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# Perchance To Dream: Theatre Illuminata #2



## Synopsis

From the critically acclaimed author of *Eyes Like Stars* We are such stuff as dreams are made on. Act Two, Scene One Growing up in the enchanted Theatre Illuminata, Beatrice Shakespeare Smith learned everything about every play ever written. She knew the Players and their parts, but she didn't know that she, too, had magic. Now, she is the Mistress of Revels, the Teller of Tales, and determined to follow her stars. She is ready for the outside world. Enter BERTIE AND COMPANY But the outside world soon proves more topsy-turvy than any stage production. Bertie can make things happen by writing them, but outside the protective walls of the Theatre, nothing goes as planned. And her magic cannot help her make a decision between • Nate: Her suave and swashbuckling pirate, now in mortal peril. Ariel: A brooding, yet seductive, air spirit whose true motives remain unclear. When Nate is kidnapped and taken prisoner by the Sea Goddess, only Bertie can free him. She and her fairy sidekicks embark on a journey aboard the Theatre's caravan, using Bertie's word magic to guide them. Along the way, they collect a sneak-thief, who has in his possession something most valuable, and meet The Mysterious Stranger, Bertie's father • and the creator of the scrimshaw medallion. Bertie's dreams are haunted by Nate, whose love for Bertie is keeping him alive, but in the daytime, it's Ariel who is tantalizingly close, and the one she is falling for. Who does Bertie love the most? And will her magic be powerful enough to save her once she enters the Sea Goddess's lair? Once again, LISA MANTCHEV has spun a tale like no other • full of romance, magic, adventure, and fairies, too • that readers won't want to put down, even after the curtain has closed.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

The theatre drama unfolds further into "real life" ... and yet there is even more magic. Lisa Mantchev weaves a tale so utterly captivating. I care about her characters, even the more malicious and wounded ones. This novel affirms that we all have choice and each choice can have a positive impact. I am delighted by Lisa Mantchev's writing.

this book is a mix of Shakespeare plays and fantasy. Berties, spunky and brave, is very involved in a magical theater.. When the theater is threatened, it is up to Berie to save it. She is followed around by four of the fairies from Midsummer Nights Dream, air spirit, and a pirate. A wonderful read.

Perhaps it was the Theatre I was enamoured of because as Bertie and Co travel in search of Nate and her father, the magic wanes. At first I thought maybe it was because Bertie couldn't get things right, couldn't get it together, but a book is all about character growth so that couldn't be it. I put the book down for a couple of days but was never called back to it. I couldn't at first explain why it didn't hold the same magic as the first until I neared the end. The imagery is so different, it didn't make sense to me. It didn't seem to follow any sort of rules and we're following the rules of bone- and blood-magic. She's the daughter of a Fulmar and Ophelia so I get the magic associated with them: air and water. But the Queen of the Forest, the trees, the rocks, the Cold imagery? It just didn't work for me. And perhaps my ignorance is my loss. The fairies were delightful just like in the first book. I liked the scene when Sedna looks into Bertie's heart. I liked the message that Bertie learns self-reliance. So there are enough good things about this book that will make me read the third one. Mainly because I already bought it. :)

Perchance to dream starts as Eyes Like Stars leaves off. Bertie has left the Theatre Illuminata with Ariel in search of a way to save Nate. Along the way, she finds her father and adventure she couldn't imagine. Bertie is still Bertie, sweet, reliable, snarky and just awesome. The faires are still funny and food-obssesed and Ariel is his usual self, though he has calmed down a bit and I found myself really, really liking him this time. Even the thief Waschbar and his two ferrets where likeable

and i enjoyed thier antics. Just like with the first, there are moments when you may get lost or confused but it rights itself out pretty quickly. I think the oddest part was when Bertie found her father, his whole.. being, was just one big confusion. However, a helpful one. The landscape that is described is lush, vibrant and beautiful. From the land to the sky and sea, I felt like i was apart of the world Lisa Mantchev created. By the time Bertie reaches the lair of the sea goddess I had laughed, cried, gasped and cheered on Bertie and company. Bertie gains more confidence and skill in her powers and the end battle was truely amazing, I had a box of kleenex by my side the entire time. Perchance to Dream is a poetic and masterful piece of literary art. The characters, story, world and prose is just wonderful and put together so well. If you are a fan of unique storylines, then the Theatre Illuminata trilogy is right up your alley. Even if your not a fantasy fan, this is one not to be missed. Also, the cover is a simply gorgeous, all three books sport wonderful cover art and portray the characters and emotions of the books to a T.

I enjoyed Eyes Like Stars quite a bit, for its complexity as a coming-of-age novel and for the awesome stagecraft fantasy world the author built. But I read it in March of 2011, and I forgot nearly everything about the story by the time I picked this one up. As it turns out, that was a problem, as the second book takes place moments after the first book ends. I enjoyed it, but I was lost through a lot, and didn't feel as drawn into the world as I had with the first book. The fantastical world is even more fantastical, and you really need to read book 1 immediately before book 2 to understand most of what's happening. I do recall Ariel being more capricious in book 1, where he's a solidly romantic (even spurned) character here. There's a bit of progression with the love triangle, although Bertie's sheer distance from Nate makes me favor Ariel. Or maybe Nate just seems too good to be true (you know, because he's a pirate of the best kind). As for theater references, they continue in spades- Shakespeare, Gilbert & Sullivan, etc. The faeries continue being a sort of mischievous Greek chorus in the story, providing humor as a counterpoint to Bertie's small tragedies. I just wish I was as drawn in with Perchance to Dream as I was with Eyes Like Stars.

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