



# The Magic Bicycle

*John Bibee*

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## **The Magic Bicycle** John Bibee

"Once there was a magic bicycle that found a boy," begins this tale of adventure and suspense. When John Kramer comes across an old, rusty Spirit Flyer bicycle, he finds it far from ordinary. First, the bike helps him save a neighbor's barn from burning. Then it brings him into conflict with the boys in the Cobra Club, a representative of Goliath Toys and other forces that not only want John's bike, but want it destroyed. While John learns about the Magic in the bicycle, every reader will be delighted as they join him for this fantastic ride.

## **The Magic Bicycle Details**

Date : Published May 4th 1983 by InterVarsity Press (first published May 1983)

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Author : John Bibee

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## From Reader Review The Magic Bicycle for online ebook

### Michaeloris says

This series is a Howard Family favorite. Our oldest son Drew who would not call himself an avid reader liked this one so much he read the series again as an adult. I plan to buy the whole series for Drew' first son due in February. It is a vividly told story of good versus evil and that invisible spiritual realm where our arch enemies battle Christ and His legions. Some in the series are not as good as others.

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### Megan says

I think I read this book because it sounded like it had a good epic good v. evil story happening like the Dark is Rising series. It started off ok, and quickly descended into weird and creepy. So much so that I've repressed the memory of even reading it and only now remembered what it was even titled. Somebody on Amazon commented that it was a good series to give your kids to read if you didn't want them reading Harry Potter. So, yeah.

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### Alice says

**2.75 Stars** A patron told me she and her boys loved this book. I told her to read "The Forgotten Door" which I loved and she said this book was like it. NOPE WRONG. "The Forgotten Door" is intelligent, interesting, full of depth. This was just a barrel full of blah!

This book started out being very interesting, a boy finds an old bike in the dump and he tries to fix it up -- then the bikes flies and does all sort of cool things.. Okay that part was fun! But what I didn't like was all the deep deep dark, evil, twisted magic. It wasn't fun for me. It was strange and a little dark. The snake with the red eyes, creepy, the tornado that only is around town. The lost of John's parents by this mythical evil force. It is pre Harry Potter but it has a similar vibe to it. Unexplained magic.

I will say it, I was bored. It wasn't fun for me. For Sci-fi to be fun for me it has to be logical and make sense. Oh well I read it, don't make me read the other 7 in the series. Maybe tween boys will like it...I am just glad I am done with it!!!!!!!!!!

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### J.Aleksandr Wootton says

No idea how this one ended up on my shelf, but it's going straight to the used book store. It wasn't horrible; started quite well, and the plot moved at a good pace with good details and atmosphere, but about halfway through it started to feel cheesy and then the exposition completely fell apart.

Also, the subtitle is a near-total misnomer.

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### **Susan says**

I loved this book as a child. And I was pleased to see it mostly held up! This book is very much about spiritual warfare but I think if you weren't raised in the church you may never know as they never talk about God or Satan with those names. The writing wasn't quite as good as I remembered but I still loved the story.

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### **Jenah says**

I had forgotten how much i loved this book. When I read it the first time as a child, it made an impression on me that very few books have. When it came into the used bookstore i was working at, well... I'd say it was fate, but that wouldn't be giving credit where credit is due. I bought it immediately, which was 2 years ago. It has since decorated one of my many bookshelves. Until tonight. Tonight i reread it in one sitting, because this story still has that power. Awesome.

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### **Susan Skavdahl says**

I have re-read this series several times. The story's are well written and clearly define good from evil. While the town is being taken over by an evil toy store owner a magic bicycle brings light and hope to a young boy and his family by showing the the way to the kingdom of the true King.

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### **Beth Anne says**

Read aloud to Emma and Will. This was such a favorite of mine as a kid, I couldn't count the number of times I've read it. I was a little worried that it wouldn't stand the test of time, especially reading it to kids in a different generation, but they were begging for another chapter every time we read. Fabulous story, great illusions to Christianity, and super fun to share with my kids.

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### **Heidi says**

I read this as a kid - made a huge impression on me. So big, that I finally tried looking it up again. The library didn't carry it. And wow. Still an awesome series. The first book is the hardest for me - glowing red eyes, black snake funnel clouds - scary stuff. But if ever there were a series that did a good job explaining good and bad - the insidious tendrils of evil and the overwhelming unconditional love of God, this is it. Each book in the series is fabulous. My eight year old is not ready for this yet, but I will read it to her when she is ready. I've seen bad reviews - yes, if you are a person who dislikes fantasy, magic and scary stuff, this is not a series for you. But John Bibee did a fabulous job with the Spirit Flyer Series - my kids will definitely go through the whole group with me some day.

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### **Colleen says**

This is the first in a series. The series is great, but this first one starts out with a couple problems. First, the writing doesn't flow off the tongue as beautifully as I might wish. It is a children's book and reads like many children's books, but I wish I could tell you that it was as well-written, as, say, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by Lewis. However, the plot and themes, as well as the rest of the books in the series, are good enough that I recommend it for anyone who enjoys a story of spiritual truth.

Some readers might also be put off by the intense portrayal of evil in the book. I think this is, however, realistic and fitting. One of the themes is, after all, that dark forces are working to enslave people. It was not upsetting to any of my children, who read it when they were (roughly) 10-15 years old. And the pictures of evil are not of the type that would inspire a child to sin--they are not titillating or tantalizing in any way.

This series has woven into a simple story much truth that is clearly taught in the Bible--that only the Lord Jesus Christ can free us from our bondage. And the author has wonderfully spun a story that touches our hearts and inspires us to worship Him and to live life in the power of His Spirit. Thank you, John Bibee!

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### **Rivkah. says**

I love this book to death! My father read these books to us over and over when I was a kid!

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### **Justin says**

I read the first four books as a child, and I have pleasant, dream-like memories of them. However, as a work of literature, the books are subpar. It's not the weird Christian allegory I object to; I kind of like it. I say weird because instead of Good and Evil, you have Magic and Tragic. Having spiritual powers in the guise of magical bicycles...that's weird. The demonic figure is pretty standard: smoke, coffee, glowing red eyes.

No, what I object to is the pervasive lack of motivation. Characters are always "getting a feeling," or "something is telling" them to do (or not do) X, Y, or Z. Even when the character 'wants' to do otherwise. I suppose this is to supposed to represent Conscience or the Holy Spirit or somesuch, but it comes across as lazy writing and ham-fisted authorial hand waving. I found it very frustrating.

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### **John Smith says**

The best book I ever read as a child. 20 years after reading it for the first time, I remember the way this book sucked me in and showed me that reading can be really fun. I never found a book since this amazing, and I've read others in the series and they had parts that were just as great but as a whole, didn't really meet the mark. I recommend this book to all young boys. It teaches them life values that they will have for the rest of there life and want to share with there kids in the future.

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### **K Flewelling says**

This is a fun and quick read. It's an allegory of Christian faith, that I read waaaay back when I was only 8 or 9. It's a part of a series that is, to this day, some 17 years, really very gripping. A little preachy, at times,

perhaps, but some interesting connotations and metaphors.

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### **Steve says**

I read this when just a teenager and remember being absolutely enraptured by it.

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