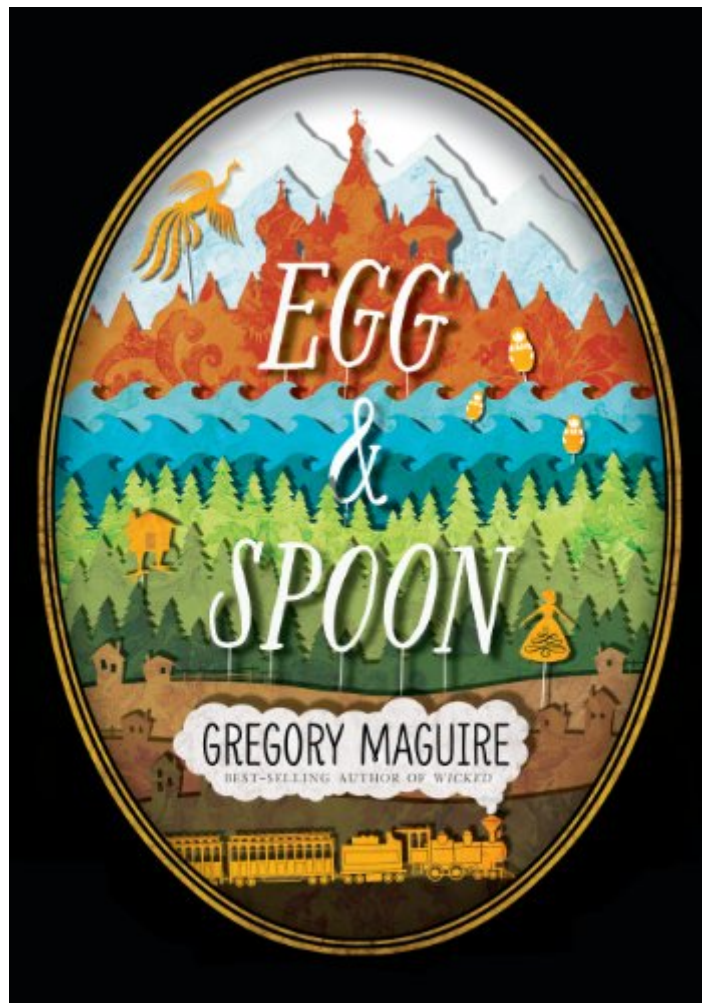


The book was found

Egg & Spoon



Synopsis

In this tour de force, master storyteller Gregory Maguire offers a dazzling novel for fantasy lovers of all ages. Elena Rudina lives in the impoverished Russian countryside. Her father has been dead for years. One of her brothers has been conscripted into the Tsar's army, the other taken as a servant in the house of the local landowner. Her mother is dying, slowly, in their tiny cabin. And there is no food. But then a train arrives in the village, a train carrying untold wealth, a cornucopia of food, and a noble family destined to visit the Tsar in Saint Petersburg – a family that includes Ekaterina, a girl of Elena's age. When the two girls' lives collide, an adventure is set in motion, an escapade that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and – in a starring role only Gregory Maguire could have conjured – Baba Yaga, witch of Russian folklore, in her ambulatory house perched on chicken legs.

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Customer Reviews

I don't have much patience for regular speed on audio books, so as usual, I listened at 1.25x, which

was perfect. A monk, the narrator of the story, is amusing with his asides and humor in telling the story. Couple this with the outstanding voice narration of Michael Page, and the story is taken to a higher level of enjoyment. Page seamlessly voices the numerous characters where males sound male, females sound female, and witches sound witchy! Speaking of witches, Baba Yaga steals the show. What a hoot she is! She is a perfect counter to the prim and proper-ness expected in civilized society, and her character made the book for me. There are so many different levels to this story -- there is the fantastical and the practical, smoothly woven together by Maguire to create something for everyone to enjoy. Folk tales and fairy tales are good for all ages, and though this is categorized young adult, there is definitely adult appeal in *Egg and Spoon*. While the reading could be challenging for some younger readers, the richly drawn characters and setting, along with a basic plot that's highly unusual and interesting, are going to keep readers engaged. Advanced readers are likely to get a different experience from others because it's really quite a complex story with statements on social injustice and inequality, the environment, the life, death, and more. The book goes longer than it needs to with some extraneous and seemingly random parts which could have been left on the cutting room floor. I feel like had I read this instead of listened, there definitely would have been some skimming. Even so, it's a wonderfully creative story and listening was time well spent. I have several of Gregory Maguire's books on my TBR shelf, and *Egg and Spoon* is incentive for me to move them to the top of the pile. Thank you to Audiofile / SYNC Audiobooks for Teens free summer audio book program for providing this download with absolutely no strings attached. As always, my honest opinion is the only kind I give. If you like this review, visit my blog Hall Ways for book views, reviews, and news you can use - or not. [...]

