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This post includes a brief plot summary, an analysis and an explanation about the ending of the film Howl's Moving Castle (Novel) Shop Now A curse
transforms a young girl into an old woman, leading her to discover her inner beauty in unexpected ways. Join Sophie Hatter on her adventure through Hayao Miyazaki's wonderful world of "Howl's Moving Castle". The protagonist of this story, Sophie Hatter, is a shy girl with very low self-esteem. One day, she runs into Howl, "The Wizard", who
rescues her from two royal guards trying to harass her. However, her day is about to get worse. One of Howl's "old flames" walks into Sophie's hat shop and transforms her into an old woman. Afraid, Sophie runs to the countryside. During her journey, she meets a scarecrow with a turnip head who leads her to a magic castle powered by a fire demon
named Calcifer. Since they both share a common problem, being cursed, they agree to help each other out. By the way, the place belongs to Howl, his apprentice Mark, and Calcifer. She also meets another pivotal figure,
Madame Suliman, the king's wizard and Howl's former mentor. This woman intends to strip Howl's powers away to prevent him from using them for evil, like "The Witch of Waste" into an old and senile lady. Before she could harm Sophie, Howl steps in and takes her away,
along with the witch. Then Howl gives Sophie a ring that points to Calcifer (the castle's location). At this point, Howl and Sophie are slowly becoming an item. During an enemy attack, Sophie are slowly becoming an item. During an enemy attack, Sophie are slowly becoming an item.
off. After falling from the collapsing castle, the charmed ring gives Sophie a glimpse into the past. She realizes that Calcifer is finally free from the curse. Although the fire demon flies away, he eventually comes
back. Sophie regains her youth and reanimates the seriously injured "Turnip Head" by kissing him. The ending of "Howl's Moving Castle" reveals that "Turnip Head" is, in reality, Prince Justin. His disappearance is the reason behind the ongoing war. Therefore, his return leads both parties to stop the conflict. After that, Howl, Sophie, and the other
crew members fly into the air in a new moving castle. Right when the film starts, Sophie's nation is already at war with another kingdom. The origin of the conflict lies in Prince Justin's disappearance, who is from the other nation. That kingdom assumed that Sophie's nation had done something to the prince and decided to declare war. For those who
are curious about Howl and "The Witch of the Waste", these two met many years ago. However, Howl met the witch as a young and beautiful woman. And of course, he was infatuated with her good looks, which led these two to have a fling. Nonetheless, when he found out it was all a façade, he ran away. "The Witch of the Waste" is also one of the
most powerful magicians in the kingdom. However, fifty years ago, the king sent her to "The Waste". The king banned her from the kingdom because he deemed her dangerous. Despite Howl's complete disinterest in her, she insists on stalking him and does everything in her power to win his heart. Madame Suliman is the king's advisor and the
maximum authority amongst wizards. Howl used to be her apprentice when he was younger, but he never completed his training. Suliman has the power to strip wizards' powers away if she deems them selfish and unfit for magic. During a flashback, Sophie sees Howl catching and then swallowing a falling star—Calcifer. So, contrary to the rumours,
it wasn't a woman that stole Howl's heart, it was the fire demon. Now, what prompted Howl to do that? It's not that clear in the film, but the novel explains it better. When Howl was younger, he spotted a falling (dying) star, Calcifer. At the time, Howl felt terrible for the fire demon and decided to give his heart to Calcifer. This would allow the fire
demon to live longer, and in exchange, Calcifer granted Howl additional powers and agreed to aid him with whatever he required, including powering the castle. Calcifer dies, Howl will also die, and vice versa. Madame Suliman's comment on Howl's heart (or
lack of it) stems from the deal that the wizard made with the fire demon. Gaining new powers came at a cost. Howl's growing powers have steadily eroded his humanity (both emotionally and physically). Every time Howl transforms into a bird-like creature, it gets increasingly difficult for him to return to his human form. That is why Suliman wants to
take Howl's powers away; she is terrified he will end up like "The Witch of Waste". Initially, "The Witch of the spell. Sophie and turned her into an elderly woman. However, Sophie's age keeps changing throughout the film, which has to do with the nature of the spell. Sophie didn't age with the spell, the curse was only limited to her
physical appearance. The real reason why Sophie's physical appearance keeps changing is her mindset. Before meeting Howl, Sophie was a painfully shy young woman who kept most of her thoughts to herself. That attitude was what made the curse work, as she was already acting "old". The turning point came when Sophie began to stand up for
herself and others. That is when she was finally able to break the curse and return to her true age. In the end, Sophie comes to terms with who she is and who she loves. Howl's Moving Castle (DVD) Buy Now > As the story unravels, there are a lot of instances showing that Sophie has special powers. When Sophie met Turnip Head, he was just a
"thing". However, when Sophie spoke to Turnip Head, he suddenly came to life. Having said that, Sophie's powers are mainly related to her ability to give life to inanimate objects. So, how did Sophie break Howl's curse? When Sophie accidentally poured water on Calcifer, she put him in a weakened state. That explains why the castle fell apart and
Howl became unconscious. Before "returning" Calcifer to Howl, she made a wish, which turned out to be a spell. She actually succeeds, therefore, Howl and Calcifer are now able to live independently, breaking their curse. War is ugly and, most of the time, unnecessary. The disappearance of Prince Justin proves exactly that. The neighbouring
kingdom started a war without concrete evidence and caused havoc in another nation for no reason. Another interesting theme in "Howl's Moving Castle" is ageing. Actually, ageing was a "beneficial" curse for Sophie. As an elderly woman, Sophie stopped worrying about what others thought, which allowed her to be more spontaneous. "Young
Sophie" would've never entered Howl's castle without permission, but "old Sophie" doesn't really care. The film also shows that compassion is not a weakness. When Madam Suliman took the powers of "The Witch of the Waste" away, Sophie did not take the opportunity to exact revenge on the woman who cursed her. Instead, she took care of her.
Sophie's strength lies in her ability to feel compassion for other people. "Howl's Moving Castle" is a beautiful coming-of-age tale that challenges the audience to explore the unknown and become more brave. Now, this might sound like blasphemy to some, but personally, I enjoyed watching "Howl's Moving Castle" more than I did "Spirited Away".
Overall, "Howl's Moving Castle" is a beautiful piece of art from Hayao Miyazaki that lingers in the audience's heart. In addition, it's possible to watch the film over and over again and still find new details or nuances. Hands down, "Howl's Moving Castle" is a timeless masterpiece. The store will not work correctly in the case when cookies are disabled
Let's get real: Howl's Moving Castle is not some fantasy film with a moving castle and a moody wizard. It's more like an emotional rollercoaster with feathers, fire, and a whole lot of feels. Studio Ghibli did not just throw in some magic for fun. Nope, they totally made it matter. In Hayao Miyazaki's Howl's Moving Castle, magic talks. Not with spells or
sparkles, but with pure emotion. Howl's panic attacks turn him into a bird beast. Sophie's curse literally shifts with her confidence. The castle itself is a mess of mood swings on stilts. Every spell, every transformation, is just a metaphor wearing a cloak. So yeah, the magic here is not just magical. It's deeply, painfully personal. In Howl's Moving
Castle, Howl is not just dramatic for the memes' sake; he has actual emotional conflict to deal with. Every time he turns into that giant bird thing, it's not a flex. It's fear. Of war, of love, of vulnerability. And that hair color meltdown? Iconic, sure. But also? That's a breakdown, not just bad dye day drama. Howl's magic is a straight shot to his emotions:
messy, unstable, and way too real. Meanwhile, Sophie's curse doesn't just turn her into an old lady; it reflects how she sees herself. When she sees herself. Wh
and realizing she's always had power, not magical, but emotional. Moreover, the castle? It's basically Howl in architectural form. A chaotic, moving pile of compartments and confusing, just like the man himself. So when Sophie starts cleaning it up,
she's not just playing house. She's really helping him piece himself back together. One bacon breakfast at a time. In Howl's Moving Castle, magic doesn't fix the problem. Every magical moment, is tied to emotion. Sophie doesn't fix the problem. Every magical moment, is tied to emotion. Sophie doesn't fix the problem.
war backdrop mirrors the characters' internal chaos. Howl keeps running from it, just like he runs from his feelings. Until he can't anymore. The castle from Howl's actual, still-beating heart in her hand. Like, yeah, we all love a grand romantic gesture, but
that's on a completely next level. And when she returns it to him, gently, lovingly, he wakes up. Not just from some fairy-tale nap, but from the years of hiding he's endured. That's trust. That's "I see all of you, and I'm not afraid." That's magic doing what it's always done in this movie: showing us what love actually looks like. So yeah,
Howl's Moving Castle is full of witches, magic spells, and walking castles. But more than that, it's about emotions. It's about truth. It reveals to us
what people are too afraid to say out loud. And when the characters finally start telling the truth to themselves and to each other, the real magic happens. So the next time someone says Howl's Moving Castle is just a 'kids' movie,' you show them the feather monster, the fire demon with a heart, and the girl whose age changes with her confidence.
Then you ask them when the last time their emotions did that was. Go ahead. We'll wait. Howl's Moving Castle is currently available to watch on Netflix. Jump to ratings and reviewsAn alternative cover edition for this ISBN can be found hereSophie has the great misfortune of being the eldest of three daughters, destined to fail miserably should she
ever leave home to seek her fate. But when she unwittingly attracts the ire of the Witch of the Waste, Sophie finds herself under a horrid spell that transforms her into an old lady. Her only chance at breaking it lies in the ever-moving castle in the hills: the Wizard Howl's castle. To untangle the enchantment, Sophie must handle the heartless Howl,
strike a bargain with a fire demon, and meet the Witch of the Waste head-on. Along the way, she discovers that there's far more to Howl—and herself—than first meets the eye. Genres Fantasy Young Adult Fiction Romance Middle Grade Magic Classics 21069 people are currently reading 452381 people want to read Diana Wynne Jones was a celebrated
British writer best known for her inventive and influential works of fantasy for children and young adults. Her stories often combined magical worlds with science fiction elements, parallel universes, and a sharp sense of humor. Among her most beloved books are Howl's Moving Castle, the Chrestomanci series, The Dalemark Quartet, Dark Lord of
Derkholm, and the satirical The Tough Guide to Fantasyland. Her work gained renewed attention and readership with the popularity of the Harry Potter series, to which her books have frequently been compared. Admired by authors such as Neil Gaiman, Philip Pullman, and J.K. Rowling, Jones was a major influence on the landscape of modern
fantasy. She received numerous accolades throughout her career, including the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, two Mythopoeic Awards, the Karl Edward Wagner Award, and the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement. In 2004, Howl's Moving Castle was adapted into an accolained animated film by Hayao Miyazaki, further expanding her global
audience. Jones studied at Oxford, where she attended lectures by both C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. She began writing professionally in the 1960s and remained active until her death in 2011. Her final novel, The Islands of Chaldea, was completed posthumously by her sister Ursula Jones. Displaying 1 - 30 of 37,010 reviews January 14, 2024 Honestly
what made me want to read this book was the movie. *gasp* I know, I know shouldn't do that. The movie was good (I am a fan of Hayo Miyazaki's films) and I wasn't disappointed in the book. As always much of the book wasn't put into the movie, but it was understandable because I imagine it would be hard to piece together a movie with all the
components this story has. To really grasp and understand the book I would suggest that it be read twice I think. Since I did watch the movie I wasn't as shocked at things, but I was so impressed about how the author did an impeccable job
of piecing things together to get a wham-bam of an ending.Ok quick summary: Our main character is Sophie. She is the oldest of three girls and works in a hat shop. Things change when the Witch of the Waste (evil bad women) puts a spell on her that makes her old. She meets the infamous wizard Howl (great character) and it takes off from there.
Make sure to pay attention to ALL DETAILS to get the ending. (Sorry if the review isn't that great. It's the first time I'm trying something like this, so I'll apologize now for all the confusion I may have caused, and the errors in the review.)2024 update: this story holds up so well, years later2024 books-i-own books-made-into-movies October 3, 2024I
read this to my daughter, Celyn (10 at the time), who is too disabled to read books by herself. I had seen some of the anime film version years ago but remembered basically nothing of it. I found the whole thing original and refreshing. The point of view character (Sophie) is engaging and no-nonsense with a very capable can-do attitude. The story
moves along at a good pace and the whole moving castle / multiple doors thing is a great idea and used well. The Welsh connection is well-played, and the continuing reveals keep everything interesting. My only complaint is that the end seemed rather tortured with so many story-lines converging in ways that felt rather unsatisfying / hard to believe.
