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Isobelle Carmody

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Rage Winnoway's closest friends have always been her four dogs: Bear, Billy Thunder, Elle, and Mr. Walker. When Rage sets off for the hospital where her mother lies in a coma, the dogs and the neighbor's goat tag along. On the way, they run into the firecat, who talks them into going through a magical gate. And something wonderful happens! Each of Rage's friends is transformed. Bear becomes a real bear; Billy Thunder, a teenage boy; Elle, a warrior woman; Mr. Walker, a small, large-eared gentleman; and the goat, a satyr with an inferiority complex. Together, Rage and her companions embark on a quest to save the world of Valley, a journey that is somehow tied to Rage's family. In this brilliant tale of courage and transformation, Isobelle Carmody captures the magic of Narnia and the whimsy of Wonderland without losing sight of the real world and all its difficulties.

From the Hardcover edition.

Night Gate Details

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Author : Isobelle Carmody

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From Reader Review Night Gate for online ebook

Adrian Smith says

Nicely written but didn't appeal to me.

Calli says

I like this series a lot. I love the characters!!!! It is a very good series.

Selenis says

Enquanto espero e desespero pelos últimos volumes da série Obernewtyn, resolvi ler este. A forma de escrever dela é facilmente reconhecível, com assuntos bem sérios a espreitar em alegorias bem formuladas. Não tão bom como a série Obernewtyn, mas gostei.

Goldenwattle says

It is some years since I read this book, but I seem to recall thinking it was an okay read, but nothing more. I didn't like a main character being called "Rage". And I didn't like the description of her flyaway hair. That might seem silly, but it bugged me. I did like the idea of a flooded valley still existing in another dimension.

Quinn says

Oops... I guess 10 years has fuzzed the memory on this book, but no wonder the characters (Billy Thunder in particular) seemed so familiar even if the story didn't.

This book totally reminds me of why I love Carmody's stories despite her recent Obernewtyn books: sweet and endearing.

Katrina says

While I found this book to be unique; it wasn't exactly a page turner. I thought Carmody did a good job creating an interesting world that was well flushed out and distinctive. I also liked the idea of her pets becoming sort of human and helping her complete her quest. Overall an ok fantasy book that might appeal to animal lovers.

Alison Strumbeck says

It's categorized as fantasy but it's more of a futuristic dystopia. The whole book has that interesting yet creepy feel which exists in all dystopia stories. I would consider this sci-fi more than fantasy. The animals that are literally personified in the story are strange and don't seem to retain any of their animal nature, which defeats the purpose of personification. But in the end I found myself getting attached to the characters and strange as it is I want to read the next one. I guess it's kind of like 1984 where it's unsettling but so well done.

Carrie says

"Night Gate" starts rather quickly and doesn't leave much room for introduction, but it's still interesting. The writing is very good, as could be expected by this author. It starts out when Rage Winnoway runs away from home to see her sick mother in the hospital, and four dogs and a goat tag along. On the way, they meet a firecat who convinces them to go through a magical gate into a strange world where magic is dying. The firecat tells Rage that it is her job to find the wizard so he can save the land.

Carmody created a very interesting land in this book, giving it a strong culture and showing some very interesting ideas. Rage is a good character, but my favorite is probably the firecat, most likely for his potential to be evil. (Exactly what his alliance is, I will not say, and do not take that as a hint.)

One thing that annoyed me was the lack of a language barrier, but once I learned the history of the land, I excused it.

All in all, "Night Gate" was very interesting, but I believe the author could have gone a bit farther with this idea. Thankfully, there are sequels.

Dexter says

Isabelle Carmody is one of the best writers ever. It must be because she's Australian (a lot of my favorite authors are Australian).

But seriously, her writing is just so beautiful and gorgeous that it's hard to stop reading once you've really gotten into it. I admit, the first half of Night Gate is a bit hard to sink one's teeth into, but if you make it that far, you are definitely in for the rest of the ride.

Isabelle Carmody makes me -feel- everything she writes. In the beginning, Rage is in a miserable position, and I felt just miserable reading about it. When Rage and company encounter the sinister city of Fork, I could -feel- the menacing presence of such a city, and I can honestly say that it gave me chills. When Rage is screaming in pain and fury, I'm screaming right along with her, and when Rage is laughing in happiness, I can't help but join in.

Night Gate is a work of art. That's all I can say.

Third Time Reading:

You know it's a good book when you take up the tradition of reading it again every year. Once again, I admit that the first half or so is a bit tedious and hard to sink your teeth into... but it's just so beautiful.

Isabelle Carmody strikes me as a very wise and knowing woman. Her knowledge of the world and love and

emotion and pain is heartbreakingly accurate.

This is a story that will stay with me forever, a story that I will ponder and contemplate, a story that I hug tightly after every reading. It's a quiet, beautiful little thing.

Melinda says

I have set myself a tentative goal to read all of Isobelle Carmody's novels in the next year or two and with that in mind I borrowed the audiobook of Billy Thunder and the Night Gate from the library. I quite enjoyed this story, although it is not my favourite book I've read by Carmody.

