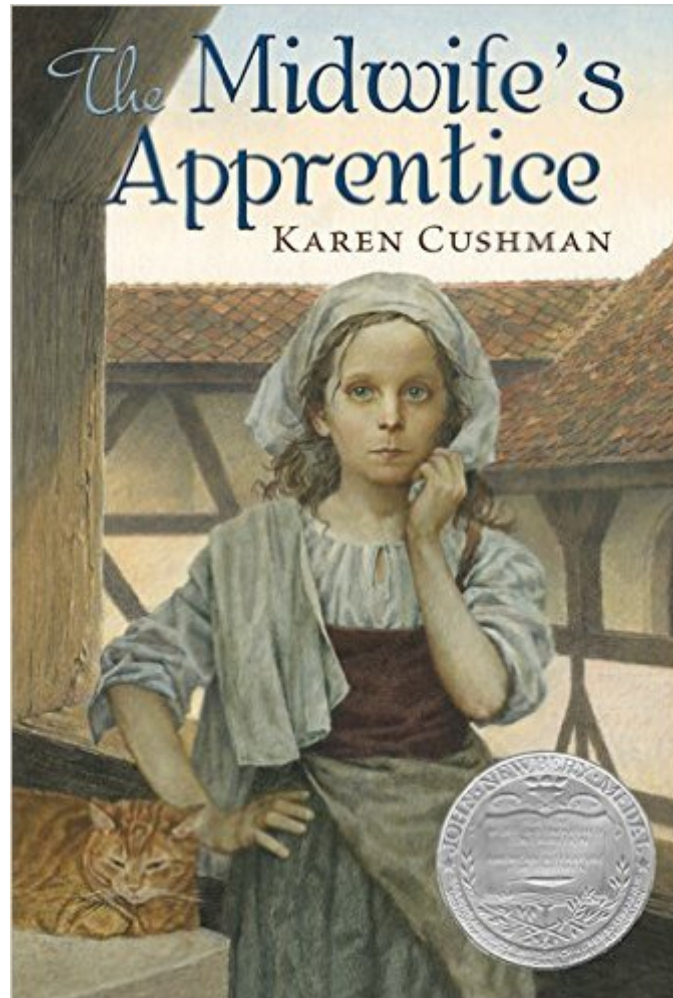


The book was found

The Midwife's Apprentice



Synopsis

From the author of *Catherine, Called Birdy* comes another spellbinding novel set in medieval England. The girl known only as Brat has no family, no home, and no future until she meets Jane the Midwife and becomes her apprentice. As she helps the sharp-tempered Jane deliver babies, Brat—who renames herself Alyce—gains knowledge, confidence, and the courage to want something from life: "A full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world." Medieval village life makes a lively backdrop for the funny, poignant story of how Alyce gets what she wants. A concluding note discusses midwifery past and present. A Newbery Medal book.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (June 19, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547722176

ISBN-13: 978-0547722177

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (219 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #31,297 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #19 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval](#) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

I assumed, wrongly, that because this book was a Newbery winner that it would be a good book for my daughter to read. The cover makes this book look inviting and is quite misleading about the book, in my opinion. I realize that many book covers do this. In the future, if I don't know of a book or it doesn't come from a book list I trust, I am not going to assign the book to my daughter for reading. The story centers around Beatle, aka Brat, aka Alyce. She is found by the midwife in a dung heap outside her home trying to stay warm. Brat is the bottom of the food chain and has been as long as she can remember. She endures the continual abuse of the midwife (and her neglect) for reasons that are hard for me to understand. She does not see herself as valuable. To the midwife,

she is someone to be used for all she can get out of her. She leaves at one point (spoiler) and still returns at the end of the story trying to gain the midwife's favor. There are several thematic elements that I do not think are appropriate for 4th and 5th graders in this book and the book was extremely difficult for my daughter to stomach who will be in 6th grade in the coming school year. There is an interesting (if that's the appropriate word) scene in which Brat witnesses the midwife in adultery. There is so much constant emotional and verbal abuse throughout the book. For my daughter, this book illustrated to her what abuse looks like. How horrible it is. How it wrecks people. She couldn't understand why Brat returned to the midwife at the end trying to gain her favor. I explained how people in abusive situations often return to the situation, though it is horrible for them.

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