

House of Many Ways

Diana Wynne Jones

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Charmain Baker is a young girl who is assigned the task of caring for her magical Great-Uncle while he is treated of his illness by elves. Despite her family's background of magic, Charmain has been sheltered by her non-magical mother for her whole life. Now facing the house-sitting job with a special, stray dog and a slow wizard apprentice, Charmain must learn the regular household duties to get along. Piled on top of that, she helps out at the Royal Library and gets tangled among the web of the magical royal family. What seemed to be a simple task of house-sitting turns out to be far more complex than Charmain thought.

House of Many Ways is a fascinating fantasy book of magic, wizards, and mazes. Overall, I found the novel capturing and a fun read. There weren't many parts I disliked. There was slight confusion at times from the various character names and plot line from the book being the second in a series; it took some time to get fully caught up. Also, at some points in the book, there were many details that contributed to the mystery. The details took much time to read and sort out thoroughly; they shouldn't go unread or the next events in the story wouldn't make sense. Aside from these two aspects, the novel was wonderful.

The real life characteristics given to all the characters make the readers caught up in all their happenings. Even the sweet, little dog captured my heart. The fantasy adventures brought back memories of childhood when I would pretend to have tall tales of my own. Overall, this book truly captured my attention and proved to be a fantastic read. I enjoyed every moment of reading it and would definitely buy this book for all of my junior high friends.