



## The Monster Princess

*D.J. MacHale , Alexandra Boiger (Illustrator)*

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Lala dwells in a cave that lies deep below the ground, worlds away from the castle where three beautiful princesses live. She is the best krinkle-nut digger by far, but she longs for more: the dresses, the parties, the royal life. Up, up, up Lala climbs and sneaks into the castle. She tries on the princesses' gowns...and is caught. But the princesses dress Lala up and let her attend a ball. She stumbles. She bumbles. She is laughed at. Can Lala find it in her heart to forgive the girls who tricked her? Will Lala find out what it means to be a real princess?

## **The Monster Princess Details**

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Author : D.J. MacHale , Alexandra Boiger (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review The Monster Princess for online ebook

### **Serina says**

didn't care for the princess who only liked the monster when they were going to die... i don't like books that cater towards bullies. i thought good concept but just didn't translate to page.

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### **Lara says**

Always love a good fractured fairy tale, so had to give this one a try.

I liked the illustrations - Lala was quite cute for a monster. The rhyme was a little sing-songy but didn't feel horribly forced.

I didn't like the quick resolution. Princesses go from being Mean Girls to being wonderful and understanding only because their lives were threatened. Didn't feel like the bullies actually learned the lesson. And as important as being happy with yourself is, it felt like Lala was a little more resigned to being herself, rather than embracing it (if that makes sense?). So, not quite as strong a resolution/lesson.

Not a bad one for a fairy tale-themed story time, but probably wouldn't be my first pick.

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### **Gabriella Anders says**

I read this book recently, and found it to be very different. It covered important topics like self pride, and being unique, however I do not think the book will appeal to many because of the unusual storyline that is hard to relate to. The story is told in a fairytale manner, and centers around a monster named Lala who lives in a cave with her family. She dreams of a glamorous life as a princess, and decides to attempt to live that way up by sneaking into the castle. This leads Lala to contemplate her identity, and the type of person she wants to be known as. Some of the text is written in different fonts, sizes, and colors throughout the book to add emphasis to different parts which I liked. The book is beautifully illustrated, but it may also not appeal to those who have no interest in princess books. The target age would be between kindergarten and second grade. The story holds true to ideals like staying true to oneself, and is an uplifting read for any child to understand to love who they are.

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

The Monster Princess by DJ MacHale and illustrated by Alexandra Boiger is a picture book that appeals to both my princess loving daughter and my monster loving son. Lala, is a talented Rugabee. She, though, is dissatisfied with her life underground, especially when there is a castle full of princesses so near by.

So Lala decides to become a princess. She manages to convince the princesses to help her. She's loaned a dress and invited to the ball. She, though, hasn't had enough practice dressing in such fancy attire and things don't go well for her.

Although the ball isn't a success, Lala manages to get herself together and redeem herself. She's able to put

her unique skills to use to save the princesses and find her place.

Alexandra Boiger's illustrations are really cute. Lala is an adorable monster child. Her underground home, while not Lala's favorite, still is homey and inviting.

Recommended by This Purple Crayon

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### **Angela says**

Ok. I liked this book. The story was cute, the concept was good and the artwork was fun. BUT the end of the book bothered me a little bit. I get that the message was to be happy with who you are, and I agree. I guess I'm more of a "shoot for the stars" kind of girl and I felt like the book leaned toward the "don't try to be something you don't think you can be and just settle for being only what you think you are."

My kids loved the story though and it was a cute read, I'm possibly over-analyzing it. (0=

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### **Betsy says**

My girly-girl loved this book, and I thought it had a nice, uniquely refreshing message for a fairy tale. Instead of living happily ever after becoming a princess, Lala the monster decides that she'd rather be herself, instead of someone that she's not. Even though the other princesses are very mean to her, she overcomes her understandable anger to defend and protect them in the end, proving that her beauty is more than skin deep.

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### **S.J. Kincaid says**

I bought this for my niece. It has a sweet, positive message, and her parents tell me that every single night, she demands they read her 'Monster Princess' at bedtime. It's her favorite story ever!

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### **Chelsea Radojcic says**

I liked this story. Lala is a little monster, who lives beneath the ground. She is a rugabee star and the best krinkle digger by far. She is brave and strong, and looked up to by others. Living in dark shadow however isn't her style... she craves the light above ground and wants to be pretty like the three princesses in the castle above. One day, Lala decides to sneak into the princesses room while they are away. She gets caught up in the moment and overstays her welcome. She is greeted by three screeching princesses who tell her to leave. Poor Lala just wants to be a princess and be accepted.

I enjoyed reading this and look forward to sharing it with the kids I care for. I think they would really like the pictures and relate to the characters. I thought the story was imaginative and I really liked the creative names that the author came up with.

