



The Greenstone Grail

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A desperate mother spirits away her infant son, seemingly drawn (chased, perhaps?) to the small English village of Thornyhill. She ends up on the doorstep of old Bartlemy, a curious man who has lived on the forested land for as long as anyone can remember—and who comes to believe that the child is destined for great things. . . .

While growing up under Bartlemy's protective eye, Nathan Ward senses something *else* watching him, a shift of shadows in the surrounding Darkwood. Then pieces of his dreams begin to come to life. A man he saved from the ocean washes ashore on the television news. A greenish stone cup set with jewels that has haunted his visions sounds eerily like one lost by the Thorn family centuries ago—a cup that has recently made its way back into the hands of the village's last living ancestor.

Yet when Nathan learns the chalice may have come from another world, a land with bloodstained moons and a toxic sun, he knows he is destined to play a part in something beyond his most vivid imagination. But why is the cup here, and what could it possibly want with a teenage boy and a sleepy town of villagers full of tall tales? With the help of his best friend, Hazel, Nathan must figure out why he's been chosen—and for what purpose. Even if it means traveling deeper each night into dreams, into lands, into legends that both terrify and mesmerize him.

The Greenthorn Grail is the first novel of a thrilling new trilogy, tracing a boy's journey—a quest rife with magic, wonder, and forces as dark as midnight.

From the Hardcover edition.

The Greenstone Grail Details

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From Reader Review The Greenstone Grail for online ebook

Jennifer says

I thought this book was a very good blend of science fiction and urban fantasy, which I found kind of surprising that it could be possible to blend them together...and do it well. I found the characters very interesting, and the plot was well developed. There were even elements of mystery at the end. It was a really good book; I enjoyed every minute of it.

JJ DeBenedictis says

This is a wonderful book! It's well-written and has a good pace. The characters are likeable and fully-fleshed out, and although I think this would really appeal to young adult readers, I liked it a great deal and it did not suffer from "hapless adult" syndrome, i.e. the adult characters were as interesting as the child protagonist.

Beverly says

For a YA book this was pretty good. I'm not too old to read an interesting story just because some of the main characters are teenagers, after all, I loved Harry Potter. There wasn't any teenage angst in it, which kind of made it a little unrealistic; these kids were entirely too well-adjusted to be real! But I liked it enough to read the next one.

Andrew Ten broek says

Didn't find the opportunity to write some more about this novel before, just gave it a rating of 4 stars but I'll do so now. I truly enjoyed this fantasy story and what made it better than the average one is, that Amanda Hemingway has written a character in it, Bartlemy, that is trying to explain some the magical occurrences that happen throughout the story. Of course, nothing is as extensively explained as it would be in a science fiction novel, because otherwise it wouldn't be a fantasy story anymore, but I thought giving general insights in why some things happened the way they did, added to a more well defined allround story.

The story starts off with Annie and her son fleeing the place they originally came from and ending up being taken cared of by Barlemy, who becomes an "uncle" of sorts to Nathan (the name of the son). Soon it becomes clear that Nathan is very unlike other young children and has the power to enter a different universe when he is dreaming. He can even pull off other beings from these universes into this universe in some occasions when something special is occurring.

Parallel to this story there's one Rowena Thorn that wants to buy back the Greenstone Grail that was property of her family before someone in her family sold it off to a businessman, even though the grail was unruly. That storyline becomes interwoven with some of the dreams that Nathan is having and also with a character Eric that becomes stranded in our universe.

The story never talks down to the reader, even though it could be read very well by young readers and keeps the reader guessing throughout the whole thing. Personally I've been listening to the audio version of it and hopefully I'll be able to find the sequel on audio some time so I can continue the story when I'm driving to work.

Amanda says

This book was an interesting mix of ancient legend and multiverse theory. Think Ray Bradbury meets Arthurian legend. Nathan Ward is a young boy of mysterious beginnings who discovers a grail that whispers and various strange creatures that are real in his dreams and in his world. With his best friend Hazel, his mother Annie, and his Uncle Bartlemy, he sets off to discover the reason for this grail being in his world and the reason why there are new dangers everywhere he turns. While the premise is a good one, the characters fall a little flat. They are not very personal, the only one who has any sort of presence or personality is Bartlemy, but the wise sage is not a hard character to establish. The pacing of this book was very slow; it took a long time to build up to a conflict and definitely lacked momentum. In fact, that is my chief complaint. The pacing really ruined the story. What should have been an exciting and suspenseful wasn't, although I will give the author credit for interesting concepts, but the execution was lacking.

Angie says

WOW-WOHOW! where i have been all this time that this aMAZing book has been sitting on my shelves?!?! and there are two more books in the trilogy that have been in print since 2007! this is Triskellion 1 & 2 on steroids, and takes fantasy and science fiction and rolls them up beautifully into one uber-genre. how many other books are out there giving an interplanetary spin on all our ancient myths of magic and mystery?! i want to read them.

Sandra Gallegos says

No sé muy bien qué pensar de este libro porque, aunque no era aburrido, tampoco me interesó lo suficiente como para terminarlo.

Antes que nada he de decir que, por lo visto, se trata de una segunda parte, cosa que no aparece señalada en ninguna parte de la novela, así que empezamos bien. De todas formas yo allá que fui, a ver qué le pasaba al protagonista, que vivía en una especie de mundo futurista, pero con toques medievales.

Es decir, él parecía vivir en una época bastante parecida a la actual, en la que hay mucha magia que podría decirse que recuerda a la Edad Media. Además, el chico tiene unos sueños que lo trasladan a otro mundo, el cual sí que es más bien medieval, en el que hay una princesa que necesita ayuda. Ocurren más cosas en la novela, hay más personajes y tramas, pero eso fue básicamente de lo que me enteré.

