



## Banshee in the Well

*Robin Lovejoy-Tolkien*

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## **Banshee in the Well** Robin Lovejoy-Tolkien

This fantasy adventure begins at Monastery Farm, Cumbria. Niall Carver, the farmer's twelve-year-old son, hears a blood-curdling scream and tracks down the sound to an ancient well in the farmhouse garden. From the well he rescues a gothic-looking, dark-haired girl in leather boots and a short dress, her limbs dappled with black markings. The girl introduces herself as Sathra.

Niall carries out some internet research and confirms the truth, that Sathra has come through a time warp from the thirteenth century to the present day. At first Niall suspects she's a banshee, though Sathra insists that she's a dryad. The distinction is important because whilst banshees were evil, dryads were the exact opposite. What Niall doesn't know is that, to return to her own time, Sathra the Banshee must restore her magical powers by sacrificing a boy her own age. Niall would fit the bill perfectly, though she has to lure him to a place of sacrifice, an ancient stone circle about a mile from the farm. Now believing Sathra is a dryad, Niall looks forward to a series of escapades of the kind that feature in his favourite books.

These adventures certainly follow, but all the while Sathra is plotting the dreaded sacrifice...

## **Banshee in the Well Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2012 by Sting Publications

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Author : Robin Lovejoy-Tolkien

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## From Reader Review Banshee in the Well for online ebook

### **Melodi Hottel says**

This is a wickedly original and gripping story and I can fully understand the comparisons people are making between Robin Lovejoy and Roald Dahl. Although on the face of things Banshee in the Well is a tale “on the dark side” it is also brimming with humour and sly comedy. As the story proceeds there is more and more action, building up to a “double mousetrap” of a climax that really leaves you wanting more. I’m definitely looking forward to reading the next instalment!

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### **Emilia says**

On the strength of this hilarious debut novel, Robin Lovejoy has a great future as a children's author. This is a great book for young adults and parents should take note. This is a book that your child will not want to put down and they will enjoy reading. That's a definite plus for anyone looking to get their child to enjoy reading.

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### **Tom Harris says**

From the end of the gripping first chapter, to the sinister promises of the last page, this fantastic debut novel zips along like a speedboat. Written with care, pace and purpose, it drills a devilish sense of humour right through its core.

When twelve year old Niall rescues a strange girl from a well, little does he know that he has placed himself in great danger! For his new friend Sathra is not the harmless Dryad she appears to be but a Banshee intent on sacrificing him so she can get home. This kiss or kill relationship is what rips this story out of the crowd along with the distinctive voices of the two main characters.

As Sathra attempts to draw Niall towards the site of sacrifice, the real world gets thrown into the supernatural mix. Paintballing school friends, treasure hunter's, exploding speedboats and a rock group who's '5th Beatle' is trying to shoot his old band mates all cross over into this supernatural game of cat and mouse.

You won't need a Woodpecker Squealer to find this book, so what are you waiting for...please read it.

Odzookens, indeed!

A fantastic debut novel from Robin Lovejoy

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### **Jack Whitsel says**

The whimsical ways of magic propels young Sathra into twenty-first century. In the present she befriends young Niall - a twelve-year-old boy who helps rescue her from his family's well. The interaction between the

teens is well written for the age category the story was designed for. Though it took me awhile to like Niall, his boyish ways slowly grew on me. I was immediately drawn to Sathra and enjoyed her attempts at adapting to her new environment. Friend or foe? Dryad or Banshee? We watch Sathra and Niall interact and wonder if Niall's endearing nature will be enough to derail Sathra's personal agenda. Banshee in the Well had a smooth flow with an enjoyable ending. I recommend reading this story to all the little ones in our lives.

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### **Alex says**

This was a fun book, full of adventures, and I really enjoyed reading it.

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### **James Blair says**

A rich, well-structured story written with a sure hand. The narrative is presented with total originality, and never fails to hit the reader with surprises. Robin Lovejoy is a fine writer and her story is not only mysterious and exciting but is rich in every detail. The story has a subtle blend of humour and emotional power with striking images that linger in the mind.

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### **Andy Weston says**

Inventive and entertaining. I often read books aimed at teenagers, and its refreshing to read something quite new and different. Borders on violent and scary, but I guess that was the aim - so it works!

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### **Leah says**

I'm not a huge fan of time travel books for younger readers, mostly because they tend to be frantic, poorly plotted, and either predictable or incoherent. The beauty of this book is that it is funny, thoughtful, and not bogged down with subplots about saving the world or finding magic swords and the like.

It's much more about the universal truth that pretty much no one should be taken at face value.

