

The Magic of Hollywood: If *A Meddle of Wizards* Were A Movie . . .

More than twenty years ago, when my oldest daughter was a toddler and I was a working, harried mom, I would drop into bed at the end of a long day, my mind whirling, too exhausted to fall asleep. To sooth my spinning thoughts, I told myself a bedtime story about a young Southern woman transported to a magical world. Night after night, I ran the scenes in my mind like a film, until the characters and the story were old, familiar friends.

That was the beginning of *A Meddle of Wizards*, a story that *began* as a movie, an imaginary fantasy adventure premiering in my head every night to an audience of one.

Me.

As the characters became more insistent and the story spilled over into my waking thoughts, I decided to write it down. Imagining a story in your head is one thing. Writing it is something altogether different and more difficult. There were struggles and rewrites and delays, but, eventually, *Meddle* was published, thanks to Alicia Condon and the wonderful folks at Rebel Base.

So, here I am, umpteen years later, awake . . . and, yet, still inside my head, trying to decide whom I would cast if Hollywood came calling and *Meddle* were made for the silver screen.

You may disagree with my choices, and that is as it should be. Every tale has a different weaving, depending upon the loom.

Go forth and recast to your heart's content . . . but 'ware the troll.

My Dream Cast

The Heroine: Raine Stewart



I chose Jessica de Gouw to play Raine Stewart, the protagonist of *A Meddle of Wizards*. At the beginning of the story, Raine is a sickly young woman. Alone and friendless, she is waiting to die . . . until a wizard steps out of her library mirror one night, sweeping her through a portal to Tandara, where magic and monsters are real. Raine has dark, wavy hair and blue eyes. At the start of the tale, she is thin and wasted from an unknown disease. But, like *The Ugly Duckling*, she transforms into a swan as the story unfolds.

The Wizard: Breffeten



Picture Ioan Gruffudd with red hair and you have the perfect Brefreton, the clever, handsome wizard who spirits Raine away from her small, South Alabama home to save his world from an evil, maniacal sorcerer named Glonoff. Brefreton has his own score to settle with the Dark Wizard and, if it means using Raine to do it, very well.

The Villain: Glonoff



The evil wizard in my story is handsome and wicked as a satyr, with dark hair and an even darker soul. Glonoff has a fondness for dragons and blood, and an unquenchable thirst for power. To play him in the movie, I chose the Irish actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers. I think he has the dissolute, mocking attitude and badassery to do my villain justice!

The Protector: Mauric Lindar



Mauric Lindar, a strapping Finlaran warrior, is fiercely protective of Raine. He is handsome, loveable, and fearless. But, don't ask him to ride a giant. It makes him bilious. The first time I laid eyes on Chris Hemsworth, I thought, *There's Mauric*.

The Bastard Prince: Raven



Reaven Gorne, aka, Raven, is the Rowan of Finlara's son and a renowned warrior. Raven has much to contend with, being baseborn and half Finlar. Abandoned by his mother at birth, he was raised by a troll. Summoned by the Rowan to the Citadel while still a boy to be trained as a warrior, he fought his way up the ranks of the king's guard and became Captain, until scandal drove him to the high seas. Raven is dark of hair and green-eyed, like his elvish aunt Glory, a seer. I cast Henry Cavill in the role.

The Seer: Glory



Glory is Raven's supercilious aunt and a seer. Glory is beautiful, haughty, regal, and generally annoying, and I think Keira Knightley would be fabulous in the part, revealing the vulnerability beneath Glory's serene mask.

The Ghostly Mentor: Mimsie



Raine's parents died in a car accident when she was small, and she was raised by her great aunt, Mims Carlisle. So fierce is Mimsie's devotion to Raine that she returns after her death to guide her, following her through the portal to Tandara. To Raine's discomfiture, Mimsie's ghost appears to her not as the old woman of her memory, but as her younger self. "Why go through death an old woman?" says Mimsie with typical . . . er . . . spirit. My pick? Emily Blunt would capture Mimsie's ebullience with perfection and class.

The Tender-hearted Giant: Tiny Bartog



Giant
On
Holiday

Tiny refused to pose for a photograph, giants being notoriously camera shy. I envision Tom Hiddleston playing him in the movie. He has a wonderful voice and the wry, subtle wit to play my favorite giant.

And last, but not least . . .

The Troll Wizard: Glogathgorag



Ah, we arrive at last to a certain cranky troll. Glogathgorag, or Gertie, as she's known to her friends, is a *kolyagga*, or troll wizard and another of Raine's boon companions. She loves good food, good ale, and a few select humans, including her "adopted" son Raven and his father, the Rowan of Finlara. She is a powerful wizard, a deadly fighter, and sits at the top of the Dark Wizard's most-wanted list. I think Amanda Righetti should do her voice-over. She's a stunning redhead, like Gertie! Beauty is, after all, in the eye of the beholder.



That's it, my dream movie cast!