



House of Many Ways (World of Howl)

By Diana Wynne Jones

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The sequel to *Howl's Moving Castle*

When Charmain Baker agreed to look after her great-uncle's house, she thought she was getting blissful, parent-free time to read. She didn't realize that the house bent space and time, and she did not expect to become responsible for an extremely magical stray dog and a muddled young apprentice wizard. Now, somehow, she's been targeted by a terrifying creature called a lubbock, too, and become central to the king's urgent search for the fabled Elfgift that will save the country. The king is so desperate to find the Elfgift, he's called in an intimidating sorceress named Sophie to help. And where Sophie is, the great Wizard Howl and fire demon Calcifer won't be far behind. How did respectable Charmain end up in such a mess, and how will she get herself out of it?

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–10—Sheltered teenager Charmain Baker is sent by her domineering great-aunt to house-sit for a distant relative, the royal wizard. She finds that his residence has myriad magical rooms and hallways and soon learns that there is trouble in the seemingly peaceful kingdom of High Norland. The treasury is disappearing, and no one knows where the money is going. Princess Hilda invites Sophie Pendragon, the main character from *Howl's Moving Castle* (1986), to come help solve the mystery, with her husband, Howl, disguised as an annoying preschooler, and the fire-demon Calcifer. A lubbock, one of Jones's more threatening magical creations, and its offspring, the lubbockins, threaten the kingdom, and it's up to Charmain and her nascent magical talents—and her new friends—to save the day. A whirlwind conclusion sets all to rights and leaves Charmain ready to start life outside of her parents' shadow. Sophie and Howl play background roles here, as in *Castle in the Air* (HarperCollins, 2001), but readers will find Charmain much to their liking as she develops from a girl who is unable to take care of herself into a proactive and adventurous young woman.—Beth L. Meister, Pleasant View Elementary School, Franklin, WI

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review It's been a long time coming, but Jones has finally returned to the madcap world of *Howl's Moving Castle* (1986) and *Castle in the Air* (1991) with an equally rollicking, enchantment-filled tale. Although the Wizard Howl (this time in the guise of an irritating, lisping little boy); his feisty wife, Sophie; and Calcifer the fire demon play important roles, the story centers on Charmain, a bookish teen. When Charmain's great-uncle William, the king's Royal Wizard, falls deathly ill and is taken in by elves for a cure, Charmain is sent to look after William's house, which is, indeed, a house of many ways and rooms and magic within. She begins reading William's books and discovers that she has inherited some of his gifts. Enriching this elaborate and satisfying comic fantasy are some delicious characters, including a little dog named Waif, who seems to be guarding Charmain; young Peter, who arrives to become the wizard's apprentice; the elderly king and his mysteriously vanishing treasury; the evil heir-apparent; and a fearsome creature called a lubbock. Long-standing devotees of this richly textured world, as well as new fans (who may have first encountered it through the 2005 animated film of *Howl's Moving Castle*), will find that their third visit fulfills every expectation. Grades 6-9. --Sally Estes

Review

"Diana Wynne Jones ought to be crowned with coloured garlands because she is the best writer of magical fantasy for children in this country" Evening Standard "Diana Wynne Jones could teach Stephen King and JK Rowling a thing or two ... [she] has a skill for inserting just the right amount of detail in her written words, leaving you sated but not stuffed." SFX "Diana Wynne Jones is, quite simply, the best writer of magic there is, for readers of any age." Neil Gaiman "...Her hallmarks include laugh-aloud humour, plenty of magic and imaginative array of alternate worlds. Yet, at the same time, a great seriousness is present in all of her novels, a sense of urgency that links Jones's most outrageous plots to her readers' hopes and fears..." Publishers Weekly "Truly magical - guaranteed to leave you gasping - even hotter than Potter" The Bookseller

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Torrez:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children till adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for people. The book House of Many Ways (World of Howl) was making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The guide House of Many Ways (World of Howl) is not only giving you much more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship together with the book House of Many Ways (World of Howl). You never truly feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Elaine Roberts:

The book with title House of Many Ways (World of Howl) possesses a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you within new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Joseph Southard:

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