

BRIDGMAN, Rae

Kingdom of Trolls (Middle Gate Series)

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The fourth book of the *MiddleGate Series* focuses on Wil and Sophie's trip to Iceland with their Aunt Violet, a trip sponsored by *Perfect Products*, the makers of Aunt Violet's crystal ball. Initially reluctant, they soon become enthusiastic supporters of the trip. However, before it can begin, Wil and Sophie must find the original contract, their friend Mr. Bertram is falsely accused of murder and the theft of a precious manuscript, and a new fortune-telling shop sets up business next door to Aunt Violet's shop. Once in Iceland, and during a fantastic voyage on board a flying ship, Wil and Sophie have strange magical encounters - including their meeting with the trolls - that provide clues about the secret society of the Serpent's Chain and the mystery of what happened to their parents, both sets of whom have either died or disappeared mysteriously.

Once again, the short chapters make for quick reading and each chapter begins with an interesting drawing and a Latin epigraph. Although the earlier books were clearly set in Winnipeg and drew on the genre of the school story, the connections in this book are less obvious. This novel will be entertaining for those who are fans of the series. For the new reader, the first pages of the book contain a helpful description of the series' main characters and a brief summary of Wil's magical black medallion and the tiny gold symbols that have appeared during each of the previous adventures.

Thematic Links: Fantasy; Magic; Trolls; Secret Societies

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