



The Puppet Spell

Emma L. Adams

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Unlike her rebellious sister Lucinda, fifteen-year-old Lexa prefers to spend her free time playing video games, fighting the forces of evil with her partner-in-crime Marlon. But when Lucinda steals an invisibility potion from their uncle's storeroom, she unleashes chaos into their lives. Lexa and Marlon find themselves catapulted into a world far more dangerous than any video game, full of misleading illusions, sinister Conjurors and deadly Fey, and threatened by a man with a grudge known as the Puppeteer. Accompanied only by Lexa's uncle's unreliable (and rather dangerous) Chimera, Lexa and Marlon must navigate this world to find Lucinda- before they too fall under the spell of the puppet master...

Note: As I have terminated my contract with the book's publisher, The Puppet Spell is no longer available on most retailers.

The Puppet Spell Details

Date : Published January 2nd 2013 by Rowanvale Books (first published December 2nd 2012)

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Author : Emma L. Adams

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From Reader Review The Puppet Spell for online ebook

WTF Are You Reading? says

This book is the perfect blend of the fanciful, the sinister and the dramatic; without having to sacrifice it's whimsy and wonder in the process. Written in the vein of great fantasy such as Narnia, Never ending Story, and Pan's Labyrinth; the world that Ms. Adams Has crafted within the pages of this read is truly fantastic.

All of her characters are strong and well expressed. I say all, because often times when you have human characters who are transferred into magical lands, they sometimes wash out in comparison to the fae, goblin, or whatever they might encounter. This was far ffrom the case with Lucinda, Lexa, and Marlon. They manged to prove time after time that they were the stuff of great stories.

This is a very fast paced, edge of your seat story coaster. Full of evil plotting, fae politics, intrigue, mystery, and just a few regular baddies thrown in for good measure; there are plenty of challenges facing Lexa and the gang in their quest to save Lucinda and break the spell of the Puppet Master.

Alysa H. says

This has some good creepy imagery and just the right amount of darkness for a Middle Grade audience, but is not very memorable overall. Most of the characters are woefully underdeveloped. The whole thing feels more like a draft than a finished novel -- although it's a very promising draft! I'd be interested to read more from this author in the future.

Brittany Elsen says

Ok, onto the actual review of this magical awesomeness. Puppet Spell is a YA fantasy in the vein of the Chronicles of Narnia or even a Wrinkle in Time. The characters find themselves in a parallel magical land under the rule of the Puppeteer. I am not going to lie the Puppeteer freaks me out, it's just plain creepy. It's like Coraline but in book form, scary! With no magical training, Lexa and Marlon have to find Lucinda and save everybody from the Puppeteer.

I despised Lucinda's character, what a brat! She reminded me of Edward in the beginning of the Chronicles of Narnia. They are extremely selfish and think nothing about the implications of their actions. However, I am very thankful for Lexa and Marlon as characters. I really enjoyed Lexa's voice throughout the novel and felt that she was a very brave young lady.

The only negative thing I think some readers may find is that it is quite high fantasy. I loved it but I could see some readers finding it to be too much!

The book is suitable for readers above 8 and I loved it as an adult reader. I would recommend this book to readers that like heavy fantasy reads, magical lands, and are looking for new adventure. I will definitely be reading the second!

NR says

There is something eerie about *The Puppet Spell*. It reminded me of *Pan's Labyrinth*, if it were to meet *Return to Oz*. The end result was a well woven tale of magic, darkness, and wonder. Being a fan of fantasy fiction, as well as stories with fantastical creatures, I was drawn into the tale right from the get-go.

Twin sisters Lucinda and Lexa are complete opposites. For anyone who's dealt with twins that are the complete opposite, you'll enjoy the character contrasts as written by Emma for both sisters. Thanks to Lucinda's egotistical ways, her twin sister Lexa gets sucked into a wild adventure, alongside Marlon (who you'll have to read all about). Although this story was written with a younger audience in mind, the story is entertaining, and as mentioned above, eerie in a good sort of way.

I will recommend it to anyone who remains young at heart, or, wants to read a wonderful, well-written fantastical adventure.

Laurie says

This is a fun story that I read quickly and enjoyed. I loved the imaginative adventures Lexa and Marlon found themselves a part of. Unusual characters are made believable as they were brought to life in the story. I adored Lexa's voice throughout, and sometimes laughed out loud at some of her speculations. Lucinda is one of the most disagreeable and selfish characters I've come across in quite a while; yet, I still felt her tug at my sympathies, on occasion. Then, a few paragraphs later, I wanted to toss her in a dark dungeon and throw away the key. What a trial she is!

