



***The Hidden Witch* (The Witch Boy Trilogy #2) by Molly Knox Ostertag**

Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2017

ISBN: 9781338253757 (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 8 to 12 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 4-6 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From the creator of the acclaimed graphic novel *The Witch Boy* comes a new adventure set in the world of magic and shapeshifting -- and ordinary kids just trying to make friends.

Aster and his family are adjusting to his unconventional talent for witchery; unlike the other boys in his family, he isn't a shapeshifter. He's taking classes with his grandmother and helping to keep an eye on his great-uncle whose corrupted magic wreaked havoc on the family. Meanwhile, Aster's friend from the non-magical part of town, Charlie, is having problems of her own -- a curse has tried to attach itself to her. She runs to Aster and escapes it, but now the friends must find the source of the curse before more people -- normal and magical alike -- get hurt.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "An absolutely bewitching sequel" —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

"Ostertag skillfully develops the setting and action while tackling topics such as friendship, jealousy, bullying, and identity." —*School Library Journal*

"Ostertag's illustrations are vivid and vibrant and showcase the degrees of magic in beautiful, rich tones. The panels are well positioned, making it easy to follow the story. In her dynamic artwork, the detailed scenes spanning across pages showcase the richness of her world building. A great comic for magic fans and those who want to read stories about others who buck the trend." —*Booklist*

"These awkward, honest coming-of-age interactions mixed with spot-on world-building offer something for fans of fantasy and realistic fiction alike." —*Horn Book*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Ann Arbor Kids Read Comics Awards Nominee
- Dwayne McDuffie for Kids Comics Award Shortlist
- Texas Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List
- Texas Maverick Graphic Novel List

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MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Read with Pride Resource Guide](#)
- SVA Online, [author interview](#)
- Comics Beat, [author interview](#) – October 1, 2018
- Comics Worth Reading, [new release post](#)
- YAY OMG, [review](#)
- Bridget and the Books, [review](#)
- Let’s Talk Picture Books, [Halloween roundup](#)
- [Book Riot](#), “More Than Just Representation: 5 Queer Reads”
- School Library Journal, [new release roundup](#)
- [Publishers Weekly](#), “Noteworthy Graphic Novel Sequels: October 2018”
- Science Fiction, [new release roundup](#)
- Romper, [Halloween roundup](#)
- Nerdist, [new release roundup](#)
- School Library Journal, [new release roundup](#)
- Miss Print, [review](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library](#): *The Witch Boy* is a coming-of-age graphic novel about “a young boy, Aster, who is intent on becoming a witch in a community where boys are expected to become shapeshifters and anyone who crosses those lines is exiled.” This book was challenged because of its LGBTQIA+ subject matter.

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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