The Miss Angorian part, for example, seemed to come out of left-field and made very little sense to me. If I were a touch harsher then that ending would pull this down to a 4*. But Celyn loved it. I enjoyed reading it. And I'm in a good mood. So 5*!I can see why it's a classic, and if you have a 10 year old, point them at it! We may well pursue the
author's other works. Edit: We've now finished the trilogy! Join my Patreon Join my 3-emails-a-year newsletter #prizes... November 9, 2021 Buddy reading this with Howl's Moving Castle fans helped me get more pumped up for the story. I enjoyed the whimsical atmosphere, the simple charm of the protagonist, and the quirkiness of Howl. As I got to the
second half of the book though, it was hard to maintain interest due to not much happening. I think if it weren't for me projecting the Miyazaki characters onto the text, I'm not sure if I would enjoy the book as much by itself. That being said, if there were more romance, I would have been more shamelessly into this regardless of plot! March 15, 2019I
came in expecting a novelization of the movie (one of my favorites), but what I got was even better. Good news: The atmosphere and characterization is extremely similar to the Studio Ghibli film. I absolutely loved practical, stubborn Sophie and vain, dramatic Howl as well as the overall concept of the story. Those were the reasons I wanted to read
the book in the first place, and luckily it delivered. The book is simply more. We get more insight into Sophie and Howl's backstories and strong personalities, more time in different worlds, more that completely
understand fantasy worlds and how they work, I loved it. Since there were so many factors introduced throughout this novel, the ending felt a little rushed. I loved it just the same! The movie is a great movie, and the book was a great book. They are two very different experiences, but work perfectly hand-in-hand. I would recommend it to all fans of
the movie and YA fantasy!June 5, 2021There is, of course, a wonderful anime about this book, with the same title. But as is true of many, many books and movies, I found the experience of reading to be very different from that of viewing. In my opinion, any movie based on a book is really a movie about one reader's reaction and interpretation of a
book. In this case, it's an enjoyable one, but I felt that it missed many of the nuances of the story that made it such a great read. I've yet to read a book by Diana Wynne Jones that did not enchant me. But among her books, this one is special to me. Every character is engaging. The world and situation is unique. There is a thoughtful thread that runs
through the story about how we see ourselves and how we see others. Appearances can be deceiving, and not just to people outside ourselves. There are magics here that are both gentle and profound. Definitely a book that can be enjoyed more than once. July 20, 2025'Doors are very powerful things. Things are different on either side of them. 'If the
whimsy for a magical adventure oozing with charm and full of unforgettable characters ever strikes you, might I direct your attention to the Diana Wynne Jones' endlessly entertaining Howl's Moving Castle. It is a story where assumptions are tested and often overturned and the characters are full of as much nuance as they are personality, making for
an engaging read that will keep you on your toes. Sure, there is the Miyazaki film adaptation, but the two are different enough to each stand on their own and this novel is such an fun-filled event I stayed up far too late to finish the book but do not regret yawning my way through the following workday. Howl's Moving Castle is a quirkily endearing
coming-of-age story in a fanciful realm of magic and mystery that explores ideas of freedom, family and that appearances can be deceiving. The film adaptation of Howl's Moving Castle by Studio GhibliWhat really sticks this story straight into the readers heart are the characters that populate the magical realm of Ingary. Jones creates a world that is
adjacent to our own, with characters such as Howl's sister Megan still residing there (her frustration with her brother often hinging on not knowing he is in fact a magic user in Ingary instead of pursuing a job). The story follows Sophie, the oldest of three sisters and 'it is quite a misfortune to be born the eldest of the three. Everyone knows you are
the one who will fail first, and worst.' A run-in with the Witch of the Waste leaves her cursed to have the body of a frail, elderly woman, but Sophie is a fiery and determined woman who seeks an end of her curse and forces herself into the employment of Howl, a wizard with a dangerous reputation who roams the countryside in...you guessed it, a giant
moving castle. 'My shining dishonesty will be the salvation of me. 'Howl is an absolute delight as a character, and also rather insufferable (which is half the fun). Appearing at first to be a villain, the more we learn about Howl the more endearing and completely aggravating he is. To the reader and especially Sophie. Prone to tantrums (he trashes the
castle over a bad hair dyeing), being overdramatic ('I'm going to bed, where I may die,' he says of a minor cold), and reckless womanizing that leaves behind a string of broken hearts, Howl is 'fickle, careless, selfish, and hysterical,' says Sophie. He is a 'slitherer-outer,' with his cowardly side keeping him from action, yet there is another side of him
that makes him shockingly likable. Jones jokes in interviews that when girls say they are in love with Howl she says 'Howl would be one of the most dreadful husbands one could possibly imagine.' But his duality gives him charm and a weight as
a character that is rather infectious, and, yo, this dude is supposed to be HOT so I get it. 'Half the time I think he's been to someone. Then I think he's kind just when it suits him—only then I find out he undercharges poor people. 'Howl is a perfect
representation of how appearances can often be deceiving in this novel, and Jones writes really excellent gray characters that were fairly nontypical for the children's fantasy novel genre in 1986 when it was released, which is part (along with the great humor for sure) of what makes this just as engaging for an adult to read. Sophie looks old and frail,
but is determined, the fire demon Calcifer looks 'extraordinarily evil' but he is an anxious and charming, even the castle seems like a massive evil building but is actually just Howl's home bewitched to be able to move about without ever actually leaving. This latter example plays into another theme where the character's homes tend to represent
them, Howl's being a wandering sort that is actually all just smoke and mirrors or the Witch living in the middle of nowhere as a representation for her isolation from everyone. 'A heart's a heavy burden. 'Every character seems simple but are always hiding a tangled web of motivations beneath the surface. Howl and the Witch also tend to take
advantage of their appearances in order to get what they want. This contrasts well with Sophie, who is prone to brash action without thinking. The catch in the book, however, is that one's identity often becomes a sort of imprisonment to them. Destructive patterns get them into trouble, Howl's good looks play havoc on his relationships and Sophie's
lack of self-esteem is a major obstacle for her to overcome throughout the course of the book. This also plays into overcoming expectations, such as the curse placed on Howl using a John Donne poem about impossible tasks. The ultimate task, to find a 'woman true and fair,' does smack of some misogyny that Jones delights in overturning, but
overturning and subversion is the name of the game here. This is a world where nothing is impossible, and if we let ourselves be stopped simply by expectations, what are we missing in life? In what ways are we self-sabatoging?It is impossible to not think of the Miyazaki version of this book when, to be fair, it is what lead me to reading Jones' original
Being loosely based on the book and taking it in different directions, I feel the two are easily enjoyed separate from each other and I never feel compelled to "prefer" one or the other. I do enjoy how the movie takes a much greater anti-war in his personal life. He did not
attend the Academy Awards when his film Spirited Away won an Oscar for Best Animated Feature and told the LA Times 'The reason I wasn't here for the Academy Award was because I didn't want to visit a country that was bombing Iraq.' Diana Wynne Jones enjoyed the film, saying 'I was thrown back in my seat with amazement' (there is a good
to put down. It is a wonderful statement about moving away from our defensiveness and out of the prisons of the self-impose or have assumed of us based on appearances. This is a story where the only thing to expect is the unexpected and it makes for a fun and often very funny ride. Definitely would recommend.4.5/5'I think we ought
to live happily ever after.'childhood classics childrens-books fantasyMelissa V Dog/Wolf Lover V MartinMay 5, 2018I have to say I love Hayao Miyazaki's movie better because come on, it's an awesome movie. (Although, Spirited Away is my favorite movie) There were some differences in the book but the movie was based off the book and it's not
going to be the same. All that matters is they both were awesome and the author loved the movie too. I absolutely love fantasy worlds that are way out there. Happy Reading! Mel March 4, 2024Lo~ovin' you, is easy 'cause you're beautiful (Loving You - Minnie Riperton). I'll admit that a lot more decision making went into starting this book than most
of the stuff I read. I was doing some serious research, watching the movie, a bunch of "behind-the-scenes" stuff on YouTube, and I even had the soundtrack on repeat for several days. Then I decided... yeah, I should probably read the book. It is the original after all. Though, it's kind of scary, you know? Reading a book from so long ago. I mean, I'm
aware that 1986 isn't that long ago, but I've had bad experiences with reading older fiction before. Dated language, dated sentiments, the usual. But I know this version is rather beloved, so I figured I have to at least give it a fair chance. In fact, I went into this being so sure that something from above would smite me if I hated it, that I was seriously
prepared to pretend to love it the same way I did with Lorde's "Solar Power." Well, color me surprised at how much I actually liked this. I was blindsided, really. The thing is, this book had an uphill battle from the jump simply because of how fully enticed I was by the movie. And it's not just the bigger romantic focus and the powerful anti-war
message, I think I'm just really easily moved by pretty animation and beautiful music. It's a hard feeling to capture on a page. Thankfully, after a couple chapters getting used to it, I came to appreciate and really enjoy this book for what it is. It doesn't sound like it, but I swear I did! It was surprisingly easy to fall into step with the narrative and the
characters were as charming as their movie counterparts (albeit with a few key differences, but after reading the source material it's like... no, the story is just like that. It's quirky! Is it obvious that I love,
love, love Ghibli movies? Because I really do. I love Studio Ghibli movies! And not just for the aesthetic! Whenever things feel like they're happening too much, every movie of theirs feels like an exaltation of a breath I didn't know I was holding. Now that I've consumed all available Howl's Moving Castle media (to the point where I'm probably Howl's
Moving Castle'd out), I think I can safely say that I slightly prefer the movie adaption. Big surprise, I know. I like both, but I think I just like Howl's portrayal more in the animated adaption. Big surprise, I know. I like both, but I think I just like Howl's portrayal more in the animated adaption. Big surprise, I know. I like both, but I think I just like Howl's portrayal more in the animated adaption. Big surprise, I know. I like both, but I think I just like Howl's portrayal more in the animated adaption. Big surprise, I know I like both, but I slightly prefer the movie adaption. Big surprise, I know I like both, but I think I just like Howl's portrayal more in the animated adaption adaption adaption. Big surprise, I know I like both, but I slightly prefer the movie adaption ad
and you could pretty much open it up to any page and he'd be doing the same old Howl!" Sorry, but... maybe I don't want the same old Howl! I want movie Howl! Ahhh, I know what it is.
Book Howl is that one guy. The sitcom husband, the dude who you can tell doesn't actually want a girlfriend or a partner, not really. At the end of the day, what they really want is a mommy. And while there's no doubt that the book certainly has more world-building and goes more into the details of the "who-what-when-where and why," I think that
this tale is more than sufficiently told through the movie adaption. To the point where I'd argue that it's sometimes improved upon. For example, through the film, implying that it was more of a metaphor for her resignation in life, and we get to see
the curse break every time she feels passion and love for Howl, showing that she had the power to break it within herself the whole time. Or how, on the flip-side, after falling in love with Sophie, without all the glam and
glamour. I'm more than happy with metaphors, I don't need literal, in-universe, explanations for the these things. Anyway, woah, lots of comparison talk, huh? I feel like I have to keep saying it... but don't worry, like I said, I liked this book. Quite a bit actually, it's different but still good! Even if I'm more partial to the movie adaption, the book version
managed to muster up more than enough magic and whimsy to keep me enraptured. "Don't you think I did any of me myself, then?" Howl asked. "Put in just a few touches of my own?"" A few, and those not altogether to my liking. "fantasy middle-grade pretty-cover June 26, 2010 For some reason I've been reading a lot of really great books lately. I feel
and the world was utterly fascinating. If you've watched the movie then you needn't worry about being spoiled of the book or ending. They are actually nothing alike. The movie, whilst I really enjoyed it, to the original premise and basic character traits and made its own story from there. Sophie is hilarious. She almost makes me want to be an old lady
just so I can be cantankerous and boss people around. Howl is funny and sweet as the brilliant yet vain, thoughtless, mysterious wizard. The whole story is great and I highly, highly recommend it.favorites kat-s-book-reviews leaves-awesomeness-behindMay 23, 2020The first time I read this book was on a tiny phone screen in the scattered quiet
minutes of a night shifts week. I loved it so much - I thought maybe partially because of sleep deprivation brain fuzziness that can give a good book the shimmer of that happy giddy feeling. But now I reread it with brain well-rested — and the magic still holds. Sophie, the eldest of three sisters and therefore *clearly* doomed to failure, is an old soul
Enough of the old soul that, after unwittingly upsetting the Witch of the Waste, she is perfectly fine unexpectedly finding herself turned into a crone. And then she makes her way to Howl's Moving Castle, "far too tall for its height and not a very regular shape", makes a questionable alliance with the trapped fire demon Calcifer (a fallen star) who's
eager to be let out of its contract with Howl, and sensibly gets the place in the order it so desperately needed. "Annoyed?" said Sophie. "Why should I be annoyed? Someone only filled the castle with rotten aspic, and deafened everyone in Porthaven, and scared Calcifer to a cinder, and broke a few hundred hearts. Why should that annoy me?" Sophie.
is quite mistrustful of her new employer — the wizard Howl (also sometimes known as Howell Jenkins, PhD and supposed good-for-nothing disgrace for the family), the rumored devourer of young girls' hearts; fickle, vain and mercurial — and kind to those in need of assistance, and prone to overcharging the King for his magic spells while
undercharging the commoners. He can be quite exasperating, yes he can. "Well, he's fickle, careless, selfish, and hysterical," she said. "Half the time I think he doesn't care what happens to anyone as long as he's all right—but then I find out he
undercharges poor people. I don't know, Your Majesty. He's a mess." Or maybe it's just that Sophie tends to judge too quickly sometimes. Maybe there is more to the world than meets the eye. Maybe there are fallen stars and stolen
hearts and traveling scarecrows and cowards that are brave and slither-outers who are honest and seeming shallowness that has new startling depths, and annoyance that grows into affection. It is unexpected ways. It sure spoke to this adult over here. Its humor is kinddren's book? I don't know. It's simple and sweet and yet can be complex in unexpected ways. It sure spoke to this adult over here. Its humor is kinddren's book? I don't know it's simple and sweet and yet can be complex in unexpected ways. It sure spoke to this adult over here. Its humor is kinddren's book? I don't know it's simple and sweet and yet can be complex in unexpected ways. It sure spoke to this adult over here. Its humor is kinddren's book? I don't know it's simple and sweet and yet can be complex in unexpected ways. It sure spoke to this adult over here. Its humor is kinddren's book? I don't know it's simple and sweet and yet can be complex in unexpected ways.
