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**Magical You**

**By Joan Linwood**

**Magical You by Joan Linwood**

I snooted up my nose at it.

My inner snob said, "Surely, anything that popular must be trash."

But finally, my son dragged me to the movie, and I fell in love with Harry Potter.

I've had a lot of time to think about the phenomenal success of stories like Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings trilogy – and why these stories resonate so with me.

It's not the magic.

It's not the wizards and elves, hobbits and Hogwarts.

It's not the dazzling special effects.

Those things are all wonderful. They add charm, magic and mystery. They're just ripping good fun!

But the real staying power of these stories lies in The Message. And it's the same Message that runs like a whisper throughout all great literature – and, for that matter, not so great literature.

The Message? Things are not as they seem. There's more to us – and our world – than meets the eye.

We are, indeed, magical!

Living, as we do, in the sunlight world of mundane reality, we forget who we are. We're afraid of our own shadows. Afraid to step out and spread our wings. We wrap ourselves in our fears and limitations and live, as Thoreau said, "lives of quiet desperation."

## Magical You

And that's why the Harry Potter stories and Tolkien's tales of hobbits and Middle Earth strike a chord with me. They remind me that I need not be afraid, that I have hidden powers and untapped reserves.

And, boy oh boy, do I need that message. Constantly and always!

There's Harry Potter, a poor abused orphan who's maintained his spunk in spite of it all. But Harry doesn't have a clue. He doesn't know who he is or what he's got. J. K. Rowling's novels are all about how Harry finds out who he is and what he can do.

Do you know who you are, what you've got and what you can do?

I sincerely doubt it!

Then there's Bilbo Baggins and his nephew Frodo. Two hobbits, lovers of comfort, security and all things domestic. Or so they think. They don't know who they are or what they've got either, do they? Tolkien leads us on a very long and convoluted tale to show how they find out.

Or at least, they start to find out. Because, you know, there's always more to learn.

There are thousands, if not millions, of self-help, motivational, and inspirational products out there. Books, tapes, seminars and workshops.

But nothing, absolutely nothing, has the power to move, inspire, encourage and uplift like a well-crafted story, poem, or song.

I'm not suggesting that you become a Harry Potter or a Tolkien fan. But I am suggesting that you use art to remind you of how very magical you are – how very strange and incredible the world around you is.

I want you to remember how deep your reserves are.

There's more. There's always so much more!

Joan Linwood is a home based entrepreneur and publisher of *The Happy Home Business*, a free ezine dedicated to helping you make your home business lifestyle truly joyful and profitable. You can subscribe at

### **Where is the Magic?**

**By Mike Banks Valentine**

### **Where is the Magic? by Mike Banks Valentine**

Entrancement with the web is epidemic. There are 7 million

new pages added daily according to recent statistics. Why?

There is something magical going on here.

The web has taken hard-nosed and jaded venture capitalists in record numbers and sucked their massive bank accounts dry. Why?

Because there is something magical going on here.

Big business has dumped billions into creating new web tools, web technologies, innovations to allow universal web access in airports, hotels and convention centers. Why?

Because there is something magical going on here.

People have given up lifelong passions and established careers to get into this new medium in one way or another. I'm one of them and I believe that it is absolutely fascinating, endlessly useful. Why?

Because there is something magical going on here.

When most new inventions or radical ideas are introduced, the historical reaction from the "experts" has been derision. Attempts to discredit and attack the innovators are common.

That's not happening with the web. Yes, Aunt Martha is a bit slow to get interested. Schools are bit slow to get connected.

How else do you explain the growth in interest from the public, even with record losses suffered by web and technology companies on the stock market? Why do companies continue to invest in technology and the internet when it looks like a financial black hole?

Because there is something magical going on here.

There can be no explaining why individuals put their lives up on the web for the world to see, even when their visitor counts are abysmally low. Unless we are all under some sort of magical

spell cast by the internet faery, there can be no explaining it.

I'll bet you are expecting me to answer my own questions here. Wrong. I think it's a massive mistake to seek understanding of

## Magical You

miracles and magic. I'm just going to accept it and I want to be there when the next miracle happens. I'm simply entranced.

Because there is something magical going on here.

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Where is the Magic?

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