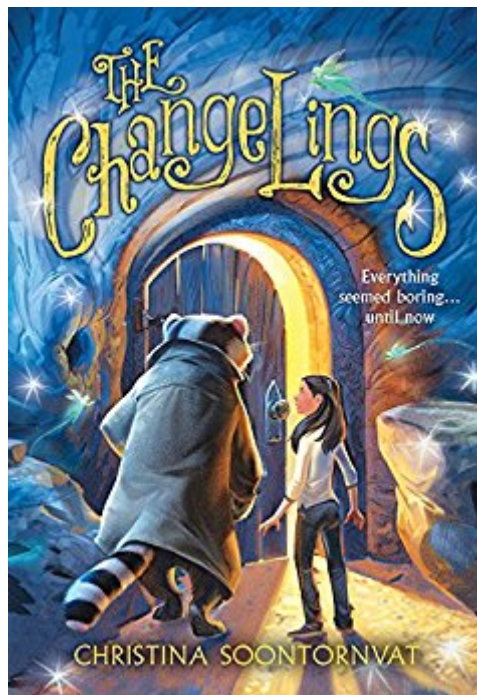


The book was found

The Changelings



Synopsis

All Izzy wants is for something interesting to happen in her sleepy little town. But her wish becomes all too real when a mysterious song floats through the woods and lures her little sister Hen into the forest...where she vanishes. A frantic search leads to a strange hole in the ground that Izzy enters. But on the other side, she discovers that the hole was not a hole, this place is not Earth, and Hen is not lost. She's been stolen away to the land of Faerie, and it's up to Izzy to bring her home. But inside Faerie, trouble is brewing-and Izzy is in way over her head. A ragtag group of outlaw Changelings offer to help, but she must decide whether a boulder that comes to life, a girl who looks like a ghost, and a boy who is also a stag can help her save Hen before it's too late. Praise for *The Changelings*: "Fresh and imaginativeâ€”new inventions on every page. I loved every ingenious twist and turn right up to the wonderfully satisfying ending." â€”Katherine Catmull, author of *The Radiant Road* and *Summer and Bird*. "The Changelings is charming! Perfect for readers who love stories full of magic, adventure, mystery and fairies, topped off with a satisfying and very happy ending. Soontornvat's debut sparkles and delights!" â€”Nikki Loftin, author of *The Sinister Sweetness of Splendid Academy*

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Customer Reviews

Izzy's family just moved to Everton, a boring little town with nothing to do besides visit the local market, the Jiggly Goat. While waiting for her mother to pay for groceries, Izzy overhears the cashier say their new neighbor, Marion Malloy, is a witch. Izzy spends her afternoons spying on Mrs. Malloy, always careful to keep her distance, until the day her younger sister is lured into the forest behind Mrs. Malloy's house by a strange song. When her little sister goes missing and it appears Mrs. Malloy is to blame, Izzy abandons caution. She runs into the forest and discovers a doorway to another world where mythical creatures abound and her sister is being held captive. What makes this book unique from all of the other child-finds-a-door-to-another-world stories is the inspiration taken from folklore. The book heavily blends the story of the Pied Piper with the lore of changelings, fairy children left in place of stolen human children. The author's portrayal of the faerie world is sufficiently magical with a balanced array of dazzling wonders and terrifying mythical creatures. Unfortunately, there's nothing special about Izzy. As a protagonist she's somewhat vanilla. Her motivation to save her sister registers as sincere, but the rest of her actions feel void of depth. She simply goes with the flow, rarely questioning the bizarre circumstances she finds herself in the midst of. The plot resolves itself far too conveniently, and much of the exposition is delivered via Izzy coming to sudden realizations. *The Changelings* is a sweet and simple tale about family and friendship.

This book is my new favorite! The main character, Izzy, is a strong, smart, kind, and funny child. She loves her sister, and like all siblings, they occasionally fight over small things. But *Changelings* manages to avoid the youth fiction cliché that paints parents as dumb, siblings as annoying, and the main character as the smartest kid in the room. The parents are not featured strongly in *Changelings*, but it is clear that the children love and respect them. The book is fun and supports good values - integrity, self sufficiency, and empathy for others. The story is a page turner and has some scary moments, so if you are reading this with your child, be prepared to read a little longer than you originally planned - to either get past the scary scenes or get to "a good stopping point," like the end of the book ;) I read it myself first because I have a sensitive 7-year-old with an active imagination, but after reading it I knew, this is a book she needs to read. I recommend this book for boys or girls. Anyone who loves an adventure. I am a terrible judge of reading levels, but I would say that the story would probably interest kids as young as first grade (again, assuming it is not too

scary for them, but parents, you know your kids), but I would not put an upper limit on audience age - I'm a fully grown adult and enjoyed the book.

This book was a pleasant surprise across the board. No, I wasn't surprised that it was well written, or even that it was nicely paced, with a careful mix of action, exposition, whimsy, world building, and plot development. I wasn't even surprised that the heroine was as engaging, thoughtful and stouthearted as she turned out to be, or that the tale was loaded with quirky and interesting supporting characters. No, I was surprised by how well the faerie angle was handled, and how interesting the characters' ability to shape shift turned out to be. In urban fantasy it seems it's always faerie war and conflict. Modern faerie stories are often violent and like Game of Thrones with pixie dust. Older faerie stories are often too la-la-la in the garden as we dance among the dewdrops. Don't get me started on "dark" fantasy in which changeling babies sneak out of their cribs at night in order to eat the family pet. So, a book that tied faeries together with humans, and showed a magical, exciting and interesting faerie world was a nice touch. It was tart, with suspense and peril, but the faeries weren't scary/creepy psychos. This was set in a more mellow middle ground that allowed for action and adventure but wasn't sappy or unsettlingly dark. Same for the changelings. Lots of books out there seize on shape shifting as a way to avoid character development or to skip over plot holes. Shape shifting should be a means to an end, or an interesting aspect of a character's larger presence, not just a magic trick that fills in the dull spots. Again, in this book we hit a nice balance that makes this interesting without overwhelming the book. And, at bottom, this isn't really about faeries or shape shifting. It starts and ends on the theme of sibling love and affection and loyalty. Our heroine does everything she does for love of her younger sister, and this concern and duty runs through the entire book and informs all of the most dramatic developments. Along the same lines, family - ones we're born into, ones we find, and ones we create - is an essential and consistent element of the story. None of this is preachy or ham fisted. And I don't think good middle grade books need to have "messages". But it is nice, every now and then, to have an exciting, but also calm and warm, tale that reminds one of the virtues of family. This was a mellow find. (Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

This book does what many kid books today fail to do- it captures the imagination of everyone in the family. I read it aloud to my 6, 8 and 10 year olds and everyone was begging for me to keep reading

late into the night. The only other books we've read that have achieved that have been the Harry Potter series and the first Narnia book. Many children's books are written with language that feels clunky or redundant. But this book was written with cleverness and sly ingenuity that shines. I really enjoyed reading this book and loved the fact that all 3 of my kids stayed unplugged to listen! We cannot wait for the sequel!!!

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The Changelings Slave to Sensation (Psy-Changelings, Book 1) (Psy/Changeling Series)

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