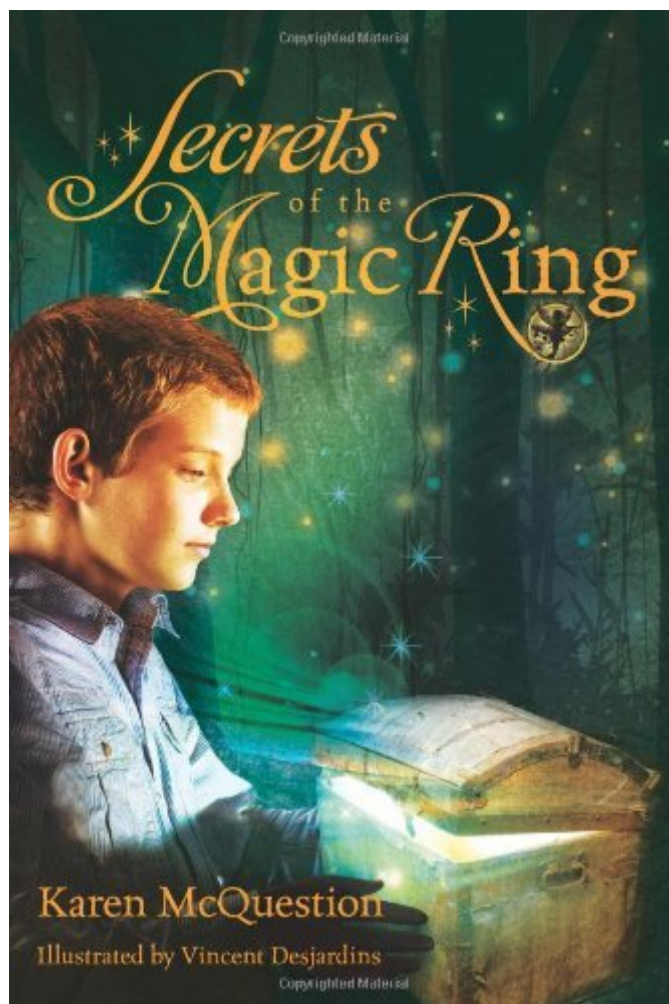


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Secrets Of The Magic Ring



Synopsis

When nine-year-old Paul explores the hole dug for his backyard swimming pool, he discovers a box containing a ring—a ring that turns out to be magical. Moments later, a mysterious boy shows up demanding the ring; luckily, Paul's trusty dog Clem scares him away. To keep the ring safe, Paul hides it in his pillow case, where, to his horror, it's discovered by his mother, who loans it to his Aunt Vicky. Things get even stranger when Vicky, a non-swimmer, falls into the now-finished pool and discovers that her greatest secret wish has been granted—she can swim! As the ring gets passed around and wishes are made, a wild series of talents and circumstances threaten to turn their lives upside down forever. But Jasmine, a fairy of the woods, has an idea, and if everyone cooperates, she just might be able to put an end to the shenanigans and return their lives to normal. Wildly original and full of vibrant, chaotic imagination, *Secrets of the Magic Ring* is proof of the old adage, "Be careful what you wish for."

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Customer Reviews

Paul is thrilled when his Aunt offers to pay for a pool for his 9th birthday. He is fascinated by the

digging and prepping for the pool.....and then something magical and mysterious is found, a real buried treasure. Paul believes he has really found something beautiful and valuable, but he also reads the instructions and he soon learns the power behind one's most desired wish. Be careful what you wish for has never been more true. I love the timelessness of this book. When reading it I realized it could have taken place almost any time in the last 20 or so years. The illustrations by Vincent Desjardins are so well done and also classic in feel. This book is fantasy and lessons to be learned rolled into one. The adventures that Paul has are so appealing to a child boy or girl, and I truly enjoyed each one. I'm sending this book off to a friend with 2 young boys, because I know they too will love this new book.