Every sentence is a pleasure to read. His prose are superiorly entertaining. MaGuire has the gift of using irony, humor, sarcasm and wit in everything he writes. His characters are smart and speak volumes for all social classes and their challenges. MaGuire makes you think. His characters are strong. His characters shine with common sense and the wisdom that is found by living and making due with what fate hands them. "*Egg & Spoon*" is a shining light on the goodness of humanity while facing difficult circumstances. Like all of Maguire's books, "*Egg & Spoon*" is a thinking persons book. It's more than just fantasy. It's real life sufferings being met by the best of the human spirit. "*Egg & Spoon*" is a must read for all ages. If your a young adult there are many life lessons to be learned. If your an adult with all the trappings and stresses thereof, then it's a soothing tonic of escapism with brilliant writing. MaGuire does not patronize nor talk down to his audience, he elevates them by engaging the reader to think and "read between the lines" with a wink and nudge

to both the young and old. "Egg & Spoon" is quite simply, a brilliant piece of literature on a higher plain than the recent norm in the young adult genre. Teen werewolves and dystopian societies are entertaining. We all enjoy junk food from time to time, however it's nice to finally be fed from the hands of a gourmet chef. "Egg & Spoon" is pure gourmet literature that should be studied in classrooms everywhere from here after.

Another read from you're author of Wicked. This read was a slow build through Russian folklore and fairytales, but once it got moving it was enjoyable. Mr. Maguire tends to spend a lot of read time creating this world and weaving the characters' lives in it; it works and it doesn't. On one hand, you become connected with the characters of Cat and Elena, even Baba Gaga. You grow with them as the characters' become more complex. On the other hand, Mr. Maguire spend so much time creating this wonderful tapestry of a story that he had to end it almost abruptly. It feels like like you are robbed of precious time with these characters that he had just started to lay the ground work for, the Dragon milk tooth soldier boy, Anton, etc. Story lines are left hanging in the icy freeze. Though the ending does try to pull a little of those loose lines together; it still feels rushed through. All and all, I did enjoy this read

OK, there's some obvious allegorical stuff along the lines of AlGore's "Inconsistant Truth" (or whatever he calls the pseudo-science they force-fed kids a decade ago), but as a Slav and a lover of all things Vasilisa and Baba Yaga, this was a great read. The images of giant Matryoshkas and soldiers of dragon's teeth.....wow.

I love Maguire. Wicked is one of my all time favorite books. If you are looking for that kind of story, this isn't it. The characters are not nearly as complex as his characters in previous books. I also love Russian lit and Russian folk tales which this book nods to both but it lacks some richness. It is not a waste of time but it is ponderous. Overall, it was okay. I think if it had come from a different author, I might have given it a better shake. I just have really high expectations of Maguire.

Loved Loved Loved this story. Sent it to my Great Niece who reads a lot and she enjoyed it. The adventure and the imagination is awesome.

Here's a group on a quest that must be one of the oddest team of adventurers in all of fiction. There's Baba Yaga and her chicken-footed hut, the Firebird, a runaway child prince, a Russian

peasant girl, a rich and beautiful teenager who barely escaped becoming betrothed to the prince, and Let us not forget the ice dragon and the enchanted white tiger. These are the core group at the heart of Maguire's Russian tale. Readers who choose to join them on their wild romp are sure to enjoy the trip.

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