



The Gate

A.L. Lester

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It's 1918, and Matty returns home to the family farm from the trenches only to find his brother Arthur dying of an unknown illness. The local doctor thinks it might be cancer, but Matty becomes convinced it's connected to the mysterious books his brother has left strewn around the house.

Matty confides his suspicions in his friend Rob, a hired hand on the farm and potential lover. Rob has found something that looks like a gate of some kind, something Arthur referenced in his papers which may rest at the heart of his illness. But a gate to where?

This short story introduces the world and characters in A.L. Lester's novel, *Lost in Time*.

The Gate Details

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Author : A.L. Lester

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From Reader Review The Gate for online ebook

Angela says

I think this could be described as a preview to a series? Short, but ok. A fantasy story that involves a bit of mystery.

Bárbara says

More!

The Celtic Rebel (Richard) says

What a wonderful short story. I absolutely loved this. I look forward to exploring more about these wonderfully developed characters in the next installment. They are so well-drawn that you feel you know them and you care about what happens to them.

This is a wonderful introduction to Rob and Matty. Their budding romance is hinted at and we see the story developing as to the mystery of The Gate. It is all executed well, and makes the reader want to find out what happens next.

CrabbyPatty says

A well-written short story that apparently is the first book in a series. Matt returns home after The Great War (WWI) and finds his older brother Arthur gravely ill and engrossed in his books and papers. In his last week of life, Arthur raves about a Gate and how it must never be opened, and asks that Matt burns all his books and papers after his death.

After Arthur's death, Matt and his friend Rob, who served together, continue to work the farm, and one evening Rob tells Matt he found something strange out in the barn

This story blends historical fiction, being set in the 1920's in England, there's just the beginning of a relationship between Matt and Rob, and then there's The Gate. The build-up is very well done, and I can't wait to learn more about what powers are behind The Gate. 4.5 stars.

Cadiva says

An intriguing short with an open ending

2.5*

I've knocked a star off just because it's so short and because nothing really happens in the way of a completed story.

This is more of a set up for the series as a whole as I understand it so we get an odd take about a mysterious illness which has taken the life of the MCs brother, a strange light in the barn, a potential romance with a farmhand, a shirt battle with an otherworldly creature and then it ends!

Jeff says

An enjoyable short story with mystery and intrigue surrounding time travel. I understand this story relates to another of the author's work. Matty and Rob and interesting characters-- perhaps something special will evolve between them in future stories. The loss of Arthur and the mysterious gate give enough of a tease to keep the reader wanting more.

Dale Lowry says

I didn't look at the length of this book before I started reading it. So I was reading along, becoming interested in what was going on, and suddenly the story ended. I wondered if I had downloaded just a preview of a complete novel, but I checked and indeed I had the whole story.

The writing style was nice and I was interested in the historical, post Great War setting, but the story doesn't really stand on its own. After looking over other reader reviews, it seems like this should be read after or in conjunction with the author's book *Lost in Time*, which takes place in the same universe. So I guess this is a matter of me accidentally reading stories in the wrong order.

Christine Marochan says

Couldnt put it down

Excellent short story I will be looking out for more from this author. I couldn't stop reading this today more pls A..L. Lester

Hart says

This is a very brief introduction to an alternative universe, set in post-WWI England. It really feels like a prologue, and I don't expect to see any of these characters again (I could be wrong). It's about a pair of young war veterans who might be interested in each other romantically. A visitor from another world (I think?) appears on the farm, and there is some action. This story does not stand alone, because nothing is explained. It's free on Amazon, but I would say only read it if you plan to read *Lost In Time*.

Suze Fields says

It's a nonsensical short story. There is a tad of attraction but no romance. There could have been, but the author was utterly distracted concocting some paranormal trick, and trying to pepper 24 pages with pretentious, unnecessary wording, and painting a picture of some sort of community life and brotherly relationship that would have required proper developping (a couple of full lenghted chapters), so that the slip of gay romance would have a proper backdrop. Not that it needed it, since there was no gay romance or gay... anything. The paranormal part was absurd. I though the writing style was absurd and pompous, but then I saw the paranormal and the unnecessary, over describing faded from sight. I'll spoil it, because then maybe, if someone read it knowing what to expect, they will find an explanation. There is a mistery, of something that fits into videogames. A gate between we-have-no-idea and here, and creatures use it to go from one place to another. Some long haired character comes through it, has to be helped for a second to recover from... well, just to recover. It's quick, there are not enough pages for the stranger to require more help. Then he goes to close the gate and handily uses the main character(s) to defeat something coming through it by throwing soil and a lamp at it, and then is gone, and the characters go back home.

The story goes off on many topics, which include: a) the previous life of the main character 1, b) the life of his brother, c) the community (life?), d) main character being gay (possibly), e) relationship between the main characters 1 and 2, f) brother's health and death, g) the brother's research, h) the mistery and i) other worlds. That's nine topics for 24 pages. 24 pages peppered with unnecesary over describing, and shoving of trendy descriptions (a car that eats the road: the car rolls down the road) and a scene of main character 1 driving that goes absolutely nowhere.

The idea was good (except that I would ditch the Warcraft dimension hopping thing), but it needed space, developping and considering what do the story need to make sense and where would have the writer wanted to take it.

Maybe I should count my blessings, though. There was no instalove and no m-preg.

Heather says

4-1/2 Stars

As much as I enjoyed *Lost in Time*, I think I found this short story that introduces the reader to the world that brings Lew back to 1919 in *Lost* to be even better. I didn't like it better because it is shorter or because it has different characters, no I found it appealed to my historical side a bit more. As a 24/7 caregiver for my mother, I was also drawn to Matty's care of his brother upon returning from the war. Perhaps it is these elements that I found myself giving this short story a slightly higher rating than *Lost*. *The Gate* is a lovely look at post-war readjustment and the love Matty has for his brother as well as his attraction to Rob but its also a well written and clever introduction to the time-travel and magical elements that are further explored in *Lost in Time*.

Maryann Kafka says

I only gave this three stars because it's a short story. But I did find it interesting and it gives a nice lead in to "*Lost In Time*".

