has recently disappeared and the whole family has each struggled to deal with their loss in a different way. This is one of the main themes here: dealing with loss and managing to live without knowing the truth, self-blame, acceptance and division. All of these results of loss are dealt with, and the effect is a nice, warm-hearted novel based upon real Welsh mythology.

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### **Jim From YAYeahYeah says**

Young Gwyn's world has been lonely since the disappearance of his sister Bethan. His parents, particularly his father, are still grieving and his father blames Gwyn for his sister's loss. On his ninth birthday, though, his life takes a strange turn as his nain (grandmother) gives him five gifts and tells him that now is the time to find out if he's a magician. One of the gifts, a brooch, is tossed into the wind and becomes Arianwen, the snow spider. And so begins a journey which could finally heal the wounds at the heart of Gwyn's family...

It's years since I've read any of the Magician Trilogy, and this first in particular was one of my favourite ever books as a youngster growing up in North Wales. After mentioning it in a post earlier today, I stumbled across it in my bedroom and took that as a sign to reread it to see if it was as good as I remembered - and while I was surprised by parts of it, I certainly wasn't disappointed.

One of the surprising things about it was just how short it was - at under 150 pages, I read through it incredibly quickly - while another was that, in the end, it's not really about the magic. It's a deep tale of grief, of longing to say goodbye, and eventually of healing. It's very different from Nimmo's later Charlie Bone series, which most YA's today will be far more familiar with, being shorter and with slightly less developed characters, but it's just as enchanting in its own way. It also has one of the sweetest endings I can ever remember reading.

I'll try and review the sequels at some point, although I'll need to find them to reread them first - but trust me when I say it's well worth getting the trilogy, which is available from Amazon for just £4.49 at the moment. From what I remember the TV series, starring Sian Phillips as Nain, was also well worth getting but is sadly

unavailable on DVD today.

Very high recommendation to fans of JK Rowling, CS Lewis and Susan Cooper.

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### **[Name Redacted] says**

I first read this back in 1991 or so. Now I'm re-reading it!

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### **Mathew says**

I thoroughly enjoyable adventure which has at its heart, is a story of how a folktale or myth embedded within its landscape can bring a rather beautiful sense of peace and acceptance to an unexplainable loss. To go further would be to spoil the story but Gwyn's story here, of how he inherits the magical powers of his ancestors and uses them to try and bring back his sister who went missing on the mountains year before is well done. Although I felt it rushed a little at the end, there is enough nodding here to the structure of fairy and folk tales which is to be admired. I found the relationship between Gwyn and his parents, who both grieve for the loss of their daughter in very different ways, powerful and ripe for discussion. I thought of the book as much like Susan Cooper's Dark is Rising books but for slightly younger readers. This would make for an excellent read aloud.

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### **Lori says**

Not every book needs to be 500 pages, but the storyline in this book could have used just a bit more TLC. The other thing that made me crazy were all of the names that I had no idea how to pronounce. Not very many people are fluent in the Welsh language (including people from Wales!), and I, for one, would have really appreciated having a pronunciation guide included in the book.

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### **Ronda says**

Many, many years ago, I read Susan Cooper's Dark is Rising. The series enthralled me, and I found myself anxiously waiting for each book in the series to come back in to our school library (the series was popular). So how is this relevant to Jenny Nimmo's The Magician Trilogy? Reading The Snow Spider put me in the same frame of mind that Cooper's series put me into so very many years ago, so much so, that I (1) can't wait to read the 2nd book in Nimmo's series and (2) am itching to re-read Cooper's series. Set in Wales, Nimmo's new series (she is author of the Charlie Bone books), introduces us to Gwyn and his family on the day of Gwyn's ninth birthday. Gwyn's grandmother gives him five very puzzling gifts--a piece of seaweed, a scarf, a whistle, a twisted brooch and a broken toy horse--and tells him that now is the time to find out if he, Gwyn, is a magician. Gwyn and his mother and father, still grieving from the mysterious disappearance of his sister Bethan almost five years previous, pretty well think that Gwyn's gran is nuts. But is she? Full of the richness of Welsh names The Snow Spider is an intriguing tale of darkness, mystery, and the light of hope. I'm looking forward to reading the next one.

Reading level as listed on Amazon.com: Ages 9-12

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### **Pearlpelt says**

This was a complete waste of my time. After I had read the first twenty pages, I considered just tossing it into the trashcan. Unfortunantly, I didn't. After I had finished it, I lamented about all the time I had taken to read it that I cannot get back.

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