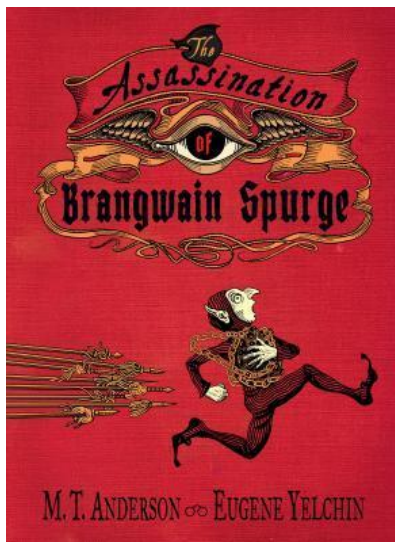


# Spotlight

Wednesday, February 27

Sometimes there is nothing better than the perfect balance of silliness and wisdom offered by a kid's book. My latest favourite, *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*, by MT Anderson and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin isn't short on either. This is a lively book peppered with illustrated chapters that argue and contradict the written ones just like the main character, the elfin historian Brangwain Spurge does with his counterpart, the goblin archivist, Werfel. This odd-couple is tasked with trying to unite their nations after centuries of war. Unfortunately, Spurge is unaware that he has actually been sent to goblin territory as a vessel for an assassination. Over the course of the novel, Spurge and Werfel bicker with each other while slowly and clumsily developing a friendship, saving both their nations, and discovering they are more alike than they realized.

*The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge* is a first rate goblin/elf political thriller filled with adventure, magical assassination weapons, a tiny flying prehistoric pet named Skardebek ("an good awful girl"), and endless squabbling about obscure goblin and elfin history texts. It is also full of the age old goblin tradition of only referring to someone politely when you dislike them and showering them with insults when you adore them. This produces all kinds of



adorably awful compliments dressed as insults. So in the spirit of the great goblin tradition, I must close this review with the insight that I would have been better off reading the droppings of a maggot than this book. This meaning, of course, that I loved it.

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