but at times also a bit quirky. It delightfully turns familiar tropes upside down and makes me happily smile again. It makes my inner cynic slink away in shame. I love it. 5 (falling) stars.——————Oh yeah, and I must be that one person who never saw that Studio Ghibli film. 2016-reads 2020-reads favorites March 25, 2023I have been
nothing for any of them, though I think Howl was the most wonderfully developed of the lot. They were all a little bit "I'm only here for this one bit then I'll leave", which is often the case with background characters but not the main, plot-fuelling ones. And the plot: I did enjoy it to some extent but I got lost a few times and wasn't really sure why
certain things were happening. I think she tried to cram in so many wonderful things that often happen in to fantasy books in to just this one that it slightly ripped at the seams. The world was a lovely thing to be introduced to, but I can't get over my disappointment in the castle. No spoilers, but I was expecting a lot more than what I felt we were
given, particular since the thing is in the title. It was rather clever, but not what I wanted personally. However, the world still felt quite small despite the various places visited. There didn't seem enough given to link all the places together and they invariably ended up becoming just the one place after a while. Despite not quite enjoying this particular since the various places visited.
book, I do want to read everything else Diana has written, because you can clearly see her amazing imagination and clever storytelling prowess from this book. I think the fact it was a children's book really let it down.2016 bairns bookshelf April 14, 2020Howl's Moving Castle, for whatever reason, totally failed to engage me the first time I read it
several years ago, but it worked so much better the second time around. I really felt for Sophie, the main character, who feels so timid, trapped and hopeless that when she's (unfairly) hit with a curse that turns her from a young woman into an old crone, it actually frees her in more ways than one. She leaves her dead-end job in the village and, for
lack of a better option, moves herself (without bothering to ask for permission) into the oddly mobile castle of the Wizard Howl, where magic and cobwebs fill the air. Obviously the young wizard needs a housekeeper, after all. The fire demon in the castle's fireplace mysteriously challenges Sophie to break "the contract" between himself and Howl, and
she hopes that maybe Howl and the demon can help break the curse on her as well. The nature and use of magic in this story were quite creative. As a former English major, I really enjoyed how John Donne's poem "Song" ("Go and catch a falling star") was worked into the story. The plot was occasionally confusing, and I wished some things had been
explained a little better. I also thought that the wrap-up at the end was a bit too hasty. But overall it was a charming and fun read, and it gets bonus points for an unusually high degree of originality. Upping my rating from 3 stars to an enthusiastic 4. Original review: On paper I should love this book, but it just didn't grab me when I tried to read it
simply, this story was one of the most joyful reading experiences I've ever had ©The characters, although morally ambiguous at times, were full of life, wit, and (of course) magic. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about all of them, but Calcifer was my very favorite!
like the book came alive as I read, as if I - like Sophie - spoke life into it. This is a story that I can't wait to re-read for many years to come. It is a true modern classic that I'm certain will stand the test of time. And that ending... perfection []] * [] anuary 19, 2025A melodramatic blond man has a mobile home and adopts strays, including but not limited to
orphans and bewitched crabby young women. There's a lot of hobbling and throwing oneself onto a settee in despair, but Howl's gonna Howl. Reading this was not unlike settling into an overstuffed chair with a warm bowl of your favorite soup, comfort-wise, and all the shouting really starts to feel more boisterous than angry pretty
shooketh.) I loved everything about this book, from the way that the simplistic writing made me feel immersed in the magic to the characters (but especially the characters. Can I marry Howl? Although, I feel like that will interfere with my ship because you knOW I SHIP IT LIKE CRAZY WITH HOWL ALWAYS BEING ADORABLY MELODRAMATIC AND
SOPHIE BEING SO MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE AAAAHHH SOPHIE X HOWL OTP OTP OT-)*ahem*(sorry you had to read that)But seriously. These two are couple goals:aaagaghg stop too cute too cute too cute too cute too cute I really loved the characters' dynamic and the way that they were like a family (I'm sorry I'm soft for that trope I can't help it), and also
the way that appearances were portrayed in this book overall. And while I've never watched the Studio Ghibli version (I promise that I'm remedying that VERY SOON), I feel like I'm obsessed probably from the fanart intake, and experienced a bit of nostalgia while reading this. It was probably just the longing to live in this world, though. I. JUST.
and a world where magic—gifts and curses, fairies and witches—are not just real, but taken for granted. The people around them manage to have almost tediously normal lives. Our protagonist, Sophie Hatter, is the eldest of three sisters, so she knows her youngest sister will have luck and adventure while she herself will have a dull and obscure
existence, probably as an old maid tending her father's hat shop and is pursued by a handsome youth she has never seen before. Irrationally frightened, Sophie flees the young man's advances, only to irritate a mysterious old woman—and suddenly Sophie
herself is transformed into an infirm old hag. Unable to explain her metamorphosis and afraid to approach her family in this altered form, Sophie decides to leave town in pursuit of the one person who can help her: the great wizard Howl, whose moving castle recently appeared as an ominous blot on the horizon. Why ominous? Because Howl is said to
kidnap beautiful girls and eat their hearts, or perhaps their souls. No longer young and never (to herself, at least) beautiful, Sophie reasons she has nothing to fear. SettingJones sets the stage early on, as much with her narration as with her description. The narrator is an arch observer in the tradition of Jane Austen and L.M. Montgomery, and the
world she describes could be any rural town and surrounding countryside in the eighteenth or nineteenth century—with the small addition of magic. Magic here is a respectable enough line of work, usually, but a powerful witch or wizard is still feared. Propriety is of utmost concern in the land of Ingary. Out-of-towners are not trusted, and the wizard
Howl, whom no one in the village of Market Chipping has ever (as far as they know) laid eyes on, is particularly suspicious due to his mode of travel and the scandalous rumors that run before him. Howl's Castle itself, where most of the book takes place, is a marvel of imagination, but I will say no more. It's not a plot spoiler per se, but I don't want to
ruin anyone else's delighted surprise at the thing's operations and abilities. PlotOnce installed as the moving Castle's housekeeper, Sophie befriends Calcifer she gathers hints of a terrible secret about Howl. She spends most of the book trying to piece together the nature of her own
curse, and the secret that Calcifer cannot fully reveal. At first Howl, a handsome but rather foppish young man, appears to enjoy a carefree existence of fine clothes, using magic for fun, breaking the heart of every girl he meets, and shirking the responsibilities that come with his accomplished wizard status. He repeatedly clashes with this apparently and shirking the responsibilities that come with his accomplished wizard status.
random old lady who barged into his house demanding a job, but as he gets to know her, he begins to suspect she might not be so random at all... Meanwhile, the King's younger brother is missing, as is one of Howl's high-ranking wizard colleagues, and a powerful being from Howl's past is scheming to destroy him, but if I elaborate on any of this, it
will ruin the fun. CharactersIf you were starting to think that all YA heroines are either brassy Amazon warrior princesses or sniveling Bella Swans, allow Sophie Hatter to break you out of your funk. Sophie starts out as a painfully timid girl who wears only plain, grey dresses and rarely ventures outside the family hat shop. She is so convinced of her
own plainness that when a handsome stranger approaches her on May Day, she assumes the young man is mocking her and runs away. I think a lot of us can relate to this. As an old lady, Sophie takes about twenty levels in chutzpah. She is assertive, no-nonsense, and occasionally cantankerous, but never truly unkind. She becomes the only being in
the universe who can make Howl Pendragon obey. For Howl is a flighty, easily-frightened creature, who has built a fearsome reputation for himself in the hope of avoiding conflict. He is the most accomplished wizard in the land—since Suliman disappeared, at any rate—but he shirks the responsibilities that must inevitably come with that status. He
craves love, but flits from one girl to the next with no intention of settling down anytime soon. He is also vain, compulsively dying his hair, only wearing the finest (re: flashiest) clothes, and pitching epic tantrums when his beauty regimen is disturbed (although he might really be upset about something else entirely). But don't let the temperamental
glam rock exterior fool you. Howl is one of the very cleverest—and kindest, and gentlest—men you will ever meet in YA, and a lot of his theatrics are cover for his dastardly, altruistic, foolhardy plans...if you want a book boyfriend, look no further! Then there's Calcifer—a snide, secretive little lump of talking flame in a fireplace, who has a hilariously
close-but-vitriolic friendship with Howl. I can't say much more about Calcifer without giving the whole thing away. The other characters: Lettie, Sophie's kindly stepmother A sentient Scarecrow who follows Sophie around An enchanted dog. Michael, Howl's
fifteen-year-old apprentice• The King of Ingary• Mrs. Pentstemmon, the great witch who trained Suliman and Howl• Megan, Howl's disapproving sister (who lives in Wales. Howl comes from our world!)• Neil and Mari, Howl's disapproving sister (who lives in Wales. Howl comes from our world!)• Neil and Mari, Howl's disapproving sister (who lives in Wales. Howl comes from our world!)• Neil and Mari, Howl's nephew and little niece• Miss Angorian, Neil's pretty teacher on whom Howl has a crush• The Witch of the Waste, a sinister
and powerful being who makes her home on the edge of IngaryAll the supporting characters are engaging. One gets the impression that they are all fully formed characters, but we don't see all the facets of their personalities because this isn't their story. Content AdvisoryViolence here is mild and mostly symbolic. During the final battle with the
Witch of the Waste, Howl's heart is torn from his chest and Sophie, who can "talk life into things", has to coax it back inside his body, thus bringing him back to life. Howl makes a lot of "conquests" among the local girls, but it is never stated how far he has gotten, if you will, with any of these conquests. Given that Howl is really a nice young man, and
that Ingarians are well-brought-up sort of people, he has probably not sullied anyone's virtue or reputation. How goes back to Wales to attend a rugby event, at which he so drunk that he is unable to properly climb into bed upon returning to the Castle. Calcifer is called a fire demon—although nothing about him suggests the diabolical. There is no
harsh language. The Movie A lot of people only know about this book because of Hayao Miyazaki's 2004 anime film adaptation, which was well-received by critics and audiences alike. Before I say anything more, I should note that this is the only anime I have ever watched all the way through. I know nothing about the conventions of the genre. That
said, I thought the movie was a beautiful piece of visual art, with stunning panoramic shots (we forget how gorgeous well-done 2-D animation can be), lovely music, and high-quality voice acting. There's only one problem: it has almost no connection to the book it's supposedly based on. Granted, there is a shy young hatter named Sophie who is cursed
into the form of a crone. There is a dashing young wizard named Howl who lives in a castle that moves. There is a snarky fire demon named Calcifer and Old! Sophie—are far off-base. Young! Sophie is sweet and mild-mannered. Howl has one or two
memorable outbursts, but is far more subdued than the drama king of the novel. The Witch of the waste turns out to be mostly harmless, and Suliman is an older woman—in the book he is a strapping fellow, only a few years older than Howl. Also, movie! Sophie is brunette. She is drawn with long braids and a hat, so maybe they changed her red hair
brown so she wouldn't be mistaken for Anne Shirley, a hugely popular character in Japan. But then the movie keeps Howl's accidental red hair tantrum, which is meaningless unless Sophie—the shy girl who fled his advances on May Day, and whom he strongly suspects by now is one and the same as his elderly housekeeper—is a redhead. But these
are minor quibbles. Miyazaki completely changed the emphasis and conflict of the story. Drawing on the Iraq War, the pacifist Miyazaki extracted a hint from the book (literally one sentence long) about a war between Ingary and turned it into the main plot. The King wants Howl to fly a bomber or something, but Howl, nowledge and the main plot.
transformed from a vain and lazy guy into a noble conscientious objector, would rather turn himself into a man-sized black bird and attack both sides' fighter planes in the first place is jarring). Then there's a subplot about how it gets harder every time for him to turn back from bird to man. I respect Miyazaki's antiwar
beliefs, and of course, as the director of the film, he has the right to take the story in whatever direction he wants. But I personally wish he had expressed them in a different film. Howl's Moving Castle isn't about war any more than Mansfield Park is about slavery—another case of one sentence of the book devouring the plot of the movie. (The MP
movie also had a lot of other problems, but that's a story for another review). War is awful, slavery is evil, and happy romances about shy girls in grey dresses and handsome young men (who may or may not be wizards) should be allowed to remain happy. But that's my opinion. Yours may be entirely different. Conclusion treat for everybody ages 10
and up—and younger as a family read-aloud—Howl's Moving Castle delivers adventure, magic, mystery, romance, and humor in a literate, subtly detailed style. It's a timeless story that begs to be reread, and will surely join The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, The Chronicles of Narnia, A Wrinkle in Time, and The Dark is Rising series as classics of the
genre. There are two indirect sequels that feature Howl and Sophie, though they focus on new main characters and different settings. The first is Castle in the Air, an Arabian Nights-style adventure that might partly be a stealth parody of Disney's Aladdin. The second is House of Many Ways, which read like a first draft (albeit an intriguing first draft
from a deft and seasoned writer) to me, but a lot of other people enjoyed it. Also recommended: • The Anne of Green Gables series by L.M. Montgomery—not a fantasy, but Anne and Sophie have much in common • The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis—a similar mix of fairytale tropes, space/time-bending adventures, and down-to-earth protagonists
with a witty narrator. A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket—also features a witty narrator, a mock nineteenth-century feel, and delightful poetry quoting and literary references. The Queen's Thief series by Megan Whalen Turner. Not superficially similar, but Howl and Eugenides are soul brothers. These books are violent and
complicated. Teens and up. • The Crown & Court duology by Sherwood Smith. Also features a courtly, long-haired hero, a redheaded spitfire of a heroine, a touch of earthy magic, and an industrial truckload of snark. • The Tiffany Aching series by Terry Pratchett. Similar fairytale parody with a spunky heroine and very English sense of humor. These
books contain some off-color humor. Teens and up. The Bartimaeus Sequence by Jonathan Stroud. A much darker—although similarly humorous—look at a human and magical-being partnership like that of Howl and Calcifer. These books contain both violence and off-color humor, and are also extremely long. Teens and up. The Books of Bayern by
Shannon Hale. The tone of these books is more serious than HMC, and the plots are more straightforward—but they share strong, feminine heroines and organic magic. These books is more serious than HMC, and the plots are more straightforward—but they share strong, feminine heroines and organic magic. These books is more serious than HMC, and the plots are more straightforward—but they share strong, feminine heroines and organic magic.