The twins are inherently capable of magic, and come from a long line of Overseers but know nothing of this until Lucinda pilfers a potion from a hidden room and disappears. Ever since their Uncle Devon took the orphans in, he has tried determinedly to keep the girls safe and ignorant of his real job. Now, however, with Lucinda's disappearance, that all changes.

This book was provided to me by the author in exchange for my honest review.

Reviewed by Laurie-J

Amy Lutchen says

Cover: Perfectly representative of the story; it's magically eerie. The color palette feeds into the matter well, creating an atmosphere that promises mystery and nightmarish creepiness.

Text: Emma Adams proves to be a grammar queen (notice: not **PRINCESS**), both in the sense that she rules *The Kingdom of Correct Grammar*, AND seems to possess a mountain of writing experience, despite being

only the spritely age of twenty-one.

Story: The Puppet Spell is about a magical land that resulted from a rip of what was once the everyday living experience, creating a separation of a mostly non-magical world and a world of magic and illusion. We encounter two twin sisters: Lucinda and Lexa, who are complete opposites (I love Lucinda's character), a hard-core gamer: Marlon, quirky Uncle Devon, and a fantabulous shapeshifter: Spider (Cerberus), as well as a handful of fun and imaginative creatures like the stone creatures of Wyder and the zephyrine (giant dragonflies).

Due to Lucinda's egotistical better-than-thou attitude, her twin sister and Marlon get thrust into a world where they must save Lucinda and also find out who has been turning people into lifeless dolls. Between the main characters' strengths AND flaws, they put up a great struggle to turn over the plot to rule both worlds.

Kudos to author Emma L. Adams and her debut novel! She has created a beautifully creepy work of art and I look forward to her future works.

Elle Rose says

OMG, my hat goes off to Miss Adams. "The Puppet Spell", is a mind-bogglingly crafted novel. I've read the book twice and am still in amazement.

From page one, you're drawn into the world of Lexa, the levelheaded, wallflower sister. Outside of having to move from home to home, often, Lexa believes she has a mundane life, playing video games and hanging out with her best friend Marlon, the dreamer. Except, when her sibling, Lucinda, the power-hungry, social queen disappears, Lexa and Marlon are convinced they must enter a new world of magic and deception to find her.

I love the intricate web that is interwoven throughout the story. It leaves you wondering what's real and what has been created from the mind of Adams. Harry Potter meets The Matrix. It's a fast-pace story that left me gripping the end of my seat waiting for the next scene to start.

Adams' debut novel is a must have! Its original take on magic and other worlds, will have you placed under a spell of its own. I'm looking forward to more of this author's work and hopefully a continuation from this novel.

E.B. Hood says

The Puppet Spell by E.L. Adams is a story set in a magical world. This is a children's story that is safe for any age. Still I am sure that young adults and young at heart, will enjoy this story as much as I did.

The story is fast paced and full of imagination and action. You're immediately transported into another world, with magic and fairies. The lead character Lexa, whose eyes we see this world through is inspiring and brave. I do wish that there had been more time with her discovery of using magic for herself. She is nothing like her twin sister Lucinda. I came to like these characters, but I felt many of the other characters, fairies and wizards, were void of any personality. With that said, this is still a great read and a fun book for adult and children alike.

I cannot wait to see more work from this fellow Author, excited to see what she does next.

Emma Adams says

As I terminated my contract with the book's publisher, this is no longer available on most retailers and is out of print. I can't promise I'll return to this story's world, but I count it as a valuable stage in my writing journey, and I certainly plan to write more children's books in future.

Thank you to everyone who rated and left such wonderful reviews for my first published novel. I'm truly grateful that each and every one of you took a chance on an unknown author and offered so much support. Reader support means more to me than anything else in the world, and I'm grateful that I had the chance to share this story with you.

You're all awesome. :)

Emma

Cindy says

I think this book was a one amazing read! It was entertaining from start to finish with the magical spells and the twins adventures, which got you clinging to the edge of your seat! Although the cover is a little scary. LOL. You learn to never judge a book by its cover. I read this book because I know the author from Twitter (kind of) and I knew she was trying really hard to get her book published, so I decided to give it a try. Not bad was the first thought I had when I started reading this.

