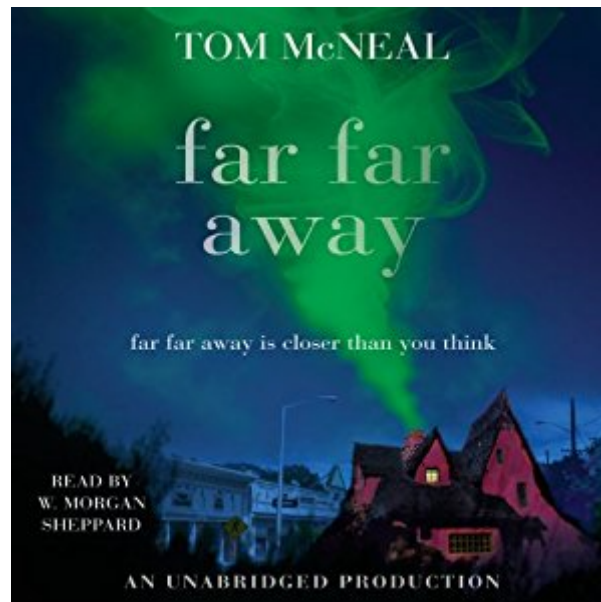




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Far Far Away



Synopsis

Audie Award Finalist, Teens, 2014 It says quite a lot about Jeremy Johnson Johnson that the strangest thing about him isn't even the fact his mother and father both had the same last name. Jeremy once admitted he's able to hear voices, and the townspeople of Never Better have treated him like an outsider since. After his mother left, his father became a recluse, and it's been up to Jeremy to support the family. But it hasn't been up to Jeremy alone. The truth is, Jeremy can hear voices. Or, specifically, one voice: the voice of the ghost of Jacob Grimm, one half of the infamous writing duo, The Brothers Grimm. Jacob watches over Jeremy, protecting him from an unknown dark evil whispered about in the space between this world and the next. But when the provocative local girl Ginger Boultinghouse takes an interest in Jeremy (and his unique abilities), a grim chain of events is put into motion. And as anyone familiar with the Grimm Brothers know, not all fairy tales have happy endings.... Young adult veteran Tom McNeal (one half of the writing duo known as Laura & Tom McNeal) has crafted a novel at once warmhearted, compulsively listenable, and altogether thrilling - and McNeal fans of their tautly told stories will not be disappointed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

3.5-4 stars. Enjoyable, creative story incorporating the brothers Grimm, ghosts, a small-ish town, and love. Kind of reminded me of an M. Night Shyamalan movie... but in book form (but maybe that's because I'm watching one as I write this review).

I'd rate this 4.5, maybe even 4.75 stars."It don't matter how young you are or how old you get or

how brittle your bones are or how leaky your gray cells, you are still going to flat like a happy ending."If you're a believer in happy endings, in fairy tales, enchanted spells, ghosts that have a purpose, and evil forests, than Tom McNeal's wonderfully magical *Far Far Away* is a book for you. But if you can't get your head around any of these concepts, this is probably not a book you'll enjoy.

In a land called (of all things) *Never Better*, Jeremy Johnson Johnson (that's his real name; it's not a typo) is a smart, sensitive boy who keeps to himself. You see, Jeremy hears voices—or, more accurately, one voice—the voice of Jacob Grimm, one half of the famed fairy tale-writing Brothers Grimm. For reasons neither of them can quite understand, Jacob is tasked with protecting Jeremy from the evils that lurk in this world. But neither Jacob nor Jeremy consider beautiful, mischievous, and athletic Ginger Boultinghouse a threat, not even after she takes a bite of a cake so delicious it's supposedly enchanted with a spell, that causes you to fall in love with the first person on whom you cast your eyes after taking a bite. Naturally, Ginger sees Jeremy first, and finds herself inexplicably enchanted, even though she doesn't believe in such magic. And while Jacob isn't happy that Ginger's attentions are keeping Jeremy from his studies, or that she is somehow convincing him to sneak around late at night and play pranks on residents of their town, Jeremy enjoys the attention—until it brings him more trouble than he bargained for. And that's just the start of Jeremy's problems. Because in addition to his fellow townspeople suddenly shunning him, there's a small problem of his father owing so much money on their small house that they're about to lose it to the bank. Plus his father hasn't left the house in years. Despite constant attention from a sheriff's deputy determined to find Jeremy and Ginger causing trouble, the kindly baker, Sten Blix, befriends the duo when no one else will. Jacob is a helpful and trusted companion to Jeremy (although not always a welcome one). Yet as devoted as he is to protecting his charge, Jacob is helpless as an unexpected evil in the form of the dreaded Finder of Occasions takes control of Jeremy and Ginger. It is the toughest challenge the duo—and the ghost—have ever faced. Will the duo be able to outsmart their nemesis? Can a ghost who can only be heard by Jeremy actually help save him?

Far Far Away is a creative, magical, wonderful book. It's a little bit of an anachronism, in that it feels as if it is set in a place far away and a time long ago, yet there are cars and answering machines and credit cards, and Ginger in particular acts more like a modern teenager than anything else. It was a little hard to get into at first, but once I did, I quickly devoured the rest of the story. I found Ginger's manner of speaking a little grating at times, but I really loved everything else about this book. Predictable? Sure. But that's the beauty of fairy tales: you know where the story will probably end up, but the journey is tremendously worthwhile. And the journey to *Far Far Away* is definitely worthwhile.

Great product

Well done! I wrote a review earlier on this book that was meant for another book. I gave this book a poor rating and I am sorry for that. I am fixing that mistake now (7/23/15). I REALLY enjoyed this book. I think it was actually written for young adults, but I found it to be a good read for any age group. Well written and good character development.

This book is wonderful! I often am distracted by grammatical errors, but this book was actually a book I could read without many complaints! It gets creepy at the end, but could never guess what was going to happen. Great detail, but not too much. In other words, I enjoyed every minute of reading this.

I was not sure what to expect when I began reading this book. As someone who only sorta likes fairy tales, I assumed I would start reading and then put it down. That was not the case. I was enchanted from the very first page and could not stop reading. Definitely a fairy tale, with odd characters and a plot twist that is as disturbing as any Grimm tale. I love the book, my grown daughter loves the book, and I have purchased another copy to give to my BFF and her two teenage girls. A movie is certainly in the future.

Fantastic audio book! W. Morgan Sheppard's narration takes this story to a whole different level. Even though it's a great story, it just wouldn't be the same to read it.

I loved everything about this book! It was a little slow at first, but then it picked up the pace ALOT. You'll be on the edge of your seat while reading this book. So many secrets to uncover, people aren't who they seem to be, the humor, the characters, and of course the Jacob Grimm make this book so amazingly written. Just a warning: you might cry at the end. ;) Read this book! You won't regret it!! :)

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