It was Paul's ninth birthday, summer vacation was just around the corner, and the anticipation of swimming in a brand new pool was overwhelming. The excitement of watching the construction made him daydream of how much fun he would soon have. As Paul enjoyed gazing at the deep hole, while his imagination exploded, so did his curiosity when he noticed a box-like structure sticking out of the dirt. Paul's Aunt Vicky paid for the new pool, but did she know about the secret treasure? What was inside the box that Paul found, and was his discovery a secret? Why was Henry's tone threatening when he demanded Paul to give him the box? Why was Henry dressed in rags, desperately searching for food, and did he live in the woods? What did Henry know about the ring that Paul didn't know, and why did Henry miss his family? I highly recommend 'Secrets of the Magic Ring' to children, ages six to eleven, who enjoy fun-filled stories from beginning to end. Karen McQuestion created a mystical-magical adventure as the characters come to life in this vibrant, mysterious tale. What did Vicky wish for, and did her wish come true? Where did Paul's mother find the ring, and how did Vicky lose it? What did Grammy know about the ring, why did Henry spy on Paul's house, and who did Clem talk to? Did Mira know about the history of the ring, and did she tell Jasmine? Will Jasmine break the rules to help Henry? Can the gold ring with a sparkling blue gem, taken from a box that looked like a pirate's chest, lead to big trouble? Who was the ring a perfect fit for? Will happiness turn into misery, after many wishes are granted?

"Secrets" is a perfect followup to the author's earlier work, Celia and the Fairies. All the characters are here, though this book is told from the point of view of Paul, Celia's friend and neighbor. In this story, Aunt Vicky gives Paul and his family a swimming pool, and Paul finds a box in the hole dug for it. Inside the box is a magic ring that can make wishes come true: but in the best fairy tales, there's always a catch. Throw in a boy, Henry, who just wants to go home, and things happen in

very unexpected ways! I don't think this particular book has as many "messages" as the original, but it's still a very charming read. It grabbed me from the very first chapter! I'm thrilled the author gave us a sequel - hope she gives us a prequel with Henry and Celia's grandmother.

I happened upon this book on for a class project that my son had to do on a book of fiction. Unlike some other recommended books, *Secrets of the Magic Ring*, immediately caught his attention. For the first time in a long time, he totally enjoyed reading it and couldn't wait to find out what each of the characters wished for and to my surprise he recognized the meaning of the story. The book project was fun rather than a chore. Most rewarding of all, he asked me to get other books from Karen McQuestion and immediately started to read them. This is testament to the author, she captured my son's attention from the first sentence to the very last sentence. I thank you.

This book is a sort of sequel to "Celia and the Fairies," this time the story is told largely through the eyes Celia's friend, Paul. Again, this a pretty breezy read told much in the same style and manner as "Celia." By the time I was done with this, I was actually surprised to find that I find Paul a slightly more likable, sympathetic character than Celia, who was mean to Paul a few times in the first book, despite being "friends." Themes include the difference of making the right or easy choice, friendship, and loyalty, and so on. There was quite a bit of point-of-view shifting in this book, compared to the first, which may bother some readers. This book would probably be a good book to read with your younger readers that enjoy tales of magic, with some light drama, and even a few laughs. Overall, it's not a bad way to spend a few hours of reading time.

Secrets of the Magic Ring (2011) Category: Light adventure/Fantasy Age Range: 8 - 12 years (before middle school) Grade (Public school): 3rd or 4th Preferred Gender: maybe slightly tilted to BOYS Paul really wants a swimming pool, but his family can't afford one. When his rich Aunt Vickie offers to pay for one his parents are uncertain on whether or not it would be appropriate to accept the gift. Paul's parents decide it would be alright to accept the gift and the construction begins. After the hole is dug Paul looks into the hole and sees something protruding out from the side. He gets a ladder and climbs down into the hole and discovers a box. Inside the box is a ring with a piece of paper with instructions. Paul puts the ring on and pretty much ignores the instructions. Paul finds that ignoring instruction can lead to bad consequences. I recommend this book for the ages given above and for those who believe in magic and wishes coming true. Gunner December, 2011

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