



Knights of the Borrowed Dark

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This is an alternate cover edition for ASIN B016AZWRMC.

Denizen Hardwick is an orphan, and his life is, well, normal. Sure, in storybooks orphans are rescued from drudgery when they discover they are a wizard or a warrior or a prophesied king. But this is real life—orphans are just kids without parents. At least that's what Denizen thought. . . .

On a particularly dark night, the gates of Crosscaper Orphanage open to a car that almost growls with power. The car and the man in it retrieve Denizen with the promise of introducing him to a long-lost aunt. But on the ride into the city, they are attacked. Denizen soon learns that monsters can grow out of the shadows. And there is an ancient order of knights who keep them at bay. Denizen has a unique connection to these knights, but everything they tell him feels like a half-truth. If Denizen joins the order, is he fulfilling his destiny, or turning his back on everything his family did to keep him alive?

Knights of the Borrowed Dark Details

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Author : Dave Rudden

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From Reader Review Knights of the Borrowed Dark for online ebook

Megan Naughton says

I will be the first to admit that Fantasy is not exactly my favourite genre, and that I have no heart, but even I was powerless to resist the charming wit and whimsy of this beautifully composed, touching, intelligently written tale of a young lad struggling in the face of adolescence, not to mention spooky monsters.

Molly says

this is the next harry potter/hunger games, of that i'm sure. while the genre can feel a bit overworked as of late, the deft creation of a truly unique world of monsters, steel, danger and glory as well as rudden's gorgeous mastery of language makes this unlike anything i've read recently, YA or not. the protagonist, denizen, is a sekeletal 13 year old of many frowns who is dragged into a secret world and ancient battle. he's the sort of lad you'd like to sit quietly with and enjoy some tea and a think. i was so glad to get an advanced copy, but now i can't wait for the next book in the series to come out!!

Karina says

I reread this for my bookclub, and I enjoyed it just as much as the first time. The first time I tend to gulp the story down, tearing through the pages in a race to find what happens next; the second time I could appreciate the wonderful writing better. First read 18th January 2016 So good, I keep itching to press it into everyone's hands - in work, at home, walking down the street - only to remember it's not published yet!

Kate~Bibliophile Book Club says

Knights of the Borrowed Dark was a new addition to my personal TBR recently. I had the pleasure of meeting the author in Galway recently and had a chat about his books. I have a 7 year old boy (his reading age is that of a 9/10 year old) who is an avid reader, and he asked me to read this for him to see if it is suitable for him to read himself. Personally, I think he's still a bit young for it, but I LOVED IT!!!!

Knights of the Borrowed Dark follows Denizen Hardwick, a orphan living in Crosscaper Orhanage on the west coast of Ireland. One night, the gates to the orphanage open and Denizen is collected on the promise of being introduced to his long lost aunt. On the way to meet her, the car in which he is travelling is attacked, by something. Denizen then learns that this something lives in the shadows, and sometimes can get through the breach.

What follows is a super fun read full of action and monsters and knights. These knights don't deign to tell poor Denizen very much, and he end up having to learn their methods in his own ways. Give the option to join this order of knights, Denizen then has to make a life-changing decision.

Knights of the Borrowed Dark is a thrilling, compulsive and completely magical story. Packed full of

enthraling characters, with more action and mystery than I was expecting, this book exceeded my hopes entirely. I cant wait to read the next book, and I also can't wait to re-read this along with my son when he gets to it!

Highly recommended!

Sarah Griff says

this book gave me back the feeling i used to have as a kid, reading big, fully-realized worlds for the first time. though i feel it is an ensemble piece, with a diverse and fully rounded cast of memorable characters, it's denizen you'll want to go with - all the way to the end of this story, and through to the end of the trilogy. the turns of phrase are heartbreaking and sharp and often, laugh aloud funny. i can't wait for the day to come when i can read it to my children. it's the best bedtime story to tell - it looks into the dark without fear. x

Deirdre says

Denizen Hardwick is more of an orphan than the other orphans at Crosscaper. At least they know where they come from. He only has his birthday and his name. Until a visitor arrives that changes everything. Brilliantly written, with a nuanced and loveable supporting cast, and terrifying yet three-dimensional monsters, Knights of the Borrowed Dark is the kind of book you push on other people so you can talk about it more. It's the kind of book that's friends with you. The characters feel actively real, and their struggles and heart-breaks, human and fantastical stick with you. There's a heft to the world-building, a solidity and a depth that's rare and wonderful. I loved it.

