



Stopping for a Spell

By Diana Wynne Jones

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In three wild and wacky tales, find out what can happen when...

...An old armchair that you've finally decided to get rid of comes to life -- and has a definite attitude. It thinks it can rule the entire household!

...Not one, but four grannies come to take care of you and your stepsister. You manage to work some magic, and are granted three wishes -- but soon fear you may get what you wished for!

...The rudest uninvited house guest comes to visit -- and won't leave! He insults every person who comes his way. But when he starts in on the furniture, that's the last straw. Even the furniture thinks so!

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Stopping for a Spell By Diana Wynne Jones Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Aimed at a slightly younger audience than Wynne Jones's novels (see *The Time of the Ghost*, p. 442), three extended tales form "an ideal introduction to the quirky humor and witchery that characterize this author's work," said PW. Ages 8-12.

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Review

"...Her hallmarks include laugh-aloud humour, plenty of magic and imaginative array of alternate worlds. Yet, at the same time, a great seriousness is present in all of her novels, a sense of urgency that links Jones's most outrageous plots to her readers' hopes and fears..." Publishers Weekly

About the Author

Diana Wynne Jones was raised in the village of Thaxted, in Essex, England. She has been a compulsive storyteller for as long as she can remember enjoying most ardently those tales dealing with witches, hobgoblins, and the like. Ms. Jones lives in Bristol, England, with her husband, a professor of English at Bristol University. They have three sons and two granddaughters. In *Her Own Words*...

"I decided to be a writer at the age of eight, but I did not receive any encouragement in this ambition until thirty years later. I think this ambition was fired-or perhaps exacerbated is a better word-by early marginal contacts with the Great, when we were evacuated to the English Lakes during the war. The house we were in had belonged to Ruskin's secretary and had also been the home of the children in the books of Arthur Ransome. One day, finding I had no paper to draw on, I stole from the attic a stack of exquisite flower-drawings, almost certainly by Ruskin himself, and proceeded to rub them out. I was punished for this. Soon after, we children offended Arthur Ransome by making a noise on the shore beside his houseboat. He complained. So likewise did Beatrix Potter, who lived nearby. It struck me then that the Great were remarkably touchy and unpleasant (even if, in Ruskin's case, it was posthumous), and I thought I would like to be the same, without the unpleasantness.

"I started writing children's books when we moved to a village in Essex where there were almost no books. The main activities there were hand-weaving, hand-making pottery, and singing madrigals, for none of which I had either taste or talent. So, in intervals between trying to haunt the church and sitting on roofs hoping to learn to fly, I wrote enormous epic adventure stories which I read to my sisters instead of the real books we did not have. This writing was stopped, though, when it was decided I must be coached to go to University. A local philosopher was engaged to teach me Greek and philosophy in exchange for a dollhouse (my family never did things normally), and I eventually got a place at Oxford.

"At this stage, despite attending lectures by J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, I did not expect to be writing fantasy. But that was what I started to write when I was married and had children of my own. It was what they liked best. But small children do not allow you the use of your brain. They used to jump on my feet to stop me thinking. And I had not realized how much I needed to teach myself about writing. I took years to learn, and it was not until my youngest child began school that I was able to produce a book which a publisher did not send straight back.

"As soon as my books began to be published, they started coming true. Fantastic things that I thought I had made up keep happening to me. The most spectacular was *Drowned Ammet*. The first time I went on a boat

after writing that book, an island grew up out of the sea and stranded us. This sort of thing, combined with the fact that I have a travel jinx, means that my life is never dull."

Diana Wynne Jones is the author of many highly praised books for young readers, as well as three plays for children and a novel for adults. She lives in Bristol, England, with her husband, a professor of English at Bristol University. They have three sons.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Alexander:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want sense happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The particular Stopping for a Spell is kind of book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Glady Curry:

Many people spending their time by playing outside together with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, think reading a book can actually hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It fine you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Stopping for a Spell which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's observe.

Randall Barbee:

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