   Sharon Shinn. Similar faux-English feel and small-town courtships with a hint of deception and magic. Some mature issues including rape, murder, and various forms of child abuse are referenced, though never seen. Teens and up.• Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine. A Cinderella story of similarly blithe heart and subtle snark.a-fine-roman
all-ages-admitted blond-haired-hero July 19, 2025Ahhhh, the wizard Howl... I mean THE WIZARD HOWL.. I mean THE WIZARD HOWL.. I have never read it as a kid, but I just loved it as an adult. I also happened to love Diana Wynne Jones's writing style: simple, powerful &
competent, without fuss and there is definitely magic there, even though it not obvious at first sight (just like her heroine, Sophie). "In the land of Ingary where such things as seven-league boots and cloaks of invisibility really exist, it is guite a misfortune to be born the eldest of the three. Everyone knows you are the one who will fail first, and worst, if
the three of you set out to seek your fortunes." Sophie Hatter, the heroine of this book, happens to be the eldest of three girls so she does not expect much out of life. She is working with her stepmother in the family hat shop and has no idea of the powerful magic that she possesses, namely, to talk inanimate objects into life or to give them strong
magical attributes at least. One day, the Witch of the Waste enters her shop and lays a powerful curse on her turning her into a crone. An extra downside is that she cannot tell anyone about it. Sophie, instead of getting desperate, decides to leave her family behind and finally ends up in the infamous wizard Howl's moving castle as the housekeeper
cum-cleaning-lady despite her misgivings about Howl's character. Once in the castle (the door of which is a portal to 4 different places), she makes a deal with Howl's fire demon, Calcifer: he lifts the curse off her in case she manages to break the magical contract between him and the wizard...I think that Sophie is one of my favourite heroines. She is
such a wonderful character: nice, competent and calm, yet she is amazingly strong-minded and courageous. The fact that from a young woman she gets turned into an old woman, does not seem to faze her, on the contrary! The disguise seems to set free the inhibitions she have had and it is wonderful and hilarious to see, how she mercilessly bosses
around Howl, his apprentice Michael and even the fire demon. So in a way Howl is right when he says to her: "You're a dreadfully nosy, horribly bossy, appallingly clean old woman. Control yourself. You're victimizing us all." And there is -of course- Howl himself. He is the character who would probably drive you mad in real life, but delights your heart
& soul in print (or on screen). He is Sophie's opposite: showy, fussy, an unparalleled drama queen who spends hours in the bathroom every day to groom himself for his numerous courtships and shirks his responsibilities (he makes Michael to spread the vicious rumour that he sucks young girls' souls to avoid work & and so that he can go about
courting his ever-changing paramours). And when he gets a cold... :)"I feel ill," he announced. "I'm going to bed, where I may die." He tottered piteously to the stairs. "Bury me beside Mrs. Pentstemmon," he croaked as he went up then to bed." And just when you think his character cannot get any worse, you realise that behind all those shows and
tantrums he cares deeply for Sophie all the time He cures her old-age ailments, also tries to lift off her curse in secret, calls her "Sophie dear" and knows her inside out. Their relationship is a bit like that of Beatrice and Benedict from Much Ado About Nothing. The get on each other should be time He curse in secret, calls her "Sophie dear" and knows her inside out. Their relationship is a bit like that of Beatrice and Benedict from Much Ado About Nothing. The get on each other should be the curse in secret, calls her "Sophie dear" and knows her inside out. Their relationship is a bit like that of Beatrice and Benedict from Much Ado About Nothing.
seem to enjoy all this immensely. "I think we ought to live happily ever after," and she thought he meant it. Sophie knew that living happily ever after with Howl would be a good deal more hair-raising," added Howl. "And you'll exploit me," Sophie said." And
then you'll cut up all my suits to teach me."audiobook childrens-middle-grade fantasy August 7, 2023so whimsical i actually really enjoyed this. this book is perfect for end of summer when you're ready for fall but it's still really hot outside but also rainy (very specific i know). i was shocked at how different it is from the movie but i think it was done so
well and i just really unexpectedly enjoyed this idk. howl is boyfriendism frJune 2, 2020One of the best fantasies, and a clever mystery besides. Read it, for probably the 10th time, but this time I read it aloud to my 7yo. He loved it, though I did have to explain a few things. I would love a Calcifer of my own.2020: read this beautifully illustrated edition
to all three kids, who loved it. (Of course.) One of the best books of all time? Indeed. November 26, 20224.5 stars! This was a fun and magical young adult fantasy about family, courage, and learning who you are. How's Moving Castle follows Sophie, a hat maker who is transformed into an old lady by the Witch of the Waste. To break the spell she
makes a deal with a fire demon, has to deal with Howl, a heartless wizard and fight the Witch of the Waste. During her journey she learns more about herself and discovers that Howl is a nice person. This book was so good!! The world building was awesome, I loved learning about this unique world of witches, wizards and demons that the author
created. I was completely immersed in this intriguing world from the very beginning although the pacing in the middle was a little slow. The characters are so fun and complex. I love Sophie, she is tough, stubborn, nice, brave and helpful. I love Howl, he is funny, charming, sweet
and stubborn. I also really like Micheal, he is helpful, dependent, reliable and fun. I also really liked the side characters especially Calcifer and Sophie's sisters Martha and Lettie. The characters development was excellent, I loved watching Sophie grow into a strong and brave person. I also loved that she learned more about herself and her worth. I
loved the banter between Howl and Sophie. The ending was so good! I'm so glad it ended on a happy note! I recommend this book to anyone who loves young adult fantasy, fun characters and excellent world building. March 2, 2018Before Hayao Miyazaki made "Howl's Moving Castle" into a feature length animated film in 2006 (2004 if you saw it in
Japan), it was a book written by Diana Wynne Jones in 1986. Due to the inherent difficulties of creating an animated film, Miyazaki greatly abridged and adjusted the plot is extremely different in the novel-enough that the book and
movie become completely different viewing experiences. Anyway, that's all I'm going to say about the movie. On to the discussion of the book: Sophie lives "in the land of Ingary, where such things as seven-league boots and cloaks of invisibility exist." In other words, all of the traditional fairy tale stories are real. Not so bad, except that Sophie Hatter is
the eldest of three sisters, which everyone knows means Sophie is doomed to failure should she ever set out to seek her fortunes. Sophie is resigned to her fate--living obscurely, and less than successfully, working in the family hat shop. Except that this is not a traditional fairy tale and events soon intervene to set Sophie on a very unexpected course
indeed for an eldest daughter. It all starts in the hat shop after some interesting things begin to happen when Sophie talks to the hats she trims. Interesting enough to attract the attention of the Waste leaves Sophie cursed in the body of an old woman, she has no choice but to
go out and seek her fortune in hopes of breaking the curse (even if she is an eldest daughter). Along the way, Sophie comes upon a mysterious moving castle that has taken up in the hill's of Ingary. The castle belongs to Wizard Howl "who was known to amuse himselv by collection young girls and sucking the souls from them. Or some people said he
ate their hearts." Either way, he was not anyone Sophie expected to ever meet let alone move in with. Until she does. Adventure ensues as Sophie tries to break the curse and help Howl with his own uniquely magical problems. In terms of fantasy novels, "Howl's Moving Castle" is one of my favorites. The world Jones creates is fully realized without
ever getting boring or limiting the reader's imagination. The tone of her narrative voice. Although this novel is largely timeless, the prose has a charmingly Victorian tone-taking its time to arrive at the action, the better to familiarize
readers with the characters involved and show the readers just how fantastic they (and the story) really are. I also adore this story because it is romantic, thrilling, and completely absorbing. Even at 329 pages, the novel is far too short. Happily, Diana Wynne Jones follows up "Howl's Moving Castle" with "Castle in the Air" (1990) and a brand new book
featuring Sophie and Howl ("House of Many Ways") is due out in May of 2008. You can find this review and more on my blog Miss PrintMay 30, 2017I am so pleased to say I loved this book! This was exactly what I needed to read right now. My year thus far has been full of more serious books with heavy content, but this was a perfect balance of
fantastical and lighthearted. Sophie and her two sisters work in a hat shop with only their stepmother for company since the unfortunate death of their father. Being the eldest of three, she has accepted that she is destined for a life of utter mediocrity. When the infamous Witch of the Waste curses Sophie into the body of an elderly woman, she
accidentally finds herself in the middle of an adventure that is anything but mediocre. I just want to say that I do not usually enjoy Middle Grade Fantasy. There is normally an odd quality to the writing style of Middle Grade Fantasy. There is normally an odd quality to the writing style of Middle Grade Fantasy. There is normally an odd quality to the writing style of Middle Grade. It's crammed full of ridiculous scenarios that end up feeling like it's just a competition of who can be the weirdest. I can see why
others enjoy this, but it's generally not my style. Especially The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making. I just couldn't get into that book to save my life, so I generally stay away from this genre except on recommendation. BUT THIS! Cutest. Book. Ever. Sophie is such a delightful character. I loved watching her deal with the
craziness in this book! She's clever with a kind heart, and a wonderful role model for children. I also really enjoyed all of the secondary characters in this book, it was totally a cast of kooks. Calcifer and Howl had me laughing out loud, and even little Michael gave me a cackle now and again! In this case, the strange writing really played to the story's
advantage. It was just odd enough give me that whimsical, spellbound feeling. I would recommend this for people of all ages! It absolutely meets the goal it sets out to achieve. I am very excited to watch Miyazaki's movie adaption now that I've read the novel. Buddy read this with my girl Celeste! 5-star favorites year-2017 March 3, 2022 Rereading this
book was just as wonderful as experiencing it for the first time, if not even more so. While I've loved the Miyazaki movie for well over a decade, I only first read this book in 2017, though I dearly wish I had read it sooner. Wynne Jones is an absolute treasure, as I should have known from Neil Gaiman recommending her every chance he gets. Below is
the review I wrote in 2017, and I stand by everything I wrote then. I adore middle grade fantasy fiction. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe was the first book that ever made me cry, and I still get emotional when I reread it, The Phantom Tollbooth remains one of the funniest, cleverest books I've ever read, though I didn't read it until I was in my
twenties. A Wrinkle in Time changed my view of the world and helped me embrace myself for who I was and still am. The Little Prince gave me a lot of deep, philosophical fodder for discussion with my family. And Harry Potter remains one of my favorite series, and shall forever be. Always. Now I have a new book to add to my long list of middle grades.
favorites. Howl's Moving Castle is utterly delightful in every way, and I wish I had read it sooner. Sophie encourages her sisters to find their fortunes and sets out to be the best hatter she can be. But when her
hats become too popular, the Witch of the Waste barges into her store and turns poor Sophie's life completely upside down. But, by the end of the story, Sophie wouldn't have traded her altered life for anything. The characters in this tiny book are so well developed that they now feel like old friends. Calcifer is the cutest demon in the history of ever,
and I couldn't help but hear Billy Crystal's voice whenever he spoke. He was grouchy and sarcastic and a much bigger softie than he let on. Michael, the Wizard Howl's assistant, is a scatterbrained sweetheart. Howl himself is vain and lazy and self-absorbed and more honorable than he wants to be. He is also one of the biggest drama queens I've ever
come across in any fictional setting. And then there's Sophie, who was dealt a bad hand and managed to win the game anyway. It wasn't until she was cursed that Sophie grew into the person she always wanted to be, and proved herself to be invaluable to everyone in her life. I just want to say, middle grade books do a much better job with
love stories than YA books, in my opinion. The love story here was a slow burn, and both involved parties fought their feelings tooth and nail. But when those feelings tooth and movie differed on multiple plot points, which
surprised me. However, I now love the book just as much as I love the movie, you should read the book. You'll be in for a treat if you do.childrens-books comfort-reads fantasy Displaying 1 - 30 of 37,010 reviewsGet help and learn more about the
design. How's Moving Castle has the (mostly) lighthearted, simple narration of a chapter book for older kids and younger teenagers, which is why we're putting it in the children's lit genre. After all, when it was published it won honorable mentions for two prizes specifically given to example of children's lit genre. After all, when it was published it won honorable mentions for two prizes specifically given to example of children's lit genre.
