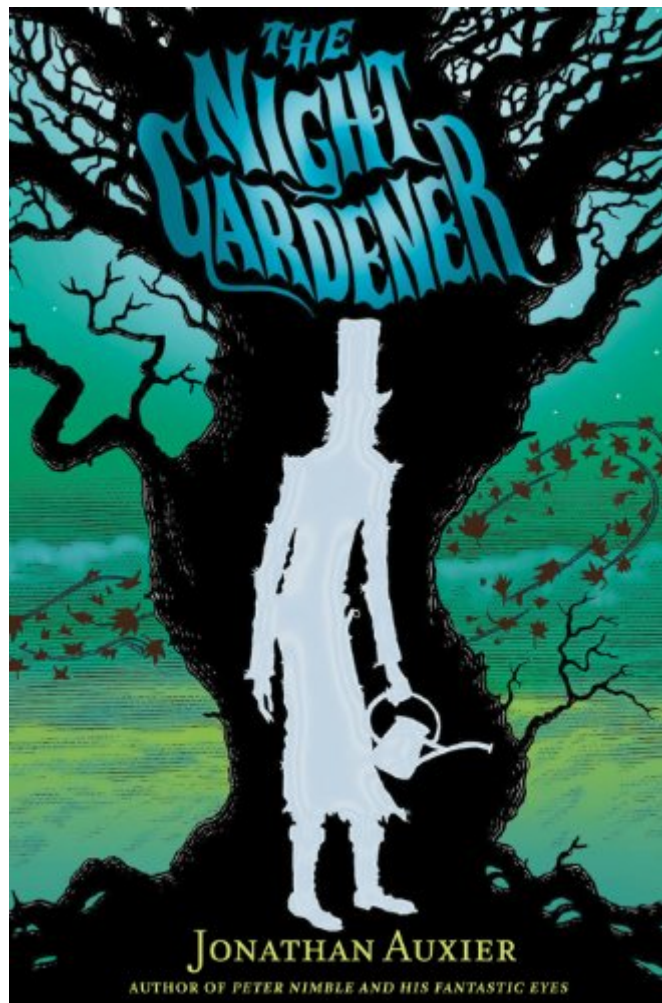


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The Night Gardener



Synopsis

This much-anticipated follow-up to Jonathan Auxier's exceptional debut, *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*, is a Victorian ghost story with shades of Washington Irving and Henry James. More than just a spooky tale, it's also a moral fable about human greed and the power of storytelling. *The Night Gardener* follows two abandoned Irish siblings who travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house. But the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious spectre and an ancient curse that threatens their very lives. With Auxier's exquisite command of language, *The Night Gardener* is a mesmerizing read and a classic in the making.

Praise for *The Night Gardener*

STARRED REVIEWS "Lots of creepiness, memorable characters, a worthy message, Auxier's atmospheric drawings and touches of humor amid the horror make this cautionary tale one readers will not soon forget." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Storytelling and the secret desires of the heart wind together in this atmospheric novel that doubles as a ghost tale." --School Library Journal, starred review "Auxier achieves an ideal mix of adventure and horror, offering all of it in elegant, atmospheric language that forces the reader to slow down a bit and revel in both the high-quality plot and the storytelling itself." --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "All proper scary stories require a spooky, menacing atmosphere, and Auxier (*Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*) delivers the goods with his precise descriptions of the gothic setting and teasing hints of mystery and suspense." --The Horn Book Magazine

Summer 2014 Kids' Indie Next List

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Customer Reviews

'Help me grow tall, and you shall receive All that you wish inside of me.' This story at first appears to be ripped from the pages of the Brothers Grimm. There are a pair of orphans, one a plucky young heroine, the other, a little lame boy. After making a deal with a beggar woman (witch in disguise?), they enter a deep, dark (enchanted?) forest. What awaits them there is deliciously forbidding, frightening and wondrous... Molly and her younger brother venture to the sinister Windsor house to gain employment. The home is built around a hideous tree. The strange family living there appears to be down on their luck; a harridan of a mother, a scrawny, but lovable six-year-old girl, her nasty bully of a brother, and a mostly absent, ineffectual father. They are all thin, pale and sickly. One day while cleaning the library, Molly is astonished to find a portrait of the smiling, healthy-looking family painted only a year earlier. What could have happened to change the residents of this house in such a short time? Is it the horrific dreams they all suffer nightly? Or the nocturnal visitor who roams the rooms, leaving muddy footprints and terror behind? Or does it have something to do with the locked room that Molly has been warned not to open? Here is a magical tale, both atmospheric and creepy. There are a few VERY chilling scenes, though it should be fine for children ages ten and up. If reading aloud, be prepared to continue until you are hoarse, as I imagine most little ones will not let you stop.

A deliciously dark middle grade story about two orphaned children, a girl, Molly and her little lame brother. The children make their way through the deep woods to a rather frightening mansion built around a mysteriously scary old tree, hoping to gain employment. The children are greeted by a strange and sickly family. With some quick thinking Molly secures a job caring for the house, a six-year-old girl, and her brutish brother. Molly and her brother soon discover things in the mansion are anything but normal. Molly begins to have nightmares and has to clean up after someone roving the mansion at night, leaving muddy footprints everywhere. There is a strange locked room Molly has been instructed to never open. Day by day, the family becomes more sickly and Molly intends

to get to the bottom of it. Upper middle graders who enjoy scary stories will be thrilled by this book.

I am not a famous literary critic. I will say that first. But I love to read. Maybe that's enough for you to read this review. I am constantly searching for that next great book that transports me away from my daily problems and worries to another place where anything is possible and magic rules. The Night Gardener was that book. I haven't read a book in a while that kept me reading all night. This one did. What a great story. I have not read any books by Jonathan Auxier before. I found him on a search and so glad I found this book. I look forward to reading more of his books and hope the movie deal goes through. Scary, heartwarming, and I love the characters. They are easy to identify with and I really cared about them. Great "legend" type storyline:). Thank you for the nine years you put into this book, Mr. Auxier.

A fascinating, spooky, suspenseful story, suitable for middle graders and above. I enjoyed it thoroughly! While the author comments on the greed we all have within, he is not preachy. The characters were well-developed and the prose flowed well. While I save my 5-star ratings for books that change me, I give this book a hearty 4 stars and recommend it for all!

I had to buy this book for a school project and I loved it and I recommend for 12+ because it can be a bit spooky. But besides that I think it's a great way to waste time in the summer when you have nothing to do

Set before me is this Young Adult gothic fable. Two orphaned Irish siblings travel to England where they find work in an old Manor with a very odd family. And *And* someone or something else. Even though this book was written with the young in mind, I found myself unable to stop turning the pages or from being just a little on edge. I love the dark atmosphere, and the characters are wonderful. Even the ones we're not supposed to like. This is the kind of book to read out loud, at bedtime, to the children who love to travel through the night with the words they find at the end of a flashlight, beneath the covers, when they should be fast asleep.

I read this chiefly, to inspire my students. It sounded interesting from the teaser. I began reading a chapter every night before bed and looked forward to bed time. You begin to have a vested interest in Kip and Molls, however, (I am 56 years old) it did become a little frightening, so I continued the story during daylight hours. I totally recommend this book and especially if you like scary stories that

sneak up on you.

EXCELLENT. This book is delightfully creepy and a beautifully written tale. I was ecstatic to find out that Auxier had written another book after devouring "Peter Nimble". This book lived up to my high expectations. This book will creep you out and draw you in and you try to solve the mystery of the Night Gardener.

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