One of the things that I love about Carmody's stories is the richness of her worlds and this one is no different. The land of Valley was a rich and complicated world and I was able to visualise it easily. I particularly loved the city of Fork, which was almost a character in and of itself, and how gritty, twisted and magical it was.

I quite liked Rage Winnoway's character arc throughout the story. I liked that she started to think about being blindly obedient to people's rules and then to question the morality of some of the rules and why she was being told to follow them. It was also good to watch her become more brave and start to use her initiative. I thought that most of the other characters fell fairly flat and were rather one dimensional. The exceptions to this was Billy Thunder and Bear. I loved watching them grow separately and then to see the effect of that growth on their relationship together.

I did find this book to be fairly predictable. I guessed where the story was going and I also guessed who the wizard was early on in the story and it annoyed me that the characters took so long to understand everything. They would often theorize about things after learning a new piece of information but then never change their theories or their plans. In saying that, there were still a few things at the end that hit me emotionally that I wasn't really expecting, in particular with the mother and child relationships.

As I said earlier, I picked up the audiobook for this and I have to say I wasn't a huge fan of the narration. I found the narrator, Rebecca Macauley, often used similar voices for characters and I would sometimes be unsure to which character was speaking. She also gave tremulous voices to many of the characters and it got on my nerves a little. It wasn't bad narration though, there were just a few things that irked me.

The book started off a little slow but I did end up enjoying it in the end and I will definitely be continuing with this series. I ended up giving it 4/5 stars.

Madeline (The Bookish Mutant) says

Overall, this book was nicely written and original. I didn't like the beginning. To me it felt fluffy- at that point I deeply regretted getting this book and thinking of rating it one star. (My description and thoughts on the fluffy part- "We're off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of--NO.")

And then something kinda magical happened. I was reading it from where I left off while listening to David Bowie (then again, of course I was). It was the part where they were on the ferry to Fork. And from there it just got better and better! Although I still think that some of the characters lacked personality, this book (or at least that portion of it) was good!

Also, with a main character named Rage, I HAD to do this. No regrets.
/Users/Madeline/Desktop/Randomness/Book stuff/The Rage Gate.jpg

Paradoxical says

I have a weakness for books like this. There is just something so compelling about a young character bravely going off into an adventure to save someone, with her trusty companions by her side. It's not about intelligence or physical prowess or magical aptitude, it's about strength of character and growing up just a little bit and doing your best under the most trying of circumstances.

So, yeah, total sucker for this book.

Rage, the main character, along with four dogs and a goat, stumbles across a gate that a mysterious creature called firecat urges them through. Firecat gives Rage a task; bring an hourglass to a lost wizard and the lost wizard will send her home and wake her mother up from her coma as well. Her animal companions have in some way been transformed and now have the ability to speak, and Rage is stuck in a world where magic flows through everything and is dying bit by bit.

It starts off a bit slow, but the book does warm up. Once it really gets going it becomes interesting and you appreciate the little twists and turns the author has you threading through. The little connections and how everything is drawn together skillfully in the end was a pleasure to read as well. And Rage and the rest? They're fun, dynamic characters that slowly grow into their own.

The writing style reminds me of books such as *A Wrinkle In Time*. Classic children's books that can be read by any age with appreciation. Sacrifice, struggling for oneself, growing up, they're all well worn themes that never seem to grow old (at least to me, anyway). 4 stars.

Liana says

I love the kind of books where you get a load of characters who are all lovable and different from one another. Night Gate definitely has that!

I got into the flow of the story right away. Rage, (whose name first gave me the impression that she's possibly a troubled and angry child with temper issues lol) the main character's mother is in coma and dying. Rage isn't allowed to see her, and by the sounds of things, Rage is stuck with the most disagreeable adults in the country. (Luckily, she has her doggie friends with her.~) So Rage decides to run away and search for the hospital her mother is staying in. Her dogs come with her of course, and even the neighbors goat! Eventually, she finds a magical gateway and is thrown into another world through it. This world has magic in it, but it is dying. From there on, her quest becomes MUCH greater than just finding her way back to her mother, it becomes quite dangerous for her and her 'transformed' friends. I really loved the adventure that took place, it was exciting, nerve wracking, FUNNY (had lots of giggles) and just... Fun. Night Gate was a fun book to read.

The story felt very long for a 255 page book. I do wish that the ending was explained more after Rage came back into her own world, but I guess that's what the sequel is for! ;) With that said, I can hardly wait to read

it!

Rachel says

This book was really good!Although I do not like the name Rage.....:) hehe

Lauren says

I first read this book when I was 13 years old. Back then I would have rated it five stars. This time around I found it a little bit less organized and coherent, and a little bit confused and disjointed. I still thought the characters were gorgeous and very likable, but something just felt a bit off, maybe I'm just a bit too old for this kind of story and that's all it is. Either way, I do love Isobelle Carmody's work, but I am frustrated that she has four series she hasn't finished, including this and the Darksong trilogy which have had over 12 years wait for the final installment. It's a bit ridiculous and disappointing but I just imagine this book as a stand-alone (as I believe it was initially planned to be) and save myself another agonizing 12 years wait for a final that may never appear.

Also, can someone please do some fan art for this book? I think there is so much potential but I have the artistic ability of a spatula.
