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English 404 Adolescent Literature

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Magic Kingdom For Sale - SOLD! - Terry Brooks

1) Age Group

This book is targeted for the 12-14 age group - the writing and approach is fairly straightforward, but the characters are what make this book stand out.

2) What Is The Theme Of The Story?

The main themes of this story are healing and redemption. At the beginning nearly every character is dealing with some kind of major trauma that affects them deeply.

3) List 3 Books you could recommend to a child who likes this story and wants to read more.

If a child likes this book, they should read the second and third books in the series, *The Black Unicorn* and *Wizard at Large*, both by Terry Brooks. In addition, if they like the humor and absurdist nature of some of the book, they may also enjoy the series by John DeChancie that starts with *Castle Perilous*, another similar set of stories, although less deep and more humor oriented.

4) Review

Magic Kingdom For Sale - SOLD! is a classic fish out of water story. The main character, Ben Holiday is a well-to-do Chicago Lawyer whose life has not been the same since the death of his wife and unborn child. He struggles with depression and alcohol, and his life seems to have

lost all meaning, until he comes across a strange advertisement offering to sell him the kingship of a true magical kingdom. With a desperate need to believe in something, he answers the advertisement and is shocked to find that the offer is genuine. He makes arrangements and finds himself in Landover, a magic kingdom that is certainly not what he anticipated - the entire kingdom is run down, the new king has nothing more than a dilapidated castle and a few servants, and Ben finds that belief is perhaps the easiest part of his journey. Regardless of all the trappings surrounding him, Ben's real journey is internal - he needs to deal with the trauma of his past and decide if his life is worth living, regardless of where he is. It's an interesting premise, and the characters each have their own secrets and issues to deal with, making the book a very interesting and worthwhile read.

Works Cited

Brooks, Terry. *Magic Kingdom For Sale - Sold!*. Del Rey, 1987. Print

Brooks, Terry. *Wizard At Large*. Del Rey, 1989. Print

Brooks, Terry. *The Black Unicorn*. Del Rey, 1988. Print

DeChancie, John. *Castle Perilous*. Ace, 1988. Print