

I'm not a bot



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both Sophie and Charnain wonder to themselves if he uses a pen or a quill. Writing: Large Ham: Howl is called a "drama queen" by his own sister. Mama Bear: Sophie is in Castle in the Air and House of Many Ways. Do NOT mark Morgan Jenkins if you know what's good for you. Morality Pet: From a distance, Howl is a wicked wizard that eats people's hearts. When you get to know him he's a hammy and selfish fop but then you see him with children. Whatever other flaws he may have, he absolutely loves his sister's children and they in kind. In the sequels, this extends to his own son, Morgan, suggesting Howl may have a Friend to All Children streak. The Multiverse: This trope shows up again in DWJ's work in a minor way—Howl turns out to be from an Alternate Universe, which turns out to be modern-day Earth (specifically Wales in the 1970s), which passes by without much comment from the other characters. No Accounting for Taste: This is generally how outsiders view Howl and Sophie's relationship in every book after the first. In reality, they're Happily Married, since they enjoy fighting with each other. It keeps them both on their toes. Noble Demon: Calcifer is a demon who looks very scary but he has a good relationship with the rest of the Castle 'family'. Opposites Attract: Sensible woman lacking in confidence and eccentric man with an excess of confidence. Papa Wolf: Howl also has a moment in House of Many Ways when Prince Ludovic threatens Morgan, leading Howl to punch him in the face. Twice. He's also an Uncle Wolf to his sister's kids, as the Witch discovers. Portal Door: There is a door in the castle that Howl enchanted to lead to different places (and times) depending on the color its dial points toward. Prodigal Family: Howl is this to his sister Megan—who sees him dropping in at odd intervals, spoiling her kids, and not settling down with a visible respectable job. Put on a Bus: Michael, in every book after the first. Castle In the Air explains that Michael, and a new unnamed apprentice, were sent away when Howl found out that the moving castle was in danger. Rule of Cool: Let's face it—moving castles are cool. It's justified in the first book as a means of eluding the Witch, but Sophie and Howl still have the moving castle at the very end of the third book. Standard Hero Reward: Spoofed. Princess Valeria of Ingary is still a small child, and her father wouldn't dream of marrying her off until she's much older—which proves embarrassing for several people over the course of the series who expect the Standard Reward without bothering to find out how old she is first. Technicolor Fire: Calcifer, as demonstrated in the above cover, is a demon of many different colors. Theory of Narrative Causality: Mentioned repeatedly, such as Happily Ever After at the end of the story or the thing about three daughters. What Beautiful Eyes!: In all three books, people meeting Howl for the first time comment on his strange "glass-marble" eyes. Tropes in Howl's Moving Castle: Anger Born of Worry: Howl yells a storm at Sophie when he rescues her from the Witch of the Waste. Namely, he tells her he didn't expect she would be nice enough to rescue a woman she disliked from his dreaded enemy. Beautiful All Along: Sophie never saw herself as pretty because her sisters were so much prettier. It takes a curse and the building up of her confidence to make her see that she is. Blonde, Brunette, Redhead: The Hatter sisters—Sophie (redhead), Lettie (brunette), and Martha (blonde). But for Me, It Was Tuesday: Subverted. Sophie thinks she can just walk by the Witch of the Waste because the witch has probably cursed so many people that she won't even remember Sophie. It doesn't work. Can't Live Without You: If Calcifer dies, so does Howl because of their contract. Sophie breaks the curse, gives Calcifer a thousand years and restores Howl back to life. Chekhov's Gun: Every object, character and throwaway line of dialogue, in the first book at least. Conversation Hog: Mrs. Fairfax tends to ramble on about whatever the topic of conversation is, and whoever she's talking to has to watch for a good moment to insert their comment or else be obviously talked over. The narration compares it to judging the right moment to jump into a moving skipping-rope. Cursed with Awesome: Subverted—Sophie's curse is genuinely terrible, but it is only as an old woman that she is finally able to feel confident in herself. Deal with the Devil: Wizards and witches can make these with fire demons to gain greater power. The exchange involves the human's heart and therefore their continued existence. Dressing Down: Michael remarks that he'll know Howl has fallen truly in love only if Howl doesn't spend two hours in the bathroom, making himself prettier before meeting a girl. When Sophie is captured by the Witch of the Waste, Howl rushes to rescue her, looking disheveled and unkempt. Earth All Along: A major reveal in the middle of the story is that one of the castle's possible locations (the one marked in black on the doorknob) is an Alternate Universe, specifically Wales in the 1970s, and this is Howl's original home (where he was born as "Howell Jenkins"). Sophie treats the technology and customs of the real world as just more weirdness associated with Howl that she politely lets pass, and the details of how Howl came to Ingary have only been revealed in interviews. Everyone Join the Party: Sort of happens in the book, when an amazing number of secondary characters independently show up right before the climax; subverted in that they don't know they're supposed to be reinforcements (really—that was Howl's plan) and so are bewilderedly commenting on the fight and swapping stories rather than really helping—afterward, this continues