

Cooper, Constance Guile R Gr. 6-9

Houses that stand longer than their construction should allow, fishing charms that attract fish who have swallowed tiny treasures, houseboats with a living personality, and talking cats... The folks in Wicked Ford know not to dismiss such tales, especially Yonie Watereye. Orphaned and poor, the teenaged girl and her talking cat companion, LaRue, make ends meet by detecting “wily” objects: a “pearly” can see the presence of guile – a powerful substance found in the water that alters the true nature of things – in otherwise commonplace objects or people. Yonie’s secret is that LaRue is the true pearly because most folks think LaRue is an ordinary house cat. A string of questionable interactions with wily objects leads Yonie on a path that opens a mystery surrounding the circumstances of her parents’ deaths and uncovering the truth means disturbing things, and people, that could threaten their lives.

Cooper’s tale is a thrilling, yet cozy mystery set in a lovely world filled with imagery reminiscent of New Orleans: swampy bayous, cemeteries, French names for almost everything, and a sort of magic that cannot exactly be described. Yonie is a spirited girl who loves adventure and has learned to survive life alongside her faithful (and snarky), cat, LaRue. Through LaRue, Yonie learns the meaning of true friendship and the lengths to which a person will go to save those they love; through the trials she faces, Yonie learns how strong she is and defines her sense of family, of what is right and wrong, and of love.

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Rebecca Strang, July 2018

R\* Starred, Recommended  
R Recommended  
Ad Acceptable  
M Marginal (in content or style), consider carefully

This review was completed for MSLIS coursework.  
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