Award, and the American Library Association (ALA) Award. It has also received a Best of the Best selection in Young Adult fiction by the ALA, which we're taking as a pretty good sign that this is fiction meant for younger audiences. While Howl's Moving Castle isn't a traditional fairytale, it uses a lot of fairytale devices (seven-league boots, curses and
enchantments, sets of three siblings, and so on) to set up its story line. Jones mostly plays on these clichés for humor, since Sophie turns out to be perfectly successful despite her status as the oldest of three daughters. Really Howl's Moving Castle is a parody of traditional fairytales. And of course, any novel that involves fire demons and made-up
lands is probably a fantasy novel, so we'll throw in that genre as well. Last but not least, despite the evil witches and demonic contracts, the real core of the moving Castle is the growing relationship between Sophie and Howl. Sure neither of them will precisely admit to it, what with Sophie's giant denial that anyone could want to be
with her and Howl's secrecy about trying to help her with her curse behind her back. But once the two of them finally get some sense in Chapter Twenty-One and finally admit their feelings, we realize what's been growing between them all along: true love, in good fairytale fashion. An alternative cover edition for this ISBN can be ... edit descriptions
of this character aliases Howell Jenkins, Howl Jenkins, Howl Jenkins, Howl Jenkins, Howl Jenkins, Howl Pendragon (close) Howell Jenkins, Howl Pendragon edit descriptions of this character Grade 6 Up Sophie Hatter reads a great deal and soon realizes that as the eldest of three daughters she is doomed to an uninteresting future. She resigns herself to making a living as a
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hatter and helping her younger sisters prepare to make their fortunes. But adventure seeks her out in the shop where she sits alone, dreaming over her hats. The wicked Witch of the Waste, angered by "competition" in the area, turns her into a old woman, so she seeks refuge inside the strange moving castle of the wizard Howl. Howl, advertised by his apprentice as an eater of souls, lives a mad, frantic life trying to escape the curse the witch has placed on him, find the perfect girl of his dreams and end the contract he and his fire demon have entered. Sophie, against her best instincts and at first unaware of her own powers, falls in love. So goes this intricate, humorous and puzzling tale of fantasy and adventure which should both challenge and involve readers. Jones has created an engaging set of characters and found a new use for many of the appurtenances of fairy talesseven league boots and invisible cloaks, among others. At times, the action becomes so complex that readers may have to go back to see what actually happened, and at the end so many loose ends have to be tied up at once that it's dizzying. Yet Jones' inventiveness never fails, and her conclusion is infinitely satisfying. Sara Miller, White Plains Public Library, N.Y.Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A witty, rollicking fantasy." -- ALA Booklist"Wit and humor glint from the pages." -- The Horn Book In

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the land of Ingary, such things as spells, invisible cloaks, and seven-league boots were everyday things. The Witch of the Waste was another matter. After fifty years of quiet, it was rumored that the Witch was about to terrorize the country again. So when a moving black castle, blowing dark smoke from its four thin turrets, appeared on the horizon,
everyone thought it was the Witch. The castle, however, belonged to Wizard Howl, who, it was said, liked to suck the souls of young girls. The Hatter sisters--Sophie, Lettie, and Martha--and all the other girls were warned not to venture into the streets alone. But that was only the beginning. In this giant jigsaw puzzle of a fantasy, people and things are
never quite what they seem. Destinies are intertwined, identities exchanged, lovers confused. The Witch has placed a spell on Howl. Does the clue to breaking it lie in a famous poem? And what will happen to Sophie Hatter when she enters Howl's castle? Diana Wynne Jones's entrancing fantasy is filled with surprises at every turn, but when the final
stormy duel between the Witch and the Wizard is finished, all the pieces fall magically into place. Diana Wynne Jones was raised in the village of Thaxted, in Essex, England. She has been a compulsive storyteller for as long as she can remember enjoying most ardently those tales dealing with witches, hobgoblins, and the like. Ms. Jones lives in Bristol,
England, with her husband, a professor of English at Bristol University. They have three sons and two granddaughters. In Her Own Words..."I decided to be a writer at the age of eight, but I did not receive any encouragement in this ambition until thirty years later. I think this ambition was fired-or perhaps exacerbated is a better word-by early
marginal contacts with the Great, when we were evacuated to the English Lakes during the war. The house we were in had belonged to Ruskin's secretary and had also been the home of the children in the books of Arthur Ransome. One day, finding I had no paper to draw on, I stole from the attic a stack of exquisite flower-drawings, almost certainly
by Ruskin himself, and proceeded to rub them out. I was punished for this. Soon after, we children offended Arthur Ransome by making a noise on the shore beside his houseboat. He complained. So likewise did Beatrix Potter, who lived nearby. It struck me then that the Great were remarkably touchy and unpleasant (even if, in Ruskin's case, it was
posthumous), and I thought I would like to be the same, without the unpleasantness." I started writing children's books when we moved to a village in Essex where there were almost no books. The main activities there were hand-weaving, hand-making pottery, and singing madrigals, for none of which I had either taste or talent. So, in intervals
between trying to haunt the church and sitting on roofs hoping to learn to fly, I wrote enormous epic adventure stories which I read to my sisters instead of the real books we did not have. This writing was stopped, though, when it was decided I must be coached to go to University. A local philosopher was engaged to teach me Greek and philosophy in
exchange for a dollhouse (my family never did things normally), and I eventually got a place at Oxford. "At this stage, despite attending lectures by J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, I did not expect to be writing fantasy. But that was what I started to write when I was married and had children of my own. It was what they liked best. But small children do
not allow you the use of your brain. They used to jump on my feet to stop me thinking. And I had not realized how much I needed to teach myself about writing. I took years to learn, and it was not until my youngest child began to be
published, they started coming true. Fantastic things that I thought I had made up keep happening to me. The most spectacular was Drowned Ammet. The first time I went on a boat after writing that I have a travel jinx, means that my life is never
dull."Diana Wynne Jones is the author of many highly praised books for young readers, as well as three plays for children and a novel for adults. She lives in Bristol, England, with her husband, a professor of English at Bristol University. They have three sons. By Diana JonesCopyright ©2008 Diana JonesAll right reserved. ISBN: 9780061478789In the
land of Ingary, where such things as seven-league boots and cloaks of invisibility really exist, it is quite a misfortune to be born the eldest of three sisters. She was not even the child of a poor woodcutter,
which might have given her some chance of success. Her parents were well to do and kept a ladies' hat shop in the prosperous town of Market Chipping. True, her own mother died when Sophie was two years old and her sister Lettie was one year old, and their father married his youngest shop assistant, a pretty blonde girl called Fanny. Fanny
 shortly gave birth to the third sister, Martha. This ought to have made Sophie and Lettle into Ugly Sisters, but in fact all three girls with the same kindness and did not favor Martha in the least.Mr. Hatter was proud of his three
daughters and sent them all to the best school in town. Sophie was the most studious. She read a great deal, and very soon realized how little chance she had of an interesting future. It was a disappointment to her, but she was still happy enough, looking after her sisters and grooming Martha to seek her fortune when the time came. Since Fanny was
always busy in the shop, Sophie was the one who looked after the younger two. There was a certain amount of screaming and hairpulling between those younger two. Lettie would shout. "Why should Martha have the best of it just
because she was born the youngest? I shall marry a prince, so there!"To which Martha always retorted that she would end up disgustingly rich without having to marry anybody. Then Sophie would have to drag them apart and mend their clothes. She was very deft with her needle. As time went on, she made clothes for her sisters too. There was one
deep rose outfit she made for Lettie, the May Day before this story really starts, which Fanny said looked as if it had come from the Witch of the Witch had threatened the life of the King's daughter and that the King had commanded his
personal magician, Wizard Suliman, to go into the Waste and deal with the Witch: he had got himself killed by her. So when, a few months after that, a tall black castle suddenly appeared on the hills above Market Chipping, blowing clouds of black smoke from its four tall,
thin turrets, everybody was fairly sure that the Witch had moved out of the Waste again and was about to terrorize the country the way she used to fifty years ago. People got very scared indeed. Nobody went out alone, particularly at night. What made it all the scarier was that the castle did not stay in the same place. Sometimes it was a tall black
smudge on the moors to the northwest, sometimes it reared above the rocks to the east, and sometimes, with smoke pouring out from the turrets in dirty gray gusts. For a while everyone was certain that the castle would
come right down into the valley before long, and the Mayor talked of sending to the King for help. But the castle stayed roving about the hills, and it was learned that it did not seem to want to leave the hills, he was known to amuse himself by collecting young
girls and sucking the souls from them. Or some people said he ate their hearts. He was an utterly cold-blooded and heartless wizard and no young girl was safe from him if he caught her on her own. Sophie, Lettie, and Martha, along with all the other girls in Market Chipping, were warned never to go out alone, which was a great annoyance to them.
They wondered what use Wizard Howl found for all the souls he collected. They had other things on their minds before long, however, for Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good. It then appeared that Mr. Hatter died suddenly just as Sophie was old enough to leave school for good.
shop with quite heavy debts. When the funeral was over, Fanny sat down in the parlor in the house next door to the shop and explained the situation. "You'll all have to leave that school, I'm afraid," she said. "I've been doing sums back and front and sideways, and the only way I can see to keep the business going and take care of the three of you is to
see you all settled in a promising apprenticeship somewhere. It isn't practical to have you all in the shop. I can't afford it. So this is what I've decided. Lettie first -- "Continues... Excerpted from howl's moby Diana Jones Copyright © 2008 by Diana Jones. Excerpted by permission. All rights reserved. No part of this excerpt may be reproduced or
reprinted without permission in writing from the publisher. Excerpts are provided by Dial-A-Book Inc. solely for the personal use of visitors to this web site. edit descriptions of three children. So it's no surprise to Sophie when,
after her father dies, her stepmother Fanny sends the youngest daughter Martha (who's destined to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice at the local bakery, and takes Sophie on as an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice at the local bakery, and takes Sophie on as an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle sister Lettie to be an apprentice with the witch Mrs. Fairfax, the middle
doing very well. But Sophie grows increasingly shy and feels like an old lady, as she never has anyone to talk to. Finally, on May Day, Sophie works up her courage to go visit Lettie. The crowds are upsetting, and Sophie is shocked: Lettie and
Martha have switched places, and Martha insists that Fanny is exploiting Sophie. A few weeks later, a grand lady who turns out to be the evil Witch of the Waste enters the hat shop, inexplicably says she doesn't appreciate competition, and curses Sophie to become a 90-year-old woman. Since Sophie can't tell anyone she's under a spell, she decides
to leave. She toddles out of Market Chipping, speaks kindly to a scarecrow, and finds a walking stick when she rescues a dog from some brambles. After nightfall, desperate for someplace to warm up, she spots a frightening sight: the moving castle that belongs to evil Wizard Howl, who supposedly eats young girls' hearts. Figuring she's safe because
she's old, Sophie shouts for the castle to stop and finds one door that opens. She tells Howl's assistant, a teenage boy named Michael, that she needs Howl's fire demon, Calcifer, observes that Sophie is under a spell. The two strike a
deal: if Sophie can break the contract between Howl and Calcifer that binds Calcifer to the hearth, then Calcifer will break the curse on Sophie anything about the terms of the contract—she'll have to figure it out. In the morning, Sophie is shocked to discover that Howl is the young man who tried to buy her a drink
on May Day. Since the castle is absolutely disgusting, Sophie decides to pose as a cleaning lady; this way, she can stick around and discover the terms of Calcifer and Howl's home in Porthaven, but the door can open to four different places (the moors, Porthaven, Kingsbury, and
someplace mysterious). Over the next few days, as Sophie scrubs, she discovers that Howl is vain and Michael do most of the work, while Howl spends his days out courting. Howl is also working hard to avoid being hired by the King to find two missing men, Prince Justin and Wizard Suliman—both of whom the Witch kidnapped
recently. The scarecrow Sophie spoke to tries twice to enter the castle, but Calcifer and Howl tell it to go away. Soon, Sophie discovers that Michael is dating Martha (who's still posing as Lettie), while Howl is dating the real Lettie. They
take seven-league boots, hoping to get there before Howl—but Lettie is already visiting with Howl and looks very much in love when they arrive. Michael asks Sophie for help with a spell. The spell gives instructions that seem impossible to complete, but
Sophie suggests they try to accomplish the first instruction: catching a falling star. Though Sophie and Michael get close to catching a star, they're unsuccessful. When Howl gets home later, sees the spell, and learns what Sophie and Michael get close to catching a star, they're unsuccessful.
