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***The Enchanted Flute* - James Norcliffe**

Published by Longacre RRP \$19.99

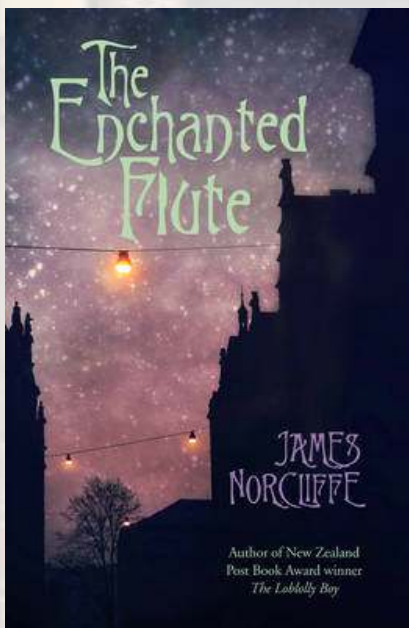
Many stories have been told over the centuries about the power of music to cast a spell on listeners. James Norcliffe dips into mythology to weave this tale of a devious faun who invades the modern-day lives of Becky and Johnny.

It's a fast-paced story where an enchanted flute compels Becky to play a piece of music that she's never heard before. Worse, the music allows the mysterious Dr Faunus to regain strength and youth. He traps Becky and Johnny who then manage to escape through a window into the ancient world of Arcadia.

It's a dangerous place. The young people are constantly at risk from a ravenous goatherd, stealthy fauns, mean-spirited nymphs, and the creepy demands of Dr Faunus. The fascinating tale draws the reader along at a breathtaking pace. Details of Arcadia's forests and glens invoke a beautiful environment, although there's little time for the fleeing pair to stop and appreciate it.

Occasionally, olden-style language sits awkwardly alongside contemporary expressions. Also, at times, the teenagers' thoughts of their parents intrudes on the story unfolding in the ancient world. Nevertheless, like the enchanted music, the intriguing plot commands attention and appreciation for a well-written story. A captivating, hard-to-put-down book.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



Author's website: www.jamesnorcliffe.com

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