



# The Talisman Thief

*Gabrielle Kent*

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**The Talisman Thief** Gabrielle Kent

**Perfect for fans of J.K. Rowling and Roald Dahl!**

When Alfie Bloom inherited a castle and a centuries-old magic, his dull and lonely life was changed forever. But Alfie's new life has come with dangers he never could have expected. When Ashford the butler is kidnapped in the middle of the night, the castle comes under threat from a terrifying enemy. Trapped inside with only his twin cousins and best friend Amy, it's up to Alfie to defend his inheritance and prevent a terrible fate from befalling the whole of England!

## The Talisman Thief Details

Date : Published July 6th 2017 by Scholastic

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Author : Gabrielle Kent

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## From Reader Review The Talisman Thief for online ebook

### Shantell Danielle says

I would give this a 3.5 if I could. Good book though.

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### Beth (bibliobeth) says

Yesterday, I introduced the first book in a stunning new series by Gabrielle Kent and today I'm delighted to be part of a blog tour celebrating the second book in the Alfie Bloom series, Alfie Bloom And The Talisman Thief. Many thanks to Faye for inviting me to be part of the tour and to Scholastic UK for sending me a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. I'm so glad I didn't have to wait a while to read about the marvellous Alfie and his adventures and this second offering from the author has definitely confirmed that I'll be watching out for the rest of the books in the series.

After the exciting and dramatic events in the first book (which I'm not going to spoil for anyone who hasn't started yet) Alfie is still enjoying his new life in the castle where he seems to find somewhere different to explore and new treasures to unearth every day. One very important treasure that Alfie is guarding is a special talisman which he wears around his neck to keep it safe. The talisman has very strange powers, Alfie discovers that he can read some previously indecipherable letters by using the lens part of the talisman and other parts work like a key and open strange new doorways and hidden passages within the castle walls.

This second novel shifts some focus onto Alfie's butler, Ashford who has always seemed quite mysterious and a man of many secrets. However, it is not until Ashford is kidnapped by some elves and their terrifying Queen that Alfie realises just how secretive and important Ashford really is. The Elven Queen and her minions want the talisman very badly, for reasons I shall not divulge and will stop at nothing to get to it which puts Alfie, his best friend Amy and his cousins in very real jeopardy. Alfie must once again draw on all his inner powers, magical or otherwise to save Ashford, protect his castle and those he loves and prevent the Queen from getting her hands on something that could endanger all their lives.

Alfie Bloom And The Talisman Thief is an excellent follow up novel to the first book in the series and one I thoroughly enjoyed reading. I would probably recommend reading the first book before this as although it can be read quite easily as a stand-alone you'd be missing all the great parts like the development of the characters and how Alfie came to the castle in book one! My favourite character, apart from brave Alfie has to be Artan the loveable bear – who is actually a bear rug but makes an excellent flying carpet and has some brilliant jokes. Once again, we have a thrilling plot that is action-packed with little time to draw breath before the author throws in another exciting incident and I'll certainly be looking out for the third book in the series.

For my full review and many more please visit my blog at <http://www.bibliobeth.com>

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### Nikita says

I was so excited to read the second Alfie Bloom book and I am very glad I bought this book! The Alfie Bloom series is well worth the money!! The Talisman Thief was even better than the Secrets of Hexbridge Castle! There were brand new villains introduced, as well as shocking, yet amazing secrets the characters

and the castle had that I got the pleasure of finding out! The first book is about discovering the world and this one explores the world further, which I enjoyed immensely! This book was very good and I highly recommend it and the Alfie Bloom series to everyone who wants to be entertained, loves fantasy, Harry Potter, and just wants to escape into a magical world! Also, Artan (the flying, talking, humourous bear-skin rug) is the best!! :) :D Thankyou Gabrielle Kent, for writing this true gift of a book and series! I think Alfie Bloom will remain a favourite of mine for a while!! :)

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### **John Fulton says**

Alfie Bloom and the Talisman Thief is the sequel to Alfie Bloom and the Secrets of Hexbridge Castle (hereinafter referred to as SHC) which I reviewed back in July. I thoroughly enjoyed SHC, especially the humour and the pacy smart writing, but TT surpasses it in every way imaginable.

