



The Chosen Ones

Scarlett Thomas

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Effie Truelove has just been expelled from magic class and now she can't even get back to the Otherworld—the place she most loves and where she feels she belongs. If she can find a copy of *The Chosen Ones* by Laurel Wilde to give her father then she might be able to fix everything.

The only problem is that there are suddenly no copies of the book anywhere, because Albion Freake, the richest man in the world, is paying for them to be destroyed so that he can own the single-volume limited edition that publisher Skylurian Midzhar is making for him.

Raven Wilde's witch's intuition tells her there's something suspicious about Skykurian's plan, but she's not sure what it is.

And Maximilian has somehow managed to go missing deep in Napoleonic Europe.

Will the five friends from Dragon's Green—Effie, Raven, Maximilian, Lexy, and Wolf—be able to combine their skills again to save the world from the Diberi? And can they get away from Terrence Deer-Hart, the children's author who seems a bit too interested in Effie's life?

The Chosen Ones Details

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Author : Scarlett Thomas

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From Reader Review The Chosen Ones for online ebook

Heather says

In *Dragon's Green*, the first book in her Worldquake middle-grade fantasy sequence, Scarlett Thomas introduced us to Effie Truelove, a young True Hero just discovering her magical abilities, and to her also-magical friends/classmates (Lexy, Maximilian, Raven, and Wolf), and to the shape of the world in which they live, where a lot of magical power is bound up with books and stories. In *The Chosen Ones*, the second book of the series, we get to see Effie learn more about herself and magic, and we also get to see her friends getting themselves and each other in and out of peril. There's a whole lot of plot, but the short version is that evil publisher Skylurian Midzhar is planning to use some bookish magic to give herself and her fellow villains a whole lot of power; it's up to Effie and her friends to foil that plan.

The Chosen Ones, like *Dragon's Green*, is smart and lots of fun: Thomas is an English professor, and it shows: there's one part where Effie and her friends are given a close-reading assignment as homework, and a great moment where Skylurian explains that she and her colleagues "at the Matchstick Press have always been subscribers to the theory of the Death of the Author" (350). Which isn't to say that the only delights of *The Chosen Ones* are the bookish moments: the mix of moments of action and moments of reflection really worked for me, as did the way the story shifts between Effie and others (mostly Maximilian, who goes on a few adventures of his own, and Raven, whose ability to communicate with animals gives her some early knowledge of crucial plot points). I also liked the mix of magic and other things: Effie isn't just learning about saving the universe, but also about friendship and sadness and how to take care of herself and how to let others help her when she needs it, too.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

The Chosen Ones (Worldquake #2) by Scarlett Thomas, 374 pages. Simon & Shuster, 2018. \$18.
Content: G (2 swears, 0 'f').

EL, MS – ADVISABLE

Effie and her friends managed to avert danger and each of them has at least one magical boon and a special power. As they learn more about magic big threat is looming on the horizon. They are distracted by troubles at home and school, though, and it may almost be too late when they realize who their enemy is and what they are trying to do. If they can't rally themselves and prevail, it is the worlds on both sides of the divide that will be in danger.

While Effie's story and the enemy are a heroic tale, but the first half of the book seems to be scattered and confusing and Thomas takes the time to give each of the group a storyline of their own. The rival school team is a weird bit of inclusion – same with the guest author at school who then stalks Effie. Tighter editing would have done wonders for this.

Cindy, Middle School Librarian

<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2018...>

Seawood says

The follow-up to Dragon's Green (which I do think you need to read to make the most of this), The Chosen Ones sees the main characters developing their strengths, unearthing mysteries and digging further into the dastardly, convoluted plots of publishers and magicians.

I don't think I liked this as much as Dragon's Green; there's an enormous amount going on and it's all rather serious, making it difficult to warm to the characters particularly. The world-building is still very good, but ultimately I think this is a children's book written for adults. However, children who like books like Cornelia Funke's Inkspell series are likely to have the reading stamina and depth of understanding to give the Worldquake series a fair shake, and that's no bad thing.

Il confine dei libri says

Salve lettori!

Ho stoppato la lettura della serie "Throne of Glass" per dedicarmi ad un altro fantasy, stavolta un middle grade, uscito il 27 settembre grazie alla Newton Compton editori.

Sto parlando del secondo volume della serie di Scarlett Thomas "Dragon's Green", "Il potere del drago".

Ritorna Effie Truelove con il suo gruppo di amici, sempre impegnati a capire cosa abbia in mente la Diberi e a tentare di fermarla.

