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Mighty Jack



Synopsis

Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk— to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. In *Mighty Jack*, what starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everything— a dragon.

Book Information

Series: *Mighty Jack* (Book 1)

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Fantasy > Fantasy > Sword & Sorcery

Customer Reviews

Gr 4—7 • Hatke, the author of *Julia's House for Lost Creatures* and the popular "Zita the Spacegirl" series, returns to the land of heroes with a modern-day reimagining of "Jack and the Beanstalk." Jack is the oldest child of a divorced single mom doing her best to keep the family fed. On a trip to the flea market, Jack's sister, Maddy, who is autistic and never speaks, convinces Jack to swap the family car for a packet of seeds. Adventure soon follows, and Jack finds himself planting a garden that produces a variety of strange and bizarre creatures, meeting the neighbor girl, dealing with his sister, and even encountering a dragon. Hatke deftly weaves in real-world issues as well, such as mother-son relationships, special-needs siblings, and divorced homes. He is in brilliant form

here, balancing appropriate dialogue with vibrant, visually engaging images that move the narrative along. Those who enjoy this series starter will want to look out for Jack's future escapades.

VERDICT This title will do well with graphic novel readers, fairy-tale fans, struggling readers, and anyone who enjoys good storytelling. —John Trischitti, Midland County Public Libraries, TX

Included in School Library Journal's "Best of 2016" list. Ben Hatke has a knack for writing stories that focus on smart, young characters who become caught up with robots, mythical creatures, and alien invasions. *Mighty Jack* is no exception." —Entertainment Weekly "This first in a series flourishes up to its nail-biting cliffhanger: expect interest for the subsequent offering to positively bloom. Very mighty indeed." —Kirkus, starred review "With expert visual storytelling, an empowering team of kid adventurers, and a tantalizing cliff-hanger, this series starter will easily please Hatke's legion of followers." —Booklist

This was another wonderful Hatke graphic novel. My 10 year old son and I both love the Zita the Spacegirl series and he was the one who actually brought this book to my attention. This was a wonderfully entertaining and fun read that I enjoyed a lot. This book deals with Jack and his sister Maddy. Their mom is desperately trying to make ends meet when Jack lends his mom's car to a mysterious man selling amazing garden seeds. There are some cameos in here from a couple of the Zita the Spacegirl characters as well which was neat. I absolutely loved the crazy creatures/plants that took root in Jack's garden. The addition of a dragon made things even more fantastic. This whole book was action-packed and so much fun. It also touches on some nice family issues and issues with disabilities. The illustration is amazing, full of bright colors and easy to follow. I love Hatke's illustration style. Overall both me and my 10 year old son absolutely loved this book. The illustration is wonderful and the story is action-packed and very creative. This is just such a fun read and is great for those who love graphic novel fantasy adventures. I would recommend to those who also enjoyed Zita the Spacegirl, Cleopatra in Space or Amulet.

Ben's graphic novels and picture books are staples in our house. We got *Mighty Jack* the day it released and my son is already asking about the next book. He's read it three times in the first week. He stops every now and again to find me and share a particular section with me. Ben has an extraordinary talent for world building with great characters and an engaging story. Other favorites from Ben: All of his books. Seriously. Buy them all. We are wearing them out. I'm probably going to

have to replace the Zita the Spacegirl series at some point since they've read through each of them a dozen times. His illustrations are magic, his stories are wonderful. Are you worried you can't get your child to put down a screen? Hand them anything from Ben Hatke. Problem solved.

We received this book yesterday. 5 of my children have already read the entire thing and are now begging for more Mighty Jack or anything by this author. Hatke superbly uses illustration and dialogue to quickly bring readers close to the characters. Bringing in autism and homeschooling, the author also draws in readers that don't typically see their experiences expressed through characters. The plot is a fresh twist on a classic fairy tale; we can't wait for the continuation! My kids aged 5 through 12 all read and enjoyed it...and so did I!

My 8 year old loved this book so much! Every day he asks me if a sequel will come out :)

I've started reading Mighty Jack to my twins when they just turned 3 (they are now 4 and are just as enthusiastic about the book). They sit through the whole story. We absolutely love the writing and illustrations! They don't let me miss one SKREE!

Bought this for my son. He really enjoyed it and as his sister has autism, it struck a special cord. He was very disappointed the sequel isn't out yet!

A new family favorite!! Ben Hatke's books are consistently the books my early readers turn to, and consistently the ones they read over and over long after their reading is advanced. This is proving to be no different--except their mother steals it from them a little more often than the others. :) Extra points for the wonderful and accurate depiction of a homeschooler!

As a sometime writer myself, I like to think I appreciate good stuff. Ben Hatke's stuff is better than good. From plotting, to art, to characters, he is brilliant. His characters are strong, resolute, innovative and brave. His work also provides a wonderful tool to inspire children in other countries to learn English. Makes me wish I had grandchildren.

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