

= Artemis Fowl ( novel ) =

Artemis Fowl is a young @-@ adult fantasy novel written by Irish author Eoin Colfer . It is the first book in the Artemis Fowl series , followed by Artemis Fowl : The Arctic Incident . Described by its author as " Die Hard with fairies " , it follows the adventures of Artemis Fowl , a twelve @-@ year @-@ old criminal mastermind , as he kidnaps a fairy for a large ransom of gold .

Throughout the book , the third @-@ person narration switches from following the human characters to following the fairy characters to present underlying themes of greed and conflict . The book received a mostly favourable critical response and several awards . A film adaptation was reported to be in the writing stage in mid @-@ 2008 with Jim Sheridan directing .

= = Synopsis = =

Artemis Fowl II is the twelve @-@ year @-@ old son of an Irish crime lord , Artemis Fowl I. He is a child prodigy , who has dedicated his life to criminal activities . He leads the Fowl criminal empire , which has been established by his family for generations . After significant research , Artemis believes that he has confirmed the existence of fairies . He tracks down an alcoholic sprite posing as a healer in Ho Chi Minh City , Vietnam , and travels there with his bodyguard Butler to obtain from her The Book of the People ? the Fairy holy book that is written in Gnommish .

Meanwhile , Captain Holly Short of the Lower Elements Police is tracking a rogue troll that has managed to reach the surface of the Earth from Haven city , thousands of feet underground . Assisted by the technically minded centaur Foaly and LEPrecon commander Julius Root , she incapacitates the troll .

Artemis decodes the Book using translating software , and in the process , learns the specifics of the ritual fairies use to replenish their magic : take an acorn from an ancient oak tree near a bend in a river under the full moon and plant it elsewhere . Artemis and Butler track down 129 possible locations for the ritual and start a stakeout , they discover Holly performing the ritual . Butler tranquilizes Holly with a hypodermic dart gun .

A LEP retrieval team is sent to scout Fowl Manor . Using their ' shielding ' ability , which allows them to vibrate faster than the human eye can follow , the team enters the manor grounds . Artemis had anticipated this , however , and installed a camera with a high frames @-@ per @-@ second rate , allowing him to detect the threat by freezing the image . After Butler incapacitates the intruders , Root decides to lay siege to Fowl Manor using a time @-@ stop and enter negotiations . Artemis reveals the ransom demand : one metric ton of 24 @-@ carat gold . Artemis also reveals his knowledge of the time @-@ stop and claims that he can escape it . An analysis by LEP behavior experts determines that Artemis is telling the truth .

The attempts to gain entry to the manor continue as the LEP recruit an infamous criminal , the kleptomaniac dwarf Mulch Diggums to break in . Fairies are forbidden from entering human dwellings without permission , but Mulch has broken this rule so many times that he is immune to the adverse consequences . He tunnels underground to reach the house while Foaly feeds a loop to the manor surveillance system , allowing Mulch to freely explore . Mulch accidentally locates a safe containing Artemis ' copy of the Book , finally revealing to the fairies the source of Artemis ' knowledge , which he had led them to believe he had acquired from a truth serum administered to Holly . The Fairy Council , deciding that nothing is working , promotes a lieutenant called Briar Cudgeon to Acting Commander , temporarily usurping Julius Root . Meanwhile , Holly Short cracks through the concrete of her cell , finding fresh dirt , and completes the ritual with a smuggled acorn . Having regained her magic , she escapes into the main house .

Cudgeon decides to release the troll Holly captured earlier into the mansion to force Artemis to allow the fairies to enter and subdue the troll . This backfires , as Butler , aided by Holly 's healing powers , defeats the troll . The Fairy Council subsequently strips Cudgeon of his post .

Artemis is finally granted the ransom . The gold is sent in , and Artemis asks Holly for a wish : to cure his mother 's insanity ? she has been living in her bedroom , driven mad by the loss of her husband . Holly grants the wish at the cost of half the gold . The LEP decides to send in a ' blue

rinse ' ? a biological bomb that kills all organic life ? to eliminate Artemis and allow for the retrieval of the gold , but this fails when Artemis escapes the time @-@ stop by drugging himself and his comrades with sleeping pills .

Having survived until the end of the time stop , the LEP is bound by law and leaves the remaining gold and departs . At the end , Butler demands an explanation as to how Artemis came up with the idea of using sleeping pills . Artemis explains that he had gotten the idea from old fairy tales , in which human characters never wake up at an inopportune moment for the fairies , and had guessed that time @-@ stops were the reason . Artemis finds his mother has fully recovered from her insanity thanks to Holly 's magic .

= = Major characters = =

Artemis Fowl II ? The protagonist ; a 12 @-@ year @-@ old genius , he uses his intelligence to obtain massive wealth through various illegal business ventures ; this stems from his family , who have been criminals for generations . While he seems cold and distant at the beginning , his character develops throughout , and he shows remorse , guilt , and passion for his family at the end .

Butler ? The Fowl 's best manservant and Artemis ' bodyguard but also Artemis ' friend and accomplice , despite this trait being against his training . He is only referred to as " Butler , " that being his family name and the origin of the actual term " butler " . His first name is not revealed , but in Artemis Fowl : The Eternity Code , it is revealed as " Domovoi . "

Captain Holly Short ? A determined , forthright elf and the first female captain of LEPrecon . Compassionate and caring , she goes as far as healing Butler from fatal wounds sustained fighting a troll , even though he has been integral in the plan to hold her hostage ? this act is the first step to changing Artemis ' attitude and conscience .