Amazing! was the thought I had when I finished. If E. L. Adams was writing a sequel, I would definitely read that one.

So the main character of the book is Lexa. Lexa is a quiet, calm, smart, and responsible type of girl as her twin sister, Lucinda is the troublemaker, the queen bee, and the snotty kind of girl. Lexa and Lucinda started living with their uncle Steven. Their uncle moves around a lot so Lexa had to change schools a lot. But during that past two years, she still went to the same school.

One day, when their uncle left for somewhere, Lucinda was naughty enough to look into their uncle's storeroom. and there they discovered an invisibility potion and a whole other world. When Lucinda decides to use the potion and ends up going to the other world, Lexa had no choice but to follow. Along with the Chimera, whom is Steven's pet and Marlon, Lexa's best friend.

Although the Chimera was somewhat, cruel, I never hated him. I mean, he did save Lexa from dying a lot of times, so when the Chimera led Lexa into a trap, I was like "The Chimera isn't like that, is he?"

Either way, this book was one, big, entertaining read!! Loved it! Although I do kind of wish Marlon and Lexa fell in love. Cuz you know, if your best friend is a guy in a book, you'll always fall in love with them. It's kinda like an unwritten rule. LOL.

I rate it an 8.6!

Read Chapter One:

[http:// throughthegateway.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/the-puppet-spell-teaser.html](http://throughthegateway.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/the-puppet-spell-teaser.html)

More reviews @ <http://bookaholicfaggots.blogspot.com>

Paola (A Novel Idea) says

Originally posted at Novel Idea Reviews

RATING: 4/5 Stars

I was lucky enough to get to know the author, E.L. Adams, as part of the Indie Self-Pub Author Event hosted at Say It With Books in June 2013, which focuses on spotlighting all the great authors out there who chose an alternative to the traditional publishing route. You can read the interview on our blog!

I had a lot of fun reading this book. It's a great fantasy for the middle grade/younger YA audience, with plenty of humor and a dash of the eerie. I loved Lexa and Marlon's friendship and the otherworld they ventured into, which was an interesting mix of classic fantasy elements and unique magic.

The Puppet Spell takes place mostly in another world, and I enjoyed discovering it along with Lexa and Marlon. There were a lot of contrasts between what you might expect in a fantasy world — rural villages, magical forests, odd creatures — and recognizable things like cars and cities powered by magic. There are entire kingdoms built out of illusions, which was a concept I found really interesting. Loved the detailed construction of the world and the way it was linked to our own.

I was really drawn to Lexa's inner conflict regarding her sister — I think I've mentioned before that books dealing with relationships between sisters are always very interesting to me because I have a sister of my own. In Lexa's case, she has a pretty strained relationship with Lucinda, who seems to get it all without doing any work whatsoever. Lucinda is popular, makes friends as easily as breathing, and is always the center of attention. As the quieter, more subdued and generally well-behaved twin, Lexa is left out of the spotlight frequently. I completely understood her when she wondered if it wouldn't be better to just stop chasing Lucinda. After all, wasn't it her idea to go gallivanting off into a dangerous parallel world without a care for the trouble she might get into when she got there? I appreciated the exploration of Lexa's insecurities and how it felt when Lucinda seemed to fit so easily into this alternate universe while Lexa, of course, was struggling with it. It was a realistic portrayal of a relationship between two siblings who are extremely different in personality and temperament.

I think one thing that really shines in this book is Lexa's friendship with Marlon. They bond over video games and commiserating over Lucinda's latest antics, and they make each other (and the reader) laugh quite a bit throughout the story. Actually, Marlon became one of my favorite characters. I liked that he not only balanced Lexa's personality, but also drew her out of her shell and encouraged her to stop comparing herself to Lucinda, drawing out who she was as an individual. For a middle grade audience, that kind of mutually beneficial friendship is such an important message.

I would recommend *The Puppet Spell* to anyone fond of venturing into other worlds, where magic still exists and cats can turn into chimeras. It has a real *Alice in Wonderland* feel to it at times while still maintaining its own unique atmosphere. Thank you so much to the author and Rowanvale Books for the review copy — I am especially thankful to E.L. Adams for interviewing with me!

Robin says

This is a great book for younger readers that enjoy the "Harry Potter" type of book. Fantasy, action and a little bit of "weird". I like to read some books before passing onto my nephews and I approve of this one!