and serves as an Infodump about what's really been going on for the entire book. Evil Plan: The Witch of the Waste wants to claim Howl's heart, metaphorically. This is why she chases him and curses a rival (Sophie) into old age. The demon contracted to her, Miss Angorian, wants to claim his heart, literally. This is why she arranges a series of events that will allow her to get inside the castle and grab Calcifer. First Girl Wins: Gender-flipped with Sophie and Howl, Howl being the first guy that Sophie meets. Howl on the other hand has met plenty of other girls before Sophie. Foreshadowing : Michael muses that the day Howl doesn't spend at least two hours in the bathroom, making himself gorgeous before he goes out, is the day they'll know he's fallen in love. During the climax when he turns up at the Witch of the Waste's castle, he's unshaven with dark shadows under his eyes, and frankly looks a mess. Sophie sadly thinks he must love Miss Angorian very much; unable to realise that Howl loves her. When Percival, a man pieced from two different men, talks about the Witch taking his head off and sitting on a shelf looking at himself, Michael protests that this would have killed him. Howl reveals that strong magic would allow him, for example, to take any part of Michael's body he wanted and leave Michael alive. Very soon after this, it's revealed that both Howl and the Witch of the Waste have removed their own hearts to give them to their respective fire demons. Regarding Sophie's sisters, it's mentioned early on in chapter 1 that Martha and Lettie used to fight due to envying the other's destiny. In chapter 2 Sophie learns they have concocted a scheme to magically take on each other's identity, so as to take on the other's role. Genre Savvy: Subverted. The book opens with a description of how the protagonist, who lives in "the land of Ingary, where such things as seven-league boots and cloaks of invisibility really exist", knows what to expect from life because everyone in Ingary knows how fairy stories work. The first dent appears before the end of the first chapter, with the introduction of two not-at-all ugly stepsisters (well, half-sisters) and a stepmother who (while not without flaws) is very kind and loving and doesn't treat her birth daughter any differently from her stepdaughters; as the book progresses, it becomes increasingly clear that a lot of what 'everyone knows' is really just superstition or self-fulfilling prophecy (people make plans according to what everyone knows will happen, so that's what does happen). A major theme of the book is that life isn't as simple as in stories, even in a kingdom where fairy-story magic really exists. Handsome Lech: Howl falls for Sophie the first time he sees her, but he maintains the appearance of a womanizer while trying to find out more about Sophie from her sister. Heart Trauma: Howl, who is frequently described as "heartless", turns out to literally lack a heart, having given it to Calcifer as part of a magical deal. When he gets it back at the end of the novel, he improves—a bit. The trope is being played with; it's implied that although his literal heartlessness is wonderfully symbolic, his selfishness is just how he is, and was even before he met Calcifer. In Which a Trope Is Described: All the chapter titles, with a slight variation in the case of Chapter 5, "Which is far too full of washing". I Want My Beloved to Be Happy: When she learns that the Witch is holding Miss Angorian, Howl's latest crush, hostage, Sophie commits to rescuing her despite feeling miserable about the prospect. When Howl comes to the castle, he shouts at Sophie that Miss Angorian was the demon trying to kill Calcifer and how was she oblivious for not realizing that Howl was in love with Sophie? The Jinx: Subverted. Sophie assumes she's bad luck because she's the oldest of three daughters and a stepchild at that. Howl tells her that she's not doomed for failure while they're going to rescue Calcifer, and she just has to learn not to be so impulsive Ladykiller in Love: Howl is well known as a womanizer before, during, and after meeting Sophie. Men Can't Keep House: Before Sophie, Howl's castle was amazingly dirty. Justified as Howl liked it dirty (the spiders are so helpful!) and was upset when Sophie cleaned it. Moving Buildings: Howl's castle, as the title suggests, it glides across the ground with no visible means of propulsion. Multi Stage Teleport: Parodied with the seven-league boots. Sophie only wants to travel a short distance, so she wears just one boot (to go three and a half leagues) and walks round two sides of a triangle. Then she has to backtrack when she overshoots. My Hair Came Out Green: Howl's blonde hair goes pink when Sophie messes with his hair products. No Loves Interest: Surprisingly, this turns out to be the case with Howl, Lettie and Sophie. Rather than pursuing Lettie, Howl was only trying to gain information about Sophie through her, since he noticed they looked alike. Lettie only humoured him because she was worried about him asking about Sophie. Ominous Knocking: Happens many times; justified, since after Sophie is scared half to death by a living scarecrow at the door, she gets alarmed every time someone knocks in fear of seeing the scarecrow again. Then the Witch starts an open war with the castle's inhabitants, and Sophie and Michael often get frightened she might start knocking on the door. All the knocking-related alarms turn out to be false. One Degree of Separation: In the book, Sophie eventually learns that every single encounter she's had after the first few pages and everything that's happened to her has been directly caused by Howl's actions. This only reason this isn't Chessmastering is that while Howl had the prerequisite knowledge, he's been winging it instead. Reasonable