Megan, and her family. The "spell" is actually her son Neil's English homework, and the spell Michael was supposed to work on is now with Neil's English teacher, Miss Angorian. Miss Angorian turns out to be young and beautiful, and she reads what turns out to be a poem by John Donne. How flirts with her and when he returns to the castle, he
reveals that the Witch put a spell on him. Now, it's catching up—they're just waiting for the impossible things in the poem to occur. The following day, since the King. First, he takes Sophie to visit his old tutor, Mrs. Pentstemmon, to practice speaking to a powerful
person. Mrs. Pentstemmon tells Sophie that Sophie that Sophie that Sophie that Sophie to break Howl's contract with a fire demon is what made the Witch of the Waste go bad. Then, Sophie visits the king. She's unsuccessful: the King
appoints Howl Royal Magician and tasks him with finding Prince Justin. As Sophie tries to find her way back to the moving castle after this, she runs into the Witch's curse, but Howl is just upset about Mrs. Pentstemmon. However, Howl is also spending a lot of time in
Wales, no doubt courting Miss Angorian—and spending so much time in the rain gives him an awful cold. He still insists on going to the funeral, however. While Howl is sleeping, someone knocks at the castle door and a greyhound enters. It turns into a man, says Lettie sent him to watch over Sophie, asks Sophie to not tell Howl, and then turns into
an Irish Setter. Howl goes to the funeral disguised as a dog—and comes home with the Witch in pursuit. Once he's escaped her, he says they must move Calcifer and change where the castle's doors open. He decides to buy the former hat shop in Market
Chipping, a rundown mansion, a field of flowers, and Wales. While everyone else is asleep that night, Sophie learns that Calcifer was once a falling star. Running the flower shop is easy: Sophie isn't happy. She becomes
increasingly unhappy when the scarecrow tries to enter the flower shop, but it goes away when Sophie is under a spell. Finally, Miss Angorian calls at the castle—but, jealous and annoyed, Sophie sends her away. By now
Sophie is in such a temper that when Howl comments on her new sheepdog, Sophie snaps that it's a cursed man. Howl and Calcifer turn the dog back into a man named Percival; Michael is convinced he's actually Prince Justin. To try to improve Sophie's mood, Howl sends Sophie to kill weeds in front of the mansion with Percival. Percival implies that
he didn't actually get to Sophie in time to protect her from Howl's charm—and Sophie discovers, to her dismay, that both Howl and Michael know she's under a curse and have been trying to lift it. Howl insists Sophie is keeping the curse on herself, but Sophie is so enraged that she vows to leave the next day. The next day is Midsummer Day, so
Sophie spends her morning picking flowers and making garlands while Howl, who spent the night drinking, sleeps. Just as she prepares to leave around midday, Fanny, Martha, Mrs. Fairfax, and Lettie all show up—and they all know Sophie is cursed. Miss Angorian joins the party, but she soon goes outside to admire the flowers. Suddenly, Calcifer
shouts that the Witch found Megan's family, so Howl races out of bed to rescue them. Soon after, the scarecrow shows up, but Calcifer insists it means no harm. As the scarecrow enters, the Witch's voice booms through the castle: she has Miss Angorian in the Waste, and Howl must come rescue her. Fearing Howl won't forgive her if his latest love
dies, Sophie puts on the seven-league boots and hurries to the Waste. There, the Witch shows Sophie the perfect man she's creating out of body parts from Wizard Suliman and Prince Justin; she just needs Howl's head to complete her project. When Howl bursts in moments later with the scarecrow, the Witch disintegrates. As Howl and Sophie race
back to the castle, Howl explains that Miss Angorian is the Witch's fire demon, and she's power hungry. As they enter the castle, Miss Angorian picks Calcifer out of the hearth and squeezes the black thing he's attached to—it's Howl's heart. Howl faints. Sophie tells her stick to hit only Miss Angorian and scoops Calcifer up. She breaks the contract by
telling him to live another thousand years, plucking him off of Howl's heart, and putting the heart back into a teenager. When Howl comes to, he crumbles the Witch's heart, causing Miss Angorian to disappear—and where the scarecrow and Percival were, Prince Justin and Wizard Suliman appear. Sophie
and Howl decide to live "happily ever after," and Calcifer returns to the hearth. He's happy to stay, as long as he pleases. This post contains spoilers for "Howl's Moving Castle." The Studio Ghibli aesthetic blueprint evokes a sense of nostalgia that is comforting to cling onto. Here, lush green meadows bloom with fantastical
flowers, the innocence of childhood merges with the growing pains of adolescence, and the everyday wonders of sharing a warm weal or talking to a loved one cultivate a safe space like no other. When Hayao Miyazaki weaves a Ghibli tale, the spiritual and mundane come together to pave the path for surreal, unforgettable adventures, such as the one
Chihiro embarks on in "Spirited Away," and Kiki is nudged towards in "Kiki's Delivery Service." Although every Miyazaki-helmed Ghibli offering is visually stunning; they transcend their singular aesthetic identity with complex, layered themes, tugging at the essential aspects of being human and what it means to embrace or turn away from this innate
humanity. At first glance, "Howl's Moving Castle" might seem like a telltale adventure that culminates in a love story, where the simplest expressions of affection have the power to thaw the coldest of hearts or change the world as we know it. However, the depth of "Howl's Moving Castle" extends far beyond Sophie's beautiful, bittersweet journey, as
the horrors of war loom like a dark cloud over the central events — not just as a grim backdrop, but a brutal onslaught of terrors that impacts every aspect of the film, where the futility inherent in such violence is underlined by the raging swirls of fire, ash, and
soot that besmirch the picturesque scenery. As castles topple and cities are set ablaze, bleak desperation seeps into the fantastical, including the titular wizard of Ingary, who unwittingly drifts further away from his humanity. A milliner by profession, Sophie spends her days making beautiful hats at her store and often escapes the monotony of her
work by visiting her sister Lettie. This routine is shattered when she encounters the charismatic, mysterious Howl, whose reputation among the town's populace. Before she can make sense of this enigma, she is cursed by the Witch of the Waste, who turns
her into an elderly woman, robbing her of her youth and beauty. Eager to break the curse, she sets off on a journey with no destination, meeting souls along the way, until she enters Howl's floating castle and makes a deal with the fire demon, Calcifer, in an attempt to reclaim her identity. It is crucial to note that Sophie's autonomy feels muted before
she is cursed by the witch, as her self-concept is rooted in quiet doubts and insecurities. She struggles with self-confidence, considers herself unassuming despite never directly acknowledging it, and is content with existing in the shadows without being perceived. However, after being turned into an elderly woman, she is free from the expectations
that come with being a young woman and is able to express herself without restraint. This reclamation of autonomy, which unfurls slowly but surely, allows Sophie to indulge in her vulnerabilities, allowing her compassion to shine through. The stereotypical attributes attached to old age dissolve, as Sophie finally feels like she is in control of her life,
and that she belongs. Her acts of compassion towards Howl are filtered through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her, but her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability to break through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability through the lens of an old woman nurturing those around her ability through the lens of an old woman nurturing through the lens of a lens of
control of his image, suave and aloof. This guarded wariness crumbles once King Suliman summons him to fight in the war, and Sophie sees him for who he truly is: a scared youth taking refuge in his beautiful, messy room filled with magical trinkets, vulnerable like a child. As Sophie appears to him as an older woman, he confides in her, convincing
her to pretend to be his mother in front of the King to evade the responsibilities of fighting a war. How's reluctance to fight lies in his fear of losing control and triggering consequences that cannot be undone, as the power that comes with being a wizard can lead to dangerous routes that he dares not venture into. Pushed to action, How ventures out
disappearing into the smoke-filled skies to secretly thwart the war on both sides and transformations come at the price of his humanity, with each turn removing him further away from his compassionate self. Sophie's presence also introduces chaos in Howl's
heart, as she is an ever-present reminder of beauty and warmth, even if she cannot perceive herself in that way. Torn between extremes, Howl plunges into self-isolation, shouldering the burden of stopping the war alone, even at the cost of his core, even at the cost of his co
represents his heart, keeping the hearth warm and the castle bustling with life. Once this fire is accidentally doused, Howl experiences near death, prompting Sophie to return his heart to him. One of the most beautiful, heartbreaking scenes in "Howl's Moving Castle" is when Sophie falls into the chasm and travels to the past, where she sees Howl
catching a falling star. This star, Calcifer, forges a magical contract with the young boy in exchange for his heart, and the two have been bound forever since. Although Howl and Calcifer's relationship is contentious at times — prompting the fire demon to make a deal with Sophie in exchange for freedom — there's also a hint of tenderness,
vulnerability, and trust forging their relationship. In many ways, Calcifer is Howl's weakness, his Achilles Heel, capable of crushing everything he has if he's snuffed out or breaks free from the contract. In the end, he chooses to stay out of a sense of loyalty even after their contract is severed. Just like Calcifer goes from a vengeful fire demon to a
faithful friend, Howl also learns to lean into his compassion after the Witch of the Waste is turned into her true form, even though she pursues ulterior motives for the most part. The person responsible for such a change is Sophie, who is kind to the old woman despite having every reason to detest her. Sophie's inner workings are guided by a love for
humanity in the backdrop of unchecked death and destruction, as she understands the value of extending warmth during such turbulent times, and clings to her humanity even when it's inconvenient to do so. The fact that love can be such a primal, moving force might feel clichéd, but it underlines the power of a comforting touch or an act of kindness
 when one feels lost or undeserving of such a pure sentiment, or is forced to live without a literal heart. To be loved is to be engulfed in a sense of homecoming. In Howl and Sophie's case, to be loved is to be seen, where Howl is able to
appreciate Sophie's enduring beauty and spirit despite her curse, and Sophie is able to sense Howl's childlike vulnerability and humanity when he is at the peak of monstrosity. Self-acceptance merges with the acceptance of another soul, where everyday insecurities and fears erode in the face of such a life-affirming emotion. War is the direct
antithesis of this tender human truth, as seen when Sophie's peaceful reverie in the field of flowers is interrupted by a war machine, which hums with malicious intent and brings meaningless destruction with its advent. While Howl's desperate, self-eroding flights into the battlefield submerge him in nihilism and transform him into a terrifying
monster, the solution to resolving such a bleak situation comes in the form of a kiss. Sophie kisses the sentient scarecrow Turnip Head on the cheek, and he turns out to be the missing prince of the enemy nation, Justin, whose return heralds the end of dark times. Although Justin's romantic feelings for Sophie are never reciprocated, her affection for
him is pure enough to break the curse. Love doesn't always have to be romantic or reciprocal to be meaningful, as Sophie sees Turnip Head as a being deserving of genuine affection. In the end, Sophie's curse also breaks and she regains her youth, but her hair remains grey, a symbol of wisdom and experience. To love, and be loved, also leads to
growth, and the courage to endure, no matter what. edit descriptions of this character First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the field of chi First presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards are among the most presented in 1967 and customarily announced in June, and a superior and a superior and a superior and a super
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go. Whether it was too ambitious, situations change, it was too nonsensical, it was a Tragic Dream, or just plain bad luck. This is often a poignant moment for them as they reflect on their desires and what they are and where they go next. It
may leave them Sophie Hatter's mundane life In the magical land of Ingary, Sophie Hatter is the eldest of three sisters, destined for a dull life. She works in her family's hat shop, resigned to her fate. Her sisters, Lettie and Martha, are sent off to promising apprenticeships, while Sophie remains, feeling trapped and unremarkable. The town is abuzz
with tales of the mysterious Wizard Howl, who supposedly devours the hearts of young girls. Sophie, however, is more concerned with the Witch, who curses her into an old woman, setting her on a path to seek her fortune
and break the spell. Cursed Transformation Sophie becomes an old woman After a chance encounter with the Witch of the Waste, Sophie is transformed into a ninety-year-old woman. Shocked and disoriented, she decides to leave her home and seek a way to break the curse. Her journey leads her to the moving castle of the infamous Wizard Howl.
