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# A Snicker Of Magic



## Synopsis

Natalie Lloyd's SPINDIDLY debut novel, now in paperback! 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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Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Charming, delightful, and full of unpredictable magic, A Snicker of Magic is perfect for readers of all ages! At only twelve years old, Felicity Pickle's life has already been full of surprises. Her mother, a spirited drifting soul, never allows her small family to remain in one place for too long. With each new travel destination, the family continues to make memories and tries to make the best

of unpleasant situations. However, when Felicity's mother decides to take the family back to her hometown of Midnight Gulch, little did they know each one would find their own special hint of magic. Felicity deems herself a "word catcher and collector". She loves all words, big ones, small ones, flashy ones, and ones that can even make you sad. Words are what keep her afloat when the world seems to spin out of control and she feels as though she will never fit in. Words also help soothe her younger sister when she's feeling down and lift their spirits every time they started a new school. Upon their arrival to Midnight Gulch, Felicity is filled with wonder at the hope their family might actually find a place to stay permanently. And what better place to call home than a town full of magic? Every page in *A Snicker of Magic* left me with so many feels. Natalie Lloyd's writing was splendid. My eyes filled with tears, my heart ached and fluttered. The way Felicity used words and associated them with her feelings or what she thought others were feeling was genius. For a while I would often forget our main character was only twelve years old. Her approach on life was very insightful and often times made her seem twice her age. I loved everything about Felicity, even her shyness when meeting new people or trying to make friends.

First off, let me say that I won this book through a Goodreads giveaway, and was very pleased at the opportunity to read a book aimed at today's young people. One thing for sure: this is a book I would have LOVED as a ten-year-old... you know, back in the Dark Ages. I was (and am) enamored with words, writing, and books, so a tale about the magic of words would have been right up my alley. Bottom line, if I were reviewing this from my ten-year-old self's perspective, I would probably give it six stars. (I frequently colored outside the box.) But I tried, instead, to read this through the eyes of today's children... say, through the eyes of some of my grandchildren. And I'm sorry to say, I don't know if any of my grandchildren would stick with this book until the end. It has an slow, old-fashioned feel about it, like books from the fifties, and some of the old-fashioned language Felicity uses is "odd." I'm not talking about the delightful words she sees and captures from the air... they're delightful and imaginative. I'm talking about some of her expressions, like "what the hayseed," and other very out-dated expressions, which currently escape me... which no one uses anymore, let alone a little girl. And while smoking was considered an acceptable mainstream activity when I was a young girl, that isn't the case anymore. It's a little troubling to me that lighting up a cigarette is such a prevalent occurrence in a children's book. It certainly isn't a necessary element to the story, so I question its inclusion. Still and all, this book is magical in many ways. Its wholesomeness, its old-fashioned feeling, and the overall themes of hope, love, family, and home make it a very uplifting story.

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