Siendo sincera, es por esto por lo que no sé qué opinar. Las partes de los demás personajes (la madre del prota, la mejor amiga del prota, el anciano que se menciona en la sinopsis) me aburrían tantísimo que hacía lectura diagonal, porque es que no llegaban a atraparme, a interesarme tanto como para querer enterarme de lo que estaba pasando.

Las partes de los sueños del chico, por otro lado, sí que me gustaban y me las leía enteritas. Porque, a ver, la portada da a entender que se trata de una novela con tintes medievales, así que yo iba buscando una historia de ese estilo, con su magia, sus espadas y tal (además recordemos el título). Y eso solamente lo podía encontrar en los sueños del protagonista, así que eso fue lo poco que leí.

Sin embargo, no terminé el libro. Estuve unos días con él, pero ni siquiera la parte de la princesa en el mundo medieval me enganchó tanto como para querer acabar la novela. Lo cierto es que me apetecía una historia así, pero, al tener que intercalar lo que buscaba con otras partes que no me interesaban, se me acabó haciendo pesado y opté por abandonar este libro para ponerme con otro que me interesaba más.

Así que por eso no puedo opinar en condiciones sobre este libro. No sé cómo debería llamar a esto, entonces, porque está claro que no es ni una crítica, ni una reseña, pero es que tampoco es una opinión xD En fin, *who cares.*

Kelly says

Science Fiction/Fantasy. I really enjoyed this trilogy (this being the first of the three). A woman turns up with baby in her arms at the doorstep of an elderly gentleman. He isn't surprised at their appearance late in the evening. The reader discovers that the child is not completely of this world, he was conceived in another universe. When he is about pre-teen age he starts travelling to other universes when he dreams. He has a mission to accomplish, however does not fully realize this until farther along in the series. It is fast paced, held my attention throughout.

Sujuelf_heeshin says

that story is really awesome.. I don't actually feel I'm reading this book but instead I feel like I was really in the scene.. a very nice plot in this book.. I really love it.. I had finished it already but I could still feel its story within me, everyday I was looking for it.. the story is just too great.. love Amanda Hemingway!! The ending is really nice too, i was really satisfied to it, It feels complete - the ending - but when I found out there is a next book that's the time I felt "it" was incomplete. then, suddenly I saw myself longing for its next book. I was like crazy until now looking for the next book!! yeah.. GREAT!! love it.. =)

Vicki says

A beautifully written and compelling mixture of fantasy and science fiction, I couldn't put this down. I found it a refreshingly novel storyline after having read so much formulaic fantasy and can't wait to read the rest of the trilogy.

Regina Sanchez Durst says

Although I am a big Potter fan, I consider this to be one of my most favorite series of all. A trilogy, the reader follows the protagonist, Nathan, into alternate universes as he dreams. This novel raises several

questions in me, and one for example is: "Is there really a possibility of alternate universes?" Not only does this book lead me to think of such topics as that, but also Amanda Hemingway takes the science-fiction idea of human/extraterrestrial interaction and the religious Holy Grail and melds it together into one thrilling plot.

Dark-Draco says

I had read so many great reviews of this book, that I was really looking forward to reading it. Maybe my expectations were too high as a result, but I was curiously disappointed not to be blown away by it. I also hadn't realised that it was a YA book, which became very obvious by the tone and writing style of the book...and I very nearly put it down again. But I am glad I continued as it was enjoyable, for all its faults.

The story starts off with a young mother and her child being driven towards a grand old house by whispering shadows. Years pass and the child grows up to find he has the power to travel to different universes and, unintentionally, bring things back with him. One of these universes is dying, but a Great Spell (note the capitals!) can save everyone, if only the Cup, Sword and Crown can be brought together. Coincidentally, a local legend tells of a mysterious, cursed, cup of blood that was lost centuries ago by the ruling family of the area. Oh, and a strange cup has just come up for sale at Sotheby's....

Actually, the story has a lot more depth than that. There are some nice twists, although they weren't a massive surprise, and the characters were brought to life very well. A lot is left open for the next two books in the series, which I would probably read if I came across them, but wouldn't necessarily go running out to buy them.

So, overall, a good YA book that I'm sure would be loved by a lot of readers in that age group, but for me, it lacked some of the depth I really want in my fantasy.

Amanda R says

I really enjoyed this book and am looking forward to the rest in the trilogy. A boy has the ability to travel to different worlds through his dreams and he discovers a dying planet named Eos. Because of corruption, magic got out of hand and poisoned the planet and (I believe) others as well. So it's up to Nathan to find 3 objects - a grail, a sword, and a crown - so that a Great Spell can be performed, healing the planet.

It was a fun story and I loved the Eos parts!

Tina says

Aimed at the more intelligent fantasy reading teenager, for those uninitiated it is a cross between Pullman/Rowling but unique in itself. It is well-plotted, well-constructed and intriguing and a worthwhile read. Give to any teenager you know, they must be educated in the world of fantasy!

Silvio Curtis says

This is the first book of the Sangreal Trilogy. It sounded like it might be something like the Dark is Rising Sequence, but it wasn't. It's not Arthurian, either, though the name of the series might make it sound that way. Of the books I've read, it probably has the most in common with the His Dark Materials trilogy, since it involves multiple universes and straddles the traditional boundary between "children's" and "adult" themes in kind of the same way. It's more of a mystery than an adventure story, with a relatively small amount of world-building. The story is told sometimes from the point of view of Nathan, a thirteen-year-old who enters other universes in his dreams, and sometimes from that of his mother.

Where science comes into the picture, it's often vague or inaccurate. For instance, they try to carbon-date the grail, which is made of stone.