Despite her fear of him, Sophie enters the castle, hoping to find a solution to her predicament. Inside, she meets Howl's fire demon, Calcifer, who offers to break her curse if she can free him from his contract with Howl. Sophie agrees, setting the stage for a series of magical adventures. Bargain with a Demon Sophie strikes a deal Inside Howl's
moving castle, Sophie meets Calcifer, a fire demon bound to the hearth. Calcifer offers to break Sophie's curse if she can discover the terms of his contract with Howl and free him. Sophie agrees, becoming the castle's magica
doors, which open to different locations. As Sophie settles into her new life, she discovers Howl's reputation for breaking hearts is not entirely unfounded, and she becomes determined to protect her sisters from his charms. Bewitched Castle Life Sophie adapts to magical life Sophie becomes an integral part of life in Howl's castle, cleaning and
managing the household. She learns more about Howl's mysterious ways and his penchant for courting women, only to lose interest once they fall for him. Despite his reputation, Sophie grows closer to Michael and Calcifer, forming a
makeshift family. Meanwhile, the threat of the Witch of the Waste looms, and Sophie realizes that breaking her curse is more complicated than she initially thought. How's Heartless Pursuits How's romantic escapades How continues his pattern of wooing women, including Sophie's sister Lettie, much to Sophie's dismay. She learns that How is not not some complicated than she initially thought.
as heartless as he seems, but rather cursed by the Witch of the Waste, who seeks to control him. Howl's attempts to avoid the Witch's curse lead him to act selfishly, but Sophie becomes more determined to protect her family and uncover the truth behind Howl's
contract with Calcifer, hoping it will lead to breaking her own curse. Witch's Threat Looms The Witch of the Waste's curse on Howl begins to take its toll, threatening to unravel his life and the lives of those around him. Sophie learns that the Witch plans to use Howl's heart to create a new, powerful being. As the danger
grows, Sophie realizes that her own curse is tied to Howl's fate. She must act quickly to save Howl and herself, but the path to breaking the curses is fraught with challenges. With the help of Calcifer and Michael, Sophie devises a plan to confront the Witch and uncover the secrets of Howl's past. Scarecrow's Return A mysterious ally appears As
Sophie and her companions prepare to face the Witch, a scarecrow she encountered earlier returns, revealing itself to be an enchanted ally. The scarecrow, animated by Wizard Suliman's magic, seeks to help Sophie and Howl's curse. The scarecrow's
presence brings hope, but also raises questions about the true nature of the magic at play. As the pieces of the puzzle fall into place, Sophie must confront her fears and embrace her own magical abilities to save those she loves. Secrets and Revelations Truths come to light Sophie discovers the true nature of Howl's contract with Calcifer: Howl gave
his heart to the demon to save its life. This revelation changes everything, as Sophie realizes that freeing Calcifer will also free Howl from the Witch. With the help of her newfound allies, Sophie devises a plan to confront the Witch and reclaim
Howl's heart. As the final confrontation looms, Sophie must find the courage to break the curses and restore balance to the Waste to confront the Witch and break the curses. In a climactic battle, Sophie uses her newfound magical abilities to outwit
the Witch and free Howl's heart from her grasp. The scarecrow, revealed to be Prince Justin, plays a crucial role in the fight, helping to defeat the Witch's minions. As the dust settles, Sophie realizes that her own curse is tied to her belief in herself. By embracing her true identity, she breaks the spell and returns to her youthful form. The battle is
won, but the journey has changed Sophie forever. Love and Liberation Happily ever after With the Witch's influence, is able to embrace his true self, and Sophie and Howl return to the castle, where they begin a new chapter in their lives. Howl, free from the Witch's influence, is able to embrace his true self, and Sophie and Howl return to the castle, where they begin a new chapter in their lives.
in her newfound family. Calcifer, released from his contract, chooses to stay with them, and the castle becomes a place of warmth and magic. As Sophie and Howl look to the future, they realize that their journey has brought them closer together, and they are ready to face whatever adventures lie ahead. Characters Cursed eldest sister Sophie is the
eldest of three sisters, resigned to a mundane life in her family's hat shop. After being cursed by the Witch of the Waste, she becomes an old woman and sets out to break the spell. Her journey leads her to Howl's moving castle, where she discovers her own magical abilities and learns to embrace her true self. Sophie's transformation from a timid girl
to a confident woman is central to the story, as she navigates the challenges of love, magic, and self-discovery. Howl Jenkins Pendragon Charming but cursed by the Witch of the Waste, who seeks to control him through his heart, which he gave to Calcifer in a
contract. Despite his selfish and cowardly tendencies, Howl is capable of great kindness and bravery. His relationship with Sophie is complex, as he learns to confront his fears and embrace his true self. Howl's journey is one of redemption and self-discovery, as he fights to break free from the Witch's curse. Calcifer Bound fire demon Calcifer is a fire
 demon bound to Howl's castle by a contract that ties him to Howl's heart. He is mischievous and sarcastic, but ultimately loyal to Howl and Sophie. Calcifer's desire for freedom drives much of the plot, as he seeks to break the contract and regain his independence. His relationship with Sophie is one of mutual respect and understanding, as they worl
together to uncover the secrets of the castle and break the curses that bind them. Michael Fisher Loyal apprentice Michael is Howl's young apprentice, who assists with the magical workings of the castle. He is kind-hearted and eager to learn, forming a close bond with Sophie and Calcifer. Michael's loyalty to Howl is unwavering, even as he
navigates the challenges of magic and love. His relationship with Sophie is one of friendship and support, as they work together to uncover the mysteries of the Waste is a powerful sorceress who curses Howl and Sophie, seeking to control Howl's heart
and create a new, powerful being. Her motivations are driven by jealousy and a desire for power, as she seeks to dominate the magical world. The Witch's influence looms over the story, as her curse threatens to unravel the lives of the characters. Her defeat is central to the resolution of the plot, as Sophie and Howl work together to break free from
her grasp. Lettie Hatter Sophie's beautiful sister Lettie is Sophie's younger sister, who is apprenticed to a witch and becomes entangled in Howl's relationship with Sophie is one of love and support, as they navigate the challenges of magic
and family. Her involvement with Howl adds complexity to the story, as Sophie works to protect her sister from the wizard's charms. Martha Hatter Clever youngest sister Martha is the youngest of the Hatter sisters, who switches places with Lettie to pursue her own dreams. She is intelligent and resourceful, using her magical abilities to navigate
the challenges of life in Ingary. Martha's relationship with Sophie is one of mutual respect and understanding, as they support each other in their respective journeys. Her cleverness and determination are key to the resolution of the plot, as she helps Sophie uncover the secrets of the castle. Miss Angorian Deceptive schoolteacher Miss Angorian is a
schoolteacher who becomes entangled in Howl's life, ultimately revealed to be the Witch's fire demon in disguise. Her motivations are driven by a desire for power and control, as she seeks to manipulate Howl and Sophie. Miss Angorian's true nature is central to the resolution of the plot, as Sophie and Howl work together to defeat her and break the
curses that bind them. Prince Justin Enchanted royal Prince Justin is a royal who is transformed by the Witch and becomes entangled in the magical world of Howl's castle. His journey is one of self-discovery and redemption, as he works to reclaim his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp. Prince Justin's involvement in the plot adds
complexity and intrigue, as his true nature is revealed and he becomes a key ally in the fight against the Witch's schemes, ultimately transformed and scattered across the magical world. His journey is one of redemption and self-discovery
as he works to reclaim his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp. Suliman's involvement in the plot adds complexity and intrigue, as his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp. Suliman's involvement in the plot adds complexity and intrigue, as his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp. Suliman's involvement in the plot adds complexity and intrigue, as his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp. Suliman's involvement in the plot adds complexity and intrigue, as his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp. Suliman's involvement in the plot adds complexity and intrigue, as his true identity and break free from the Witch's grasp.
transformed, and manipulated by magic. Sophie's transformation into an old woman sets the plot in motion, while Howl's curse and Calcifer's contract add complexity and intrigue. The use of magic as a plot device allows for exploration of themes such as identity, self-discovery, and the power of love. Magical Contracts Binding agreements with
consequences The concept of magical contracts is central to the plot, as characters are bound by agreement with Calcifer sets her on a path to break the curse. The use of contracts as a plot device allows for exploration of
themes such as loyalty, trust, and the consequences of one's actions. Dual Worlds Parallel realities intersect, with characters navigating between the mundane and the magical. Howl's castle serves as a bridge between these worlds, with its magical doors opening to different locations. The
use of dual worlds as a plot device allows for exploration of themes of identity, self-discovery, and the power of identity, self-discovery "Howl's Moving Castle" explores themes of identity, self-discovery and the power of identity and self-discovery are self-discovery.
learns to embrace her true self and break free from the constraints of her curse. How's journey is one of redemption and self-discovery, as he confronts his fears and learns to embrace his true self. The use of enchantment and transformation as a plot device allows for exploration of these themes, as characters navigate the challenges of love, loyalty
and the consequences of their actions. The story ultimately celebrates the power of love and the importance of embracing one's true identity. Last updated: February 3, 2025 Share — copy and redistribute the material in any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose
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the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Jump to Summaries (5) Synopsis
(1)EditSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages Howl's Moving Castle was written by Diana Wynne Jones and published in 1986. It won the Phoenix Award for Children's Literature 20 years after its publication. It is the first in a series of three books, followed by Castle in the Air, published in 1990; and House of Many
Ways, published in 2008. Howl's Moving Castle introduces the main characters of Howl and Sophie and discusses themes of acceptance, identity, and the enemies-to-lovers trope. Howl's Moving Castle was adapted into an animated movie by director Hayao Miyazaki in 2004 and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Movie. This
guide was written using the HaperCollins paperback version published in 2008. Plot SummaryHowl's Moving Castle takes place in a fantasy kingdom called Ingary. Sophie Hatter, an 18-year-old young woman living in the town of Market Chipping, believes that being the eldest daughter has consigned her to a life of mundanity and boredom. She
 apprentices for her stepmother Fanny and helps run the family hat shop while her sisters Lettie and Martha are apprenticed to a baker and a witch, respectively. Sophie grows shy, fearful, and lacking in confidence while working in the hat shop. On May Day, she goes out into Market Chipping to visit Lettie. She runs into an attractive young man who
offers to walk her to her destination, but Sophie is too afraid to speak with him and runs away. At the bakery, Cesari's, Sophie finds that Lettie and Martha have used a spell to switch appearances; it is Martha that works in the bakery now, as she wants to find a husband and start a family. Lettie, conversely, wanted to study magic, so the sisters
swapped places. One day while working in the hat shop, a grand and affluent woman comes in. The woman reveals herself to be the Witch of the Waste, who has come to curse Sophie for, she believes, harboring information and thwarting her plans. Sophie's appearance changes into that of an old woman. She immediately packs food and some
belongings and leaves Market Chipping, believing that she must separate herself from her family. It may be her only chance to seek her fortune. On the walk from Market Chipping toward the Waste, Sophie encounters a dog tied up, a farmer, and a scarecrow that she speaks to. As night draws near, Sophie sees the Wizard Howl's notorious castle
approaching her and decides to ask it to stop and admit her. As an old woman, Sophie believes she will be protected from Howl, who is rumored to eat the hearts of young women. Inside the castle, Sophie begins speaking to the fire demon Calcifer, who sits in the fireplace. The Witch's curse prevents Sophie from speaking to the fire demon Calcifer, who sits in the fireplace.
unless they already know about it. Calcifer perceives she is under a curse and offers her a bargain: If she breaks the contract he has with Howl, then he will lift her curse. Sophie meets Michael Fisher, Howl's apprentice in magic. When she meets Howl, she
realizes that he is vain and often dramatic, but she does not see him perform the black magic he is rumored to practice. Sophie enlists herself as the castle's cleaning lady. The King of Ingary's Royal Magician, the Wizard Suliman, as well as his younger brother, Prince Justin, have disappeared after being sent by the King to defeat the Witch of the
Waste. Howl, as the next most powerful magician in the land, fears the King will ask him to undertake a rescue mission. He asks Sophie to pretend to be his mother, meet with the King, and blacken his name enough so the King won't want to appoint Howl as the next Royal Magician. The castle's door connects to four different locations: Porthaven,
where Calcifer truly is; Kingsbury; the moving castle's location in the Waste; and a door that connects to our world and opens onto Howl's sister's house in Wales, which he keeps a secret from the others. Howl often leaves through one of these doors in the morning to court a young lady. Sophie discovers from Michael that the lady's name is Lettie
Hatter. Michael is also in love with a Lettie Hatter, who lives in Market Chipping. Sophie understands that Michael is truly in love with her disguised sister, Martha, while Howl seems to be pursuing the real Lettie Hatter. To stop him from eating her sister's heart, Sophie and Michael use magical boots that transport the wearer seven leagues with
each step to follow Howl to where Lettie is studying magic. There, at Mrs. Fairfax's house, Sophie and Michael see Howl in the garden with Lettie. They also notice a dog that Mrs. Fairfax struggles to control. Howl finds a scrap of John Donne's poem "Song," which Michael thought was a spell. Howl takes Michael and Sophie to Wales in search of the
actual spell the poem seemed to have been replaced by. They meet Howl's disapproving sister Megan and her children. They meet Miss Angorian, Megan's son's English teacher, who recites to them the rest of the poem. Howl and Calcifer both notice that the trip results in Howl being cursed by the Witch of the Waste. Howl begins courting Miss
Angorian. He arranges for Sophie to meet his old magical tutor Mrs. Pentstemmon to practice her courtly manners before meeting the king. When Sophie meets with the Wizard Suliman and Prince Justin. One her way back to the castle
Sophie bumps into the Witch of the Waste, who brags to Sophie that she has killed Mrs. Pentstemmon. Howl resolves to attend Mrs. Pentstemmon's funeral despite the obvious trap set for him by the Witch. At the funeral, the Witch discovers Howl, and the two fight in Porthaven, with neither side winning. While alone in the castle one day, Sophie
out, Miss Angorian shows up through the Welsh door looking for her missing fiancé, Benjamin Sullivan. Sophie, increasingly jealous of Miss Angorian, forces her out. Sophie asks Calcifer if he has ever been a fallen star, and Calcifer reveals that Howl saved him from death after he fell. Howl agreed to give him what humans need to survive in exchange
for access to Calcifer's magic. At the door, a man cursed to appear as a dog arrives, telling Sophie that he was sent by Lettie to protect her. Howl and Michael keep the Welsh door but use spells to change the other shop; a house in a field of
flowers; and an old mansion. Sophie watches as the castle melds with the old hat shop, disquieted by the return of her old life. Howl discovers the cursed him for failing to provide information on Howl and Wales. Sophie, in
a terrible mood, spends time with Percival de-weeding the mansion's grounds. During their conversation, Sophie discovers that she is in love with Howl and Michael admit that they have known about her curse for a while and that Howl has already tried to lift it. Sophie seems to want
to stay in disguise. The day on which Howl's curse is to take effect, Midsummer's Day, he arrives at the castle drunk after a trip to Wales and Sleeps through the morning. Sophie is surprised by the sudden appearance of Fanny, Martha, Lettie, and Mrs. Fairfax, all of whom recognize Sophie despite her curse. The scarecrow arrives and, while
frightening Sophie at first, is accepted into the castle. It has been spelled to recover the lost body parts of Wizard Suliman. Just then, Calcifer announces that the Witch from his family. Next, the Witch projects her voice into the castle and says that she
has taken Miss Angorian captive in her fortress in the Waste. Sophie uses the seven-league boots to get to the fortress before Howl. She confronts the Witch, and Howl. The scarecrow arrives and battles the Witch with magic. Finally, Howl arrives
and speaks words of power that defeat the Witch. How conjures up a wind for him and Sophie to run with back to the castle. There, they discover that Miss Angorian is actually the Witch, How defeats her with more words of power. Sophie separates Calcifer from How's heart, which Calcifer from How's heart, which Calcifer from How defeats her with more words of power that Miss Angorian is actually the Witch's fire demon, and they confront her. How discover that Miss Angorian is actually the Witch's fire demon, and they confront her.
