



Mirror Gate

Jeff Wheeler

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Though relations between Princess Seraphin Fitzempress and her father have been strained, Sera's royal position has remained unchallenged. Filled with self-doubt, she struggles to grasp the Mysteries—her greatest trial yet.

An education in the enigmatic magic is a necessary one, should Sera plan to rise in her station and invoke her powers during war. But the emperor's death now leaves both Sera and her ambitious father eligible for the throne—a contest the prince regent intends to win. Even if it means an alliance with a rival empire.

Sera's hope lies in Cettie, a waif raised in the world below, whose life has intertwined with Sera's in the most unexpected ways. The Mysteries come easily to Cettie, and her studies have begun to yield new insight into her growing powers. But those same powers put Cettie in the path of those who would destroy her.

Now as the threat of war ignites and an insidious sickness spreads throughout the kingdom, Sera and Cettie will need to gather their courage and fight for each other's lives... and for the future of their endangered world.

Mirror Gate Details

Date : Published August 28th 2018 by 47North

ISBN :

Author : Jeff Wheeler

Format : Kindle Edition 334 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult

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From Reader Review *Mirror Gate* for online ebook

Jessica Creason says

This book picks up several years after the first book in the series, *Storm Glass* , left off.

WARNING: SPOILERS FROM THE FIRST BOOK AHEAD. If you have not read *Storm Glass*, it's review instead by clicking here: [Review of *Storm Glass*](#)

When the book begins, Cettie and Sera have been at Muirwood Abbey for the past 4 years, learning the Mysteries.

I would love for Jeff Wheeler to write a novella telling more about what happened in the 4 years between *Storm Glass* and *Mirror Gate*.

As we learned in *Storm Glass*, Cettie has an affinity for the Mysteries, and they come to her easily. Sera, on the other hand, sucks at it, and not mastering the Mysteries may put her destiny at risk.

One thing that frustrated me in this book is how everyone kept explaining that all Cettie's problems would be solved once she learns the Mysteries, even though some of those problems were life-threatening, and no one ever recommended taking the test early or anything... Not even a couple of weeks earlier than planned... Smh

I read a retweet that said sometimes I want to hug Jeff Wheeler, and other times, I want to throw him off the edge of a ski manor. I had the same feelings several times while reading this series! I've been on a roller coaster of emotion throughout both books!

OMG! That is all I have to say after reading this book! I don't want to give away any spoilers about this book or it's ending, so please just go read it!

This book was just as good, if not better than the first book! I am glad we finally learned a little more about the Mysteries, though! I was getting tired of everyone talking about them and not explaining anything.

The only thing I'm not happy about is having to wait to see what happens next! I looked on Jeff Wheeler's website, and it looks like book #3, *Iron Garden* , will be released in November, which is waaaaay too long.

This book was AH-MAY-ZING! Again, Jeff Wheeler blew my mind! I can't wait to read the next book in the series! If I can't find an ARC soon, I plan to read the Kingsfountain and the Legends of Muirwood series so that I understand more about Cettie's world.

I received a copy of this book from the publishers, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

T.E. Bradford says

Many times in a series, book 2 gets lost. It ends up being a transition book that does little more than get your from book 1 to book 3. *Mirror Gate*, the second book in the Harbinger series, is anything but typical. I actually enjoyed this book more than book 1. Why? Well, first of all the book dug more into the fantasy

element - the magic. Anytime that happens, you have my full attention. Second, the book opens in a setting that allows you to really fall into step with the characters. In book 1 there was so much the character had to encounter and endure right away, before I barely even felt familiar with them, it was a little more difficult to fully engage. Now that I know them better, and in this more personal setting, being fully engaged was immediate.

Of course, there were all the good things that make Wheeler's books so consistently good - secondary characters that enrich the story, political intrigue that thickens the plot, and of course lots and lots of twists and turns. If I had to find any fault at all, it's that at one point there was such a feeling of bleak hopelessness it was almost overwhelming to the point of becoming unenjoyable. Thankfully, just as for our struggling MC (or one of the two, I should say), there was solace to be found in the words and wisdom of the story's two artfully crafted mentor characters.

This book 2 also did a great job of giving enough to not be a complete cliffhanger, while leaving you totally helpless and pacing while you wait for the next book, which thanks to Wheeler's quick-release publication practice isn't so far into the future that you're tempted to bang your head against a wall. Kudos, Mr. Wheeler. Another masterpiece, and master piece in the chess board that is this series.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review - but I'd definitely pay for it anyway. ;-)

Kristine says

4.5 very deserving stars!!!