SHC had the burden of the setup, with Alfie being inducted into a previously unknown world of magic and druids and time travel, but TT already has all that setup done for it, so can relax and spread its storytelling wings.

And it's a great story. Alfie's magic is tied up with the talisman he always wears (which made its first appearance in SHC) but such a powerful magical object is bound to attract the attention of others. When Alfie's enigmatic butler Ashford is captured, Hexbridge Castle is besieged by relentless enemies who want Alfie's talisman, and it's up to Alfie, with the help of his cousins Robin and Madeleine, and best friend Amy, to fight back – or the repercussions could be more serious than just a lost talisman. The fate of the world is in the balance...

What TT reminded me most of all is a really good Doctor Who "base under siege" story. There are even some really clever bits of temporal paradox thrown into the resolution (none of which I can mention here without spoiling the surprise!) that made me grin when their secrets were revealed.

There's more fun with Artan the bear/flying carpet, intriguing revelations about Ashford, and a lot of the minor characters get more time in the spotlight. Despite all the revelations, there are still intriguing hints about more secrets to be unveiled.

I don't think Alfie is going to run out of adventures any time soon – which is fantastic news. Roll on the next in the series!

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### **Bev says**

Aargh, I already gave the first book 5 stars and now I liked this one even better. Now what do I do? I'm glad Amy had a bigger role in this book - she's an amazing character. And it was interesting to find out more about Ashton and Emily. I can't wait to find out what happens next.

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### **Radford Secondary Library says**

When Ashford the butler is kidnapped in the middle of the night, the castle comes under threat from a terrifying enemy. Trapped inside with only his twin cousins and best friend Amy, Alfie knows he must fight

the intruders. Because if he doesn't, the world will never be the same...

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## **Judith says**

Another thrilling adventure for Alfie Bloom and his family and friends in Hexbridge. Alfie finds himself having to cope with two types of magic within him as well as trying to defend the castle and rescuing Ashford. These books are perfect for middle grade children as well as older fantasy readers. Gabrielle Kent has made a brilliant start to what promises to be an exciting series of magical mysteries.

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## **Heather Lawson says**

Originally posted here: <https://heatherreviews.wordpress.com/...>

When I was offered the chance to read the next book in the Alfie Bloom series, I jumped at the chance. This series has fast become a new favourite and one that I will auto-buy in future. The first book was amazing and the second book was even better.

After the events during his first Christmas at Hexbridge, Alfie Bloom has a new challenge to face, along with his cousins and best friend, when his inheritance – the magnificent and mysterious Hexbridge Castle – comes under attack from a formidable foe. With Ashford, their butler, kidnapped and their parents stuck outside the grounds of the castle, it's up to Alfie and the others to defend their home.

I thought, going into this book, that it would be as exciting as the first and I was eagerly looking forward to it, and then I started reading. And it was even better than the first. Ashford was my favourite character from the first book – the butler with his own secrets and mysterious ways that were just barely touched upon in the first book. I was keen to see if we would learn more about him this time around and I was not disappointed. From the very beginning, Ashford is the focus of this story.

When Ashford is kidnapped late one evening, Alfie and his friends begin a plan to get him back – with infuriatingly little help from Mr Bones, who doesn't seem at all interested in getting Ashford back.

I really enjoyed the fact that some of the smaller characters from the first book were given bigger parts to play in the second; namely Ashford, Amy and Emily. I enjoyed exploring their characters more and getting to know them as well as we got to know Alfie, Robin and Madeline in the first book. Seeing them all band together as a group to tackle their intruders was fantastic – even amidst all the arguments and disagreements, they still managed to come up with several daring plans in their bids to not only rescue Ashford, but each other too!

