

Dorchester Public Library  
***Books Worth Another Look***  
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***Fish and Sphinx***, by Rae Bridgman

A new book in our young collection is the novel *Fish and Sphinx*. Like the *Harry Potter* series in that this is the story of an orphaned boy who discovers he has a connection to a parallel, magic-based society existing alongside our own, this is a more demanding read than *Harry Potter*, richer in vocabulary and more convoluted in plot. Cousins Wil and Sophie live with their aunts in the town of MiddleGate, Manitoba, hidden from the rest of the country, because in MiddleGate, magic is a part of everyday life. Although this is the third book in the series, the adventure stands on its own, as Wil and Sophie continue their attempt to discover the secrets of the mysterious group called the Serpent's Chain and find out how this sinister organization is connected to their own family history. As in the earlier books, slapstick comedy mingles with frightening enemies and unexpected allies. Bridgman does a fine job of peopling the Manitoba landscape with supernatural creatures; in this book, the Catfysh, the spirit of the river, appears as a homeless woman in Winnipeg. The author's delight in wordplay is given full rein throughout, but particularly in the shapeshifting chapter, when Wil and Sophie are changed into catfish. The deepening sense that the heroes are in over their heads, surrounded on all sides by enemies whose motives they still don't understand, but who threaten everything they care about, will leave readers who like their fantasy to contain a good dose of mystery and suspense looking for the next volume.