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Lynne Jonell, the popular author of *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*, makes her Stepping Stones debut with a high-spirited tale of mixed-up magic and wishes gone wrong.

Celia Willow is the baby of the family, and she's sick of it. She's sick of being younger and smaller. She's sick of never being taken seriously. So when Celia's hamster surprises the Willows with his wish-granting powers, she blurts out her deepest desire.

The problem? Celia didn't exactly wish to be *furry*.

Her big brothers and sister can't let their parents see her like this, but they only have one night to fix things. How can Abner, Tate, and Derek reverse something as powerful as hamster magic . . . before breakfast?

Hamster Magic is on the Texas Bluebonnet Masterlist for 2012-2013 and was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award.

From the Hardcover edition.

Hamster Magic Details

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From Reader Review Hamster Magic for online ebook

Taylor Lara says

This adorable story follows four siblings on an unusual overnight quest after the youngest accidentally turns herself into a giant hamster! It was sweet, funny, and engaging and I really enjoyed it.

Lori says

This is a cute tale of a young girl, named Celia, who is tired of being the smallest sibling out of four in the family. The children notice the family pet "Hammy," which happens to be the family pet is missing they immediately blame the youngest, Celia. Celia goes searching for Hammy and comes across more than she ever imagined. Hammy is not your ordinary Hamster, he can talk and has the power to grant a wish. When the children discover Celia is telling the truth, they all can't wait to have a wish come true. However it isn't just any wish it has to be a hamster wish. This means it has to be a wish that a hamster would wish for. While they are trying to decide what their one wish is going to be Celia blurts out her wish. Things do not work out the way Celia had hoped. Her brothers and sister must work together before their parents find out what they are up to.

This story is a nice suspenseful story for young readers who are more advanced with their reading skills and still age appropriate. It is a nice read aloud for younger students as well. I read it to my first grader and pre-k son and they both enjoyed it.

Melissa says

This easy chapter book is a great read for kids independently or with a grown-up. The four siblings move and find a hamster who happens to be magic. When they realize they get one wish, suddenly things go awry. I think the sibling dynamics in this are really great - that pull between loyalty and annoyance is demonstrated really well.

Karin Jenkins says

This was a great read-aloud book for my 7 year old daughter. We read about a chapter a night. We loved Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat by the same author and we're excited to read the other books in both these series.

Catherine C says

12-14-12 So far I think Hamster Magic by Lynne Jonell is a pretty good book because the characters are described well and you can feel what they are thinking. It is about a family called the Willow family who

moves and the kids don't want to move. They have a hamster that was magic but they didn't know it was magic until it talks and turns Celia, the youngest, into a giant hamster. The kids have to find the great hamster so he can turn Celia back before the parents find out. I would rate this book 4 stars because it is not as exciting as a 5 star book but it is still pretty good.

Brooke Dilling says

Four siblings are forced to move to the country with their parents. They find a magical hamster who promises them a wish for letting him out of a cage. The youngest of the siblings wishes to be bigger and is turned into... A GIANT HAMSTER. Trouble ensues.

There isn't really a clear ending and there don't seem to be any lessons learned based on the crazy wish. It's a fun read but pretty loose on plot or direction.

Eva Mitnick says

Any reader of fantasy and fairy tales knows that if one is granted a magic wish, one must be very careful what one wishes for! Try to quell the greed (or you might end up with sausages stuck to your nose) and the desperate desire to thwart death (in fact, just don't make wishes with monkeys' paws) - and always, always think before you wish.

The four Willow siblings have just moved to a house in the country for a year and are feeling just a little miffed about it. It might be better if they had a dog, but their parents have made it clear that they can't have a big animal until they can learn to take care of a small one. Unfortunately, their track record is not great, seeing as how the kids are now on their third hamster (Hammy the Third), and he has now escaped only days after they discovered him in their new cellar, chowing down on dog food.

