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Mighty Jack



Synopsis

Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talkâ to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. In *Mighty Jack*, what starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everythingâ a dragon.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Jack is not excited about the summer vacation. While other kid's are goofing off and hanging out with their friends, Jack has to watch his autistic sister while his mother struggles to make ends meet with extra hours at her two jobs. Watching Maddy is a lot of responsibility and not always easy since Maddy never talks. When Jack and Maddy accompany their mom to a flea market, Maddy unexpectedly tells Jack to trade the family van for a box of strange seeds. Jack's mom is understandably disappointed and upset. But Jack and Maddy go forward with planting the seeds. The plants look normal. At first. But then Jack, Maddy, and Lily (the girl next door) start to notice strange things in the garden like onion babies and seeds that can turn a person blue. The more Jack

learns about the garden, the more he wonders about the seeds and their purpose. With dangers looming behind every leaf, Jack will have to decide how far he is willing to go for adventure--and how much he's willing to risk to keep his family safe in *Mighty Jack* (2016) by Ben Hatke. This retelling of "Jack and the Beanstalk" blends familiar elements with Hatke's unique interpretation. The graphic novel remains faithful to the original text with Jack's dubious trade and the magical seeds growing. This story focuses more on the early parts of the tale as Hatke sets the stage for future installments. Jack's responsibilities at home and his complicated relationship with his mother and sister all come through in the text and expressive illustrations. (It's worth noting that Maddy is never identified as autistic in the story itself only in the jacket copy.)

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