



# Magic America

*C.E. Medford*

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## **Magic America** C.E. Medford

Hope lives in an alternative Trenton, New Jersey of the 1980s where radioactive cats, congenital tattoos, biker angels, cocky fairy godmothers and the determination to survive another day are all that stand between her family and the creeping chemical forces of LoboChem, a manufacturer willing to destroy all that is beautiful for the sake of a profit.

Magic America is a story about coming of age in fluorescent, urbo-suburban, magic-realism America. Dust off your Wigwams and your high-tops, your banana clips and Aquanet, for a trip through the streets and skies of a Garden State where love triumphs over fear, faith is what you die with and family is who you ride with.

## **Magic America Details**

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Author : C.E. Medford

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# From Reader Review Magic America for online ebook

## Lesley Hayes says

C.E. Medford says of her writing: "There must be story, and breathless moments; colour and fire. There must be characters I want to know, who become so real to me that I miss them when I am not writing." Better than anything else I can say about it, these words sum up perfectly the effect her book 'Magic America' had on me. I began reading it with no idea really what to expect. The synopsis promised a story about "coming of age in fluorescent, urbo-suburban, magic-realism America." I was intrigued, but within the first few pages I became utterly mesmerised. I soon came to love the narrator, Hope, with her unique voice, her plucky, rebellious attitude to life, her innate sense of morality and her capacity for empathy and compassion. As Hope grew through adolescence, I became increasingly absorbed in her story and the saga of all the colourful, extraordinary members of her biker family. My heart went out to her troubled mom, who all the way though did her best to create a better life for herself and her daughter, and I admired Rooster, who was everything a dad should be, even though he wasn't really her dad. All the characters in the book leapt from within the pages with a convincing authenticity, and although this was an alternative world, it was completely believable, for all its eccentricities. This world was not so different from the one we recognise, where the voices of those most grievously affected by chemical pollution are so often ignored. C.E. Medford manages skilfully to weave into her story vital issues to do with protecting the environment from the wanton indifference of big business corporations interested only in profits, allowing her characters to fight the good fight and eventually, after some degree of poignant personal loss, to bring about a resolution. I know when a book will remain memorable for me when I find myself truly caring about what happens to the people in it. There were moments when I found myself unexpectedly touched and tearful, especially towards the end, and others where I laughed aloud... I was totally engaged to the extent that I had to leave everything else for the whole of yesterday afternoon and just read on to the very last paragraph. This is a beautiful story, beautifully written, and I look forward to reading anything C.E. Medford writes. 5\* and a big thankyou for such an entertaining read.

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## Kristin says

I really enjoyed this little gem of a book, which defies classification. It's a coming of age story, sure, but it's also a little bit magical and a little bit surreal and a whole lot charming. Biker gangs, congenital tattoos, toxic waste, wolf-dogs and romance--it's utterly unique.

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## Tasha says

I've never read anything like C.E Medford's Magic America, where a headstrong fairy godmother can be found in the most unexpected places as a family. In a city where a blind eye has been turned on corporate greed, environmental abuse, and disregard for human life, we get to see some of the most profound integrity and courage in its underdogs. This is an engrossing novel with keen observations on growing up, being poor, being alone, and choosing to fight in a world that wants you to feel powerless. The greatest lesson I learned in reading Magic America is how to actively love people. It can be said of many characters in this novel, by many characters in this novel, "I had a good life, and one of the main reasons I did is because of you." I couldn't put it down.

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## **Melanie says**

This book...

What to say about a story like this? It is one tinged with magic, with hope and wishing. With fight and strength Love, family, regrets and promise.

This book made me cry, made me smile, made me angry and laugh and hope right along with Hope, who is not only one of the most steadfast and dimensional characters I've had the pleasure of reading about, but also one of the brightest. Her courage and heart carried me through her years growing up in Trenton New Jersey with her adopted family of conventionally eccentric or weird people, but the kind of people I would love to make my own adopted family.