Jeff Wheeler does not disappoint. I have not read his Muirwood series, but devoured the Kingfountain series - prequels and all. I'm thrilled to find his amazingly wonderful storytelling style was not limited to The Kingfountain series and that he is as brilliant a writer as ever. I am truly enjoying entering the world of The Mysteries" and can't wait to see what is in store for Cettie, Sera and how Kingfountain plays into all of this.

I'm also eager to understand the time period....who is the mysterious Prince from Kingfountain? Are we in the future, the past or will we know our Prince?

Exciting, exciting.....

Kim Gregory says

Cettie and Sera have some very tense and scary moments in this story. Both are at the end of their time at Muirwood and preparing for their tests. But an event in Sera's life prevents her from taking the test, and again she makes an unwise choice that threatens her future plans. Cettie is growing stronger in the Mysteries and now must face her "ghosts" and conquer them.

I love find ancestors of past characters popping up. Forshee's great-grandson (or perhaps great-great) came on the scene, a very strong young man and strong in the Mysteries as well. He wants to teach Cettie more and he wants Cettie to teach him too.

I was so disappointed in one of the characters that was a favorite of mine in the first story. I wonder, was he plotting even back then???

This is a clean read.

Quintin Zimmermann says

Mirror Gate is the second instalment of Jeff Wheeler's planned five book Harbinger series.

Our two young female protagonists, Sera and Cettie continue their respective journeys of self-discovery, while navigating societal strictures and political intrigue.

This is a kingdom that is outwardly being slowly ravaged by a seemingly incurable sickness, but it is the rot from within that is truly corrupting the bona mores of a society that is teetering on the brink of war.

Jeff Wheeler has continued strongly from Storm Glass and expanded upon his wonderfully accessible world building with identifiable, deep characters that are a joy to read from beginning to end.

If you are looking for a fantasy series with strong, young female protagonists, then you can't go wrong with The Harbinger.

The only criticism that I have is that the ending of Mirror Gate was rather muted considering the preceding action. The so-called big reveal was clearly telegraphed by the title of the series, which somewhat deflated this revelation.

That minor gripe aside, a thoroughly enjoyable series so far and I am really looking forward to reading Iron Garland.

Crystal says

Disclaimer: I received this book free from Netgalley

Honestly, I can't say enough about this series. I love the characters, I love the series, I love the way it ties into his other novels (oh heck! spoiler!!) Being as this is the second book in the series it's kind of hard to avoid spoiling at least little things, so I'm going to try to be as vague as possible, but you are warned.

In book two of the Harbinger series we return to Sera and Cettie. The two young girls with an affinity for "the Mysteries" of this world, have been training and growing in the years that have passed since the first book, *Storm Glass*. While Cettie has proven to be a natural at connecting to the magical forces around them, Sera is having a difficult time. As the daughter of the Prince Regent she is beset with political intrigue and is unprepared to deal with those already moving to do her harm. Cettie also finds herself the target of a particularly dangerous foe (friend? family?). I'm not sure how things will turn out for the girls, but I can't tell you how happy I was to hear that book three is coming out later this year, so I won't have to wait too long! Mr. Wheeler is showering us with riches this year!

I have to admit that Cettie is still my favorite. Last book I saw her as a Jane Eyre type character, but this book I am definitely getting some Esther Summerson (*Bleak House*) vibes from her. She even has her own Mr. Guppy hanging about, causing her consternation with his absolute adoration. I love a Charles Dickens nod! Another character I adore unabashedly is Lord Fitzroy. I do love a book with grey characters, those who are not 100% good or bad, but one thing I love about this series is there are characters who really are a white knight, 100% on the side of the angels. Fitzroy is someone you can just love and that feels almost like a relief to this reader.

I will warn you, this paragraph contains a BIG spoiler as we are starting to see some connection ... to Kingfountain. In *Storm Glass*, we found our way to Muirwood (which felt like a homecoming), so this is an exciting new development that ties us even closer to the original books by Mr. Wheeler.

If you couldn't tell I really enjoy these books, and if you like fantasy, especially clean fantasy then this is the series for you. Book three is coming soon and I can't wait to see what happens to Cettie and Sera, as well as see how they tie into the larger history of these worlds. I'm holding my breath for an ARC. I've been lucky so far. May the Mysteries provide!