Commander Julius Root ? Known as " Beetroot " by fellow fairies for his characteristic red face , he is Holly Short 's superior officer . A father figure to the other fairies , and especially Holly , he is distressed at her disappearance , as seen in his conversation with Artemis in the whaling ship : " If you 've harmed one tip of my officer 's pointy ears ... " .

Foaly ? The LEP 's technical advisor . Portrayed as brilliant and sarcastic , he is described as " having few friends . " He has invented several technological innovations eons ahead of human technology , such as the time @-@ stop used in the siege of Fowl Manor and provides the other characters with numerous high @-@ tech gadgets .

Mulch Diggums ? A kleptomaniac dwarf whom the LEP recruits use to gain access to Fowl Manor during the siege , due to his many hereditary abilities , such as tunneling at unbelievable speeds . Having forfeited his magic years ago to allow him to follow a life of crime , he is immune to the restrictions of the Book of the People .

= = Themes = =

Artemis Fowl has a number of underlying themes , but the most essential of these are greed and the conflict between good and evil .

Greed is the first main theme that is introduced into the book , and specifically the desire to obtain gold . In a similar manner to other themes in the book , it changes throughout , becoming less of a focus near to the end of the novel , where Artemis is willing to part with a large sum of money to help someone else .

The idea of conflict between good and evil is one that is touched upon in the book in a light hearted manner . Although Artemis sees himself as an evil genius at the beginning of the book , and is portrayed as such , the end of the story contradicts this image when he pays the fairies to help his mother . Artemis ' enemies , the fairies , would be " the good side " , but their actions call this view into question ? they are as determined as Artemis is , to achieve their goals , and while only some of them are willing to ruthlessly deploy a troll , regardless of the possible danger to life , all are willing to utilize a bio @-@ bomb once Holly is out of the mansion to force Artemis into submission .

## == Critical reception ==

In general , the book received a very positive critical response ? in 2004 it received the Young Reader 's Choice Award and Garden State Teen Book Award , among other awards .

The New York Post said " Artemis Fowl is great ... a new thriller fairy tale that will grab your interest , no matter your age . " and the Library Journal said " Fun to read , full of action and humour , this is recommended for all public libraries and to readers of all ages . " Time.com said , " Artemis Fowl is pacy , playful , and very funny , an inventive mix of myth and modernity , magic and crime , " while The New York Times Book Review said that " Colfer has done enormously , explosively well . "

Kate Kellaway of The Observer called the book " a smart , amusing one @-@ off . It flashes with hi @-@ tech invention ? as if Colfer were as much an inspired boffin as a writer . " The Amazon.com official review highly complimented the book , saying " Fantastic stuff from beginning to end , Artemis Fowl is a rip @-@ roaring , 21st century romp of the highest order . "

However , another Time Magazine review criticized the " abysmal " writing and the characterization , calling Artemis ' character " repellent in almost every regard . " It concluded that Artemis Fowl is " an awkward , calculated , humorless and mean @-@ spirited book . " USA Today 's review concluded : " All the familiar action @-@ flick clichés are trotted out : the backstabbing , politically astute subordinate ; the seemingly loony but loyal computer expert ; the dabs of family loyalty ; the requisite happy ending ; the utterly unsubtle plugs for the sequel ; the big action scenes . ... Resist the hype , parents , booksellers and librarians . This is not the new Harry Potter , nor is it a good children 's book . "

## == Adaptations ==

In 2001 plans were announced for a film adaptation of the series . Miramax Films was named as purchasing the film rights , with Lawrence Guterman signed to direct . In 2003 Colfer stated that a screenplay had been finalized and that casting was due to start the same year , but expressed scepticism over whether or not this would come to pass . The film remained in development and was assumed to be in development hell until 2011 , when it was reported that Jim Sheridan was interested in directing the movie . In July 2013 , it was announced that Disney and Harvey Weinstein are developing a project based on the first and second installment of the Artemis Fowl series . Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal will be the executive producers .

Artemis Fowl : The Graphic Novel is a graphic novel based on the book . Written by Colfer and adapted by Andrew Donkin , the graphic novel was released on 2 October 2007 . The plot remains the same as the book 's except some minor details . Some characters ' appearances differed from their description in the book ; Holly Short 's hair is longer than described in the book and a darker brown , as opposed to the reddish brown described in the book . Haven City 's roof is stalactites and rock as opposed to the computer @-@ generated sky described by the book . The graphic novel does not contain many word balloons , showing each character 's story in first @-@ person . Graphic novels for subsequent books in the series were released in 2009 , 2013 , and 2014 .

## == Publication history ==

Artemis Fowl ( Hardcover ) . USA : Miramax . 2001 . ISBN 0 @-@ 7868 @-@ 0801 @-@ 2 .

Artemis Fowl ( Hardcover ) . England and Ireland : Viking Children 's Books ? Viking Press . 2001 . ISBN 0 @-@ 670 @-@ 89962 @-@ 3 .

Artemis Fowl ( Paperback ) . England and Ireland : Puffin Books . 2002 . ISBN 0 @-@ 14 @-@ 131212 @-@ 2 .

Artemis Fowl ( Paperback ) . USA : Miramax . 2002 . ISBN 0 @-@ 7868 @-@ 1707 @-@ 0 .

Artemis Fowl ( Paperback ) . USA : Miramax . 2006 . ISBN 1 @-@ 4231 @-@ 0515 @-@ X.

## == Text ==

Colfer , Eoin . ( 2001 ) . Artemis Fowl . Viking Children 's Books . Paperback : ISBN 0 @-@ 670  
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