No, really, let's amend that. Family period.

From Rooster to Freak Eddie to Billy Regret and the swoonworthy Rick, I love every bit of Hope's family, and even so her flawed, but full of love and fight, mother Angela. The other ladies also touched my heart, not least of all the impeccably feisty and fierce Ivka Ripinka.

Read this book and it'll keep your head in the clouds and give you the urge to set off across America on the back of your own bike one day.

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## **Rebecca McNutt says**

Added to my "best fiction books about pollution" blog page: [http://gasmaskproductionsbooks.blogspot... :\)](http://gasmaskproductionsbooks.blogspot... :))

Magic America is like My Chemical Mountain and Shampoo Planet combined; it's a surreal, nostalgic trip through an alternative 1980's urban world where a chemical plant threatens to destroy all that Hope (the main character) and her family find important. It's an amazing self-pubbed book and I highly recommend it.

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## **Tara Gajano says**

C.E. Medford is a gifted story teller. Magic America is an enticing blend of fantasy and gritty reality. I kept finding myself rushing through the book to find out what happens next & then catching myself & going back slowly to enjoy the words. Great Book!

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## **Olja says**

'My' America became Magic with this book. It's spoken to me with the voice I love: a girl, who wants to make it in the world, who wants to live her dream but also keep her spirit. I love this girl, Hope. I follow the choices she makes, and I trust her completely. She takes me on the road and I enjoy every curve, every stop.

And she does it with style, the powerful mixture of vulnerability, strength and magic.

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### **Angie Roux says**

Magic America is an enchanting dance between real and surreal, with characters you want to find waiting for you every day on your front steps. It's a wonderful demonstration of how everyone's broken in some way, and that getting healed or fixed often just means borrowing what you need from others who aren't broken in quite the same way. I thoroughly enjoyed C.E. Medford's writing and especially the way she is able to capture, in a single sentence, the width and depth of a moment, whether somber or comical. For example, it never occurred to me that a pit-bull could have a bad day.

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### **Jon Langley says**

This book was a real pleasure. It creates a magical little world all of its own. Familiar but just a little unfamiliar and pulls you into it. It invites you to take interest in and care about the characters and you do.

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### **Lindy says**

I saw many reviewers praising the prose, and since I tend to be a rather literary reader, I thought I'd pick this novel up.

I was surprised, and not in a good way.

While I can appreciate the overall idea and intellectually understand the themes the author attempts to develop, the execution just isn't there. Ultimately the characters and setting feel flat and uninteresting. Additionally, I often had difficulty following the book as a whole.

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### **Daniel Suarez says**

This was one of the best books I've read. There are lots of magical elements, thrilling stories with bikers and werewolves. It was a great adventure from childhood to adulthood. That was a pleasure to read it and see the evolution of a human being and what is most important to each of us: friends. Totally worth it.

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### **Christopher Williams says**

With the soft edges and ethereal transitions, reality melts away and the reader finds themselves exploring Magic America alongside of Hope. There is a poetic flavor to Magic America that breathes life into every exchange and weaves a thread between the characters that leaves us longing for friends like Rooster and

Freak Eddie. With a final sentence Magic America does the impossible and wraps a bow not only around Magic America but around the story of our lives. C.E. Medford is the new Neil Gaiman

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**megan freeburn says**

i really needed to read something wonderful and (yet?) modern- something to reassure me that great writing didn't end when the new millennium rolled around- something that didn't shy away from using modern points of reference but didn't specifically focus on them to demonstrate how 'cool' the book is- magic america was exactly what i needed to read

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**Debbie Yearsley Davidson says**

I really enjoyed this story. So beautifully written! I especially loved the narrative of Hope as she grew up. Can't wait to read more from C E Medford. Magic realism is a new genre for me...and one I intend to dig deeper into. A really great read!

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**Doug Erhard says**

**Very pleasantly surprised**

Found this book for quite friend, and turned out I read it myself.....in one day. Great characters. truly written. Lovely.

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