Karin Schott says

Oh! MY! GOSH!!! SOOOOO good!!! This is when the double edged sword of bookselling is wielded. One side of the blade is the ARC that arrives in an unassuming box from the publisher. So many books it can be hard to find the gems. Then, I find one. Greedily we (my son and I) read it up. The other side of the finely honed blade nicks me. Not only will the book not be available for a whole year; which means I can't sell it yet, but now I am hooked and have to wait for the sequel!

I still have a 100 pages to go. My son and I are sharing this as a read aloud. What I can say at this moment is that while we have a boy with undiscovered powers coming into his own, the writing is gorgeous with rich language, dynamic plot, creepy evil, intriguing characters. It is going to be a labor to wait for this sequel.

Addendum

We finished the book. My son's comment says it all, "that was such a good book I didn't want it to end."

Laura says

OK, yes, you've heard it before. Orphan boy wizard set to save the world from the evil dark fornces.

But, this book, this book has a sense of humor about it. The characters have read the same books that you have. They know how it all turns out. Denizen is one such orphan, in the orphanage Crosscaper, and he, along with his best friend Simon, read all the books they can get their hands on. As the headmaster of the orphanage/school comments about the students:

The library books, on the other had had been read to pieces. And as for the content? Story after story of noble orphans rescued from drudgery, and now every time someone came to visit, hopeful orphans began packing their bags, ready for their new life as a wizard, warrior or prophesied king.

Not wanting to give to much away, but the cover sort of does it, as does the blurb, yes, Denizen does turn out to be that special boy, and is taken away to fight the good fight, though as they comment later on in the book:

"And besides," she said airily, "to die in the service of the Order is the greatest of all honors." Denizen stared at her. "Seriously?" "God, no," she said. "Are you insane?"

It is a rocking good adventure stories. Some things I figured out, others I was surprised at. Great world building, of what the enemy is, and how the "powers" work. I raced through this book, once I started it. Some people are calling it the next Hunger Games, or the next Harry Potter, but I think this book is cool on its own. Good humor. Good evil people. Good fun.

Thanks to Netgalley for making this book available for an honest review.

Margaret Madden says

Review from Mia, aged 12.

This book is about thirteen year-old Denizen Hardwick, an orphan who only knew his parents for two years. Crosscaper Orphanage is the only place Denizen has seen in eleven years. But when an auntie he has never heard of about sends for him, his dull life suddenly turns vibrant. A colleague of his auntie's picks him up. And after an encounter with a nightmarish creature, the teenager learns about an entire different world. He's taken to mysterious Serephin Row, where he learns about the Knights of the Borrowed Dark, people who use words to destroy creatures made of darkness. Denizen then meets his auntie and experiences a period of time where light bursts out of him. This means he can be a Knight, like his auntie and her colleagues. He's offered a career, but will he choose to take it?

This book was an amazing read with an excellent story-line. It's the first proof-copy I have gotten in a while and I was glad I got it. It is fairly easy to read and follow. Recommended to ages 9+ who like fantasy, action, adventure, fiction and mystery.

Penelope says

Absolutely brilliant! It's been a long time since I've enjoyed a children's book quite this much. It was wonderfully well written, genuinely funny, extremely creepy and in a world of 'cookie cutter' books very original. It's recommended for fans of Rick Riordan, Derek Landy and Neil Gaiman but whilst reading it I was often reminded of some of the more fantastical works of Clive Barker, such as Weaveworld, which is high praise indeed. A thoroughly good book which I hope does big things!

Petra says

Det lånade mörkrets riddare var en bok jag genast blev nyfiken på när jag såg den i Modernistas sommarkatalog, och jag blev väldigt glad när jag fick den som recex. Och precis som jag förväntat mig så var det en bok jag tyckte mycket om.

Handlingen var oerhört spännande, och jag fann världen att vara så fascinerande. Det känns som en ganska mörk bok, trots att den riktar sig till lite yngre läsare, och det var något jag verkligen uppskattade. Monstren kändes väldigt genomtänkta och obehagliga, och det här är definitivt en bok jag gärna skulle se som film.

