



Thorn Ogres Of Hagwood

Robin Jarvis

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Gamaliel Tumpin has never been much more than a klutz. He can't shape-change into a mouse like his werling peers, and he can't run as fast as everyone else, and about all that he *can* do is fall flat on his face. Or so it seems. But on the day a dark force led by the wrathful High Lady of Hollow Hill threatens the peaceful werlings' very existence, Gamaliel finds within himself something no one ever suspected was there: a hero.

Thorn Ogres Of Hagwood Details

Date :

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Author : Robin Jarvis

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From Reader Review Thorn Ogres Of Hagwood for online ebook

Zheng says

This book has a really good plot with a fantastic character development. For example, Frighty Aggie, who was a former werling master but later became a spider because she used a forbidden werling magic...the insect transformations. People of hagwood thinks that the high lady who ruled hagwood was a fair ruler, but she was the one that killed her father and blamed it on her brother.

Edward Davies says

This should really be a four star, but I marked it down for taking so long to get the sequel published. I'm not sure if this was a matter of Jarvis suffering writer's block or of Puffin not agreeing to the sequels, but having read this when I was 21 (pretty old for a kids book), it left me a little peeved that the sequel only came out in 2013, and I don't know if I'll ever get around to reading it as apparently it is only available through print on demand!

Leona Carstairs says

4.5 stars.

A great, funny, adventurous book! I reread it twice. Good for fantasy fans who are bored and don't know what to read. I think it would be great for all ages, but especially ten or older.

XPHAIEA. says

I found this buried in a dusty box of childrens books in St. Peter's church in the town of Sandwich in Kent. My copy is stamped with 'Ellington and Hereford School'. I'm pretty sure I read this in the distant past - the cover looks familiar anyhow.

This tale follows the exploits of Gamaliel, who is a wereling. This means he is able to shapeshift into a mouse or hedgehog or other small woodland creature. The story starts out with him learning how to morph for the very first time, but he is a denizen of Hagwood and soon he is caught up in all kinds of chaos!

I love Jarvis' use of language and creativity with worldbuilding and strange mutant creatures. This is aimed at older children and whilst the story isn't difficult there are numerous more challenging words, which I liked. Jarvis' is obviously someone who loves language, and gets satisfaction from the sounds and feel of certain words - the text abounds with malodorous, truncated, rancorous, ulcerous, putrid, cancerous... and that's just one chapter!

Also, he doesn't shy away from really revolting and disgusting descriptions, vile malicious characters and really horrid creatures. In fact he revels in the grotesque. I like that.

Sleepingpeonies says

A very well handled YA fantasy with some beautiful, unique imagery, interesting characters and a well paced plot.

My favourite aspect was the world of the Hagwood, in which the book is set; it feels well-realised, and is very well drawn. Dark, and organic, and consciously revealed through plot rather than exposition.

The characters were fairly lightly drawn, but that is to be expected from a short book. They were given enough character to make me feel for them, to a degree, but I don't feel as though I plunged the depths of their psyches. But then, this isn't the sort of book in which I want to do that anyway.

Robin Jarvis has a lovely way with language. He often chooses words that feel right, and has a wonderful ability to evoke atmosphere through the look and sound of the words he opts for.

I did feel as though the book raced a bit. I found it well-paced for what it is, a YA book, but would have enjoyed more time lingering in the different areas of the world. I don't feel as though I know the world of the Hagwood intimately. Perhaps this is addressed in future books in the series.

All in all, an enjoyable adventure that I will return to in subsequent books.

Charlotte says

Fab book really spooky but RJ never did the other books which was reallu diappointing. If it came out now id read it.

Ego Thurman says

One of the first books I ever read as a child. It encompasses everything I loved as a boy. It's creepy and has some great gory bits. Unfortunately Robin Jarvis has yet to write the promised sequel.

Judith says

An enthralling story of adorable characters who encounter evil and terrifying adversaries they have to overcome to survive. I cannot wait to read more of the hagwood series and would thoroughly recommend this to children aged ten and above.

