



The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch)

By Joseph Delaney

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For years, Old Gregory has been the Spook for the county, ridding the local villages of evil. Now his time is coming to an end. But who will take over for him? Twenty-nine apprentices have tried—some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive.

Only Thomas Ward is left. He's the last hope, the last apprentice.

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The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch) By Joseph Delaney Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"I was going to learn how to protect farms and villages from things that go bump in the night. Dealing with ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties would be all in a day's work. That's what the Spook did, and I was going to be his apprentice." Twelve-year-old Thomas Ward, as the seventh son of a seventh son, has no inheritance and is bored with farm work, and even though his new job will mean the superstitious villagers will forever shun him, he is eager to go off to adventure with the tall, hooded man he calls the Spook. His mother, a magical person herself, approves, and the Spook's teaching is strict but kind. But when Tom has only learned enough to be able to control their house-boggart, he is tricked by Alice, the young daughter of a witch family, into inadvertently releasing and then killing Mother Malkin, a witch the Spook has imprisoned in a pit. This is no polite wicca-type witch, but a snuffling, slime-trailing, cannibalistic creature reminiscent of Tolkien's *nasgils*. The story of Tom's escape from the reincarnated witch's hideous revenge is full of horrible details, as Alice helps, and then once again betrays him. This well-crafted novel marks an auspicious start for an exciting and fast series for young teens. (Ages 10-14) --*Patty Campbell*

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8—In the first title of the series by Joseph Delaney (Greenwillow, 2005), 12-year-old Tom Ward is the seventh son of a seventh son who has been apprenticed to The Spook, whose job it is to ward off witches, boggarts, and ghosts from his domain in the English countryside. Twenty-nine other apprentices have gone before Tom. Will he be able to succeed because he is able to see things, or because he is left-handed, or because his Mam has taught him Greek? After leaving the farm and his family to go with Mr. Gregory, he is put through several trials and warnings to beware of girls in pointy shoes and to make sure not to insult a snippy boggart that cooks and cleans. Then the Spook begins very precise instruction, which Tom voluminously transcribes into notebooks. Young and naïve, Tom makes a big blunder that unleashes the wrath of the malevolent witch, Mother Malkin, a villain who could rival Voldermort. In this tale that is a mix between Sweeney Todd and Harry Potter, listeners will experience tension and suspense along with a likeable character in Tom, who is affable, loyal, and eager to do a good job. Actor Evan Welch reads this first-person narrative with a boyish sincerity. Each character is given a distinct and vibrant voice. Fans of this story will be eager for its sequel to know if Tom will succeed or go the route of the first 29 apprentices. A good purchase where the book is popular.—*Jo-Ann Carhart, East Islip Public Library, NY*
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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Gr. 5-8. Delaney grabs readers by the throat and gives them a good shake in a smartly crafted story in which the horror is set within the parameters of a boy's new job. In an unspecified England some centuries ago, Thomas, the 12-year-old seventh son of a seventh son, is taken on as an apprentice by the local Spook. It's the Spook's job to keep the surrounding area free from witches, bogarts, and the creepy things that cause shivers in the night. Tom is not sure he's cut out for the solitary, scary life, and he soon finds himself in trouble, inadvertently freeing a terrifying witch, Mother Malkin, at the behest of a girl named Alice because he's desperate for a friend. Like Anthony Horowitz's *Raven's Gate* (2005), this is a gristly thriller; Delaney's descriptions of moldering bodies hoisting themselves from the earth and hairy pigs tearing into a witch's heart will have readers' eyes opening wide. Yet the twisted horror is amply buffered by an exquisitely normal young hero, matter-of-fact prose, and a workaday normalcy. Still, like Mother Malkin popping out of her earthy pit, bad things are always there to catch readers off guard. As the warning label on the cover notes, this is "Not to be read after dark." *Ilene Cooper*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jacob Lehr:

What do you think about book? It is just for students since they're still students or the item for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has several personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch). All type of book is it possible to see on many options. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

Victor Havens:

Often the book The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch) has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was written by the very famous author. The writer makes some research ahead of write this book. That book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this article book.

Elizabeth McNeal:

The book untitled The Last Apprentice (Revenge of the Witch) contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains your ex idea with easy approach. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice examine.

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