



The Midnight Horse

By Sid Fleischman

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On a coach bound for Cricklewood, the orphan boy Touch caught his first glimpse of the haunt named The Great Chaffalo. According to rumor, he was once a famous magician who could turn a pile of straw into a horse. Now, Touch needs the ghost's help in order to escape his wicked great-uncle. So, with an armload of straw and a determined spirit, Touch makes his plea to The Great Chaffalo -- and, magically, a horse appears! But can magic save Touch when his great-uncle's schemes grow even more villainous?

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The Midnight Horse By Sid Fleischman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

What Leon Garfield does for Victorian England, Newbery Medalist Fleischman (*The Whipping Boy*) does for the Red Raven Inn in Cricklewood, N.H.--population 217, "216 Fine Folks & 1 Infernal Grouch." The grouch is wicked Judge Wigglesforth who, having cheated his nephew Touch out of his rightful inheritance, threatens to send him to an orphan's home. "With a bit of straw and a touch of midnight," Touch is befriended by the ghost of a magician, the Great Chaffalo. By the story's end, Wigglesforth gets his comeuppance, Touch wins the beautiful Sally and the Red Raven Inn has been saved. From the opening stormy coach ride to the Keystone Kops chase at the end, Fleischman's story crackles with action, eccentric characters and what the blacksmith calls "mysticiation." Sis's black-and-white drawings, appropriately mysterious and quirky, perfectly match this deftly told tale of innocence and villainy. Ages 8-up. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

It's "raining bullfrogs" when readers first meet the skinny and bareheaded orphan boy Touch with his hair "as curly as wood shavings." Touch is en route--by horse-drawn coach--to Cricklewood, New Hampshire, where he will meet his great-uncle and only surviving relative, Judge Henry Wigglesforth. The boy's traveling companions are an honest blacksmith, a mysterious thief, and a shadowy figure on the coach's roof. " 'Merciful powers!' " the blacksmith exclaims, " 'It's The Great Chaffalo!' " It seems that since the magician became a ghost, he has developed the disconcerting habit of turning up in odd and unexpected places. How he becomes Touch's ally against the conniving Judge Wigglesforth readers will delight in discovering for themselves. The process is pure pleasure. Fleischman--who has always had a fondness for magicians--has himself become a master magician with words, producing dazzling and seemingly effortless rhetorical effects from his writer's sleeve. How he does it is his secret, but it surely has something to do with inspired plotting, masterful timing, and a wonderful ear for comic language, lively dialogue, and the best similes and metaphors this side of Leon Garfield. The illustrations by the talented Sis perfectly capture the spirit of the text while complementing its substance. The book is part ghost story, part tall tale, part picaresque, and totally enjoyable, for it is that old enchanter Sid Fleischman at his magical best. --Michael Cart, Beverly Hills Public Library
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From the Publisher

It all began during a stormy coach ride, when Touch, an orphan boy, was traveling to meet his evil great-uncle, Judge Wigglesforth. That's when Touch first sees The Great Chaffalo, a magician's ghost.

From the moment Touch meets his nasty great-uncle he has troubles. Not only is the judge trying to cheat Touch out of his inheritance, he's also trying to force Sally Hoskins to sell him her Red Raven Inn. Is Touch all alone against the powerful judge? How can he get what belongs to him in the first place?

Where is The Great Chaffalo now?

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Toni Styer:

What do you consider book? It is just for students as they are still students or it for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has several personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great as well as important the book The Midnight Horse. All type of book would you see on many methods. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

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Alissa Sowell:

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Raymond Nelson:

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