



Umberland

Wendy Spinale

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They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here...

Gwen, Pete, and the others have escaped from Everland. Except the safe haven they hoped to find at Alnwick Castle doesn't exist. With the Queen of England on her deathbed, Duchess Alyssa has stepped in, but things have gotten worse as the cure Doc created for the Horologia virus has mutated into something even more deadly. The only possible solution he can think of is to go back to the virus's origin: an extinct poisonous apple.

Legend has it, though, that a tree bearing the apple might be found at the center of an impossible labyrinth hidden deep within Germany. A place no one in their right mind enters. With no other options, Alyssa sets out with only her sword, her wits, and the help of Maddox Hadder, a wild boy who oversees the castle gardens. To get to the center of the maze, she'll be forced to battle monsters more terrifying than her darkest nightmares.

But can anyone truly survive the madness of the maze? And what if there's no apple to be found there?

Umberland Details

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Author : Wendy Spinale

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From Reader Review Umberland for online ebook

Natalie says

Just like Neverland, I found this book to be okay. It was enjoyable but did not meet my expectations. Although this sequel continued to follow the characters that I began to really like in the first novel, I found that I did not get enough of their stories or emotions throughout the sequel. It felt too rushed and choppy with the alternating point of views. Though, I did like the different point of views as readers got to follow along with what was happening in each place with each character, I felt like this book again lacked the character and plot development that I expected or am use to. In many instances I felt as if I was thrown into some odd scenario or conversation that was random. With this author I get a lot of tell rather than show. I want a book that makes me feel the emotions within the scenes, not just one that tells me. Despite all the technical and nit picky aspects that I do not like within this series and with this author, I find her ideas and story concepts great. The idea of this world and her characters are truly captivating and everything I want to read in a fantasy YA novel, I just wish it was executed better.

Brittany Cameron says

I felt this book was very rushed. I didn't like the 2 month gap in between book 1 & 2. I did like the new characters and the concept that nature took over a place.

Nicole Alycia says

This book was even better than the first one!

Alyssa and Maddox Hadder made for a great duo in this book. The hunt for the Apple was very much wonderland meets the labyrinth and I just wish there could have been more to that part of the book! I wasn't a huge fan of Pete in this book and that was a shame because I did like him in the first book. He just didn't seem to be as intuitive this book and got them in more trouble than he helped. Otherwise I thought this was awesome! I can't wait to find out how it ends!

Ana Almeida says

Angela says

NEED. NEXT. BOOK. NOW!

Evelyn Medina says

I was super excited to continue with this story and I loved Pete, Gwen and all the lost boys from everland and was even MORE excited with the addition of Alyssa and Maddox. Unfortunately I found myself losing interest in Alyssa's story and I honestly just wanted to read more about Pete and the lost boys. While the story was still fun, I felt like whenever Alyssa and Maddox's story started getting good the chapter would end and the author would bring us back to a new character. Then once we picked back up with Alyssa the action died down. It was a bit frustrating and I found it hard to focus. I didn't hate this installment but not my favorite.

3/5 stars for me!

Catherine ? says

I wonder if I am confused because I haven't read the first book, or because I read this in the dead of night, when I couldn't fall asleep. Either way, I just felt like I didn't quite know what was going on, or who the characters were, and a terrible lack of background knowledge only made the book harder to understand.

Lexi (wondrouspages) says

I think it's safe to say that I love retellings that involve the Mad Hatter. I just always fall in love with him, which is absolutely insane to think about.

Kitkat says

I thought this second book in the series was disappointing from the first book. Gwen just kept whining and being difficult. She was barely in this book and I felt sad that I couldn't get her point of view. Also Bella and Lily were barely in it too. I was upset that we lost track on the characters. I liked Alyssa's character. She was badass and Katt was super annoying. I felt horrible for Pete because he felt so guilty about the lost boys dying. It was random that the new cure turned people into crocodiles. This was nuts and actually got kind of ridiculous. I thought it was stupid plot and I lost interest in the series. I don't know if I'm going to read the last book. Also how Gwen's father is now alive. It's ridiculous how her parents keep showing up alive. Is this a reoccurring thing in the series or something? I mean it's getting stupid and this was just a rip off of the first book.

Erika says

Fans of Everland rejoice! Umberland is here!

