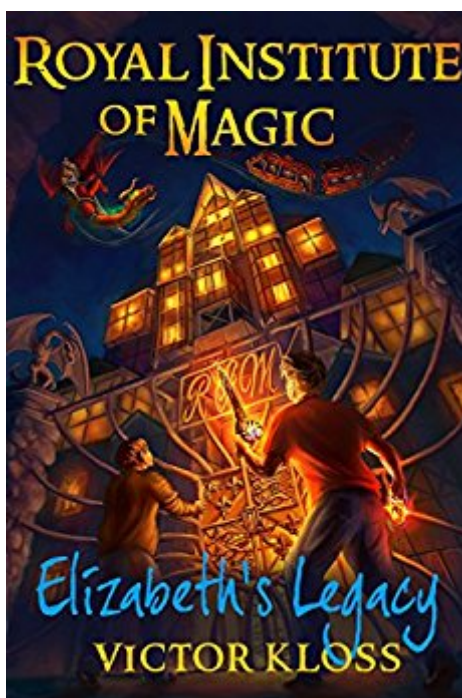


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Elizabeth's Legacy (Royal Institute Of Magic, Book 1)



Synopsis

Like most normal people, Ben hadn't the faintest idea there was an Institute of Magic...Two years after his parents' sudden disappearance, Ben Greenwood stumbles upon a cryptic letter that could shed some light on their whereabouts. But before he can track them down, he'll need to find the mysterious organization that sent the letter: The Royal Institute of Magic. To succeed, Ben will have to navigate a land filled with fantastic creatures and Spellshooters, where magic can be bought and sold, to unravel an ancient family secret that could hold the key to defeating an evil the Institute has been fighting for the last five hundred years. Elizabeth's Legacy is the first book in the Royal Institute of Magic series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was enjoyable and inventive! The world created was colorful and original. There was plenty of mystery and readers are kept guessing who is trustworthy. The level of action and adventure builds throughout the book leading up to a huge finale that kids will love. I think that the three main characters (two boys and a girl for good balance) had well-defined and engaging personalities. Ben

is a bit of a loose cannon who prefers to jump in with both feet and extemporize at every turn. Charlie is more considered and intellectual, he pays attention to important details but often is fearful or physically unable to keep up. Natalie is a planner and there is more to her than the boys first see. Unfortunately for readers, Ben's several aims are not met in this book and we are smoothly handed off to the next book. I didn't realize that this was going to be the case and only just discovered that there are four books with number five on the way. Will these just be further adventures for the trio or will the mystery just go on being unsolved from book to book? I find series like that tiresome and feel that, after a point, the reader deserves an answer and not to just be strung along. I just got burned with an ebook series that kept trailing on and on only to finally announce at book 6 that it was a projected 12 book series--I'll go broke before I find out what happens! I think that I will wait until I'm sure that all the books are out before deciding if I want to commit to continuing with this series.

Royal Institute of Magic has been one of the greatest books I've read in a while. The author has crafted his characters well, and each of them have their own personality. The story flows very smoothly, and there was never a 'page filler scene'. Great work, Mr. Kloss! This book is bound for great places. Oh, and to the one reviewer who said this book was a little like Harry Potter, I'm going to have to disagree with you there. Yes, the main character received a "letter" of types, but it wasn't sent to HIM, he acquired it elsewhere (I'm not going to spoil the story.) And yes, there was another world next to the real one, but secondary worlds have NOT been trademarked by J.K. Rowling, nor has she been the first to use them. I found this book unique and interesting, with a wonderful new magic style I haven't seen before.

I read this book prior to letting my 9 year old son read it and found myself enjoying the journey. It's not quite as complex as something like Harry Potter or Percy Jackson, but the characters are likeable, the storyline is just different enough to be unique, and it's a very clean and wholesome read. I found nothing at all objectionable in it and the main character shows more variety in judgment than the simple "I'm a kid on an adventure" archetypes. This is worth the chance if you or your children are looking for some summer reading- I'll be grabbing the rest after this.

While there are some similarities between this book and the Harry Potter series, they are superficialities such as the age and sex of the main characters and the fact that the chief character discovers that magic exists. But this book stands on its own in a different type of magical universe. I

particularly like the revisionist history of Queen Elizabeth I as the discoverer of magic in our world, head of an army that defeated the dark elf King, and mother of a secret son. The writing flows well, but is typical of juvenile literature. That is not a criticism- writing so that a teens interest is held can be tricky and I think that this book accomplishes that.

As another series of books about magic settled in the United Kingdom, it is natural the comparison with Harry Potter, which was what made me discover the book and start to read it. After reading though, I think that the comparison is unfair. Royal Institute of Magic is original in every way possible, it doesn't try to imitate its older brother, but rather introduce a lot of new concepts and usages for magic that makes the reading very entertaining and full of surprises. The methods that human achieve magic are well explained, which is not always true with other books with the same theme. The characters are very charismatic: Ben, Charlie and Natalia is a trio that was well developed throughout the book, with each of them knowing each other and relying on each other more throughout the book. This first book of the series indicates, though, that it is just the tip of the iceberg from those three, they have a lot to grow, as characters and in magic power. The political side of the story was also very interesting. The conflict of interests between the Dark Elves and the Institute was an element that made every around Ben and company even more interesting. They were the center of the story, but they were influenced by the Dark Elves and the Institute, and vice versa. The grand finale of the book only made me want to start the volume 2 of the series as soon as possible.

I loved this book. Some say it is Harry Potter like. Okay, that's fine though. Terry Brooks' Sword of Shannara is Tolkien like. I enjoyed those too. First, the book starts well. It kind of sets the table and lets the reader fall into the story. The plot is set up carefully, develops nicely and builds to a good end that must go on. Another thing about the above mentioned authors and others- they all have created their own worlds. Their characters live in those worlds and I have to believe in these authors. H.G. Wells, Edgar Rice Burroughs or Ray Bradbury. They all create these worlds complete with vivid colors, whole sets of inhabitants and the rules they live by and the horrors they may die by. Victor Kloss' book is no different. I hope he continues to write as I believe he may be one of the few to spin a yarn you can cozy up to the firelight with the kids, your loved ones or yourself and jump into the fray. If you get a chance and like this type of fantasy, give it a try.

Young adult books that don't dumb down their vocabulary or over simplify their plots should always

be encouraged. Getting the world building right is the main task in the first book in a series and the author has done a fine job creating the world here I look forward to seeing what develops.

Recommended.

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