



## THE SERPENT'S SPELL

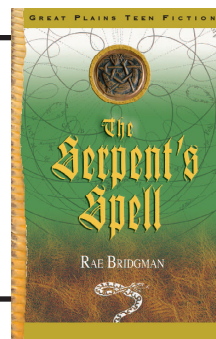
RAE BRIDGMAN

Pub Date: April 2006

\$16.95 CDN Trade paper 5½" X 8½" 192 pp

ISBN: 1-894283-67-8

BISAC: Juvenile Fiction/Fantasy



### DESCRIPTION:

The secret city of MiddleGate has been rocked by the slaughter of hundreds of snakes in nearby Narcisse. Who are the culprits?

In their quest to solve the mystery, two young sorcerers, Sophie Isidor, a girl with extraordinary powers of drawing (but she doesn't know it yet), and her cousin Wil Wychwood, a boy with a penchant for calamities, discover that Wil's medallion once belonged to an ancient secret society—the Serpent's Chain. Its members were once charged with being keepers of sacred knowledge, as well as training future generations. Elitism and corruption led to the Chain's downfall, but has it really disappeared?

Will Sophie and Wil be able to hang onto their own lives, stop the destruction of the sacred snakes of Narcisse, and uncover the truth of present and past?

*The Serpent's Spell* is a novel about the power of friendship. It is also the first book in a magical new series for readers age 9 through teen years. Sprinkled with Latin phrases and magical adventure, the story is set in a secret city accessed through one of the oldest and most architecturally stunning parts of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

### FROM THE AUTHOR:

*"The Serpent's Spell was inspired by the red-sided garter snakes (Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis) of Narcisse, Manitoba, where garter snakes hibernate in limestone caves over the winter months."*

—Rae Bridgman

### AUTHOR INFO:

Writer, artist, and anthropologist Rae Bridgman was born in Toronto. She is mother to six children, and has made Winnipeg her home. She is a professor at the University of Manitoba, and her writing spans scholarly books and children's fantasy novels. She says the real gates of the real Middlegate, a historic part of Winnipeg, inspired her secret city of MiddleGate.

### MAJOR SELLING POINTS:

- Features a Canadian school of magic
- Male protagonist will appeal to traditionally hard-to-interest young male readers
- Unique pen-and-ink illustrations from the author

### WILL APPEAL TO:

- Readers ages 9 to 12 and up
- Readers with an interest in fantasy and magic
- Readers with an interest in Canadian settings
- Readers who like mystery
- Readers who enjoy books in a series
- Readers who have enjoyed *Harry Potter*

### MARKETING PLANS:

- **Advertising** in the *Globe and Mail*, *Canadian Bookseller*, *ULS*, *Best in the West*, *Prairie Books Now*, *Canadian Teacher Magazine*, *Whitehots* and *What If?*
- **Reviews**, national and regional, radio and print.
- **On-line information and sales** through our website, booksellers, book information sites.
- **Discussion guides** available in print and online.
- **Author tours and presentations** are planned for schools, libraries, and book stores in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario.
- **International distribution**, US fall 2006, UK 2007
- **Co-op proposals** are encouraged for advertising, displays, and special events.