Nel Reale c'è abbastanza fermento da quando così tante persone hanno avuto l'Epifania, cioè hanno scoperto il loro Carattere.

Per i bambini esiste addirittura un corso serale sulla magia.

Ma ad Effie non interessa il Reale, lei passa ogni momento possibile nell'Altrove, a Dragon's Green precisamente, insieme ai suoi cugini e a Cosmo, così simile a suo nonno Griffin.

Ma la presenza della bambina è richiesta nel Reale.

Sta per succedere qualcosa, anche se i bambini ancora non sanno cosa, ma sono sicuri che ci sia lo zampino di Skylurian Midhzar, componente della Diberi; qualcosa legato al famosissimo libro "I prescelti" e a un evento di cui i bambini non hanno mai sentito parlare, lo Sterran Guandré.

In più, nella Rete Cosmica corrono notizie riguardo una profezia per cui, la notte dello Sterran Guandré, Effie morirà.

I suoi amici, ovviamente, faranno di tutto per proteggerla, ma chi proteggerà loro?

Lettori, è stato piacevole immergersi in questo secondo volume della serie di Scarlett Thomas.

Dopo la sofferenza che ho provato finito "Empire of Storms", avevo bisogno di qualcosa di leggero, ma che fosse comunque capace di catturare la mia attenzione.

Le avventure di Effie e dei suoi amici hanno la giusta dose di avventura, catastrofi, preoccupazione ed eroismo.

Ma più di tutto, come anche nel primo libro, è l'amicizia a fare da padrona.

Effie il Vero Eroe, Wolf il Guerriero, Maximilian lo studioso, Raven la Strega e Lexi la Guaritrice, sono completamente diversi tra loro, ma i loro Caratteri li rendono il gruppo perfetto.

Oltre a questo, c'è anche il forte desiderio di ognuno di loro di proteggere e aiutare quegli amici che sarebbero disposti a tutto, anche ad andare nel Sottomondo, gli uni per gli altri.

Stavolta viene introdotto anche il problema del "non sentirsi abbastanza" e la paura di deludere le persone

che contano su di te. E per mezzo di questo, i bambini preferiscono tenere tutto per sé, risolvere da soli, per non perdere la fiducia di chi gli è più caro, a volte rischiando anche di farsi del male, quando in realtà gli amici sono più che disposti a sobbarcarsi qualsiasi problema, ad aiutarsi qualsiasi sia il costo.

Viene data importanza anche al rapporto genitori/figli.

Anche se i rapporti sembrano andare alla deriva, c'è sempre un legame più forte che non ti permette di voltare le spalle, soprattutto nelle situazioni di pericolo.

Consiglio vivamente la lettura di questa serie ai ragazzi, può insegnare tante cose, e non solo dal punto di vista dei rapporti umani, ma anche per quello con i libri.

I libri in questa storia hanno un ruolo più che fondamentale. Reggono i diversi mondi, danno loro vita, permettono loro di esistere.

Hanno un potere immane, che può essere positivo quando ad usarli sono persone che desiderano il bene di tutti, ma anche estremamente negativo nel caso della Diberi, che desidera tutto il potere.

Questa storia dà importanza al potere della lettura, che permette di perdersi in altri mondi e vivere un'altra vita, o anche acquisire talmente tanta forza vitale da poter conquistare un mondo... letteralmente!

Scarlett Thomas è davvero brava a creare trame ricche di dettagli, particolari e piccoli colpi di scena, come anche a dare informazioni senza mai svelare troppo, lasciando sempre qualche dettaglio in sospeso per il libro futuro.

In più, il suo stile non stanca mai. Magari il fatto che i protagonisti siano dei bambini potrebbe abbattervi, ma la Thomas è capace di mantenere il lettore sempre sul chi vive, senza dilungarsi in descrizioni, ma facendo vivere milioni di avventure ai suoi protagonisti, in modo che la noia non abbia alcuna possibilità di comparire.

Probabilmente, dopo la lettura vi chiederete il motivo o il collegamento che il titolo italiano possa avere con la storia. Io sinceramente non l'ho capito e preferisco chiamare questo libro con il titolo originale, ossia "The Chosen Ones", che mi sembra molto più appropriato.

Quindi lettori, se avete voglia di un fantasy che non abbia una trama troppo complessa, ma che sia comunque intrigante, e che nasconda anche significati un po' più profondi, vi consiglio assolutamente di iniziare la serie "Dragon's Green" e di accompagnare Effie e i suoi amici in tutte le loro avventure nei vari mondi!