Not only does Hammy turn up again, but he turns out to be a talking, wish-granting hamster. And Celia, the youngest Willow, makes a rash wish that turns her into a hamster the size of a large dog. During their night-time visit to the Great Hamster, who just might be able to reverse the spell, the Willow kids learn that the land all around their new house is very unique indeed, as are the burrowing animals that inhabit it.

This is a short and breezy fantasy a la Edward Eager, perfect for kids who have just learned to read with confidence and want a "real" chapter book. The two sisters and two brothers are sketched in with just enough details to be able to distinguish them from one another, and Celia is a most realistic hamster, filled with a zest for life (as long as life is filled with plenty of eating and running).

Kyra Harwell says

At first this book did not interest me but I read it because it is a Bluebonnet book. It was a very sweet story about a family that always picks on the little sister. She ends up as an over sized hamster! Her siblings freak

out and search to find out how to turn her back into a little girl before their parents find out. Great read aloud for 3rd!

Swaters says

IT was a super duper awesome book. My favorite part was when the little sister turned into a big hamster and back into a human. The dog treats "woofies" were hilarious! Ms Waters

I think Hamster Magic was an amazing book and my favorite part was when the brothers and sisters were trying to find the great magic hamster and go near the beach I can't wait until the next book like this one!!!!!!!!!!!!!! FROM ALIYAH

Books Kids Like says

Things aren't going so well for the Willow children--Abner, Derek, Tate, and Celia. They've recently moved from their crowded neighborhood bustling with friends and activity to a secluded, old house in the country. And, they've just lost their third hamster which means that they will never get a dog which is what they really want. At least, Abner, the oldest child, does. A search finds Hammy the Third in an old suitcase under the stairs. Suddenly, the little hamster starts talking about being in trouble for getting caught and promises to grant one wish in exchange for his freedom. When the wish goes awry, the children stay out all night trying to convince the Great Hamster to reverse the spell. Very cute chapter book with well written and exciting prose.

Eden says

The Willow family has moved and the children aren't too thrilled about it. They now live in a house out in the country where there is no other children to play with.

And the only pet they have is a hamster. It's actually the third one they've had and if they don't take care of this hamster there will be no chance for a dog.

The youngest child, Celia, notices there is something very different about this hamster from the previous ones. And when the hamster escapes they find out just how different he is. This hamster grants wishes!

But, while deciding on what to wish for, Celia gets tired of being ignored and wishes to be big. However, the wish doesn't quite turn out how she wanted it to.

This was a really fun and delightful book. Although I know this is for kids, it kept me reading and wanting to know what happens next. I really enjoyed this and I'm sure any kids would enjoy it as well. Magical, talking hamsters and wishes gone wrong, what more could you ask for?

Mandy says

(3.5 stars)

Celia is tired of being the youngest person in the family. So she makes a wish to be bigger. Her hamster surprises her by granting her wish. But now she is larger not as a person, but as a hamster!

Stevie D says

I just finish Hamster Magic by Lynne Jonell. It's about this family that has a pet hamster and the hamster accidentally turns a girl into a hamster, so they have to find the great hamster to fix this. I really like the part when she becomes a hamster because the author describes a lot about that part. I like how the author describe Hammy the hamster and the others. I wish the author describe more about the setting because all she says is that they are at the river. In my life it reminds me of two fish I had at my house and both them pass away. The rest of the story talks about how they find the great hamster and how she turns back into herself.

Lisa Nagel says

Grades 1-3

I really enjoyed this short and fast paced tale of four siblings and their pet hamster. Things all get started when the youngest, Celia, finds out their hamster can talk, and grant wishes, as long as it is something a hamster would wish for. Her wish to be "bigger" does not turn out as she expected, and it is up to her siblings to help her reverse the magic. A good step up into early chapter books.

Michele Knott says

This easy-to-read chapter book is perfect for beginning chapter book readers, 1st-2nd grade. It can also be read aloud to younger readers. The story itself is ok, young children will enjoy it; older children will be more easily bored. Youngsters who enjoy hamsters will especially like the story as one of the main characters is turned into a hamster! Quick, easy read, just not much to the story.
