



The Steps up the Chimney (Magician's House Quartet)

By William Corlett

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The Magician's House Quartet

Thirteen-year-old William Constant and his two younger sisters, Mary and Alice, have come to ancient, mysterious Golden House in Wales for the holidays. Their lives will never be the same once they enter the Magician's House -- and discover their destiny.

What evil lurks in Golden House?

The children know...

William knew something was wrong from the moment they arrived at the railroad station on the border of Wales. First came the stranger who said his name was Steven. "Remember me," he said. Then he vanished. By the time they reached Golden House, even Mary and Alice felt something odd. Who -- or *what* -- are the strange animals...a fox, a dog, an owl...that seem to be able to read their minds? Why is it that sometimes the children even *see* out of the eyes of the animals and *hear* with their ears? And what is that prickling sensation pulling them toward the secret steps up the chimney? Nothing can stop them as they are drawn deep into the old house, into the realm of the Magician.

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The Steps up the Chimney (Magician's House Quartet) By William Corlett Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3440910 in Books
- Published on: 2000-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.94" h x .80" w x 4.22" l,
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-With their doctor parents in Ethiopia, William Constant and his younger sisters must spend winter holidays with their Uncle Jack and his girlfriend in a remote mansion in Wales. The children adore their Uncle Jack, but are suspicious of pregnant Phoebe, a vegetarian. With nothing to do and the prospect of a meatless Christmas dinner staring them in the face, the youngsters are miserable. Then, as Uncle Jack begins to discover the strange history of his newly purchased house and Phoebe and the animals of the countryside begin acting strangely, the siblings notice a window at the top of the chimney. Quick figuring leads them to the conclusion that there is a secret room, and thanks to a trick of the light, William discovers the steps in the chimney that lead them to a magician. Stephen Tyler, magician and visitor from the past, says they will be tested, and they are. When the house becomes snowbound and Phoebe goes into labor, it's up to the children and their animal companions to save the day (and the baby). This first book in a quartet (already finished in its native Britain) might be paced a bit slowly for some American readers, but the writing is excellent, the mood appropriate and sustained, and the characters nicely rounded. A must for all paperback fantasy collections.-Timothy Capehart, Leominster Public Library, MA

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Review

Good Housekeeping One of the best written and most exciting series of novels for young readers. -- *Review*

About the Author

William Corlett, after being educated at Fettes College in Edinburgh, trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. He soon started writing plays for the theater, including *The Gentle Avalanche* and *Return Ticket*, which were performed in London. Many television plays followed, including the award-winning series *Barriers*, for which he received the Writers' Guild Award for Best Children's Writer and a Gold Award at the New York International Film and Television Festival. His script for the children's series *The Paper Lads* won him another Writers' Guild Award for Best Children's Writer.

Between 1978 and 1988, William wrote a number of novels for young adults, including *The Gate of Eden*, *The Land Beyond*, *Return to the Gate*, *The Dark Side of the Moon*, *Bloxworth Blue*, and *The Secret Line*. He also co-wrote *The Question Series*, which is a series of six books about world religions. His adaptation of the Jill Paton Walsh novel *Torch* was filmed by Edinburgh Films during 1990 and earned him another nomination for the Writers' Guild Best Children's Writer of the Year Award. In addition, his adaptation of the Elizabeth Goudge novel *The Little White Horse* was shown on BBC in 1994 and won a Silver Award at the New York International Film and TV Festival. William Corlett's *Magician's House Quartet*, originally published by The Bodley Head in London recently became a major BBC television series. *The Summer of the Haunting*, a contemporary ghost story, is his most recent novel for young readers.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesus Gilbert:

The book with title The Steps up the Chimney (Magician's House Quartet) has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This book exist new understanding the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you throughout new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

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Jessie Orlando:

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