Baci

Liesl says

I'm always a little wary of starting a fantasy series in the middle of the adventure, but I couldn't resist getting an ARC copy because of the beautiful cover art and the idea of words being magic. Wow. I'm so glad I did.

Effie and her friends are a really engaging set of heroes and I was soon pulled into the story. Scarlett Thomas's world-building is amazing and I loved how we got to see the gang developing and honing their powers. The idea of boons and individuals having a special magical focus in particular was really clever. Don't even get me started on the awesomeness of the Last Reader: a cool concept to begin with and the way it's developed with words having more power if the books have been read a lot and been well-loved just made it for me. I loved how much humour there was in the book too, especially given how dark the "threat to humanity" portion of the plot became in places. Effie's English teacher and her response to authors' visits particularly made me laugh.

Definitely a new favourite series which I will be recommending to everyone I can!

****Thanks to Netgalley for giving me an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review.****

Ova - Excuse My Reading says

This is a children's book where Harry Potter meets Alice in Wonderland in a Hitchhiker's Guide to Galaxy way. Full of witty character names - take Albion Freake for instance, being a rich man with expensive desires-, irony and beautiful story telling. I loved how the children's interpretation of adults was told in a sarcastic style. There were also some bits which were probably too clever for children/teens to pick up but I enjoyed this. It made me laugh out loud a few times during reading.

Having loved Scarlett Thompson's *The End of Mr Y* I didn't hesitate requesting this book and I am glad I did. Quality of writing is excellent and I think this is the sort of book children/teenagers should read, as it's not full of romantic drama or unhealthy ideas of being beautiful, etc. Loved it!

Thanks to NetGalley and publisher for the ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Malcolm says

There is skullduggery afoot in the second of Scarlett Thomas's *WorldQuake* series, as Effie and her slightly unexpected circle of friends have powers of various kinds but things seem to be going wrong. Effie and her classmate Maximillian have disappeared, Otherworld seems to be in danger of extermination, rules controlling relations between worlds they are being flouted and order breaking down and there is a serious powerplay underway that threatens the cultural order – Thomas builds a compelling crisis in her alt-world fantasy.

At the core of this series, and powerfully brought home here, is the value, pleasures and importance of reading, of books – this is a bibliophile's piece of children's writing. Thomas is taking a risk in taking on and keeping with the challenges of writing for children – that most demanding and unforgiving of audiences. She has identified the key components of the children's fiction and of fantasy/alt-world writing, and while many of them are present here there is little that is formulaic; the young characters in particular are well-rounded (less so some of the adult characters, but then this is kid-centred series). It is well-paced with plot changes developing and becoming clear by being played out – there is little in the way of extraneous explanation – with a cliff-hanger resolution that avoids the dangers of the *deus-ex-machina* conclusion.

I'm looking forward to the continuing series, and remain impressed by Thomas's versatility – literary fiction, crime fiction (her earliest work) and now children's fiction.

Siobhan says

The Chosen Ones is the second book in Scarlett Thomas' *Worldquake* children's fantasy series. It follows Effie Truelove and her friends Maximilian, Wolf, Raven, and Lexy, all of whom have different magical abilities following the 'worldquake' that made magical seep into the world they know. Effie is now able to travel into the Otherworld, where she wants to know more about the magical books that have so far impacted her and her friends' destiny, and her friend Maximilian dreams of visiting the dark Underworld to see what

lies there. But when both of them disappear, the other three realise something must be wrong. Soon they are all fighting a devious plot that relates to being the Last Reader of a book, something which holds huge magical power.

The book is as charming as the first in the series, *Dragon's Green*. The emphasis on the importance of reading, books, and personal ability and individuality makes the series feel distinctive, whilst the quirkiness of the characters and scenarios (for example, magically powered tennis matches between Effie and Wolf and the strange pupils from a rival school) will appeal to children's imaginations. *The Chosen Ones* combines various good and nefarious magical plots and jumps between the five main characters as well as some smaller ones, meaning that it is fast paced and doesn't get boring.

Anyone who enjoyed *Dragon's Green* will be pleased with this next instalment, which ups the drama and gives more information about the world of Effie and her friends. Despite being aimed at older children, the series has plenty of appeal for being read together with parents, or even adults picking it up themselves (there is, for example, a reference to Barthes' famous 'death of the author' essay which is unlikely to be picked up by 11-year-olds). It will be good to see what Thomas does with future books in the series, particularly with the main characters who've not yet had as much focus as Effie and Maximilian.

