



# Firefly Hollow

*Alison McGhee*

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## **Firefly Hollow** Alison McGhee

Firefly. Cricket. Vole. Peter. Can four creatures from four very different Nations help one another find their ways in the world that can feel oh-so-big? Delve into this lush, unforgettable tale in the tradition of Charlotte's Web and The Rats of NIMH, from the author of the New York Times bestselling *Someday*.

Firefly doesn't merely want to fly, she wants to touch the moon. Cricket doesn't merely want to sing about baseball, he wants to catch. When these two little creatures with big dreams wander out of Firefly Hollow, refusing to listen to their elders, they find themselves face-to-face with the one creature they were always told to stay away from...a giant.

But Peter is a Miniature Giant. They've always been told that a Miniature Giant is nothing but a Future Giant, but this one just isn't quite as big or as scary as the other Giants. Peter has a dream of his own, as well as memories to escape. He is overwhelmed with sadness, and a summer with his new unlikely friends Firefly and Cricket might be just what he needs. Can these friends' dreams help them overcome the past?

Firefly Hollow is nothing short of enchanting, reminding us all that the very best friend is the one who wants you to achieve your dreams. Full-color tip-in illustrations and dozens of black-and-white drawing provide added glow.

## **Firefly Hollow Details**

Date : Published August 18th 2015 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9781442423367

Author : Alison McGhee

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Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Animals, Fiction, Juvenile

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## From Reader Review Firefly Hollow for online ebook

### **Kristen says**

Oh my goodness...so adorable. And surprisingly emotional. I worried when it was compared to Charlotte's Web and Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH, because those are two of my favorite children's books. However, this one definitely lived up to its predecessors.

Firefly Hollow is clearly meant for younger readers, though I think some of my 6th graders might enjoy it. Cricket and Firefly are too cute--characters that want to be different and want to know what lies beyond their home. Their adventures are fun and exciting, and the book explores some pretty important topics: grief, friendship, making judgements about people, trying new things.

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### **Cindy Dobrez says**

I thought I'd make to the end without crying, but nope. Firefly, Cricket, Vole, and Peter got to me. This is the kind of book that makes me wish I were a fourth grade teacher and could read this aloud. Or that my children were young enough to cuddle and read to. I can't wait to see the finished copy in August as the full color sample paintings by Christopher Denise in the galley are beautiful. It's going to be a beautiful gift book, too.

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### **Robin says**

This book might be good for fans of *The Wind in the Willows*, as it is largely about the simple adventures of woodland animals. Unfortunately, it reads too much as a tool for how to help children grieve than as a story that worked for its characters and its telling. It felt simplistic and preachy to me.

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### **Brenda Kahn says**

Oh my. This was just lovely. I had a signed copy on my tbr for a year and finally picked it up to read a few days ago. Then I noticed there was an audiobook available so I checked it out for a changeover drive. I finished the book through tears, which makes driving a challenge. Then, I grabbed the physical book and leafed through it to view the exquisite illustrations. I had intended to donate my copy to my library but I am keeping this for my own library. Perhaps to share with a future grandchild.

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### **Melissa Mcavoy says**

So far I am a little disappointed by this. Simplistic, rather than simple. Rats of Nimh, charlottes web and wind in the willows are far more subversive and unexpected than this entirely predictable piece of adult pedagogy. May change my mind if the ending surprises me. O.K. chose not to finish. This is not a bad book and I will buy it for my library. It is a simple, positive tale, for 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade readers. It is no My Father's Dragon however.

### **Munro's Kids says**

This was the cutest book ever!!!

Firefly and Cricket are not very typical insects. Firefly wants to fly to the moon while Cricket dreams of being a baseball catcher. They live in fear of the giants (humans) and are told to stay away from them at all costs. But when they meet Peter, a miniature human, they find a kindred spirit and have to decide whether to be "normal" or embrace who they really are.

I think this book would be good for fans of *The One and Only Ivan*, or maybe Kate DiCamillo. It's very gentle and poignant. It's melancholy and bittersweet at times (Peter's best friend Charlie has just died and he has to come to terms with it) so more sensitive readers might be affected by it. Overall it's super sweet and I really enjoyed reading it!

-Kelsey

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### **Laura Phelps says**

A sweet story with truly gorgeous illustrations throughout.

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### **Elizabeth says**

I really enjoyed this book. Yes, before the end I guessed what was going to happen, but the story was extremely sweet. The narrator for the audiobook was very good. It's a great story for any kid who is dealing with a friend who is no longer in their life either because of death or moving away and how hard it is to want to open yourself up to be friends with another person after that. *Firefly Hollow* also has a good message of how it's ok to be different and question what people always say because "it's always been that way" and to judge people AFTER you get to know them, not before.

A really good read!

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### **Tedi says**

Enchanting story about going in search of your dreams and finding a place where you belong, even amongst those that are different from you.

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### **Margie says**

On February 24, 2016 people around the world will be celebrating World Read Aloud Day. One of this year's activities leading up to the festivities, focused on the sheer joy of reading, is the 7 Strengths Countdown.

These seven weeks highlighting specific themes, belonging, curiosity, friendship, kindness, confidence, courage and hope, began the week of January 3, 2016.

Very early this morning I finished a book, a book with words and pictures resonating long after the final pages are turned and the cover is closed, which embodies every single one of those ideas. *Firefly Hollow* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, August 18, 2015) written by Alison McGhee with illustrations by Christopher Denise is a place called home by firefly, cricket, vole and human nations. It is an extraordinary place if you have a true heart, a heart ready to believe.

My full recommendation: <http://librariansquest.blogspot.com/2...>

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### **Mari says**

I am a careful and sometimes literal reader. The thing that made me stop reading this one was the way the author 'named' her characters. The main firefly character is "Firefly." The main cricket character is "Cricket." You get the picture. That would have been fine for me if maybe all the others were called the same thing. Like, all crickets have the name Cricket. But no - we hear about an unfortunate cricket named Gloria who had something awful happen to her. For me as a reader, it felt weirdly lazy to name the main characters things like Firefly and Cricket when there were obviously other fireflies and crickets around with other names.

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### **Stefanie says**

6 stars honestly.

That was one of the best books I've read ever. The gentle and warm tone made this one a must. Vole was my favourite of the characters and I couldn't help but feel bad he's the last of his kind.

The illustrations are so perfect for this. And I'm silly for thinking I'd get through this without crying (only during the last chapter though) but I know this will be on my book shelf forever.

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### **Paula says**

A poignant story about following your dreams with the help of unlikely friends. Firefly, Cricket, and Vole live in *Firefly Hollow* and are warned to stay away from Giants. But when they meet a miniature giant named Peter, everything they've learned is challenged. Beautifully illustrated by Christopher Denise.

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### **?Kimari? says**

If you liked this book, you might also enjoy:

- ★ The Night Fairy
- ★ Neversink

- ★ The Mysterious Woods of Whistle Root
  - ★ The Wind in the Willows
- 

### **Tracy Clausen says**

I can't really decide on a rating - I thought I'd love this one, but I'm hovering between 2 and three stars - closer to 3, I think. Cute characters, lovely illustrations, but the story had a melancholy feel to it that was unexpected - maybe the mood was too discordant with the characters and illustrations, maybe I needed more to "happen" with the story....I can't quite put my finger on why I didn't connect with these characters, but there still is a lot to talk about thematically - grief, loss, individuality, friendship, growing up...Ages 8-12 seems about right.

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