While the first book had a surprising reveal at the end, I hadn't expected the number of twists this time around! Not only do we learn something huge about Ashford, but also Emily too! I actually read the last 75-100 pages with this face: :O

As magical, imaginative, and fantastical as the first, with extra adventure and intrigue, Alfie Bloom's continued adventures keep getting better and better and I can't wait to see what he does next.

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## **Yapha says**

Now that Alfie has learned the true story of the the castle he has inherited, he is enjoying exploring it and learning about the rest of the secrets it holds. His best friend Amy is visiting for Beltane, and he is enjoying hanging out with her and his cousins. Unfortunately, the calm doesn't last for long. Ashford the butler has been sneaking off through a portal. He is followed back one night and the castle is attacked by elves. Ashford is kidnapped and Alfie's talisman is demanded as the ransom. It is up to Alfie, Amy, Robin, and Madeleine to figure out how to rescue Ashford, save the castle, and defeat the elves. A fabulous sequel! Must read the first book in order to understand this one. Highly recommended for grades 4 & up.

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## **Ingrid Fasquelle says**

Gabrielle Kent travaille pour l'industrie du jeu vidéo depuis 1997 et enseigne actuellement le développement de jeu vidéo à la Teesside University. En plus de l'enseignement, elle dirige Animex, le plus grand festival d'animation et de jeux vidéo du Royaume-Uni. En 2015, elle a reçu le prix Woman of the Year, décerné par la revue MCV. Elle aime l'écriture autant que les jeux et rêve d'écrire un jour des livres dans la bibliothèque de son propre château. Alfie Bloom est sa première série et dans ce deuxième opus, on retrouve toute la magie et le danger qui avaient fait vibrer le lecteur dans Alfie Bloom et l'héritage du druide.

Aussi prenant et addictif que le meilleur des jeux vidéo, Alfie Bloom et le voleur de talisman propulse le lecteur dans un monde passionnant et peuplé de créatures surnaturelles.

La vie du jeune Alfie, qui vient de découvrir son héritage et ses pouvoirs fantastiques, est à nouveau bouleversée quand sous ses yeux, son majordome est enlevé par une armée d'elfes malfaisants. Amy, son amie, Maddie et Robin, ses cousins intrépides, et lui, auront fort à faire pour tenter de sauver leur fidèle serviteur des griffes de ces créatures maléfiques !

Derrière cet enlèvement se dessinent les termes d'un odieux chantage: pour récupérer son ami sain et sauf, Alfie devra céder le talisman qu'il protège au peuple des elfes, un prix bien lourd pour l'unique gardien de la magie druidique vieille de plusieurs siècles ! Retranché au sein du château d'Hexbridge, Alfie ne sait plus à qui se confier... Heureusement, il pourra compter sur l'ingéniosité de ses cousins et la loyauté de son amie Amy pour déjouer les pièges et venir à bout de ce terrible échange !

Les aventures du jeune Alfie sont si palpitantes et si addictives qu'il est presque impossible de lâcher ce roman une fois commencé ! Il faut dire que Gabrielle Kent s'y entend pour créer un univers rempli de mystères et de dangers ! Le château de Hexbridge est un endroit mystérieux qui abrite bien des secrets et des trésors ! Petits et grands n'auront qu'une envie, se perdre entre ses murs pour découvrir les objets magiques et autres artefacts qu'il contient... Evasion et divertissement garantis !

Grâce à une plume fluide et entraînante, Gabrielle Kent a su entretenir la magie et le suspense de sa série. On ne se lasse pas de l'avalanche de rebondissements qu'elle a imaginés pour Alfie et ses amis ! Vivement le tome 3 !

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## **Anna says**

Alfie Bloom and the Talisman Thief is a wonderful, magical adventure story! Two pages in and I'd placed an

order for the first book in the series, Alfie Bloom and the Secret's of Hexbridge Castle, although I hasten to add that you can read the Talisman Thief as a stand alone without feeling like you've missed out on anything.

Alfie is a fantastic new hero to root for; like the best of heroes he is brave and loyal, he makes mistakes, needs his friends, never gives up and fights for those he loves until the very last.

