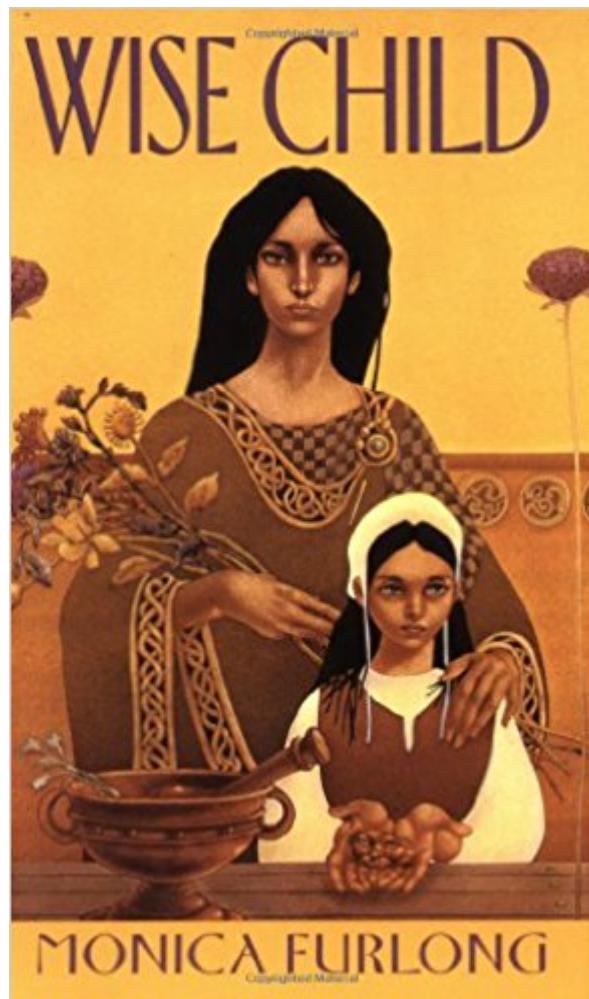


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# Wise Child



## Synopsis

In a remote Scottish village, nine-year-old Wise Child is taken in by Juniper, a healer and sorceress. Then Wise Child's mother, Maeve, a black witch, reappears. In choosing between Maeve and Juniper, Wise Child discovers the extent of her supernatural powers—and her true loyalties.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 980L (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (November 18, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394825985

ISBN-13: 978-0394825984

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 102 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #101,463 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #2613 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

In this exciting, well-written fantasy, the setting (Britain in the Dark Ages) is as much a character as Wise Child and her guardian Juniper. Orphaned by the death of her grandmother and her sailor-father's disappearance, Wise Child chooses to become the ward of Juniper, the village wisewoman who is healer, midwife and witch. Under Juniper's kind but stern tutelage, Wise Child thrives, learning herb lore, reading and basic survival in those difficult times. Wise Child manages to live between the Churchrepresented by the grim village priestand the witchcraft that Juniper would have her learn. This delicate balance is destroyed by the coming of Maeve, Wise Child's mother, who had abandoned her. Her evil awakens the real power of Wise Child as well as the superstitions of the village, rendering the trial of Juniper for witchcraft inevitable. Self-realization enables Wise Child to save both herself and Juniper in an exciting climax. Though the ending may strike some as too easy, this is an intriguing portrayal of an ancient way of life, and Wise Child is an engaging

heroine. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-8 Wise Child's life takes a new direction when her grandmother dies; her parents are both gone and in all the poverty-stricken village there is no one willing to take her in except Juniper, a mysterious healer from Cornwall who lives alone and has decidedly heterodox ideas about the place and purpose of women. Wise Child is self-centered and headstrong, but under Juniper's cheerful tutelage she begins to see herself as part of a world large enough for a liberated view and for magic too; Juniper's an expert witch, a hybrid combination of natural scientist and traditional broom-rider. Wise Child is quickly initiated into the secret arts. Juniper is both too modern and too perfect for the story. She has little difficulty coping with a Good Witch's usual enemies (an evil sorceress and a mob of fearful peasants egged on by the local priest), always arrives in the nick of time to rescue Wise Child, and shows never a trace of fear, impatience, or superstition. When, her many good deeds forgotten, she is about to be burned at the stake, she escapes with Wise Child, and the two find their way to the Isles of the Blessed. Readers may be intrigued both by the characters and by this revisionist view of witchcraft, although they will find a more realistic and involving exploration of it in Margaret Mahy's *The Changeover* (Macmillan, 1984). John Peters, New York Public Library

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This is an amazing book, and I would recommend it for young adults or anyone with a youthful attitude.

Awesome series, especially for young girls. Powerful!

This was one of my favorite books as a kid! Great and empowering story for young girls especially, but appropriate for all kids. Bought it as a gift for my 3 young cousins who are now 6, 8, and 9. Hoping to impose some feminist influence on them a little early.

This book is absolutely magical !! Would highly recommend for children and adults alike ! :)

I gave this as a gift and the recipient was happy.

I was really glad to find this book. I read it a long time ago, and wanted to own a copy. Found it here, bought it, was shipped quickly, came in good shape. Great seller.

book in great condition! Thank you. Loved the story.

Even excellent for adults. A great story, timeless.

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