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Jatta
By Jenny Hale
Scholastic,
480pp, \$21.99

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Jatta

Princess Jatta is small for her age and weak. As we may guess, in the realm of supernatural fiction this is no impediment to overcoming apparently insurmountable odds in the cause of righting terrible wrongs against her family and their kingdom, Alteeda. This is a cut above much of the teenage fantasy genre, a worthwhile effort from Sydney writer Jenny Hale, who is an established writer and illustrator of children's books. She even manages to breathe life into some minor characters, a feat right up there with several her heroine performs. As well as wolves and spooks there are ingenious plot twists and some convoluted ethical issues, but no sign of a heavy hand. A final bonus is some humour albeit rather dark.