I'm not sure who the reader is for this book. Try it too young and it might be too scary and violent. Try it on a too old ya reader, and it might even seem a bit childish. But I'm honoured to be one of the first to download this book, I'll just suggest it from time to time until it catches hold.

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### **Edda says**

Banshee in the Well is a must read! The minute I downloaded this book, I couldn't stop reading. The story is gripping, the adventure flies at a high pace and the characters are very well-rounded and endearing. Robin Lovejoy has a great deal of imaginative verve and keeps surprising the reader chapter after chapter with unexpected twists and turns.

I would recommend this book to anyone who loves good story telling and I can't wait to read the next instalment!

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### **Faso says**

Original, perceptive and witty; edgy, shrewd and sly; this is a dazzling read from a Charlie's Angel of an author who delivers karate chops with both hands and winks at the audience while she does it. Twelve-year-old Niall, a farmer's son, is alone in the farmhouse when he hears a blood-curdling shriek outside. He tracks the sound down to an old well in the corner of his garden. He rescues Sathra, a banshee girl who's been transported through a time warp from the thirteenth century to the present day. After this captivating opening Niall and Sathra set off for lots of unlikely yet spellbinding adventures. But whose side is Sathra really on? Truth may be stranger than fiction but in the altered reality of Lovejoy's intricate tale you'll keep on guessing till the end and you'll think about the story long after you've finished reading. Gritty, quirky, smart and vibrantly funny, **BANSHEE IN THE WELL** is as compelling as it is entertaining.

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### **Beth says**

This young adult book is one that anyone of any age could read and enjoy, but it's truly meant for the young teen population.

Niall is by himself in the house when he hears something so loud that he has to go out to investigate. Inside the abandoned and locked well in the yard is a girl. He wonders how she got in there.

Sathra is a girl from the thirteenth century, who created a spell but the spell went wrong. Instead of going to a different place, she went to a different time.

Niall hides her away in the barn, but she really needs to get back to her own time. She finds out that Niall is twelve, the same age as herself. She needs Niall to get back to her own time, except, he doesn't know that his death is the way to get her back. She is a Banshee, not the dryad that she tells him she is.

Although I thought maybe Niall and Sathra would form some kind of friendship, her Banshee background forbids that. She does come to care a little for Niall, but when push comes to shove, she needs him to get back to her own time. She tries to use other twelve year old boys, but it just never seems to work out.

She must lure the boy to the ring of the Thirteen Dancers, a bunch of rocks that are placed in a circle. But, the boy must enter the ring willingly. Then she could kill him and regain her magical powers to get herself back to the 13 century.

I can't give away the ending, but let's just say, I think there will be subsequent books about Sathra.

It was a fun and fast read, and I give this book 5 stars.

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### **Amanda says**

This has to be one of the best children's books I've ever read. The only problem I have with it is that it had to end! Niall Carver is the sort of character that middle grade readers can relate to and the way the other characters are described from their appearance to their habits is so inventive and original that you end up feeling like you have met a whole host of new people by the end of the book. It kept me turning the pages (if that's the right expression for an eBook) and if you want a gripping read that draws you into the author's imaginary world then look no further. So in short if you are age eight to thirteen I recommend you read this book!

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### **Andy Angel says**

What a wonderful way to start your career as a writer. This story tells of a young boy who finds a girl in the well on his farm. The girl turns out to be a 13th century banshee who needs to find a way to get her magic back and return from our time to hers. The relationship between the two main characters is really well written as is the way Sathra, the banshee sees modern things which she has obviously never seen before. The story has paintballers, treasure hunters and a rock band (with a Simon Cowell type character who is only in the background) and goes from scene to scene fluently.

I have worked with young people in a library environment so I feel confident enough to say they would lap this up but so would adults.

All said, this being a first novel is quite astounding. The author writes with a style and confidence that others can only wish for. I look forward to reading more from Robin Lovejoy and heartily recommend this book

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### **Sharonda says**

I decided to try this book because I'd heard a lot about it on Twitter and Goodreads. I wasn't disappointed, it's a really exciting book with plenty of humour, kind of in the "so daft it's great" category :-)

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### **Reg Cragin says**

Well done, a must read for the quick, and adventuristic. Indeed, a shining first achievement, from the most promising Author; Robin Lovejoy. She paints a wonderful canvas of colorful images. Composing excellent characters, who develop, throughout a fun and fantastic journey tail. Fluent, greatly woven wit, twists the enchanting, and entertains well, to the very last word. Highly recommended. It raises the bar, beyond 5 stars. This year, reward your intellect with this very good read, or give a Kindle to someone you love, and enhance it with the great "Banshee in the Well". You'll be very glad you did. So, three cheers, for the premier Author Miss. Robin Lovejoy, and Her 2012 crowning jewel; "Banshee in the Well".

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