



## Spirit Singer

*Edward Willett*

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Amarynth is a spirit singer, gifted-or cursed, as she sometimes thinks-with the ability to lead the spirits of the dead from the Lower World through the Between World to the Gate of the Upper World and the Light that lies beyond it. While she is still an apprentice her grandfather and tutor dies, slain by a mysterious creature in the Between World that is blocking access to the Upper World's Gate. Without a spirit singer her village cannot survive, so Amarynth embarks on a hazardous quest to find out what the creature is, how it can be defeated, and how she can become a full-fledged spirit singer - a quest that takes her not only from her tiny seacoast home to the soaring mountains of the south, but across the even more rugged terrain of her own soul.

## **Spirit Singer Details**

Date : Published June 26th 2013 by Tyche Books Ltd. (first published December 24th 1999)

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Author : Edward Willett

Format : Paperback 158 pages

Genre : Science Fiction Fantasy, Childrens, Juvenile

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## From Reader Review Spirit Singer for online ebook

### Cassandra says

I won this through good reads first reads for free.

This book had me wondering all the way through and the ending was worth reading. It is a really fast read. A great book for just before bed or on your down time to really enjoy.

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### Tonja Drecker says

In a way, SPIRIT SINGER reminded me of THE PEARL by Steinbeck (from the feel). There is tension, action and a threatening evil as dark as can be, but the main part of the battle happens in the spirit world, in Amarynth's mind, and in determining the difference between truth and lies.

I had a little trouble getting into this story and did catch myself skipping paragraphs every now and then through-out the book, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't enjoy it. I did, and despite my skips, ended up reading it in one setting simply because the story is good. I enjoyed following Amarynth as she tried to discover the reason behind the dark shadow that killed her Grandfather. And I honestly felt her struggle as she journeyed into the mountains with two heroes on her side--not sure which one she should trust. . .perhaps even both. The inner struggle was very realistic and intriguing, and I found myself cheering for her the entire way through.

I definitely recommend this. It's an original, interesting story which I caught myself even days afterwards coming back to.

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### Ramona says

A wonderful adventure story - original, well-written. Glad I stumbled across it.

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### Jefferson Smith says

There are two fantasy themes that I've always shied away from: spirits and song magic. I guess I was predisposed to disliking this one from the start, but I like Ed's other stuff so I decided to see how he handled it when he combined two of my no-fly topics. Overall, I was pleasantly surprised. Amarynth is a relatable young hero who is dealt a crummy situation to overcome. The stakes are high, the magical premise is intriguing and the writing moves along briskly to a satisfying conclusion. To my surprise, the issues that fell short for me were not the twin topics I usually dread. Instead, I found that the story raised many questions for me that were not sufficiently explored. Tell me more about how the Between world functions. Are there other forms of magic, and what can they do? What other things can Amarynth do with her magic? Overall,

these unexplored side questions left me feeling that the story was under realized, although I suspect that its intended audience will not share those feelings.

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### **Lexie says**

Spirit Singer harkens back to the classic fantasy trope of a young person leaving everything they know behind to go on a quest that will help save the village. The person has no idea of their own innate power, nor the scope of the danger that is really the threat. Adventure awaits, sometimes with anticipation and often with dread, and they rise to the challenge. I read a lot of these sorts of books when I was younger, devoured them really, and have never lost my taste for them. More than a coming of age story, these sorts of fantasies fuel the young mind to believe that no matter how you start out, you might just turn out to be the one who wins the day.

Up front I will say that the story was entirely too short. At just over a hundred pages, it didn't give itself time to mature and let ideas percolate before jumping to the next 'twist' or plot point. I often found myself thinking 'I really wish there had been more to this' while reading. The idea of the Spirit Singers is perhaps elaborated upon the most, and given the most depth. The rest of the world, including the 'bad guys' are more broadly described.

