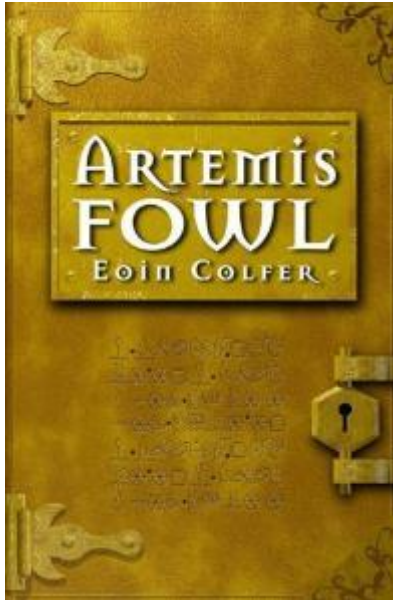


Artemis Fowl (novel)

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Artemis Fowl



First edition cover

Author(s)	Eoin Colfer
Country	Ireland
Language	English
Series	Artemis Fowl series
Genre(s)	Young adult , fantasy
Publisher	Viking Press
Publication date	April 2001
Media type	Print (hardback & paperback), Audiobook CD
Pages	280
ISBN	ISBN 0670899623
OCLC Number	46493219
Dewey Decimal	813
Followed by	The Arctic Incident (2002)

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",^[1] 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 repeatedly 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.^[2]

A film adaptation was reported to be in the writing stage in mid-2008, with [Jim Sheridan](#) directing.^{[3][4]}

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[\[edit\]](#) Synopsis

[Artemis Fowl II](#) is the twelve-year-old son of an Irish crime lord, [Artemis Fowl I](#). 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 the fairy city, deep underground. Assisted by a technically minded [centaur](#) called [Foaly](#) and [LEPrecon](#) commander [Julius Root](#), she incapacitates the troll. However, this uses the last of her magic, and Commander Root demands that she complete the [magic restoring ritual](#).

Artemis decodes the Book using translating software, and in the process, learns the specifics of the ritual: taking an acorn from an ancient oak tree near a bend in a river under the full moon and planting it elsewhere. Artemis and Butler track down over 100 possible locations for the ritual and start a [stakeout](#); after nearly four months, they discover Holly performing the ritual. Butler tranquillises Holly with a hypodermic syringe.

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 behaviour experts determines that Artemis is telling the truth, or thinks he is.

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 already broken this rule and 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 locates a safe containing a copy of the Book, finally revealing to the fairies the source of Artemis' knowledge. 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 using her bed 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, Artemis finds his mother has fully recovered from her insanity thanks to Holly's magic.

[\[edit\]](#) Major characters

- [Artemis Fowl II](#) – The protagonist; a 12-year-old genius, he uses his intelligence to break the law to obtain wealth; this stems from his family, who have been criminals for generations.^[5] While he seems cold and distant at the beginning of the novel, his character develops throughout, and he shows remorse, guilt, and passion for his family at the end.
- [Butler](#) – The Fowl's [manservant](#) and Artemis' [bodyguard](#) but also Artemis' friend and accomplice.^[6] Throughout the novel, his first name is not revealed, and he is only referred to as "Butler."
- [Captain Holly Short](#) – A determined, forthright elf and the first female member 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 goes some way to changing both Artemis' and Butler's views on fairies.
- [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...".^[7]

- [Foaly](#) – The LEP's technical advisor. Portrayed as brilliant and sarcastic, he is described as "having few friends."^[8] He invented the time-stop used in the siege of Fowl Manor and provides the other characters with numerous high-tech [gadgets](#).
- [Mulch Diggums](#) – A criminal dwarf whom the LEP recruits to gain access to Fowl Manor during the siege. Having already entered other dwellings without permission, he is unaffected by the effects the other fairies suffer. Since he has entered humans building without permission, he has lost his magic.