Virginia says

I really enjoyed this read a lot - interesting characters, involved plot and sub-plots are referenced - quite a bit of promise and depth here - but it is the first of a trilogy and was published in 1999 - the rest of the trilogy hasn't been published yet even though the author indicates on his site that he's written book two.

Liana says

Reading this book, you'd think that it'd be geared for children the way how the world building is and how plot is set. And it IS a great children's book, if you ignore the PG 13 violence it has. *Laughs* If you're familiar with the *Warriors* children series by Erin Hunter and the violence those books have, *Thorn Ogres Of Hagwood* is kind of like that, but maybe a little more frightening.

It's still a great book though. I very much enjoyed the classic 'woodland fantasy' feel that it has. :)

Louise Jones says

took me awhile to get into and had to reread it cos a lost it or found it at times slightly confusing took me longer than usual to get into a childrens bbook and at times found it interesting and at other times confusing i would like to know what happens to them in future books but believe very hard to get into

Julia says

I'm gonna give this book a big solid meh....

Mark Buxton says

My name is Gamaliel, and I can't even succeed at wergling into a mouse. Changing into different animals is the key to our survival, and I'm thankful that Finnen is trying to help me. No one can wergle better than him; it's almost unnatural. Later, I'd only heard stories about the High Lady, but Finnen took me along to secretly see her and her army of terrifying creatures. They really exist, and Frighty Aggie too! Frighty Aggie bit me and I almost died, but I think the poison has affected me in some strange way. Smith, the Pucca who saved me, told us about the High Lady's growing power, and he says he has a way to stop her. However, the death of Mufus has changed everything. Finnen has been exiled, and the other wergles don't believe the great danger that will soon befall them. I must do something to help my friend, and save my village.

Hopefully you won't mind animals as characters. This book is much better than I anticipated, and I'd like to read the next book in the trilogy. Gamaliel is just like other inept main characters who turn out to be heroes. He can't learn to wergle until his life depends on it, and then the results are very unexpected. Finnen's character had many of the same issues as Gamaliel, but he took a shortcut to help with his wergling. Now, he regrets the decision, and his secret makes him a reluctant hero. Strangely, Frighty Aggie, a fearsome creature of legend, takes an interest in him. The author kept a nice pace to the plot and included enough action to keep readers engaged. Besides several skirmishes, there are some larger fights with Frighty Aggie and the High Lady's secret army. The climax to the book is the battle with the army, and the wergles accidentally figure

out a way overcome the overwhelming odds. I recommend you give this book a shot!

Bill Tillman says

Wow, very original like another Tolkien universe. Great story, plot and a real page turner.

Matthew Hodge says

Re-read in March 2018.

Jarvis was my favourite author from my childhood days but I struggled to find time to read him once university, full-time work and toddlers took over. Almost as if he was waiting for me, he slowed down his output as well.

But suddenly, in the last five years, he has come back with a vengeance, cranking out the darkly brilliant Dancing Jax books for older teenagers and his new series set in Whitby which has just come out (as at July 2016).

So feeling the need to step up my game a bit and start catching up, I went back to this book, one of the ones I didn't get to read when it came out, the first volume in the (still ongoing) Hagwood Trilogy. The first book was published years ago but went out of print rather quickly. (Sadly, a bit too common with some of Mr Jarvis' books.)

But now, more than a decade later, he has been able to revisit the Hagwood series in ebook form and so the trilogy has started to move on with a second book released and a third one on the way.

This first book introduces a fictional wood where a group of small creatures live called Werlings. Their specialty is being able to transform themselves into small animals.

Well, all except for one short, dumpy werling called Gamaliel, who just can't get the hang of it all ...

From its deceptively charming beginnings, the story very quickly escalates until it has just as much foul villainy, evil creatures, and tragic deaths of good characters as the other Jarvis classics like his Deptford and Whitby books.

Because of its length (it's one of the shortest of his books), I found it didn't have quite the character resonance of the others, but the big set-pieces - all delivered in Jarvis' trademark cinematic prose - are just as violent and high-stakes as always. And some of the ideas (especially the werling tree burials and the Frighty Aggie sequence) are brilliant. His ability to craft an entire world with its own mythology is still very much on display here.

Well and truly looking forward to Book 2.
