



Fish & Sphinx

By: *Rae Bridgman*

Published by: *Great Plains Publications*

Reviewed by: *Allison Witzel* (13)

Rae Bridgman's novel, *Fish and Sphinx*, is the third novel in the MiddleGate series, with one more book to come. Two eleven-year-old cousins Wil Wychwood and Sophie Isidor, are orphans who live with their Aunt Violet. They are trying to learn more about the black medallion, and the gorgeous golden ring Wil's grandmother gave him before she died.

Wil and Sophie are starting their second year of school at nearby Gruffud's Academy for the Magical Arts. In this way the novel is similar to Harry Potter, because they both deal with school-aged children who are learning magical skills.

One day Wil spins his black medallion, and discovers that the medallion's silver arrow and silver triangle turn into a five-pointed star. Whenever there is a problem to solve, a tiny gold symbol shines brightly on the magical medallion. Wil and Sophie rescue the sacred snakes of Narcisse from getting slaughtered, with the help of Wil's pet snake, Esme, and prevent the Serpent's Chain from stealing the magical honey from the MiddleGate bees.

Wil and Sophie are trying to find out more about the people who formed the evil Serpent's Chain in order to stop them from damaging the Manitoba Legislative Museum. Then, as if things aren't strange enough, a talking catfish that can transform itself into a woman with ten whiskers comes to the aid of Wil and Sophie. Catfysh, mysterious woman's name, is the spirit of the river and lives by the river. With her help, the cousins save the Palace of the Blazing Star, from the Serpent's Chain in the nick of time.

The author wrote something very important about each chapter in Latin and translated it to English at the beginning of the chapters, which added to the mystical feel. Rae Bridgman is a fantastic author and *Fish and Sphinx* is a fantastic book. If you like mystery novels about magic, myths, and ancient Egypt then *Fish and Sphinx* is the perfect book for you to enjoy. (*What If? Magazine* Books Reviews for Younger Readers – Winter 2008)