Amarinske says

This book made me feel all the good things.
and nostalgia. It felt like reading *Harry Potter* for the first time, but better.

I like the way the author plays with language and names, I like the magic system, and the kind of portal fantasy in here is great.

It feels innocent in the childhood way, and magical. as of yet I haven't discovered any huge or even small potholes in this book and the first one. There might be some, but those are probably loose ends to propel us into the third book.

These books are written in such a way you can read them separately or out of order and still get what's happening, even though there is clear character development in both installments.

Outside of the names, of which some have a J.K. Rowling type of creativity to them, I like the allegory of the yearning a lot. The way it totally fits depression and how an episode of depression can get worse. The fear and anxiety that can come with it that suck up all your energy and how people don't feel like themselves.

It was done beautifully, even though it's not meant to be exactly the same.

And as a plus: the focus and importance of books is put in this book in a great way too.

4.25/5 for the simple fact that I feel like the upcoming books have a lot of potential and there needs to be space in the rating.

Also I was growing irritated at times by the fact people constantly speak about themselves in third person. I feel like, when the perspective is clearly put on paper, we should be able to go to he and she at least.

David Harris says

I'm grateful to the publisher for an advance e-copy of this book via NetGalley. (I will be buying a copy too - look at the GLOW IN THE DARK cover!)

THERE IS MAGIC BEYOND THE REALWORLD...

EFFIE TRUELOVE has learned to travel through magical books to the Otherworld.

MAXIMILIAN UNDERWOOD, Effie's classmate, is more interested in the dark and forbidden Underworld.

When Effie and Maximilian both mysteriously vanish, their friends Raven, Lexy and Wolf don't know where to turn for help. Raven is a witch and her horse, Echo, has revealed that Effie is in deep danger and time is running out.

This is the second book in Scarlett Thomas's Worldquake series of children's books, following the adventures of Effie and her friends at the Tusitala School for the Gifted, Troubled and Strange. Their world is like ours - yet changed, in a way that is never quite described, by the Worldquake itself, which happened several years before at the same time that Effie's mother vanished. The effects of the Quake leave electricity scarce, the Internet flaky and a mysterious (and seemingly hostile) Guild in charge of magic.

And yes, there is magic here. There are journeys to other dimensions - the Otherworld and the Underworld. There is the (to a bookworm) entrancing idea that if you are the Last Reader of a particular book, you can be taken into it, experience the story, and return with "boons" - magical gifts that bestow abilities or confer protection.

This world was introduced in Dragon's Green, together with the idea that "Dageri" - book eaters (the horror!) - are preparing a bid for power. Effie and her mates defeated that plot, but the risk hasn't gone away. When copies of The Chosen Ones, the bestselling story of magical children written by Raven's mum, Laurel Wilde, begin to be bought up by the publisher, and Effie is the subject of a scary prophecy, it looks as though something's up again.

The Chosen Ones introduces us to wider aspects of this world - I don't think it was clear before that it was Earth: the action took place in a vaguely placed and unnamed town with no further details, but in this book we visit London and hear about other countries. Effie's group also encounter another school (in the course of a tennis tournament) - the pupils of Blessed Bartolo's are unpleasant to put it mildly, with "compulsory classes in fencing, stockbroking, dressage and advanced music competition". And they are pretty ruthless at tennis, giving Thomas a good chance to describe the play - it's clearly something she knows well (as with Raven's horse riding across the moor near her mother's house).

As well as exploring their world, in this story, Effie and the others begin to find out more about themselves too and how they fit in with the magic around them. This is partly through the advice in a book called The Repertory of Kharakter, Art and Shade (I want a copy!) which applies a system that reminded me of a roleplaying game: we already knew that Effie was a True Hero, now we discover what the other possible "Kharakter" types are and also that one has a secondary class, an "Art". It's a neat way to represent the experience we all have of wondering who we really are and what we are meant to be - not least because

Thomas then throws some doubt over the who idea: there are traps as Effie tries to pin things down, and people who try to exploit her even as she searches for herself.

All this depth doesn't prevent The Chosen Ones being an exciting story, fast paced where it needs to be but also happy to ramble a bit, to give all of the kids adventures of their own even if these don't directly relate to the main story (or not yet: "Terence clearly had no idea how dangerous librarians can be, but that is a story for another time...") which contributes to the sense of this world as a rich, many-layered place.

