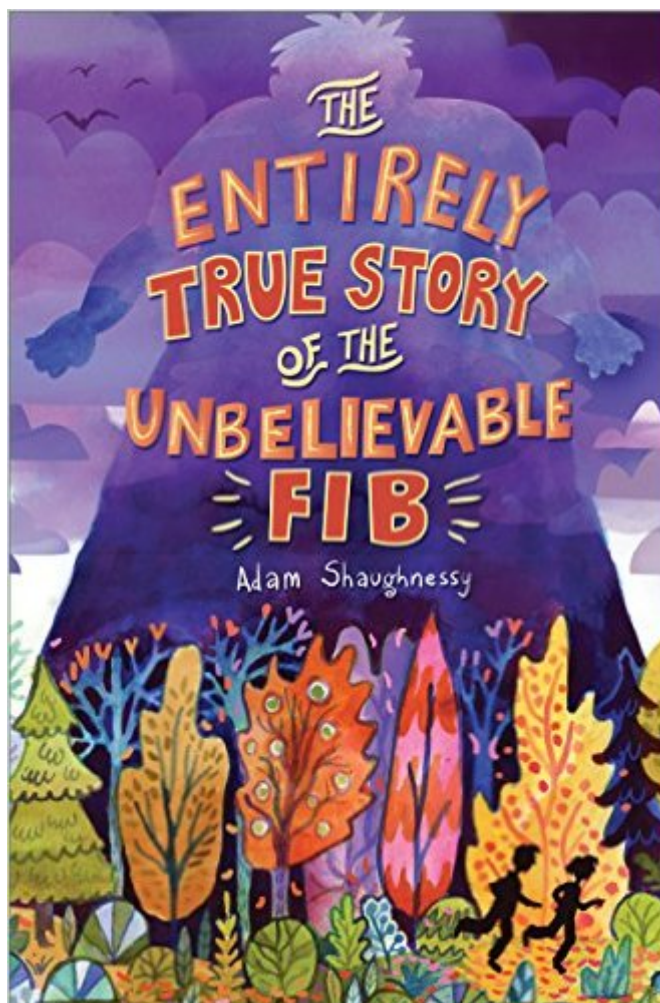


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The Entirely True Story Of The Unbelievable FIB



Synopsis

What is the Unbelievable FIB? That's the question eleven-year-old Prudence Potts discovers on a baffling card no one else in Middleton--except ABE, a new kid at school with a knack for solving riddles--seems to see. Then a mysterious man asks for ABE and Pru's help investigating mythical beings infiltrating the town, and that's just the first of many things Pru finds hard to believe. Soon Pru and ABE discover another world beneath their quiet town, where Viking gods lurk just out of sight. And when the pair find themselves locked in a battle against a dangerously clever enemy, they must race to secure the Eye of Odin, source of all knowledge--and the key to stopping a war that could destroy both human and immortal realms. Author Adam Shaughnessy draws from classic lore to create a tale rich in puzzles, plot twists, charming characters, and sly humor in which uncertainty opens the door to magic and the last thing you should do is believe your own eyes.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720 (What's this?)

Series: The Unbelievable FIB (Book 1)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Algonquin Young Readers (September 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1616204982

ISBN-13: 978-1616204983

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #877,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Norse #13940 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #18125 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Norse mythology has really come roaring onto the middle grade and YA scene in the past few years. By now we all know of Asgard, the tree Yggdrasil, and the stories of Odin, Thor and Loki. Neil Gaiman has often gone to the Norse well. A number of authors have done straight retellings of the

most popular tales, like those involving Frost Giants. Heck, even Marvel Comics has rediscovered Thor as a hunky hero. Well, despite its oddly uninformative title and cover, this middle grade entry is a ripping and honorable addition to the genre, and a good introduction to the main Norse figures. This particular story involves all of the mythical heroes, disguised as usual in order to misbehave here on Earth, (aka Midgard). Our heroine Pru, (her full name, "Prudence" is quite out of the question), is smack in the middle of it all. For her the whole story starts out as a mystery, (and a good one at that), until the threads of the mystery point to bigger, mythical goings on. As she perseveres bits of Norse mythology are revealed to her, heroes are discovered or described, and Norse tales are told. While all of that exposition fits into the mystery/adventure and figures in the solution, it also serves to bring a young reader up to speed. At times there may be a bit more of such exposition than a smoothly written narrative would require, but here it is very helpful and illuminating and doesn't ever burden or slow down the story, which really zips along at a remarkably fast pace. As an added treat, Baba Yaga is grafted on to the tale and the story of Baba Yaga and the way she fits into the story is very clever and satisfying.

Upon reading the title, one might ask: "WHAT IS THE UNBELIEVABLE FIB?" It is the question printed on a card that eleven year old Prudence Potts has just received. On the reverse side is a message: "Be grave in your search and avoid having stones in your head." No one but Pru can see the card--except for a new boy, ABE, who moves into town after the cards arrive. As the story progresses, it soon becomes clear that in the small New England town of Middleton, nothing (and perhaps none one) is as it seems. There is a world of Norse mythology mingling with the town, a mystery is brewing, and it is up to Pru to plunge into an investigation. But what really makes THE ENTIRELY TRUE STORY OF THE UNBELIEVABLE FIB an important book is the message. Pru's father recently died. He was a detective and Pru is following in his footsteps by conducting investigations, including her latest Sasquatch debacle that landed her in detention with her least favorite teacher. Throughout the story, Pru must confront truths (and lies) she hasn't wanted to face. This story is just as much about grief and fear as it is about mysteries and Norse mythology. And yet, it remains playful, light, and humorous while also still addressing the seriousness of deeper issues. Often children's books turn dark and heavy to deal with such topics but Adam Shaughnessy shows readers, writers, and children that it does not have to be that way. He brings the topic to an appropriate level and deals with it in a way children would. Grief impacts children in a much different way than adults. THE ENTIRELY TRUE STORY OF THE UNBELIEVABLE FIB handles this topic with fantasy, mythology, and mystery while tapping into the wonderful imaginations that children so

naturally have.

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