Soooooo... I have some good news and some bad news. We'll start with the bad. Everything fixed, found, and won in Everland has been broken, lost, or despaired of in Umberland. For our heroes Pete and Gwen

things are bleaker than ever. Luckily, new heroes are on the scene to carry the torch. Alyssa and Maddox are both engaging and complicated. They are brave, but vulnerable, kids in desperate circumstances rising to extraordinary heights.

You'll cry (well, I did) and laugh (well, I did). You'll wonder how much more this poor world can take, but by the end you'll be cheering and ready for the next adventure. Spinale's love of the genre, her boundless enthusiasm, and dark humor are a refreshing mix of old and new as she takes familiar stories and builds a brave, new world from them.

The author invites us to dream with her and in these fantastical dreams she's painting a dynamic landscape of terrifying beauty and uplifting sadness. Yes, uplifting sadness. You'll see how when you read it. So, go read it!!!

P.S. I have a total crush on Maddox, just saying. He's mine.

Cori Reed says

I love this series! I think it is so underappreciated and definitely think more people should add it to their TBR!

This installment was just as dark and twisty as the first and I loved it. I LOVE the way Wendy Spinale does retellings.

Mimi says

I really wanted to love it , but I didn't it was a fun but slow read . I think maybe it is just to much of a children's book .

I found myself skimming through the book. So I did like the book but not loved it .

Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says

4.5*

Every now and again I just want to read a book for the pure fun of it rather than to analyze and review and this series is a great one to do so with.

THIS WAS SO GOOD! I don't know what it is about this series but I have such a great time reading these books! They're dark and fun all at the same time. I listened to this one on audiobook and it was so GREAT. It has a full cast which made the listening experience much better. I always love when there's multiple narrators for audiobooks. These books are kind of on the younger side of YA, veering more toward middle grade IMO but they are great unique steampunk retellings that are just SO FUN (did I mention they're fun?) I can't wait for the sequel!

Catie says

I read Umberland without reading Everland. I actually found that Umberland was quite self contained, and after the first chapter or two knowledge of the previous story wasn't really necessary.

One thing I really enjoyed about Umberland was the Duchess Alyssa and Maddox Hatter. I was a little suspicious at first of Maddox's intentions, but honestly, he's really sweet. (Literary crush alert!) Both characters are also really realistic and justify their actions.

I think the main reason why I didn't rate this book five stars was Peter. He is constantly angry and never actually thinks through the consequences of his actions. He's really pushy and clingy to Gwen, and is constantly mad at Doc.

While the pretense of Umberland has been done many times before (fresh take on an old fairy tale) most of the characters, especially Duchess Alyssa and Maddox Hatter (Alice and the Mad Hatter) are very realistic. Umberland also doesn't lean too heavily on the original fairy tale, coming up with interesting elements that are completely unique.

Overall, Umberland would make a wonderful sequel and is lovely even as a stand-alone novel. While I really hated Peter's character, the other aspects of the story made it overall a nice read.

Reread value: 8/10

Unique points: 8/10 - while it does draw from fairy tales, it has enough new elements to keep readers on their toes.

Diversity: 4/10 - though it is hard to tell, I believe there are no characters of colour, nor any representation from the LGBTQ+ community. Peter also harbours some old-fashioned notions of what a girl can and cannot do, though Duchess Alyssa and Queen Kat combat those.

Character Believability: 8/10 - again, loved Alyssa and Maddox but Peter was really annoying.

4 stars

Christy says

At the 80% mark, I had a gut wrenching response. Love this world and the characters.

Everland is a steampunk retelling of Peter Pan, which is continued in Umberland - a book set in the world of Wonderland. Umberland is a journey book; the characters are past their first set of hurdles in book one and now have to figure out what's next for them. We are introduced to new characters, new settings, and new challenges. The virus has mutated and accelerated, hitting some very close people hard. It's up to the Duchess (Alice) and Maddox (Mad Hatter) to find a forbidden apple for Doc to extract the cure. But the labyrinth is a danger place where those who are sickest go to die in peace.

This book is full of twists and turns and OMG moments. Wendy really lets her characters run with their impulsive choices, reminding us that the teenage brain is still very much a formation in progress. I was

hooked through the end and can't wait for book 3.