Authority Figure: The King of Ingary. We see little of him but he seems like a decent fellow. For instance he's not adverse to giving a Standard Hero Reward for a sufficient job but not as long as his daughter is a toddler. Rescue Romance: Howl and Sophie have Belligerent Sexual Tension even when she's under the curse, but they solidify their attraction for each other when he saves her from the Witch of Waste and she restores his heart while saving Calcifer. Rewatch Bonus: A lot of past scenes are put in a different light once you find out in the last chapters Calcifer saw Sophie's curse and her magic power immediately, told Howl about it, and they were both hoping she could break Calcifer's contract; that Howl's flirtations with Lettie and Miss Angorian were both put-on for strategy; and that Howl is conducting a complicated, deceptive plan over not only the Witch of the Waste and Miss Angorian—who both have their own conflicting gambits—but over Sophie, the entire kingdom, and himself. Almost the only action of Sophie's he didn't predict was her being decent to Miss Angorian. Romantic False Lead: In the book, Miss Angorian arouses Sophie's jealousy when Howl becomes attracted to her. Scary Scarecrows: Played with. Sophie finds the animated scarecrow frightening, but when it gets a chance to explain itself without her running away, it turns out to be friendly and helpful. It also turns out to be some of what's left of Wizard Suliman, who cast all the spare magic he could upon it when the Witch of the Waste caught him in the hopes it would get help. Secret Secret-Keeper: By the end of the book, pretty much everyone knows Sophie is cursed, despite the secrecy clause. Shapeshifter Showdown: When the Witch of the Waste finds Howl in Porthaven, they engage each other as monsters. Shout-Out: The first book has lots of them to The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. The main antagonist is the Witch of the Waste. Sophie goes on a journey to gain a wizard's help, and meets a dog, a scarecrow, a man who has been cut up and put back together due to a witch's curse (Percival and/or his incomplete counterpart), and a being who self-describes as a coward but is brave when it really matters (Howl). The same set of characters could alternatively be described as one who lacks a brain (Percival's counterpart, who needs a head to complete him), one who lacks a heart (Howl, who donated his heart to Calcifer), and one who lacks courage (Percival, whose inability to stand up to the Witch is what gets Sophie dragged into things in the first place). Howl is a wizard who deliberately cultivates an image of being a lot more terrible and powerful than he really is, and was born in our world. Howl says "We can't all be Mad Hatters" when teasing Sophie. When holding up a human skull Howl says "Alas, poor Yorick!". Howl's sister's house in Wales is named "Rivendell". Shrouded in Myth: Many are the mysterious and frightening rumours that circulate about the Wizard Howl. It turns out that he started most of them himself. Threat Backfire:Witch of the Waste: "...she told me 'over my dead body'." So I took her at her word. Tired of Running: At the climax Howl stops avoiding the Witch of the Waste and instead goes to her lair to confronts her and rescue Sophie. Tongue-Tied: Part of the curse on Sophie is that she is prevented from telling anyone that she's under the curse. Nothing stopping anyone from figuring it out themselves, though (Calcifer, for one, can tell just by looking at her), and once someone else figures it out, that someone else is at full liberty to talk about it to whoever they wish. This also means that Sophie is free to talk about the curse with anyone who figured it out on their own. Trash of the Titans: Howl's castle had rotten, dirty dishes, spiders and cobwebs, and other filth because no one cleaned. Twin Switch: Mrs. Hatter places Martha and Lettie in apprenticeships based on her expectations for their futures, but they each prefer the career path the other has been given. Martha finds a magic spell that lets them switch appearances, and they swap places. By the end of the book they are able to each continue their preferred apprenticeships openly. Vain Sorceress: Howl is a male example. He flips out after Sophie does something to his hair products and causes his roots to go natural. Also, Michael tells Sophie the day that Howl doesn't spend two hours in the bathroom to make himself beautiful for a girl is the day that he is truly in love. Wham Line: "Don't you understand? Miss Angorian is the fire demon!" What You Are in the Dark: Howl knew along that Sophie was cursed. Even with the Witch's Geas, you can't fool a lazy magician. In the hopes of helping her and saving himself and Calcifer, he took her in and under protest lets her clean the castle, all the while trying to hide his true feelings for her. Working Through the Cold: Howl has to cast a difficult spell, go to a funeral in disguise, and fight the evil Witch of the Waste, all while he has a bad cold. Why Don't You Just Shoot Him?: Defied. When the Witch of the Waste holds Sophie hostage, Howl arrives in a flurry, defeats the Witch in a Curb-Stomp Battle, and most definitely kills her. Wrong Genre Savvy: The root of Sophie's major problems is that she thinks she is genre savvy enough to know that being the eldest of three children she will be doomed to a boring life without glamour or success. As such she completely fails to see that she is an extremely potent witch with the ability to ensure a happy ending for herself as well as everyone around her. Youngest Child Wins: Lampshaded and averted; Sophie (the eldest) believes this is the case but all three of them live Happily Ever After. edit descriptions of this character

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