Amarynth is a stalwart girl, eager to begin her life as a full-fledged Spirit Singer, but respectful of her grandfather's wishes. She longs for more, she has lived a sheltered life as a Spirit Singer apprentice, but her duty is the most important thing to her. Her development suffered the most I believe, as she goes from wide-eyed girl to mature Spirit Singer in the blink of an eye near the end, but she was an enjoyable lead. Her companion for half of the journey, Kalar, is a prickly fellow with a lot of bitterness and hatred in his heart, but with a strong moral code. He developed perhaps the best.

Ramon, Ar-Naathon's son, is the weakest of the characters. His mood changes, often, and he never really seems...real. Very fake. A reason is given for this, but it doesn't excuse the inconsistency completely. The villain, Ar-Naathon, is a viper and a snake and remains so throughout. Word to the wise, never trust the one who smiles and says 'I'm not the bad guy, he is!'. They usually are and worse than whoever they pointed out.

I enjoyed the story quite a bit, it was thrilling and had a lot of adventure, some romance and mystical fun for all, but as I said earlier it suffered from how short it was. Motivations, 'surprises' in the plot and explanations are cut short so they feel rushed and tacked on. If you're a fantasy fan, or you miss those adventure quests that seem to be sadly lacking in today's fantasy market, I suggest you pick up Spirit Singer. In the end, it's an enjoyable way to pass a couple of hours.

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### **Anya says**

I was quite excited to see Iambik Audio open for review requests and a new fantasy available with a young female main character :D. What more could I really ask for right?? As many of you know, I'm always in the market for more audiobooks due to my frequent driving. While the slower fantasy pace of Spirit Singer sometimes made me need to take a break, I overall very much enjoyed this classic-style fantasy! Thank you to Iambik Audio for providing me a copy to review.

Goodreads | Amazon

Print Copy scheduled for May 2013

Title: Spirit Singer

Author: Edward Willett

Length: 4 hours 33 min

Genre-ish: Fantasy (with spirits)

Rating: ★★★★?- solid fantasy story, audio wasn't great

Amarynth is a spirit singer, gifted – or cursed, as she sometimes thinks – with the ability to lead the spirits of the dead from the Lower World through the Between World to the Gate of the Upper World and the Light that lies beyond it.

While she is still an apprentice her grandfather and tutor dies, slain by a mysterious creature in the Between World that is blocking access to the Upper World's Gate. Without a spirit singer her village cannot survive, so Amarynth embarks on a hazardous quest to find out what the creature is, how it can be defeated, and how she can become a full-fledged spirit singer – a quest that takes her not only from her tiny seacoast home to the soaring mountains of the south, but across the even more rugged terrain of her own soul. — Amazon

Strengths:

I really liked the singing magic idea behind Spirit Singer. Chanting is usually a part of magic rituals, but it's not often that it IS the magic itself :D.

Spirit Singer has some devious plot twists. I can't say that I didn't see them coming, because I definitely had a feeling that something was up, but then I wasn't sure.... And then I definitely was!

The "Between World" is this treacherous place between our realm and their version of heaven and the descriptions of it were very compelling. There are all sorts of wayward spirits and traps that Amarynth had to watch out for, and some of those images are just never going to be scrubbed from my brain....

Spirit Singer had solid main characters. I wish was had gotten to know Grandpa a bit more, but you can't have it all ;-).

Weaknesses:

I think I just have a problem with male narrators, but I just never could get used to the narrator in Spirit Singer. Male narrators never seem to be able to do female voices, and since the main character was female, this ended up being a big problem for me.

The plot of Spirit Singer ended up being a fairly typical fantasy in the end, but there isn't anything wrong with that if that's what you are in the mood for :).

Summary:

Spirit Singer is a fun fantasy adventure with a solid female character. The narration of Amarynth's voice didn't do it for me, so I suggest picking up the book in print or ebook when you can. The premise and world of Spirit Singer were quite interesting and fun to explore and I look forward to learning more about them in sequels \*hopeful eyes\*. If you are quite discerning, you will probably see some of the plot twists coming, but the evidence went back and forth enough for me that I wasn't sure ;-). All in all, Spirit Singer is a great book if you are in the mood for some good ol' fashioned fantasy!

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