

What if We Had Magic, Claire Fayers

Mirror Magic imagines a world exactly like our own but with one big difference – magic exists. Fairy mirrors connect us to the Unworld where the Fair Folk have promised to provide magical goods and services to anyone who asks.

The story starts in 1842, when most mirrors have stopped working and only one small town on the border of Wales and England still has access to the Unworld. The Wyse Weekly Mirror (expertly designed by Jess at Macmillan Children’s Books) gives an insight into daily happenings in the last town of magic.

But what of other time periods?

In my blog tour guest posts I’ve been guessing at what the news might look like in different centuries if people had magic. Now we come to today. How would our world look with a little bit of fairy enchantment?

London Marathon Magic Mayhem

The London Marathon once again ended in chaos as some runners used magical shortcuts through the Unworld and others took magical potions for extra speed and energy. Fifty runners were disqualified for using winged costumes.

“It has long been accepted that magical ‘cheating’ will happen,” said a spokeswoman for the race. “And while we are willing to allow a certain amount of flexibility in the name of good fun, runners must complete the entire course, and their feet must remain on the ground at all times.”

Thirty-Hour Working Days Challenge

The practice of using magic mirrors to move workers across time zones, thus increasing their working day, has come under criticism once again.

It has become commonplace for a worker to arrive at the office at 8am in London, work until 6pm, then move to, say, New York which is five hours behind to continue working. By moving around time zones, it is possible to work up to thirty hours in a single, nine hour shift.

Some workers welcome the practice as an opportunity for earning more money and accumulating more holiday time. Today, however, the Office of Fair Trade in conjunction with the Royal Office on Family Living (ROFL) stated that time-zone working was detrimental to health and family relationships and should be banned.

E-Readers 'Not As Good as Real Thing'

The new craze for e-readers appears to be waning.

Enchanted readers allow the user to read from a large selection of books, often with magical enhancements, and, at the end of their lifespan they turn back into dry leaves and can be simply thrown away. Weighing little more than a single sheet of paper, fans loved their portability and their environmentally-friendly construction.

Yet the unpredictable nature of the magic has proved problematic. A small number of e-readers have spontaneously combusted, leading to them being banned on planes. And unhappy customers have complained of the devices disintegrating in the middle of a book. "I never had that problem with paper," said Mrs Evans from West Wales.

Magical Books, the maker of the most popular brand of e-reader, has promised a new, improved design by the end of the year.

