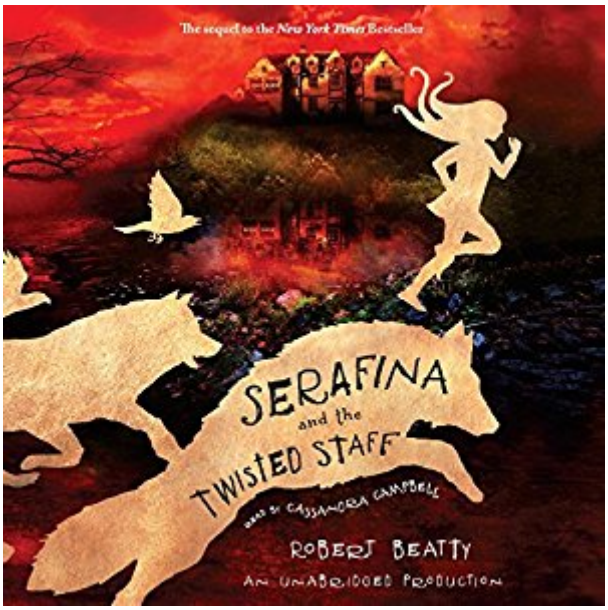
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Serafina And The Twisted Staff



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Synopsis

Serafina’s defeat of the Man in the Black Cloak has brought her out of the shadows and into the daylight realm of her home, Biltmore Estate. Every night, she visits her mother in the forest, eager to learn the ways of the catamount. But Serafina finds herself caught between her two worlds: She’s too wild for Biltmore’s beautifully dressed ladies and formal customs and too human to fully join her kin. Late one night Serafina encounters a strange and terrifying figure in the forest and is attacked by the vicious wolfhounds that seem to be under his control. Even worse, she’s convinced that the stranger was not alone, that he has sent his accomplice into Biltmore in disguise. Someone is wreaking havoc at the estate. A mysterious series of attacks test Serafina’s role as Biltmore’s protector, culminating in a tragedy that tears Serafina’s best friend and only ally, Braeden Vanderbilt, from her side. Heartbroken, she flees. Deep in the forest, Serafina comes face-to-face with the evil infecting Biltmore - and discovers its reach is far greater than she’d ever imagined. All the humans and creatures of the Blue Ridge Mountains are in terrible danger. For Serafina to defeat this new evil before it engulfs her beloved home, she must search deep inside herself and embrace the destiny that has always awaited her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Beatty has created a compelling sequel that more than lives up to the first book. The action takes off in the first chapter and never really lets up (although Serafina has a few quieter moments they are few and far between). Just as Serafina is coming to terms with her shapeshifting abilities

and is trying to figure out where she belongs: Biltmore or the forest. While wandering the forest one night she observes a strange carriage pulled by four wildlike stallion that drops off a strange man and his wolfhounds. She nearly dies when the wolfhounds attack her. Only with the help of her catamount mother and a feral boy does she manage to escape and return to Biltmore. But she is left with concerns about the person in the carriage that she didn't see that is now at Biltmore intending harm.But an awful series of events sends Serafina fleeing into the forest where she discovers that things are even worse than she thought. Only by finding a way to harness her own abilities and rallying her friends to her side can she find a way to defeat the evil that seeks to take over the whole region. The strange behavior of the animals complicates things as does the arrival of a Detective seeking to investigate the disappearance of Mr. Thorne (see book 1).I found the book compelling and fascinating with lots of twists and turns, especially at the end. This is the sort of book that I love to hand to children who like scary/suspenseful stories that are well told and don't follow overdone tropes. The underlying themes of the choices people make, and finding oneÃƒâ |Ã â º way to peace within and well done and not overly preachy at all. SerafinaÃƒâ |Ã â º efforts to protect the people and places she loves shines through loud and clear, but her struggles with fear and shame feel very real. A great sequel that I will hand to students with great pleasure.

The books in this series are great! I originally purchased the books for my 11 year old son, because we like reading books together. But as it turns out, these books are a bit too scary for him. (He is easily scared and has bad dreams. The books might be fine for a different 11 year old. My oldest son would have been fine with these books at 11.) Nonetheless, the books are enjoyable, and I do recommend them to non-scaredy cats. :)

Completely entertaining, Robert BeattyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Serafina and the Twisted StaffÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• combines mystery, suspense, history and drama in a second tale of Serafina, the intriguing girl who lives in the basement at the Biltmore Estate. Beatty weaves a beautiful web of details, many based on the actual history of Biltmore, and re-introduces the reader to an intelligent, brave, imaginative child who expands her horizons, and ours, through her discovery of her real self, her family, her friends, and the world outside the Biltmore Estate. Learning to trust her instincts, while sharpening her battle skills, Serafina proves to herself and her friends that she is smart enough and strong enough to take on the vile creatures who are intent on destroying her world. She learns that she is not alone, but surrounded by family and friends who support her, encourage her, and respect her as she learns to respect their worlds.The scenery is beautifully detailed,

descriptions of BiltmoreÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s lavish interior are compelling, the cast of characters varied and interesting. This is a good book. The story holds the readerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s attention, teaches while it entertains, and leaves us wanting more. Come on, Mr. Beatty, get that third tale finished; weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re hooked! ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ p.s. I received an Advanced Reading Copy, and pre-ordered my own copy; IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll be buying the trilogy and introducing others, younger and older, to the exciting adventures of Serafina of Biltmore. [...] Beatty & Co./family have made a couple of intriguing videos to introduce the books.

Although the book could have been shorter, in my opinion, because Mr. Beatty makes thinks more complicated and/or detailed than they need to be and the main characters get into more trouble in the course of a few days than is reasonable, the plot is engaging and I can skim through the overwritten parts without losing the important story line. It's a good book for reading in bed when you don't want anything too heavy or taxing!

This review was written by my 10-yr.-old daughter.Serafina and Twisted Staff is a really good book. The Twisted Staff Begins 3 weeks after Serafina defeated the man in the black cloak. If you haven't read the first book (Serafina and the Black Cloak,) consider going to the Biltmore Estate or read about it because both of the books talk about the rooms in Biltmore. I visited Asheville and the Biltmore Estate and it really helped me get into the books because I could picture what things looked like.Other people should read Serafina and the Twisted Staff. It's got one mystery after another. If you like adventure, this book is great for you. My favorite character is Serafina because she is adventurous. I like to go outside a lot, and I can really relate to her. The new characters in the Twisted Staff are a girl named Rowena, a boy named Wasya Fredrick Law Olmstead (designer of Biltmore,) Detective Grathan, a maid named Essie, and the creepy man in the forest.I really hope there is a 3rd book coming soon. Make sure you don't miss Serafina and the Twisted Staff on July 12th! I hope you like it as much as I do.From mom:We received an advanced reader's copy and have a hardback on order. I am donating one of them to my daughter's school. I think these are wonderful books for young girls. Thanks for the opportunity!

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