

# The Serpent's Spell

Author: [Bridgman, Rae](#)

Genre: [Young Adult](#)

Written in the year 2006 and set in the time period: 2006

Places: • [North America](#) > [Canada](#) > [Manitoba](#)

Originally entered by [James Schellenberg](#) (Oct-06), BiblioTravel

## Comments

The Serpent's Spell by Rae Bridgman is a young adult fantasy mostly set in the hidden magical city of Middlegate. MiddleGate is near Winnipeg, as we discover when some of the main characters take a train ride from Toronto to Winnipeg at the beginning of the book. A famous Manitoban landmark, the snake pits of Narcisse, play a large role in the story too, which is appropriate enough considering the title of the book and the constant references to snakes.

Wil and Sophie are cousins, part of a large magical family (although Wil doesn't know this at the start). Wil's grandmother dies in a fire, so Wil travels to Manitoba to live with his aunts and cousin. They attend the Gruffud's Academy - some of the material at Gruffud was much too Potterish for my tastes - trying to get by at school like any other group of kids. Wil is still trying to figure out a black medallion given to him by his grandmother, and there's also the matter of the mysterious group known as the Serpent's Chain. Adventure and peril ensues, until all is revealed.

The Serpent's Spell was published by Great Plains Publications, in a very nice edition. Bridgman divides her story up into 52 short chapters (in some cases, extremely short), but also provides a neat drawing as a chapter heading, as well as a Latin saying for each; the combination made for a unique feel.