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My Fairy Stepmother

By Marni & Jason Prince – Illustrated by Susan Tegelaar

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Synopsis

This is no Cinderella story â€“ finally thereâ€™s a fairytale where the stepmother is the hero! My Fairy Stepmother is a children's book that turns the Cinderella myth on its head, with a caring stepmother who helps her stepdaughter find courage she never knew she had. Ameliaâ€™s stepmom Maribel has a special secret. When Amelia has trouble sleeping, will her stepmotherâ€™s secret be able to help? Children of blended families will be drawn in by the colorful hand-crafted illustrations, and the tale of magic and empowerment that follows. Theyâ€™ll identify with Ameliaâ€™s character as she travels between two households, and faces challenges that only stepchildren face. And parents will love the positive portrayal of a stepmother who helps her stepdaughter with these challenges.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review:  4.2 out of 5 stars â€“ See all reviews (21 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #763,987 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #195 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies

Customer Reviews

My 6yr old bonus daughter and I love this...we need more children’s books in this world that are positive and portray the step-parent/step-child experience as a wonderful opportunity to grow and learn from another loving human connection.

Loved sharing this book with my 6 year old daughter! I bought it as a gift for her and her Stepmom. It's nice to see a stepmom in the positive for a change. As a stepmom myself, this book touched my heart!!! Wishing that all stepmoms had the chance to be a positive and loving influence on their stepkids life. My daughter walked around the house "reading" the book, changing the characters names in the book to those of herself, stepmom, cat, Dad and special bear! I am sure he and her stepmom will enjoy reading the book together =)
As a stepmother, my review of this is: meh. I am very fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with my 7-year-old stepdaughter, whom we have every other week. I was hoping for a book which would help her realize that she could have TWO wonderful maternal figures in her life, as she sometimes feels disloyal to her mother (with whom we have a good relationship) when she enjoys special time with me. However, this book is not it. In this book, the little girl seems to live primarily with her mother, and visits her father and stepmother on the weekends. The little girl is scared of the shadows on her wall, and the stepmother gives her a glowing stone that lights up the shadows. But when the little girl goes home, she has lost the stone. Her mother gives her a nightlight, but it is not as bright. She goes back to her father and stepmother's, and asks about the stone. Her stepmother takes her in the garden and reveals her magic wand and wings - she is a real fairy. She explains that the stone had the magic of belief in it, and the light came from inside the little girl herself. So as long as the little girl could see the light inside herself, she would not be afraid of the shadows. The lead-up to the end is ok, but then the ending seems very hurried and stilted. Overall, it ends up being more a book about losing fear of the dark than it is about the stepmother relationship. I think I'm going to donate it to my local library.

I got this book as a gift from a friend and fellow stepmom who knows how hard being a stepmom can be. It’s so great to find a children's book that challenges the typical negative stepmom stereotypes. It’s a simple story that focuses on the gifts a stepmother can offer and shows a stepmom empowering her stepdaughter to be her own best protector when she’s feeling scared. I love the beautiful pastel illustrations, and the deceptively simple situations that the little girl has to navigate like leaving a pet behind at one house when she visits her second family home, and having different bedtime rituals at each. Ultimately, feeling at peace with change and difference must come from within, but it’s refreshing to see a stepmom be the teacher of that lesson.

At this point in 2016, the number of 2nd families competes with, if not outnumbers the number of 1st families. This is a welcomed breath of fresh air showing a positive light on the "bonus" parent working with the "bonus" child. Stepmothers have always had a negative stigma behind them from ancient fairy tales. It was nice to read this book and see that a stepmother has a positive role, and that the family can work together to find solutions for a constantly changing life.

So many kid's books show only the traditional family so I love that this book introduces my daughter
to the another type of family, and shows how a step mother can be a great addition to a child's life. None of the characters in the book are wicked and that is really important for modeling to kids how adults can coparent. For my daughter, it's just a sweet story that she can relate to, and she doesn't even notice that she's learning a lesson.

This book should be a standard addition to any stepfamily's collection. It features a positive portrayal of stepmom who helps her stepdaughter overcome her fear of the dark. The few negative reviewers out there seem to have expectations that this book will be some sort of practical story to teach about mom/stepmom relations or something. If you want something more didactic, there are other books that do that - the point of this book is to be a fairytale with a positive stepmom, since there are so many "evil" stepmother fairytales already out there.

Great storyline!! Really loved it!!There aren't many books out there regarding blended families so it's nice to see this on the market, addressing current times and current families.

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