What I appreciated most was (view spoiler)

That being said, I hated, HATED how awful those bratty little princesses treated Lala, and if there were justice in the world, Lala would have arrived too late and those little girls would have been gobbled up by that Wiffle. (hide spoiler)]

I do understand how some people could read this book and walk away saying, "Oh, that isn't a positive message." Because, our heroine did not get to become a pretty princess, but I think the message was really that, it doesn't matter where you come from... it is WHO you are that counts. Grr. I get it. I really do. Why couldn't she be a princess? And why let those snot nose little mean girls make her feel bad? There were definitely some controversial things here... but I don't think that was the main intention of the story. I don't think the book was trying to say, "You can't be what you want, so just give up..." more like, "You don't need to meet anyone else's standards to fit in, just be who you ARE, that is ENOUGH!" I read a few reviews that seemed like they geared toward the feeling that this book was encouraging, "settling" and not encouraging "reach for the stars..." These are my thoughts on it. I'm sure thoughts will vary on this one.

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### **Tricia says**

Never one to dig the preachy message books, this title was okay. Somewhat of a hard lesson for the monster princess who of course does the "right thing" in the face of nastiness. As much as my princesses enjoy princess stories, even they looked disgruntled at the end.

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### **Eyehavenofilter says**

Lala the rugabee wanted to be a real princess. But living in a cave beneath the ground wasn't the best place to start.

She runs away and sneaks into the nearby castle, try's on the princesses pretty dresses, and gets caught! They decide to make sport of our sweet Lala and let her dress up to present her at the ball. But her entrance was spectacular and not in a wonderful way. They laughed and teased her and told her she would never be a princess. She ran back to her cave broken hearted.

She wanted to return the gown she had borrowed, being the kind little gnome that she was, and that's where the story takes its turn. On her way back she becomes the heroine of her own story, well written in rhyming verse by D.J. McHale of the best selling Pendragon book series.

A very sweet tale of, be who you are. Lush watercolors illustrate this story, beautifully rendered by Alexandra Boiger.

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### **Daisy says**

A story that dares to suggest that being a princess may not necessarily be the end all be all of female existence. I think I'd like it better if the other option wasn't presented to be monsterhood, however. But a cute story that many will enjoy with a well-constructed rhyme scheme.

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## **Marsha says**

*“Short and simple definition of a lady or a gentleman is someone who always tries to make sure the people around him or her are as comfortable as possible.”* – Troy, from Blast from the Past

In an interesting reversal of the Cinderella story, we have pretty royal daughters and an ugly gnome who desperately wants to try on splendid dresses, glittering jewelry and be a princess. Does it go as she plans? Well, that would be a bore, wouldn't it?

The story explores what it means to be lovely, to be kind, how beauty is in the eye of the beholder and—yes, that old cliché—that it's what inside that counts. Little Lala finds that attaining her dream isn't the unalloyed joy she had hoped but she comes to a proud acceptance with who and what she is and that's a message that always resonates, no matter what your age.

The illustrations are cute... Lala isn't really ugly except in the cutesy, cuddly fashion you get with stuffed teddy bears. She has a half-bear, half-lizard appearance and pretty, cabbage green unruly hair. But it's the story that truly charms. If you'd like a change from pretty-princess stories, this is one of the better ones.

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## **Karla Winick-Ford says**

Decent story but too long  
Illustrations aren't bad, but muted watercolors  
vocabulary was challenging at times  
I liked the varied color scheme, especially with text

the tale is happy, and you should be too ... warm ending :)

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## **Marissa says**

Deep down in the underground caves where monsters live, Lala desires to leave her world of darkness to live a life of luxury above amongst the princesses in a nearby castle. The princesses, however, are not as enthusiastic to see a little green haired monster trying on their dresses and playing with their toys. With feigned friendship, the princesses help Lala feel as though she belongs, with the sole intent of embarrassing her at the ball. When she finally gets a chance to be accepted, she realizes she likes who she is and goes home to gather krinkle nuts, as her kind does, and be with her mother. This enchanting tale of self acceptance is written in verse which enhances the whimsical tone of the story. The simple, yet, in depth rhyme scheme makes it a great book to read aloud. Contrasting background colors and unique use of typesetting emphasize the shift between the two worlds. Beautifully illustrated pages complement the text and capture the emotion and action of each verse.

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### **Sarah says**

I wanted to like this book more than I did. It really reminded me why rhyme is not perfect for every children's book. Not that the words didn't rhyme, but something about it seemed forced and jarring. The story seemed incomplete, as if it was missing some important part in between the main character being rejected as a princess and returning to the surface. On the other hand, I quite liked the illustrations. I think Lala is SO cute, mostly because she looks like my dog Oscar, if he had long green hair.

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