



## Witch and Wombat

*Carolyn Cushman*

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Over centuries, Hali has punished proud princesses, turned tough teens into toads, helped noble orphans on quest; the witch and her familiar, the wombat Bernie, have faced everything...except this.

Faced with a psychic energy shortage, a magic realm of sorcerers, dragons, and fairies must endure an invasion of tourists--from the mortal plane!

Now Hali and Bernie must guide two smug college boys, a plucky high school girl, and a totally obnoxious media critic through the perils of the enchanted forest.

But these mortals think they're in a computer simulated theme park, free to gripe at the ogres, harass the high elves, and taunt the trolls. They don't understand that the magic, monsters, and dangers are real.

And that in this vacation paradise, wannabe heroes can die...

## **Witch and Wombat Details**

Date : Published September 26th 2009 by Warner Books (first published May 1994)

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Author : Carolyn Cushman

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## From Reader Review Witch and Wombat for online ebook

### **Rebecca Brae says**

I read this book for the first time about 17 years ago and I enjoyed it so much that I have re-read it every couple of years since then. The poor book is now falling apart and I need to hunt down a newer copy.

It is a fun, light read. The plot, characters and world are familiar and relatable, but at the same time unique and unexpected. I loved the main character's dour attitude and black humor so much that I wanted to hug her (which she would have hated).

For years I have hoped Carolyn Cushman would come out with a sequel, or another book of any kind. If you are out there somewhere Carolyn...you have a lifelong fan in me!

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### **Kori May says**

This has been a favourite book of mine for around 20 years. I have read and re-read it dozens of times. It is funny, exciting, and a thoroughly engaging read. I would recommend this book to anyone and everyone.

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### **W.M. says**

A hilarious read. I have read this book before, and still love it.

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### **Patrick Doris says**

This is a marvelous book the concept of guided tours of fairyland was so funny. The witch who had to use a disguise spell to hide how pretty she was was such a marvelous conceit. Unfortunately I have never been in an IHOP that was as clean as the one she picked for her hut

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### **Erin Germain says**

I actually read this years ago, when it first came out. It was silly, a little snarky, and, despite some flaws, thoroughly enjoyable. A witch forced to shepherd a group of gamers through a fairy-tale world, accompanied by her familiar, a near-sighted wombat named Bernie. I'd forgotten all about it, but am looking forward to reading it again.

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### **Roz Radmore says**

quite dated now but still very funny

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### **Jessica Russell says**

I read this book in high school, and I have read it several times since then. It is thoroughly enjoyable, and I am pleased to report that it has stood the test of time, even with its computer references. It makes me smile, and that's what I was looking for!

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### **Rose Wilton says**

I gave up halfway through. It's a good concept but descriptions of places and things took away from the story as it would go on for pages and pages. I gave up when 2+ pages was about the different real estate that the witch could have. Completely unnecessary. Really disappointed as some of the humour was really great.

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### **Thalarctos says**

I really wanted to like this book. I did read the Kindle version, and it was obviously OCR with some editing. There were a lot of places where a word wasn't caught by a spellcheck because it was a word, just the wrong one. That was kind of jarring.

I only read about a quarter of the way through because of the blatant sizeism. There's a fat character who is meant to be the comic relief. Everyone hates him. He is arrogant, greedy, and stupid. It's lazy writing and offensive to fat people. I wouldn't read a book with a black character who ate only watermelon and fried chicken either.

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### **Jessica says**

I'm stuck between 1 and 2 stars. I like the premise and I would watch the crap out of it, if it was movie. I just found it treacherous and it felt lengthy when it's only over 300 pages. It was good in the beginning and good at the end, but you have to suffer through the middle and that was very, very hard to do. Almost two weeks! Two! That's a long time to read a book at this length.

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### **Nina says**

This book is nothing but a very entertaining story. You're not going to have an epiphany, and it's unfortunately never going to win any huge literary awards. This book WILL make you laugh and sometimes that's more than enough. I don't understand why Ms Cushman doesn't write any other books, especially about Hali and Bernie.

Join our main character and titular witch Hali, and her familiar, Bernie the wombat, as they take a group of "real world" gamers on a trek through a fairy tale land of trolls, ogres, princesses locked in castle basements,

and evil fairies. Oh, and the gamers think they're actually just playing a virtual reality game, which makes it a little weird, but in a good way.

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### **Eli says**

I picked this up at a smalltown used book store as it looked fun and cute. The premise was fun and had a lot of potential but fell very short. The characters spent more time shopping and complaining about lodging arrangements than questing and exploring. I got so bored that I actually stopped reading three quarters of the way through. Here's hoping I didn't miss anything in the last bit.

If you're looking to pick up older fantasy novels for a fun and cute read you can pass this one. The fun dies out pretty quickly.

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### **April says**

finally.....

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### **Rowen says**

One of my favorite books. Humorous fantasy is a tricky genre, but *Witch and Wombat* handles it deftly. Hali, our Witch, is ill-tempered and caustic and a great deal of fun—as well as a rather brilliant take on the nature of the fairy-tale witch. Bernie, our Wombat, is the perfect sidekick, without being utterly flat. The party of adventurers she shepherds (roughly) through the story feel like people you could meet in fannish or gaming circles, clearly archetypes but still likeable in their earnest, awkward, or obnoxious cluelessness. A little light on plot, but it makes up for it with the great charm of its characters and its concept.

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### **Peter Tillman says**

#### **Humorous light fantasy -- recommended**

Business has been slow for Hali, and she's stuck in an irritatingly tidy A-frame with a blue plastic roof. When her boss Bentwood comes up with a scheme to lure fantasy gamers to the Inner World as tourists, she agrees to help in exchange for a properly spooky witch's hut...

There are few surprises in this first novel, but the cheerful tone and amusing skits keep the pages turning. Ms. Cushman is perhaps better-known for her monthly column in Locus, where she reviews books much like the one she has written --though most of those are not so well done.

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