A castle full a wonder, with secret rooms around every corner! Multidimensional offices ( just imagine it, step through door one and you're on earth, door two and... who knows? anywhere is possible! ) Elves! Magic! and Time Travel! What more could an adventure need? Oh yes, an amazing group of children who will stop at nothing to save the world!

Every word weaves around the next, creating a spellbinding adventure that I for one would love to see on the big screen! Will definitely be reading this series to my children and taking copies into the school library.

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### **Chris Callaghan says**

A brilliant castle siege story - packed with action, magic, wit and genuinely jaw-dropping moments. It's a perfect follow up to Alfie Bloom's first story and we find out much more about the characters. I have a feeling there is a lot more to come - and I can't wait!

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### **Lesangdeslivres says**

<http://lesangdeslivres.blogspot.fr/20...>

La couverture est tout aussi belle que le premier tome et nous donne encore plus envie de commencer ce second.

Au commencement de ce roman, nous prenons plaisir à retrouver Alfie et tout son entourage.

Très rapidement, l'action arrive et nous sommes embarqués dans une histoire où la magie est chose essentiel dans ce second tome.

Nous nous demandons ce qui a bien pu se passer pour un personnage en particulier et nous nous demandons ce qu'il est réellement.

Pour un petit personnage, pas de doute sur son identité, car nous le voyons venir de loin.

Rapidement, nous avons l'impression de vivre dans l'obscurité et dans la brume. Nous n'en sortirons que très peu de fois le temps de cette lecture.

Nous trouvons la suite de cette saga très prenante et toujours aussi bien écrite ce qui nous fait encore plus plaisir.

De nouveaux personnages viennent faire leur apparition et nous apprenons à les connaître au fur et à mesure que nous tournons les pages. Certains sont vraiment mauvais et nous le savons tout de suite.

Ce qui est bien dans ce roman, c'est que c'est aussi bien un roman jeunesse par son écriture et son histoire, mais les adultes se laissent absorber facilement dans cet univers totalement fantastique et féérique.

Quand nous arrivons à la fin de cette histoire, nous savons que tout n'est pas terminé et que c'est juste partie remise. Nous sentons qu'Alfie n'en a pas terminé dans ses aventures et nous avons vraiment hâte de connaître la suite.

Est-ce que j'ai aimé ce livre ?

Une fois de plus, Gabrielle Kent m'a fait passer un merveilleux moment en compagnie d'Alfie. Cette histoire, bien qu'un peu différente de la première m'a donné froid et des frissons. J'avais vraiment l'impression de vivre dans la pénombre et ce n'est pas pour me déplaire.

La fin est à la hauteur de mes espérances et j'ai vraiment hâte de lire la suite de cette saga.

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### **Karsyn says**

3.5 stars. Took me a little bit to get into this one, but that could have just been my own things going on. Not as good as the first, but still enjoyable. Felt like the kids were really dumb there for a bit, it's like they are smart about some things and dumb about others just to build "suspense". For kids, I'm sure it'd work, just didn't for me. :) Still fun book, fun series and I will read more.

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### **Charlène says**

"En fin de compte, le deuxième tome d'Alfie Bloom est juste une pure réussite pour moi. Il est actuellement en face de moi et je le regarde avec affection, parce que je suis attachée à l'univers et aux personnages qui s'y trouvent. Chacun évolue, présente un caractère unique, de même que le côté surnaturel qui est un mélange de pas mal de genre et qui nous fait rêver, ou trembler lorsque l'intrigue s'emballe et que nos héros semblent ne pas savoir comment s'en sortir. Gabrielle Kentz nous vend du rêve ! Un roman jeunesse qui en plus nous veut du bien dans ses messages, presque sans le vouloir ! Tout aussi bon que le premier opus ! Je le conseille sincèrement, et ce sera un 17/20 pour moi !"

Chronique entière ici :

<http://leden-des-reves.blogspot.fr/20...>

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