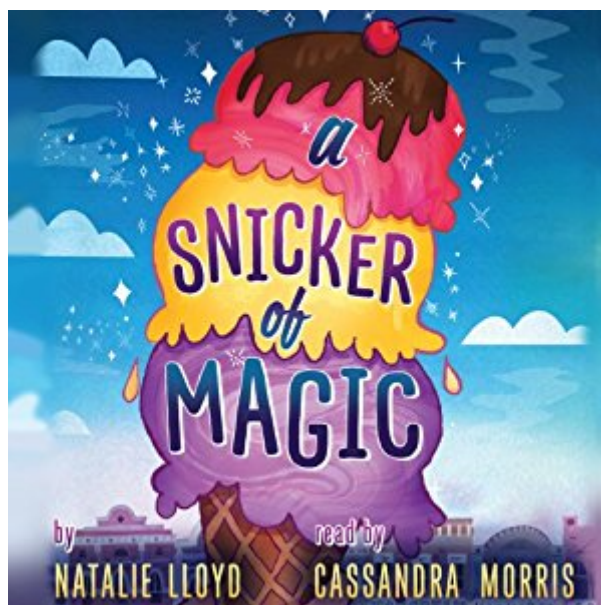


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# A Snicker Of Magic



## Synopsis

Introducing an extraordinary new voice - a magical debut that will make your skin tingle, your eyes glisten...and your heart sing. Midnight Gulch used to be a magical place, a town where people could sing up thunderstorms and dance up sunflowers. But that was long ago, before a curse drove the magic away. Twelve-year-old Felicity knows all about things like that; her nomadic mother is cursed with a wandering heart. But when she arrives in Midnight Gulch, Felicity thinks her luck's about to change. A "word collector", Felicity sees words everywhere - shining above strangers, tucked into church eaves, and tangled up her dog's floppy ears - but Midnight Gulch is the first place she's ever seen the word "home". And then there's Jonah, a mysterious, spiky-haired do-gooder who shimmers with words Felicity's never seen before, words that make Felicity's heart beat a little faster. Felicity wants to stay in Midnight Gulch more than anything, but first, she'll need to figure out how to bring back the magic, breaking the spell that's been cast over the town...and her mother's broken heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Have you ever wanted to live in a town full of magic and wonder? Presto! Your wish has been granted when you read the book *A Snicker of Magic*. Through the magic of her imagination, author Natalie Lloyd will draw you into a world of wonder. The plot is that there is a town that used to have magic in it. The magic was fueled by two brothers Stone and Berry. When they sung and played guitar, everybody danced and things were good. At one point the two brothers

dueled. After their quarrel, they both left the town and the magic was gone. Felicity and her family move to the town when her mom gets a new job. After hearing the story about the brothers duel, she realizes the curse of the wandering heart has effected her mother, too. She decides to try and restore the magic to the town that it had lost, and hopefully finally find a home by curing her mothers wandering heart. She takes part in the school wide talent show in the hopes that, if she performs well enough, the magic might return to the town. She also looks for the brothers. If you want to know if Felicity finds the brothers, restores the magic, and finds happiness for her mother and herself you'll need to read the book. The main character of the book is Felicity Pickle, a self described word collector. Her traits are smart, kind, and curious. She likes collecting words that only she sees floating in the air or above someones head and putting them in her journal. She believes in magic and is hopeful that she can restore the town to its former glory. She becomes dedicated to this after seeing the word "home" in the town "something she has never seen before. I think that the theme of the book is that if you believe in yourself than you can accomplish great things. I heard the sound of three hearts colliding: a sob, then a ripple of happy laughter, then a whispered hallelujah. The reason that I think that is a good example is that the mother and the daughter are meeting with her dad for the first time in a couple of years and they had to work very hard to get to meet with her dad. I think that the theme of this book is a good thing because it inspires you to work hard to achieve your goals. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes fantastical stories. If you like magic you'll love this book. I sure enjoyed it. It has a nice story line and an even better ending.

I just read this book out-loud to my 8 and 5 year old daughters. I've been reading books to them every night since they were born and this was our very favorite ever! They would eagerly get into their jammies and brush their teeth extra early so we could have extra time to read, and I loved it myself just as much as they did, maybe more. Reading it just made us all feel so happy! We loved the "snickers" of magic the characters had. The very best one was seeing words float around people's heads, scuttle across walls, and dance in the sky! But there was also the magic of playing music that made everyone dance, making ice cream that didn't melt, and so much more! Every page was filled with wonderful sentiments I want to hold on to forever, like "Believe is a powerful word to see and to say. But that morning, I felt it. And feeling it was the best of all. I knew something wonderful was about to happen to me. I didn't know what, or why, or how. But I believed." And I never wanted to forget all the ways we were connected that day: By our shadows and sunlight. By pounding hearts and a starry maybe. I bought this as an e-book

but I need to get a physical copy too, so my 8 year old can keep it on her bed with the books she reads over and over till they're loved and worn, and I need to get extra copies to give to all my friends!

Really. I've never had a favorite book. Or at least, not since "The Disney Babies Go Out and Play" when I was two. I read voraciously (probably 20-30 a month, on average) so picking a favorite is hard. This is my favorite book. "A Snicker of Magic" is one of the most beautifully written, well-paced, and solidly-developed books I have ever read. The language choices absolutely glimmer, and the characters are both whimsical and realistic. I've sent it back to my Children's Lit professor at university with a recommendation for her upper-div course as an example of how poetic prose can be, how simple lines can draw complex characters, and how kids books don't need (necessarily, lol) to have explosions or dragons or gods to be fantastic. I can't recommend "A Snicker of Magic" highly enough, and her second book, "The Key to Extraordinary," is just about as good -- though "Snicker" remains at the top of my list.

I read books to recommend to teachers and I have put this one at the top of the list. The author has put words and magic together to create a new world filled with people you love, circumstances you can't control, happy moments in unhappy lives--and unhappy moments in happy lives. The main character has that wonderful child's intuition that creates words in full dimensions and describes people more than the words they say aloud. I did not speed through this book; I took my very sweet time because I did not want it to end. This book will expand vocabulary, cause discussions, help teach readers that there are always different perspectives, and take most of us on a journey of sweet surprises and terrible sadness.

The plot moves along at a good pace as Felicity digs into the history of the town and her own family in order to figure out why her mother can never settle down anywhere, thus preventing her daughter from establishing a sense of home anywhere. When the girl herself has her attention drawn by anything, especially something or someone new, she sees words--including long words she does not even seem to be familiar with. That element of the book will intrigue some young readers, irritate others, and make schoolteachers salivate. The characters all have their freaks and foibles but the author treats them kindly, encouraging children to be understanding of differences and see that people who have real-world problems and real-world failings (e.g., immoderate smoking or drinking) can be loving or generous or helpful. The only thing I did not like about the book was the

over-saintly way Felicity's do-gooder friend Jonah is portrayed. To an adult he seems totally unreal, but children should like him.

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