



# **KLIATT**

## **REVIEWS OF SELECTED BOOKS**

### **FINAL ISSUE**

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**CRABTREE, Julie. *Discovering pig magic.***  
Milkweed. 200p. c2008. 978-1-57131-683-7.  
\$16.95. **J**

Mattie, known by friends and family as M, adventures through the age of 13 with hopes, fears, and two best friends, Ariel and Nicki. While M is busy with a collection of pig memorabilia and a mom who won't leave the house, Ariel is determined to become the next Rachel Ray and Nicki deals with a host of family secrets. Just when they need a plan to help them in their struggles, they stumble across an old book of magic spells. After performing a ritual that promises to bring luck to their lives, the three friends look for any signs that the spell might be working. But things don't go quite as well as expected—Nickie's brother has an even smaller chance of surviving his heart surgery; M is humiliated with more piggy collector's items, while her mother's phobia about leaving the house grows worse; and Ariel wins a cooking contest with a stolen recipe. The trio finally realizes that things are spinning out of control. Before it's too late, can they break the mystical forces that are directing their lives—and keep their friendship?

The three girls learn that their actions permanently affect their futures; and the value of friendship and honest emotions permeate this novel, as the characters discover who they are and how they can be there for their friends. Ashleigh Larsen, Teaching Asst., English, Gordon College, Wenham, MA