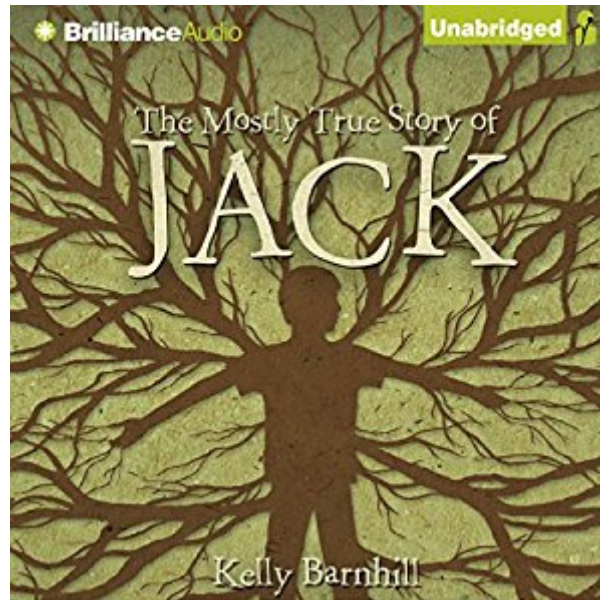




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The Mostly True Story Of Jack



Synopsis

When Jack is sent to Hazelwood, Iowa, to live with his strange aunt and uncle, he expects a summer of boredom. Little does he know that the people of Hazelwood have been waiting for him for a long time.... When he arrives, three astonishing things happen: First, he makes friends - not imaginary friends but actual friends. Second, he is beaten up by the town bully; the bullies at home always ignored him. Third, the richest man in town begins to plot Jack's imminent, and hopefully painful, demise. It's up to Jack to figure out why suddenly everyone cares so much about him. Back home he was practically, well, invisible. *The Mostly True Story of Jack* is a tale of magic, friendship, and sacrifice. It's about things broken and things put back together. Above all, it's about finding a place to belong.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read *The Witch's Boy* by Kelly Barnhill last week and enjoyed it so much I immediately picked up *The Mostly True Story of Jack*. Sadly I was disappointed in this story. While I still like the author's writing style, I felt like this story was just really confusing and if I was confused as an adult reading it I can't see many middle graders getting it either. I still am not sure exactly what was going on..why was The Lady split in two and how did that happened exactly? Why would they swap children and steal souls? I was just confused and even after going back to reread passages I still couldn't figure it out. It seems like a great idea that just wasn't pulled together very well.

While *The Witch's Boy* and *Iron Hearted Violet* were both excellent reads (as reviewed by a trio of

reviewers: my 8-yo, my 10-yo and myself), *Mostly True Story of Jack* was a big disappointment. Here's why: Plot: Ambiguous; Characters: One-dimensional; Writing Style: Pretentious (meaning, trying too hard to be deep and reflective, but comes across as unnatural). This book was hard to read, despite its fantasy/fairy tale/magical theme. The writing came across stilted, and the use of flashback was overused. The narrative on the character's thoughts and feelings did not come across as real. Although starting out with a middle-grade tone, the book kind of shifts into the YA realm, because there are hints of angst and purpose-of-life questions, and tries to propose a resolution to the battle between conflicting morals within us by suggesting we embrace our whole self, etc. Anyway, just a heads up for parents and readers out there. I suggest you go with *The Witch's Boy* or *Iron Hearted Violet*. If I could have asked for a refund for this one, I would have. But we (me and my kids) did not read it within the first week of purchase. Hope this helps.

This book is nothing serious and an easy read. I had something stressful going on and I needed a book I could put down and pick up easily. I enjoyed the simplicity of this book for the time I needed a distraction.

The *Mostly True Story of Jack* is about a boy whom no one really notices, not even his parents. They barely remember his name. When his parents divorce, they send him to live with his strange aunt and uncle in a tiny little farm town. In a strange house with even odder people. Here he finally makes a friend while dealing with the evil lurking beneath the town - and learns his place in it all. Nicely written story, Jack's pain is so real and heart wrenching. The townspeople are well developed and the real story is unique.

My 11 year old daughter and I read this together and I'll say it has an interesting premise and is well-written. The main characters are strong and you do get enough background to understand most of them. In terms of the plot, you're purposely left in the dark as to why Jack is ignored. That element of the story is the reason I knocked it down a star: It's not entirely believable as to why he doesn't integrate with people. One thing that may have helped is a clearer description as to the connection between Jack and his Mother. The latter character was the only weak part of the story as it just isn't clear what her motive was in terms of the things she did. Overall, it was a page turner and I would recommend it, but just know that you may be left wanting at the end.

Wonderful.

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I found this book on reviews from others on . I found it interesting and exciting. I tried having my 9 year old read it but she wouldn't, so I did. I found it entertaining and wanting to know what happens to Jack and why his family can't remember him. The book is enjoyable, I feel more for teenagers.

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