



[The House in the Cerulean Sea](#) by TJ Klune

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret.

Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages.

When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days.

But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe. As Arthur and Linus grow closer, long-held secrets are exposed, and Linus must make a choice: destroy a home or watch the world burn.

An enchanting story, masterfully told, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"I loved it. It is like being wrapped up in a big gay blanket. Simply perfect." —V.E. Schwab, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*

"It will renew your faith in humanity." —Terry Brooks, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Shannara series

"It's a witty, wholesome fantasy that's likely to cause heart-swelling." —*The Washington Post*

"*The House in The Cerulean Sea* is a modern fairy tale about learning your true nature and what you love and will protect. It's a beautiful book." —Charlaine Harris, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

"1984 meets *The Umbrella Academy* with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. Touching, tender, and truly delightful, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is an utterly absorbing story of tolerance, found family, and defeating bureaucracy." —Gail Carriger, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Soulless*

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Contact anthony.parisi@tor.com

"Sweet, comforting, and kind, this book is very close to perfect. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is a work of classic children's literature written for adults and children alike, with the perspective and delicacy of the modern day. I cannot recommend it highly enough." —Seanan McGuire, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Every Heart a Doorway*

"Is it possible to fall in love with someone's imagination? If so, consider me fully smitten. TJ Klune creates worlds where fear and threat can be conquered by kindness, and a tender, queer heart is more valuable than any weapon or power." —David Levithan

"Quirk and charm give way to a serious exploration of the dangers of complacency in this delightful, thought-provoking Orwellian fantasy from Klune.... This tale of found family is hopeful to its core. Readers will revel in Klune's wit and ingenuity." —[Publishers Weekly \(starred review\)](#)

"Lambda Literary Award-winning author Klune (*The Art of Breathing*, 2019, etc.) has a knack for creating endearing characters, and readers will grow to love Arthur and the orphans alongside Linus... fans of quirky fantasy will eat it up. A breezy and fun contemporary fantasy." —[Kirkus](#)

"This is a sweet narrative about the value of asking questions and the benefits of giving people (especially children) a chance to be safe, protected, and themselves, regardless of what assumptions one might glean from, say, reading their case file." —[Booklist](#)

"This inclusive fantasy is quite possibly the greatest feel-good story ever to involve the Antichrist.... *The House in the Cerulean Sea* will delight fans of Seanan McGuire's Wayward Children series and any reader looking for a burst of humor and hope." —*Shelf Awareness*

"A beautiful little gem of both irony and, yes, kindness." —*Fantasy & Science Fiction*

"TJ Klune is a master storyteller." —*The Mary Sue*

"A delightful tale about chosen families, and how to celebrate differences." —[Library Journal](#)

"If ever there was an author to watch out for, [Klune] is definitely that author." —[Culturess Daily](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A *NEW YORK TIMES*, *USA TODAY*, and *WASHINGTON POST* BESTSELLER!
- A 2021 Alex Award winner
- The 2021 RUSA Reading List: Fantasy Winner!
- An Indie Next Pick!
- One of *Publishers Weekly's* "Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2020"
- One of *Book Riot's* "20 Must-Read Feel-Good Fantasies"
- Amazon.com Best Books of the Year
- Chicago Tribune Best Books of the Year

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Reading group guide](#)
- [The Hub interview with TJ Klune](#)
- [Nerd Daily interview with TJ Klune](#)

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