

# [PDF] The Witch's Guide To Cooking With Children: A Novel

Laural Merlington, Keith McGowan - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

Title: The Witch's Guide to Cooking  
Author: Laural Merlington, Keith McG  
Released: 2009-09-01  
Language:  
Pages:  
ISBN: 1441808930  
ISBN13: 978-1441808936  
ASIN: 1441808930



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## Description:

**From School Library Journal** Grade 5-8—A modernized version of Hansel and Gretel, with a few creepy, cannibalistic references. Sol, 11, and Connie, 8, move to Schoneberg with the man they believe is their father (he is their father's twin) and their stepmother. The children soon discover that the neighbor's pet dog has a habit of digging up human bones, and that "Dad" has a great motive for wanting them gone. The story alternates between the siblings' dawning understanding that nothing in the town is as it seems and the journal of their neighbor, a witch, in which she reminisces fondly about her past meals, including a *Silence of the Lambs* moment in which she enjoys one child "cooked with capsicum and washed down with a fine mead." Highly stylized illustrations do much to enhance the story. Readers of Dan Greenburg's "Secrets of Dripping Fang" series (Harcourt) may enjoy this tale. Readers of Donna Jo Napoli's *The Magic Circle* (Puffin, 1995),

a more psychological Hansel and Gretel variant told from the witch's point of view, will find this is a very different retelling.—*Kathleen Meulen Ellison, Sakai Intermediate School, Bainbridge Island, WA*  
END --This text refers to the edition.

**Review** "A favorite book is a lasting gift . . . This book, one of this year's Texas Bluebonnet Award selections, retells Hansel and Gretel with a sly, dark Lemony Snicket twist." --**Gift Guide, Dallas News**

"Fans of Lemony Snicket's best-selling *A Series of Unfortunate Events* should love Keith McGowan's beguiling debut, a modern version of the Grimm Brothers' chilling tale of Hansel and Gretel." —*USA Today*

"A semisweet literary treat for the kiddies . . . Keith McGowan's re-telling of Hansel and Gretel's misadventures, "The Witch's Guide to Cooking with Children," retains the disturbing vibe of the original, but spices it up with some seriously cerebral humor that will delight and challenge the inquisitive youngster." —*The New Yorker*, "Book Bench" section

"Ooooooh. That witch from Hansel and Gretel is back and she very well may be living right...next...door. In a conspiracy of lunacy, a whole town seems to be in cahoots with chaos to get those two little urchins to succumb to being the entree on the witch's table. This updated book is still deliciously naughty."—*Kiwi* magazine

"McGowan makes a strong debut. . . Shades of Roald Dahl and Lemony Snicket hover over McGowan's tale, but up-to-date touches . . . make it especially accessible and appealing for thrill-seeking readers." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Evoking Roald Dahl's *The Witches*, McGowan's edgy debut novel incorporates magic, clever references to the original tale, a cast of diverse characters, and Snicket-esque narration. The witch's interspersed journal entries, including the opening chapter, 'How to Cook and Eat Children: A Cautionary Tale by the Witch Fay Holaderry,' breezily, and ominously, set the book's dark tone. Periodic shadowy illustrations add unsettling eeriness to this open-ended story that will likely draw fans of shivery, suspenseful mysteries."—*Booklist*

"Readers know what's in store for Sol and Connie right from the riveting opening line. . . . Tanaka's occasional full-page views of grim, heavy-lidded figures add a suitably gothic tone. Yum." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"McGowan's modern retelling of the Hansel and Gretel plot is nuanced, fascinating, and gratifyingly dark without being graphic or horrific." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"A modernized version of Hansel and Gretel . . . Highly stylized illustrations . . . enhance the story."—*School Library Journal* --This text refers to the edition.

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