Thomas has some fun in this book with the world of publishing. Not only are the magic-using children in Wilde's The Chosen Ones born that way (unlike the kids in Thomas's world where magic is scarce, but anyone can learn, if they try) but "they were all white... The Chosen Ones was set a very long time ago when people... spent their summer holidays being locked in the cabins of ships or kidnapped by gypsies." Laurel's publisher, Skylurian Midzhar, is a bit frightening as is children's author Terrence Deer-Hart who actually hates children and wants to write for adults. ("His books were far more distressing, complex and violent than Laurel Wilde's, though, and one of his books for older children had over a hundred swear-words in it.") The Matchstick Press logo is a matchstick propping an eyelid open. We are told that "the thing any author hates more than anything... is... other authors.

I enjoyed The Chosen Ones a lot. It picks up the threads of Dragon's Green and moves things on pretty sharply, letting us know a little more about the mystery surrounding Effie and the rest (but I'm sure there is plenty more to be revealed) and making sure the challenges they face are serious enough that they can't simply be brushed away by the abilities gained in the earlier story. In short, it feels real, challenging and interesting.

I would recommend.

Odette Knappers says

Dit is net zo geweldig als deel 1!

Ja, ik ben gisteren na mijn werk begonnen. Waarom slapen als je het vervolg van een van je favoriete boeken ooit in huis hebt? Die moet eerst uit natuurlijk!

Iedereen die me kent weet hoe verzot ik ben op Drakendal. Het is écht voor liefhebbers van Harry Potter. Nee, eigenlijk vind ik dit beter. Harry Potter is voor liefhebbers van Drakendal, dat wordt meer de verhouding voor mij ;)

ALLES klopt aan deze boeken. De personages, de wereld, de magie, de gebeurtenissen, de schrijfstijl, de woordkeuze, de verhaallijn, hoe alles werkt.. WAT IS DIT GEWELDIG!!!!

En even een momentje van aandacht een liefde voor de cover want HOE MOOI! En dat in hardcoveruitvoering... een niet te ontbreken pareltje voor in je boekenkast, van binnen en van buiten! (En ja, het boek op de cover speelt een rol in het boek. Ja, het gaat in dit boek veel over boeken. Ja het is geweldig, had ik dat al gezegd?)

Het was lang wachten na deel 1, maar dat vind ik bij hele goede boeken niet erg. Ik wacht liever langer en heb dan een supergoed boek dan iets anders. Dit was écht het wachten waard, het voldeed aan alle

verwachtingen die ik had. En het steeg er zelfs nog bovenuit omdat het leesplezier zo ongeëvenaard is. Ik kijk nu al uit naar de rest van deze serie!

Andrew says

The second installment of The Worldquake Sequence continues the lighthearted adventure which began in Dragon's Green. I wasn't grabbed as much as this time round, which isn't to say this is a bad book, but I think I expected more. This is squarely aimed at the 9-11 years old demographic, so my disappointment could in part be due to being over 20 years older than the target audience. Regardless, I do hope that this series grows up a little, similar to how Harry Potter novels "aged" with their young readers. This could well be the plan. After all, remember Chamber of Secrets? I did enjoy The Chosen Ones; it had some interesting use of subtle misdirection, various ominous circumstances, and the characters are consistent if only lacking a bit of depth. There's some good humour scattered throughout too, with some nice nods to the older reader. If you're 9-11 years old, you could well love this book - it's definitely a well crafted concept and Scarlett Thomas describes some fantastic worlds in which the reader can pleasantly while-away an evening or two.

Anniek says

I still really liked the characters and the world, but the plot was all over the place and it took a lot of time to really pick up.

Dan says

(over to my ten year old daughter for her review:)

This great story is the sequel to Dragon's Green. It continues with the story of Euphemia Truelove (Effie) whose mother, Aurelia Truelove, disappeared on the night of the Worldquake - a worldwide earthquake which deleted all technology. Effie finds out that she is a True Hero shortly after her grandfather, Griffin, is murdered by a Diberi (Book Eater). In this book, the villain Skylurian Midzhar - a Diberi - is burning all the copies of The Chosen Ones, a book about magic. When there is only one copy, she plans to be its last reader to travel to inside the book and never return, absorbing all the power from the book. Will Effie and her friends save the day?

I enjoyed this book because it is funny, gripping and emotional. The plot is very clever because when you think that you've completed the puzzle, something happens to prove you wrong. I think it should be rated 5 stars.

Manuela Menna says

e mezzo