När det kommer till karaktärerna så tyckte jag mycket om Denizen. Han var både smart, modig och rolig, mina tre favoritdrag hos en karaktär. Jag gillade även Simon, Abigail och de andra bi-karaktärerna mycket. Stort plus också för karaktärstwister jag inte alls såg komma.

Det lånade mörkrets riddare var fantastiskt spännande och full av action. Och med en av de mest intressanta världar på länge, så längtar jag redan efter uppföljaren. Rekommenderas varmt.

Emme (Bokzoem) says

När jag fick boken i brevlådan trodde jag ju aldrig att den skulle vara såhär bra..! Hade fått en bild av att den skulle vara väldigt barnslig, men det var den verkligen inte- snarare tvärtom! Väldigt detaljerad. Gillade verkligen boken rakt igenom, såå bra! Rekommenderas starkt!

Iba says

This book was full of suspense and it definitely made me want to keep on reading. Denizen- the main character, was great. He wasn't the perfect boy (because nobody is perfect), but there was something about him which made me like him as a character. Especially as a hero. His friendship with his best friend was something I adored as well. The other characters in the book were great, no one particularly annoying- perhaps maybe Abigail...but that was at the beginning, when she was first introduced. She was the only character who I struggled to imagine.

All in all, this book was a brilliant read. Plus, it reminds me of Harry Potter, but a little darker and creepier. So to those who love fantasy and magic, this would be a great read for you.

Bentley ★ Bookbastion.net says

One thing you might not know about me, is that I have a strange obsession with dark fantasy, and eldritch horror mythology. So when I came across a deal on Netgalley from Puffin for the first two books in this series, I just knew from the plot summary that I had to give requesting it a shot. Imagine my delight when I found out I was approved!

I know some people take issue with the use of tropes, but there are a few times that I think the tried and true formula really works. For a Middle Grade story especially, the idea of a downtrodden child becoming caught up in the magical and fantastic is easy to relate to, and exciting. Not to mention, I feel like **the creativity alone on Rudden's part really sets this one apart** from a lot of the other standard offerings in the genre.

One of the last places I expected find a story about eldritch horrors in the same vein as Lovecraft was in a Middle Grade novel, but because it's so unique to the genre it becomes that much more compelling. Rudden is a master at creating unique creatures to fill his universe with. There are monsters galore, and each of them are totally unique and just a little bit horrifying.

I will say though that part of me is hesitant about lauding this as a total victory of the novel though, because **I sometimes think it veers a bit too deeply into disturbing territory**. I think if I were to introduce a child to this series, I would make sure that they were in their teens and equipped to handle when things get just a little bit scary.

Another aspect of this that impressed me was the prose. **I feel like Middle Grade prose often becomes a bit too reliant on telling over showing, but Rudden's prose is carefully and beautifully executed**. He's clearly a very skilled writer. His prose isn't too flowery, but I do wonder if it's slightly overwritten for its audience at times. That being said, while it might pose a bit of a challenge to younger tweens, I think they might appreciate the challenge here as they explore all the interesting locations and characters this book has to offer.

We have to talk about the characters too. While I'm admittedly not the biggest fan of Denizen's name, I appreciate how well written he is. Rudden doesn't shy away from exhibiting his flaws. He's angry, (rightfully so) and cynical of the things happening around him, and it totally makes sense. The other knights are all extremely memorable characters both in name and characterization. I particularly enjoyed Grey and Fuller Jack. <3

Make no mistake though. **This is really dark and it probably isn't going to be for everybody, or every child**. I'm faulting it one full star both due to the prose being slightly overwritten for the genre, but also because I think at times it forgets that it's a story for tweens and gets just slightly too disturbing.

★★★★☆ = 4/5 stars

Thank you to Netgalley, and Penguin Random House UK Children's Puffin for an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review!

See this review and more like it on my blog: Bookbastion.net

Jeff says

A thoroughly enjoyable read. The world is excellently constructed, accompanied by an engrossing plot with a humorous undertone. I imagine most fans of Pratchett and Gaiman would enjoy this book.
