



Voyage of the Basset

James C. Christensen

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Voyage of the Basset James C. Christensen

"Believing is Seeing"

In the tradition of such favorite classics as *Gulliver's Travels* and *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *Voyage of the Basset* takes the reader on a fantastical journey of discovery. Through richly detailed full-color paintings and line drawings, magical kingdoms emerge from a sea of dreams.

Cassandra Aisling, who is nine years and eleven months old, doesn't care "a jot" about what sensible people think. She likes strange, mysterious, and magical things. So when her world gets tumbled upside down, she boards the *H.M.S. Basset*, ready to explore the landscape of her imagination. Pledging allegiance to the *Basset's* motto, "Credendo do Vides...Believing is Seeing," Cassandra, her skeptical older sister Miranda, and their father, Professor Algernon Aisling, set out in search of the ancient legends. From the flickering flight of fairies and the mermaids' siren songs to a labyrinth-bound Minotaur and a fire-breathing dragon, the Aisling family witnesses firsthand the wonder of mythological worlds.

In this lavishly illustrated edition, Cassandra's adventures intertwine with her father's scientific scribbblings to present both new tales and the essence of classical myths. From the two voices, readers learn the power of imagination, the importance of believing in oneself, the value of family, and the need for creative, cooperative problem-solving. The story of a magical journey and the exquisite fantasy artwork will appeal to young and old alike.

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Voyage of the Basset James C. Christensen Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If merit were judged by sheer size, this massive illustrated book would win a heavyweight championship. But this ambitious fantasy—a Pagemaster-esque tale of a 19th-century professor and his family's magical journey into the world of legend—seems unduly slick. The pedestrian prose by St. James (*A Journey of the Imagination*) and Foster (who has written novelizations of *Star Trek* and *Aliens*) is frequently breathless with its own wisdom: "Legends offer mystery and romance and beauty and adventure to anyone who cares to find about them. To lose the old stories... I cannot bear to think of a world without them." While Christensen's abundant illustrations are often richly detailed and atmospheric, many of them are simply overwrought. And, in the mythical world of manticores, gryphons, harpies and trolls, the faeries, mermaids, dryads and their ilk all look suspiciously like Daryl Hannah. Line art, too, punctuates these pages, with semi-pretentious profiles of the fantastic creatures met on the voyage. *Credendo vides*, or "Believing is seeing," is the motto of the good ship *Basset*, and it serves readers as well. Those who believe children deserve books with more heart will pass this entry by. Ages 8-up. BOMC selection.

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From School Library Journal

YA. In 1850, Professor Algernon Aisling learns that the university plans to eliminate his Department of Myths and Legends. Because he fervently believes in the power of ancient stories and legends to help us understand ourselves and our place in the modern world, he absentmindedly wishes that a magical ship would transport him to the ancient lands of myth. PRESTO! Captain Malachi of the HMS *Basset* appears, and invites the professor and his daughters to sail from London to the lands of imagination. Aisling and 10-year-old Cassandra board eagerly, but 16-year-old Miranda is serious, practical, and reluctant to make the journey. The Aislings and the crew, made up of dwarves and gremlins, sail forth and encounter characters in (mostly Greek) myths: a manticore, Oberon and Titania, harpies, a sphinx, Minotaur, mermaids, sea serpent, trolls, gryphon, dryad, Medusa, unicorn, and a dragon. All goes along merrily until Aisling steals a dragon's skull belonging to the trolls. This action sets in motion a series of misadventures that endanger everyone aboard. Here, too, is a voyage of self-discovery. The professor realizes the consequences of his greed and desire for fame; Miranda begins to overcome her grief over her mother's recent death. Pen-and-ink drawings from the professor's journal and from Cassandra's notes are a delightful accompaniment to the lush paintings that illustrate this charming and whimsical fantasy. Christensen's magical journey proves that "one's imagination is where science starts," and will appeal to receptive dreamers from age 10 to 110. —Judy Sokoll, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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Review

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eva Oleary:

The ability that you get from *Voyage of the Basset* may be the more deep you excavating the information

that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Voyage of the Basset giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood simply by anyone who read it because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that Voyage of the Basset instantly.

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William Powers:

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