Sharon Stevenson says

'*The Puppet Spell*' is the story of 15-year-old sisters Lexa & Lucinda who have little in common. A move to a new home quickly turns into a fantastical adventure when they stumble upon a doorway to another world.

Adams has crafted an entertaining fantasy tale with some nicely creepy moments. This novel is aimed at a young audience and should be extremely well received. It reminded me of reading Enid Blyton novels when I was young(though this book is probably more in the vein of *Harry Potter*) as it was a brilliantly written adventure story.

Anyone who likes a good fantasy read will enjoy this book. The characters were well constructed and the Fey world Adams has created was inventive and original. Pick it up and get ready for an enthralling adventure!

Kirsty Bicknell says

I read the first chapter of 'The Puppet Spell' on E.L. Adams' website and was so intrigued by the story that I requested the book for review. I was lucky enough to be given a copy but this has not influenced my opinion. 'The Puppet Spell' is mesmerising, although quite an intense fantasy on many levels, a fun symbol for computer games in modern society. The world which E.L Adams creates is a mixture of everything hidden in a child's imagination – fae, goblins, gremlins, talking animals, invisible spells, evil wizards and more – and the way in which her characters meet and journey with each other to fight a common enemy is a common thread in many of the fantasy stories I have read recently.

I was surprised by how 'The Puppet Spell' became entangled in fae politics. Although I enjoyed the character of Abrecan and his heroics I did not feel he served any extra purpose to the story as a faery, and I think that if the sub-characters remained as witches and wizards the plot may have been easier to contain. Uncle Devon was a brilliant invention and his character was reminiscent of the eccentric portrayal of Merlin or even Dumbledore.

Lexa and Lucinda are interesting characters to follow throughout the story as they both navigate their own path through the Other World. Lucinda is the cause of the trouble; she is arrogant and tempestuous, as well

as single-minded. Lexa is her polar opposite; she is caring, emotional and loyal which is why she follows her unlikeable sister into the unknown, fearing for her safety.

Marlon and Cerberus are the two remaining characters worth mentioning. Marlon is Lexa's friend who journeys with her to find Lucinda. He is not there as a love-interest, which I was grateful for, as I feel this would have complicated the story further. He is, however, the computer games expert and Lexa's logical mind when have to fight The Puppet Master.

Cerberus is their protector, a chimera who E.L. Adams describes in detail. Despite his flaws he is one of my favourite characters as he brings a dark humour and sarcasm to the story and a question of whether anyone really is what they seem.

With 'The Puppet Spell' E.L. Adams writes a fantasy story based around strong characters which the reader is able to connect with. Yet she maintains an element of underlying mystery and suspense, keeping her readers guessing who The Puppet Master is and why he is committing his crimes, until the last chapters. This book took me back to the days of reading 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and 'The Dark is Rising' and I recommend it to fans of YA fantasy. I hope that E.L. Adams may continue this family's adventures in another story.

Jack says

Beginning with a move to a less than desirable new house, *The Puppet Spell* is told from the perspective of fifteen-year-old Lexa, a videogame-playing girl frequently overshadowed by her twin sister, Lucinda. Despite being twins, the girls look nothing alike and their differences run more than skin deep: Lucinda is the height of popularity at the local school, outgoing and brash, whilst Lexa is much more reserved and considered. As if this combination of personalities wasn't already a recipe for disaster, the girls' lives take a turn for the dangerous when they discover a secret room in their new house filled with mysterious potions and magical objects.

Of course, upon finding this stash, Lucinda feels it necessary to steal a bottle of invisibility potion and create a spectacle in the school hallway, the major problem with that; she never comes back. Queue a frantic search from Lexa and best friend Marlon (the videogame expert) which takes the pair, along with Lexa's newly verbose cat, into a strange magical realm.

The parallel world that Lexa and Marlon explore is written beautifully, so often a reader is forced to do too much work when imagining such fantastical settings but Adams, with her superb use of description and metaphor, does all the work herself, allowing the reader to sit back and enjoy the ride.

Perhaps the two stand-out characters of the novel are Uncle Devon, a wise and layered mentor type, and his 'familiar', a chimera who describes himself with the statement, 'I am not to be trusted.' The chimera has an immensely satisfying, sarcastic wit and his dark humour, riddle-like dialogue and frequent attempts to subvert the central duo are a huge part of what makes this novel such a great read. Throw in the delectably sinister antagonist of the story, the Puppeteer, and this really is a novel with more than enough to cast a spell over any reader.