Lori says

Jeff Wheeler writes the best YA coming of age novels, and this is another excellent story. Book 2 of the Harbinger series continues the story of Cettie and Sera, two strong young women who will have to fight to save their world. Sera, born to wealth and privilege, and Cettie, raised in the lower class Fells are unlikely friends, but their goals and moral strength make them strong allies. Wheeler's stories are well developed, well written, and rich in alternate world building. You can not go wrong with one of his books. Many thanks to NetGalley and 47North for the e-arc. I can't wait for book 3!

Al Burke says

I received an ARC from Netgalley with the option of a voluntary review.

I previously reviewed the first in the series, *Storm Glass*, here - <http://bit.ly/2ogMHh8>

If you bothered clicking the link, you'll notice I really liked it. I really liked this one too. "Why four stars instead of five?" you say (conversation may not have happened.)

Well, here goes. The first in the series was quite unique, a steam-punk Victorian world with a mysterious magic system and interesting characters. It's still here, but less unique (obviously). My problem is with the first third or so of the book. The time has jumped four years, with nary a hint of what went on in that time. In fact, hardly anything goes on in that first third at all, I was struggling to maintain my interest. Cettie and Sera had been roomies at Muirwood Abbey for four years, with little but some hints at Cettie being awesome controlling the Mysteries, while poor ol' Sera being a bit of a lame duck.

Then...

After dozing through 100 or so pages, Wheeler ramps up the pace - a lot. One of the girls is attacked, Sera's

grandfather pops his clogs, opening up a vacancy at Emperor, one Sera is in the running for. There are rumours of war with Kingfountain, who seem to have improved their technology to an advanced state. Throw in the standard politicking and social one-upping, along with Cettie's discovering a lot more about her ghosts, old flames showing up at inopportune moments and the rest of the book is a rip.

Wheeler has ramped up the stakes for everyone involved (including the reader) and I find it hard to believe that the majority of those who read book two, will not be interested in reading book three. There is some fine world-building and storytelling going on here. Give it 4.4/5

Amanda Muniz says

Another excellent book by Jeff Wheeler!

I just say that this book did not disappoint! If you are a fan of Mr. Wheeler you will love this book. As usual I found myself cheering for the two main characters as they went on their journeys. I found them relatable and inspiring and so I could not stop reading.

I do like the inspirational undertones Mr. Wheeler weaves in each of his books. I truly do think he aims to lift the reader up and inspire them to be better. This is why I love these books.

The story is intricate and has several plots happening at once. You are lead on a tale of bravery and excitement as you follow the heroines journey that is certainly not easy.

The books are very descriptive in details which helps you truly imagine what is happening.

Excellent read and I simply cannot wait for the next book!

Annette says

I LOVED it!!! This series keeps getting better and I cannot wait for the next book!

I love how he uses this story to uplift and motivate and encourage us all to follow our dreams and not let fear win. How he writes the story so it connects so well with his readers and especially to me I feel very connected to his stories. They are very relatable.

There's so much knowledge and wisdom in these books one could use in real life and it always gives me courage after reading some of these books to keep on and to try harder to do what I hope and dream of doing as well as living a good life and being the best I can. Well trying to be better than my best each day ?.

Paula Johnson says

Wonderful tale by a talented author

Full of mystery and detail, I love how his work blends storylines to give the reader a fuller understanding of the characters! Another outstanding story!

Lori Peterson says

Now I have to wait 3 months for the next one!!

FANTASTIC, as always. I never say that. This author has created worlds and managed to interconnect them through many series. I have NEVER raved so much. I read a book a day, sometimes 2. @Jeff Wheeler, please keep them coming. I would gladly read as you write. I can edit. It would be an honor. Now I am going to go read The Maid's War a Kingfountain prequel and the only book of his I have not read.

Also, Kate Rudd has done an awesome job as audiobook narrator. I'm glad that she has done every series.

Spencer Fields says

New and Exciting Adventures

Mirror Gate, the second book in the Harbinger Series, continues the sagas of Cettie and Sera that were introduced in Storm Glass. If you have not yet read that book, go back and read it first. Then pick up this book and get ready for an adventure!

I work at a university in the residence halls, and it was fun to see Cettie and Sera experience many of the same emotions and feelings that are common among students who go away from home to attend school. Their experiences, though mingled with magic and terrors that do not exist in our world, were relatable to experiences common to those of us living outside the pages of a book. Jeff's ability to connect us with his characters is masterfully done, and I often felt happy, sad, anxious, upset, and overwhelmed along with these two young women as they experience the challenges that life throws at them.

