

*If I Had a Magic Carpet*

Laura Clarizio

Reviewed by Sujin Park, 15

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The first glimpse of the book, *If I Had a Magic Carpet*, gives an impression of peace and joy. A blue cover with a lovely girl sitting on the carpet is magically energetic. The book is introduced with a main character, Miranda. Miranda is presented as an innocent, bright young lady. As the book proceeds, we find out that Miranda owns a magic carpet from her grandfather. Although she knows that she has powers to do anything with the carpet, she is eager to give nothing but kindness. The book gets very exciting as Miranda travels to rescue her friend, Jacob. Jacob, who is easily frightened by his cruel friend, Ellery, is threatened by Ellery and his friends by being forced to meet at the train tracks. Of course Jacob is extremely anxious, but he does not have a courageous energy to step up to the bullies. Miranda then decides to rescue Jacob with her magic carpet. As the book further proceeds, we get to know Ellery's real desire; he wants to steal the magic carpet. Furthermore, Miranda's dream is to visit the White House and meet some "important people". Finally, Miranda gets to go and visit the White House in order to give back a key she found. She eventually goes to the White House and returns the key. Indeed, the author, Clarizio, uses the key to symbolize a sense of kindness. Through the key, Miranda demonstrates her generous actions by helping and forgiving others.

Although this book is for young people ranging from ten to thirteen, I personally enjoyed this book a lot. The book not only highlights the way of kindheartedness, but it also shows consequences for bad, cruel people. I highly recommend this book, especially for young teenagers who may also be worried and frustrated by their bullies. The book was surely very exciting to read.