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# Witch Child



## Synopsis

"With its theme of religious intolerance and its touches of the supernatural, this is sure to be in high demand for a long time." — Kirkus Reviews

Welcome to the world of young Mary Newbury, a world where simply being different can cost a person her life. Hidden until now in the pages of her diary, Mary's startling story begins in 1659, the year her beloved grandmother is hanged in the public square as a witch. Mary narrowly escapes a similar fate, only to face intolerance and new danger among the Puritans in the New World. How long can she hide her true identity? Will she ever find a place where her healing powers will not be feared?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (178 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #110,806 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary Periods #85 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #312 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Mary was raised in a small English village by an old woman she knew as her grandmother. The year is now 1659, and Mary is fourteen. Suspicion has fallen on her grandmother, a healer, and she ends up being hung for witchcraft. Mary herself is a witch - but has never hurt anyone. She was born with powers she never asked for and does not understand. The villagers plan to turn on Mary next, but she escapes with the aid of a wealthy woman who turns out to be her mother. Her "grandmother" is not her grandmother at all, but her mother's childhood nursemaid. Her mother still will not care for her, but she does provide Mary with a ticket for a ship bound for the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Disguising herself as a Puritan, Mary sets out. But trouble and sorrow follow her across the ocean and into the wilderness. Even in the New World, Mary's life is threatened by the powerful leaders of the community, who are prejudiced against anyone who is different. The story was told through the form of diary entries written by Mary. Since there was an open ending, I really hope there is a sequel. Over the course of the book, I came to really care about what happened to Mary, and I'd love to read about what happened to her.

I bought this book thinking it was going to be similar to *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. In fifth grade, I read that book for class. While I enjoyed that book, I like this one much better. *Witch Child* shows you Mary's thoughts, so you feel like you are right next to Mary. Because it is in a diary form, you don't feel like you are an outsider happening to look into someone's life. Instead of knowing the thoughts of everyone, all you know is what Mary would know, and you find out information when Mary finds out. I like history, and I but what I like even better are books that don't have a textbook feeling to them, and this is definitely the latter. Celia Rees put a lot of suspense into this book, so there is never a dull moment. No one else I know has read it, but I hope that boys don't think that it is "girly", and that just because girls like it, it is dumb. This is NOT a girly book, it is a wonderful book about trying to survive during the time of the witch hunts. And, NO, witches were not always women, they were men sometimes, too. What is the best part, I think, is that she can actually see into the future, and only a few close friends who are trying to help her know. She is struggling to keep her secret a secret, because if someone found out, she would be killed immediately. I think that this is one of the best books ever, and I can't wait for the sequel to come out.

I am Mary. I am a witch. Mary has travelled to the New World to start a new life after her old one was taken by the Witch hunters noose. Even in the New World Mary will not be safe - especially amongst the strict and forbidding folk in the new town of Beulah. Told in journal form, Mary speaks to you with her own voice - sharing her loves, her dreams, and her fears. A not to be missed novel of witch-craft, persecution - and hope. This book is one of the best books that I have ever read that deals with witches and witchcraft. From the opening pages you are drawn into the world of Mary, a young woman who follows the old ways. Mary would be called a witch, but her powers and beliefs are stronger than that. Mary is a character that has stayed with me for a long time and the sequel "Sorceress" has been taunting me in the local book shop for the past couple of weeks and I can't wait to read it. This book is nothing like the popular witches in *Sabrina* or *Charmed*, it is closer to real Wicca and the thought and research that went into this novel make it one of the best witchcraft

books that I have ever read. This book is best read in one sitting so that you don't spend a restless night wondering what happens to Mary next.

The premise of this novel seemed very interesting. And it turned out to be quite a compelling read. *Witch Child* is the story of a fourteen-year-old trying to escape from potential execution. Set in 1659, the secret diary of Mary Newbury reveals entries in which she witnesses the execution of her grandmother for being a witch. With the help of a strange woman, she leaves England and arrives at an American colony. Settling in isn't easy for young Mary -- and the fear of revealing her identity to the Puritans becomes overwhelming. There are various twists throughout the novel. This novel is told in the form of an old diary that was found and published. I enjoyed this enthralling, enriching and beautiful gothic novel. Whether or not Mary was indeed a witch is a mystery and is up to the reader to decide. I for one found the backdrop of Puritan society and entries centered on witch hunts fascinating. The novel follows an untraditional pattern of plot development because everything is told in the diary entries. The historical references are also very interesting and readable. All in all, this is one of the best gothic novels I have read in a while. This isn't as good as Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, but this one is a keeper in its own right. I cannot recommend *Witch Child* enough.

I found myself completely intrigued by this book, especially the characters. I am a 27 year old library aide and I was as interested and entertained by this book as anyone could be. This proves that *Witch Child* is a book for all ages. As far as historical fiction goes, this book is unique because it is based on actual diary entries written by the main character, Mary Newbury. Knowing this, after I read the book, I wanted to know more about Mary. I even e-mailed the author to see if Mary's fate was yet known. I was sad that the book had to end and wanted the diary entries to go on. There is a lot to be learned from Mary Newbury and her story, young readers will definitely benefit from her wisdom and courage.

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