[\[edit\]](#) Themes

Artemis Fowl has a number of underlying themes, but the most essential of these are greed and the conflict between [good and evil](#).^{[9][10]}

Greed is the first main theme that is introduced into the book,^[11] 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,^[12] 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 utilise a bio-bomb once Holly is out of the mansion to force Artemis into submission.^[12]

[\[edit\]](#) Code

A string of Gnommish symbols appears at the bottom of each page. They comprise a [substitution cipher](#) which can be deciphered using sections of the book's text displayed in Gnommish, together with their English translations. A complete Gnommish cipher key can be found in [The Artemis Fowl Files](#).^[13]

[\[edit\]](#) Critical reception

In general, the book received a very positive critical response – in 2004 it received the [Young Reader's Choice Award](#)^[14] and Garden State Teen Book Award, among other awards.^[15]

The [New York Post](#) said "Artemis Fowl is great ... a new thriller fairy tale that will grab your interest, no matter your age."^[16] 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."^[17]

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."^[18] and the book was also generally well received by the public, with an average score of 4/5 from Amazon users.^[19]

However, [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."^[20]

[\[edit\]](#) Publication history

- (Hardcover) *Artemis Fowl*. USA: [Miramax](#). 2001. [ISBN 0786808012](#).
- (Hardcover) *Artemis Fowl*. England and Ireland: Viking Children's Books – [Viking Press](#). 2001. [ISBN 0670899623](#).
- (Paperback) *Artemis Fowl*. England and Ireland: [Puffin Books](#). 2002. [ISBN 0141312122](#).
- (Paperback) *Artemis Fowl*. USA: [Miramax](#). 2002. [ISBN 0786817070](#).
- (Paperback) *Artemis Fowl*. USA: [Miramax](#). 2006. [ISBN 142310515X](#).

[\[edit\]](#) See also

- [Artemis Fowl II](#), the character
- [Artemis Fowl \(series\)](#), the series

[\[edit\]](#) References

[\[edit\]](#) Text

1. Colfer, Eoin. (2001). *Artemis Fowl*. Viking Children's Books. Paperback: [ISBN 0670899623](#)

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2. [^] ["Artemis Fowl Official Site"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 8 February 2008. Retrieved 15 March 2008.
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6. [^] [Colfer, Eoin](#) (26 April 2001). *Artemis Fowl*. [Artemis Fowl series](#). [Viking Press](#). p. 16. [ISBN 0-670899623](#). [OCLC 46493219](#).
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9. [^] ["MonkeyNotes"](#) (PDF). Retrieved 1 September 2008.
10. [^] ["Bookrags"](#). Retrieved 1 September 2008.

11. [^] [Colfer, Eoin](#) (26 April 2001). *Artemis Fowl*. [Artemis Fowl series](#). [Viking Press](#). pp. 16—18. [ISBN 0-670899623](#). [OCLC 46493219](#).
12. [^] ^{*a*} ^{*b*} ["Book Notes"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 13 February 2009. Retrieved 1 September 2008.
13. [^] [Colfer, Eoin](#) (4 October 2004). *The Artemis Fowl Files*. [Artemis Fowl series](#). [Hyperion Books](#). [ISBN 0-786856394](#). [OCLC 55981971](#).
14. [^] ["YRCA Past Winners"](#). Pacific Northwest Library Association. Retrieved 3 February 2011.
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16. [^] Liz Smith. ["New York Post"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 12 February 2008. Retrieved 4 April 2007.
17. [^] ["Library Journal"](#). Retrieved 1 September 2008.
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[[edit](#)] External links

- [Official Site](#)
- [Artemis Fowl Book Covers](#) From Around The World
- [The Artemis Fowl Wiki](#) at [Wikia](#) (for detailed information)

[[hide](#)]

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

The *[Artemis Fowl](#)* series by [Eoin Colfer](#)

- [Organizations](#)
- [Locations](#)
- [Concepts](#)

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Main series | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Artemis Fowl</i> • The Arctic Incident • The Eternity Code • The Opal Deception • The Lost Colony • The Time Paradox • The Atlantis Complex • <i>The Last Guardian</i> |
|--------------------|--|

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Related books | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seventh Dwarf • The Artemis Fowl Files • Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel |
|----------------------|--|

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Characters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artemis Fowl II |
|-----------------------------------|---|

- [Holly Short](#)
- [Domovoi Butler](#)
- [Foaly](#)
- [Mulch Diggums](#)
- [Julius Root](#)
- [Trouble Kelp](#)
- [Opal Koboi](#)
- [Minerva Paradizo](#)
- [Artemis Fowl I](#)
- [Butler family](#)
- [Fowl family](#)

Universe

- [Lower Elements](#)
- [The People](#)
- [Gnommish](#)