

corny jokes, its clear blue-on-white print, and its action-packed illustrations by Edward Frascino. The boys react to their hijacking by alien Moon-miners with violence and theft, as they would at play, showing little evidence of their world-science-fair-winning skills. Mediocre--for large libraries only. --Mary S. Weinkauff

79-818 **THE WITCH'S GARDEN**, by Ruth Chew. Hastings House, New York, 1979, 112p, Cloth, Juvenile [7-11 years], \$5.95. ISBN 0-8038-8093-6.

79-819 **THE MAGIC CAVE**, by Ruth Chew. Hastings House, New York, 1978, 128p, Cloth, Juvenile [7-11 years], \$5.95. ISBN 0-8038-4711-4.

Both of these books were originally published by Scholastic Book Services in paperback, *Garden* in 1978, *Cave* in 1973 (as *The Hidden Cave*). The first book is one of a series about witches (they seem to be independent, with different witches and children in each). Mrs. Muldoon, as Chew's own invention, is handled more successfully as a character than the magician Merlin. The notion of a witch who has all the usual poisons and noxious decor and yet is herself a good person, unaware of the oddities in herself, is amusing. The structure is episodic: Mrs. Muldoon must help Merlin adjust to modern society and finally escape from it, with the way left open for a sequel. Slight but readable.

The Magic Cave is a pleasant, average story of a common type: the boy and girl find a magical being and have adventures with it before letting it or helping it go to rest. There's some incidental humor, but the emphasis is on action and the children's wonder. This isn't a classic, but it's adequate: the children are colorless, the syntax and language simple (apparently to help slow readers), although not so obtrusively as to annoy better readers. The illustrations and jacket are Chew's work: dark and sketchy to my taste, they do manage to catch the atmosphere of the story well. Slight but recommended. --Ruth Berman

79-820 **BARNEY AND THE UFO**, by Margaret Goff Clark. Dodd, Mead, New York, 1979, 159p, Cloth, Juvenile [9-12 years], \$6.95. ISBN 0-396-07711-0.

Clark's book uses standard SF ideas and themes, but despite the juvenile classification, the intended audience is not readily apparent. A good juvenile leaves no doubt as to who might enjoy reading it, and the best (such as those by Heinlein or Mark Twain) can be read and enjoyed by young and old alike. *Barney* is more insipid and moralistic than a young reader's book should be these days. Events are related entirely too fortu-

itously to sustain credibility or interest. The illustrations by Ted Lewis add little. Overpriced and not recommended. --Keith L. Justice

79-821 **RED HART MAGIC**, by Andre Norton. Tempo Books, New York, 1979, 179p, Paper, Juvenile [10-13 years], \$1.95. ISBN 0-441-71100-6.

A tale of reincarnation and time travel, this reprint of the 1976 Crowell novel tells of two youngsters, Chris Fitton and Nan Mallory, who are thrown together by chance (their parents marry and the kids are pushed off on Chris's Aunt Elizabeth). A model of an old English inn, the Red Hart, provides a gateway for the two to enter previous lives that are somehow connected with the original inn in England. Their adventures there prepare them to cope more skillfully with their problems in the present. The historical interludes are much more realistically done, and seem more vivid than the frame story set in the present. About average Norton, but more readable than most. --Beth Allen

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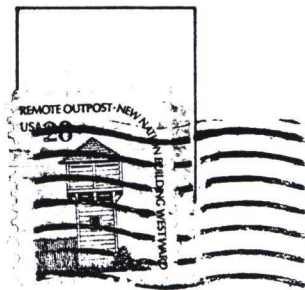
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