contract. She speaks magically to Calcifer and gives him another thousand years to live. She returns Howl's heart to his chest and, in so doing, becomes a young woman again. Howl and Sophie realize their love for one another, and he proposes that they live happily ever after. The Phoenix Award is given to the author of a book for children published
originally in English that did not win a major award at the time of its published originally in English that did not win a major award at the time of its published bird that rose from
its ashes with renewed life and beauty, Phoenix Award books once again touch the imaginations and enrich the lives of those who read them. More information about the Children's Literature Association and the Phoenix Award is available online at: www.childlitassn.org ...more Walking the Choctaw Road : Stories from Red People Memory by 4.32 avg
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(Children's Literature Association) (1996) Dragonwings (Golden Mountain Chronicles, #5) by 3.56 avg rating — 4,348 ratings Phoenix Award (Children's Literature Association) (1994) When Howl's Moving Castle begins, Sophie
Hatter believes all of the fairytale clichés she has been told about the eldest child of three being doomed to failure. Even though she loves her sisters, she's getting a good education, and she gets along well with her stepmother Fanny, it just seems inevitable that her youngest sister Martha is going to go off to find fame and fortune and Sophie will be
lucky with an ordinary, steady-paying job. So Sophie settles for a position as an apprentice in her family hat shop, even though she finds it boring, isolating, and depressing. She starts talking to the hats that she makes, which seems to have an odd, even magical effect on them (although Sophie doesn't appear to notice that her talking has any kind of
power). The only thing that shakes Sophie out of her depression (oddly) is the arrival of the Witch of the Witch of the Witch of the Sophie indo sold age surprisingly liberating—she's a lot less nervous about life in general now that
her fears about failing because she is the eldest daughter appear to have come true. She doesn't need to worry about it anymore. Still, Sophie doesn't want her family to see her like this, so she leaves Market Chipping. Sophie spots the moving castle of the Wizard Howl running close by and decides to hop aboard. Sure Howl has a reputation for eating
girls' hearts and stealing their souls, but Sophie isn't a girl anymore, is she? Inside the moving castle, Sophie meets Howl's apprentice Michael and the fire demon Calcifer can see that Sophie isn't a girl anymore, is she? Inside the moving castle, Sophie meets Howl's apprentice Michael and the fire demon Calcifer. And that night, as Sophie isn't a girl anymore, is she? Inside the moving castle, Sophie meets Howl's apprentice Michael and the fire demon Calcifer make a bargain. Calcifer make a bargain.
has to end the contract binding Calcifer and Howl. Sophie agrees, and decides to stay in the moving castle. Climax Howl the Slippery Slitherer-OuterThe next day Howl himself appears. Sophie announces that she is going to be his new cleaning lady, and Howl doesn't say yes, either. In fact, Howl hates to commit to anything. And
this trait of his personality keeps Sophie bickering with him for the next six-odd chapter Four to Chapter Four to Chapter Four to his personality keeps Sophie bickering with him for the next six-odd chapter Four to Chapter Four to his personality keeps Sophie bickering with him for the next six-odd chapter Four to Chapter Four to his personality keeps Sophie bickering with him for the next six-odd chapter Four to Chapter Four to his personality keeps Sophie bickering with him for the next six-odd chapter Four to him for th
value to the poor people of Porthaven. But this slow process of settling in to life at the castle—cleaning, selling spells, helping Michael with his attachment to Sophie's youngest sister Martha, doing her best to prevent the bond between Howl and her middle sister Lettie—suddenly takes a turn when Michael starts practicing a weird spell he thinks
How left for him. The spell is actually a lost English assignment that came from How is from our world, and that the Witch of the Waste has somehow used her discovery of his origins to lay a curse on him from Wales. Neil's English teacher Miss Angorian is both (a) lovely, and (b) very interested in this whole
spell business Howl's got going on. Sophie despairs that Howl is going to break Lettie's heart and hook up with Miss Angorian to fill the time before the Witch's curse finally takes action. Now that the curse has found Howl, it's just a matter of letting the impossible things in the curse come true, and then it will be too late for Howl.Falling ActionWhen
Is That Curse Coming, Again? One of the handy things about the fact that the Witch's curse is not immediate and needs a little time before it takes hold on Howl is it gives the book a chance to ramp up suspense. We know we're approaching some kind of showdown with the Witch that is generally terrorizing the area (and who specifically transformed
Sophie into an old woman), and we're just waiting to see how it happens. Of course, even though we're basically just waiting for the clock to count down, there is still stuff to do: Howl has disappeared. Sophie sees
no signs that he is actually doing this, but he does disappear everyday—Sophie assumes that Howl is courting Miss Angorian. Sophie also adopts a dog who turns out to be a man under enchantment. This dog-man is in love with Lettie; she's the one who sent him to look out for Sophie at Howl's castle. Apparently all of Sophie's friends and relations
actually know that she is under a curse—as does Howl. All of this time, Howl has been running around trying different methods of taking the curse off Sophie without her knowledge. Sophie is furious that Howl has been running around trying different methods of taking the curse off Sophie without her knowledge. Sophie is furious that Howl has been running around trying different methods of taking the curse off Sophie without her knowledge.
way that she wants to. (At last—romance.) Resolution Lesson Learned: Avoid Falling Stars or You Might Lose Your SoulWhen Sophie hears that the Witch of the Waste has (supposedly) taken Miss Angorian hostage in her fortress to draw Howl out one last time, she immediately uses a pair of magic boots to run over there. After the Witch takes Sophie
captive, there is a showdown between the Witch, Howl, and a scarecrow (who is also an object of the Witch's curses). The Witch dies surprisingly quickly, which is a sign, Howl says, that her fire demon had almost taken control of her. And who is her fire demon? Miss Angorian. So here's the final situation: fire demons are falling stars, right? Howl
caught one of these stars several years ago. This star was frightened because when a star falls it knows it's going to die. So Howl made a deal with this star: he gave the star—Calcifer—his heart so that Calcifer could keep living, but Calcifer has to keep loaning Howl his magic in return. The Witch and Miss Angorian made a similar kind of deal many
years ago, and it totally corrupted both of them. In other words, giving up your free will can make you feel trapped at best and like less of a person at worst. Back in the present Sophie restores Howl's heart to
his body, freeing him from his contract with Calcifer, and Howl takes the Witch's withered, dried-up old heart from her fire demon, thus killing Miss Angorian. All of the Witch's curses (including the one keeping Sophie old) have now been broken. Howl decides that it's time for him and Sophie to "live happily ever after" (21.111). So even though
Sophie has been feeling this giant sense of doom because she's the eldest daughter of three, she actually gets her fairytale ending. edit descriptions of this character Go To The first book in the Wizard's Castle series of young adult fantasy novels by Diana Wynne Jones, which gleefully lampshades and parodies many tropes common to the Fairy Tale
genre. Sophie Hatter is a sensible young woman who utterly lacks any confidence in herself. She works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the Witch of the Waste, a jilted former lover of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father, where she feels resigned to spending the rest of the works in a hat store owned by her late father.
Howl's. Mistaking Sophie for her sister Lettie, the Witch places a curse on Sophie which turns her into an old woman. After this transformation, Sophie exiles herself from her hometown and happens to become a house cleaner for Howl—who lives inside a moving castle with magic doors leading all over the country. The castle is powered by the
grumpy fire demon, Calcifer, who is linked to Howl in a mysterious magical contract. Calcifer, however, has grown to resent Howl over the years and agrees to free Sophie and Howl grow closer, it becomes more and more apparent that all is not as it
seems. Indeed, the main theme of the book is that basically everyone and everything in the story is literally something other than what they first seem, having all been transformed by magic. The book was adapted into an anime film by Hayao Miyazaki, which took significant liberties with its setting, themes, and characters. A much more faithful Audio
Adaptation was produced by the BBC in 2021, which starred Iwan Rheon as Howl and Dan Starkey as Calcifer. The book has also had a number of stage adaptations over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world. The book has also had a number of stage adaptation over the years, in several different parts of the world.
Sky), continues the story from the point of view of a new characters from the first book, only (a) disguised or otherwise once again transformed into forms different from both their true natures and their initial cursed appearances and/or (b) described in such a way as
to make the reader unaware of the connection (seeing as the sequel's hero doesn't know any of them, he can't very well recognize them for us, either). It uses tropes and settings from the Arabian Nights. The second sequel, titled House of Many Ways, is set a couple of years after its predecessor. Again, a new protagonist is introduced as the book
follows the story of Charmain, a sheltered bookworm who is assigned to care for a cottage for her Great Uncle (who is also the Royal Wizard) but soon discovers the cottage is a magical labyrinth in disguise. The cast of the first book are given more involved roles than their cameo appearances in Castle in the Air, but still stay secondary to Charmain's
plot. Tropes Present in the Series as a Whole Agent Peacock: Girly boy badass Howl is this. Aw, Look! They Really Do Love Each Other: Howl and Sophie bicker and argue like there's no tomorrow but when it really comes down to it, they really do love each other. The reason why they argue so much is because they want to. It keeps them on their
toes. Michael pointed out to Sophie the day that Howl, as vain and obsessed with beauty that he was, forgets to take two hours every morning to dress up and make himself look handsome would be the day that he's truly in love. So when Sophie was kidnapped by the Witch of the Waste, Howl arrives to her castle, disheveled and ungroomed. Base on
Wheels: The titular castle moves on feet, then later wings. Beta Couple and Martha (as well as Lettie and Ben at the end), to the main couple Abdullah and Flower in the Night, with Beta Couple place going to Justin
and Beatrice, with some of the couples from the original also making appearances. In the third book we have Odd Couple Peter and Charmain and some glimpses of Howl and Sophie. Bizarrchitecture: The castle has doors that Howl is
one as well; Calcifer mentions that his hair is naturally 'mud-coloured', and a throw-away line to Miss Angorian implies that he has some sort of doctorate. Companion Cube: Sophie discovers she has the magical ability to bring to
look fashionable. He says it's for business but everyone knows he's vain. Death Is Such an Odd Thing: A mild version shows up when Sophie reacts to Mrs. Pentstemmon's murder by first being shocked that the passing was so sudden, and then realizing that "that's how it was, wasn't it? People are alive right up until they die." Fantasy Counterpart
Culture: Ingary is roughly equivalent to England. Rajpuht, in Castle in the Air is somewhere between Arabian, Persian, and Indian. High Norland, in which House of Many Ways is set, is guite Switzerland-like—with the rolling, snowy mountains and meadows, the cuckoo clocks/sleds, tiny impish creatures, and all. Fiery Redhead: Sophie, after
character development lets her gain several levels in self-confidence. Gentleman Snarker: As in eccentric magic scholar who lives in a floating castle he made himself and always looks appropriate for polite society. Good Stepmother: Living in a
world filled by fairy tale tropes, lampshades, and aversions, Sophie's stepmother Fanny initially shows antagonistic shades before her good intentions towards both her own daughters equally, even though her judgement is flawed. Happily Married: Sophie and
Howl, in every book after the first. They bicker constantly, which leads most onlookers to wonder what they see in each other. However, they love to argue, since it keeps them both on their toes, and it's great fun, of course. The Illegible: In both Howl's Moving Castle and House of Many Ways there are references to Howl' handwriting being horrible
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both Sophie and Charmain wonder to themselves if he uses a pen or a poker when he's writing. Large Ham: Howl is called a "drama queen" by his own author. Mama Bear: Sophie in Castle in the Air and House of Many Ways. Do NOT harm 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 streak. The Multiverse: This trope shows up again in DWI'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 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 obliviously 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, How 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 How'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 commentating 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 Calicifer. 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 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. How 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 How 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 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 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 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 Intersect: 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 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 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 he didn't predict was her being decent to Miss Angorian. Romantic False Lead: In the book, Miss Angorian arouses Sophie's he didn't predict was her being decent to Miss Angorian. 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 friendly and helpful. It also 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-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 "Riccurate 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 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: How 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 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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