For me, this book started out a little slower, but once it picked up, I could not put it down. Having read many of Jeff's other series, it was fun to find connections to some of his other worlds, and to have my mind expand in that way. It was hard for me to gauge how someone unfamiliar with some of his other worlds and magic systems, and political landscapes would understand all of the intricacies introduced into this series. I feel like the Harbinger series can stand on its own, but being familiar with the Muirwood and Kingfountain from Jeff's other books adds depth and understanding to an already well written novel.

The only real downside of reading this book when I did is that it will be a few months before I can continue the adventure—a real test of patience being left in the unknown. But, like most experiences in life often are while in the middle of them, Jeff leaves us hanging with high tensions, many unknowns, and yet an undergirding of hope of good things to come. I recommend this book, and eagerly anticipate the release of the next book in the series: Iron Garland.

Disclaimer: I received an advanced reader copy in exchange for an honest review. The thoughts expressed here are my own.

Fantasy Book Reviews | By Ambrose Crotts says

Disclaimer: Review is spoiler-free. I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher. Mirror Gate is the second installment in the Harbinger series.

Mirror Gate is a female-led epic with elements of steampunk, flintlock fantasy, and high fantasy sorcery. Jeff Wheeler presents an enchanting story about the struggles civilization faces as it attempts to build upon itself, and the failings that we oftentimes accept and grow through when we exchange anarchy for stability.

I review books for a chance to find ones like Mirror Gate. This really is a beautiful story of personal growth, hope, and the many faces of human interactions. I think it's worth your time; it was worth mine. Let's get into the review.

Plot

The plot of Mirror Gates revolves around the machinations of an empire constantly at threat by, and trying to cooperate with, rival worlds. The titular mirror gates, large and mystical land formations, allow these other worlds to intrude upon the empire's own and for its people to intrude back into them in turn.

The book very much follows the formula of an upright noble trying to overthrow a despot. This is done smartly, though. Between the vibrant world and the cast of characters you never feel as if you're being fed tired cliches, but rather lovingly retold story tropes.

Refreshingly, the nature of war and politics is explored in an understandable and completely non-patronizing way. This adds a non-politicized, fair, and thoughtful depth that's very welcome.

Characters

Endearing, lively, and varied--those words describe the cast of Mirror Gate. The larger than life personalities, all veering to be heard and to make the changes they believe in, drive the conflict. The characters run this story, the story does not run the characters.

The two main protagonists are both different and deep enough to make each of their viewpoints engaging. Cettie--someone of much lower birth than the high society--is polite, measured, and stalwartly dignified in the face of her many struggles. Sera, a royal determined to keep her pompous father from permanently claiming the emperor's throne, is empathetic, hot-blooded, and devoted to doing the right thing--even if she's not always sure what that is.

The cast of individuals surrounding the two main stars are never lifeless, never boring, and always distinctive. There's something for everyone to see and enjoy on display here--from reserved doctors and nervous but good-natured dorks, all the way to manipulative harpies.

In the hands of another writer, the villains of Mirror Gate may have come off as rather lopsidedly evil--that didn't happen here. The motivations for the opposing of the protagonists by certain factions are made very clear and, if one takes a step back from the convincing viewpoints of Cettie and Sera, then one can at least understand the antagonists; this makes them real, this makes them interesting, and this makes them pleasantly human.

Writing

Jeff Wheeler is very good at explaining things simply. He's very good at setting the mood for and describing

characters. He's also quite good with imagery.

His words are never quite poetic, save in the excerpts written by a certain scholarly character that come before numerous chapters--those were superbly in-character and strikingly poignant. I think this style was purposeful though, in an effort to not sacrifice flow on the altar of purple prose.

I was also pleasantly surprised to find that the author had worked his way up from self-publishing to being a successful traditionally published writer; this is explained in a heartfelt and humble afterword that seems to speak volumes about the man's character.

Conclusion

Mirror Gate is in my top five novels I've read this year. I would recommend it to anyone who likes high fantasy and doesn't mind a bit of a YA bend. It also may be a great novel for those seeking to read about female heroes.

Final verdict: a very high 4/5 stars.

Paresh Jha says

Mr. Wheeler has a tendency to make his second books the most gut-wrenching. I mean that as a compliment.

His writing and characterization of Sera and Cettie is so earnest and successful that I've become almost too invested and attached to them.

This is the second book of this new series and the world really kicks into gear. The connections to all other books in the "Wheelerverse" make certain sentences and references genuine revelations.

I cannot wait for the rest!
