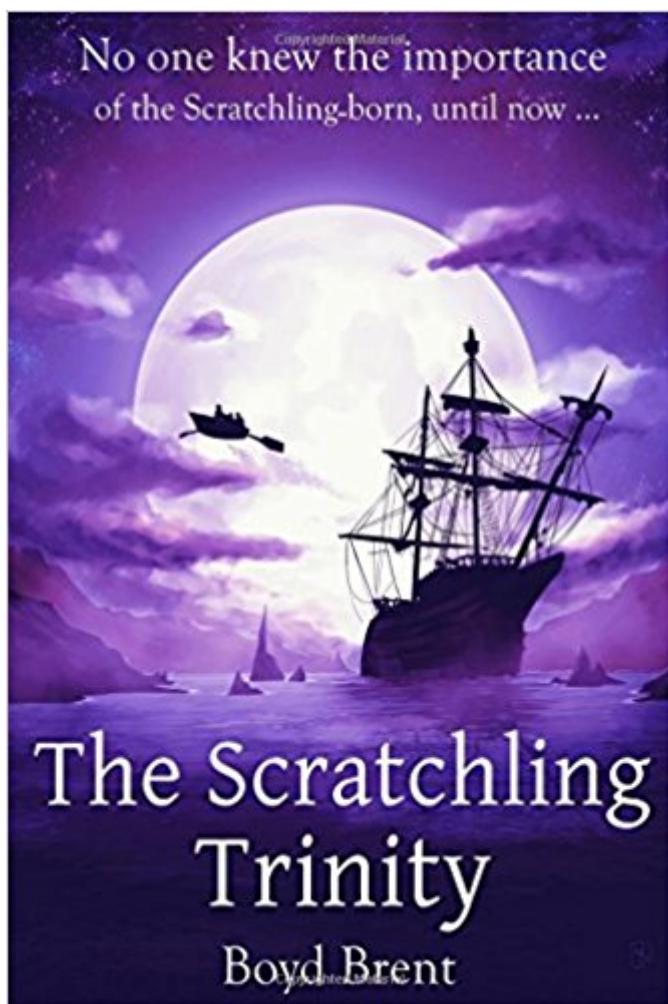


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The Scratchling Trinity: A Magical Adventure For Children Ages 9-15



Synopsis

No one knew the importance of the Scratchling-born, until now. When a desperate orphan called Eric Kettle scratches a cry for help into a wall in 1840, little does he know that it's about to be answered by luckless Max Hastings in 2016. Both Max and Eric are soon to discover that they're Scratchling-born, and that along with the Ellie Swanson, a no-nonsense Scratchling veteran, they are destined to form the Scratchling Trinity. With an evil headmaster, a flying boat, two vengeful giants and a clutch of ghostly helpers along the way, they are off on an incredible adventure!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After an engaging start I was increasingly disappointed in the characters, the plot events, and the premises of the fantasy. The very modern, snarkiness that serves Brent in The Lost Diary of Snow White so well is out of place in this book. The Scratchling's mission is too important to be done tongue in cheek, but treated too superficially to be taken seriously. Boyd Brent's description of the horrors of a 19th century orphanage sucked me into the story and I was eager to follow the adventures of an apparently plucky and virtuous boy. But the characters rapidly lost my interest. It did not appear to me that the author particularly liked the children he created or knew them very well. He created real children and then turned them into cartoon characters. I almost never find modern culture children very interesting so I was not happy that my orphan became somewhat of a third wheel sidekick to the two moderns who rescued him. Of course fantasy is based on unlikely and impossible premises, but I also want characters that I care about or a storyline that moves me to wonder what will happen next. I didn't feel much dramatic tension

between the opposing forces of good and evil. The good guys rescue people but their own personal virtues and failures don't enter much into the story. The evil characters are super-strong beings who float and don't talk"not terribly interesting, just vicious in an offhanded but inevitable way. There is no way to oppose their superhuman strength and perceptive abilities, and yet the children escape by hiding in potato sacks. I found the dilemmas increasingly fantastic and the escapes so quick and easy there was hardly any tension and suspense. Not only did it feel like the author didn't know the children but he didn't really care what happened to them. It felt very formulaic. Brent is a good writer and I am so sorry this wasn't a better vehicle for his gifts. This review was written a few weeks after one quick read so it is based more on impressions than studious attention to details. After reading *Scratchlings*, I read another Brent book, *The Lost Diary of Snow White* and unexpectedly loved it. The superciliousness I didn't like when it impinged on more realistic characters with more authentically perilous dilemmas in *Scratchling*, was perfectly suited to his treatment of fairy tale characters who even when faced with evil witches, queens or stepmothers, are never really in any danger and are permitted to change their fates and perils by rewriting the book. Mr. Brent gave his characters modern angsts and labels perfectly suited to his plot twists. The offhanded modernizing that was annoying in *Scratchling* was amusing and novel in *Diary*. That one was a 5 star! Sorry I couldn't give more stars here to a good writer but "I didn't like it," the 2 star label, is unfortunately accurate.

I stumbled across this as something to read with my ten-year-old son, drawn by the cover initially and taking a chance on a new writer. We have raced through it, considering I only get time to read with him a couple of times a week. The premise is really unusual, the characters funny and endearing. We particularly liked Eric and his relationship with Max, which was just heartwarming, especially when Eric comes to 2016. Mr Brent has a real flair for dialogue, which flows naturally and contains lots of humour. My son wanted to write a review for it, so here it is! He would like a Golden Orb of his very own.

This is a great story with real potential for a sequel. The children are funny and brave and the adventure is ingenious. If you like mystery, time travel and marvels, this could be a good one for you! My 11 year old daughter has really enjoyed it.

The story was captivating the entire time. Could not put down the book. Can't wait for book 2 to be published!

The child enjoyed it and enjoys reading!

Excellent

gifts!!!

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