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Silver On The Tree (The Dark Is Rising Book 5)



Synopsis

This is the fifth and last book in "The Dark Is Rising" sequence. The Dark is rising in its last and greatest bid to control the world. The servants of the light: Will Stanton, the last of the Old Ones, the mysterious Professor Merriman, and the strange albino Welsh boy, Bran, are helped by three ordinary children in this last desperate battle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An explosive ending to Susan Cooper's The Dark is Rising Sequence, when the six come together to turn back the Dark, in the final battle between the Light and the Dark. Will Stanton, the sign seeker and Last of the Light; Bran Davies, the Pendragon, son of King Arthur; the Drew siblings, Simon, Jane, and Barney, led by the mysterious First of the Light, Merriman Lyons, are drawn to Wales to meet once again. With time drawing short, the children must find a way to meet with "The Lady" to clues to finding King Arthur's lost sword, Eirias. While Will and Bran go on an out of time travel journey to find and bring back the sword to present time, the Drew children await the arrival of

Merriman and learn more of the past as they time shift to experiences brought on by the Dark to isolate them, creating danger and failure for the Light. If they are successful in recovering Eirias, the six will unite to complete the task demanded for the Light and the High Magic to banish the Dark from power forever. As armies from the past from all over the world for both the Light and the Dark converge on Chiltern Hill in Buckinghamshire, the battle will rage as the Dark using the forces of armies, deception, betrayal, and nature pour their fury on the six and the forces of the Light. In the end, decisions must be made that will forever change the lives of Simon, Jane, Barney, and Bran, as well as their friend John Rowlands. This series has been so powerful, that reaching they end leaves one with a sadness of departing from old friends. Like Tolkien and Lewis, this book and Susan Cooper's series will go down as a classic battle between good and evil. Superb reading.

I liked this book a lot better when I was a kid; things I didn't notice at the time stick out to me now. It was often unclear what was going on and why (or why not). There are fundamental questions left unanswered about what the Light, Dark, High Magic, and Wild Magic are and how they function; it's hard especially to understand why both the Old Ones and the Dark are so powerful at times and so weak at other times. Many events serve no purpose in furthering the story and come out of nowhere. Are they metaphorical, easter egg references to real-world legends, page-fillers, or just supposed to make it cooler? I liked the last part when I was a kid - it seemed like characters were making noble, self-sacrificing choices. Now those same choices seem stupid to me - self harm with no gain, probably driven by subconscious fear of change. I think the best way to enjoy this book is to adopt the mindset I had as a kid - I identified with the Drew family, as mere mortals who are glimpsing the supernatural but cannot truly hope to fathom what's going on. Then it's a wild and thrilling ride.

I've posted this review, in basically this form, for all five of the "Dark is Rising" CD audiobook sets, because there aren't any other reviews of the CD sets. I have all five books and have been uniformly pleased with the audio quality. I'll skip any summary of this book or of the series; dozens of reviewers have done that quite well. I assume that you are familiar with these books, probably have read this volume, (likely more than once), but now wish to have the book available as an audio CD. Perhaps a long car trip is in the offing? Good for you. I am happy to report that, at least for me, this audio version gets high marks across the board. First, I can hear it and understand it. No mushy sound recording. No odd imbalance in volume that requires you to keep turning the volume up and then down. All of the spoken words are crisp and clear. Second, there are no sound effects or such

folderol. Third, there is a single reader. This is not a play for voices and is not read by a number of different character actors. Fourth, Alex Jennings is a marvelously effective reader. His approach is dynamic but not overly dramatic. He is never coy or arch, and does not ham up any of the big scenes. In the first chapters he can be a bit tentative in distinguishing among the major characters and is inclined to give short shrift to minor characters, but after that he settles into the various roles and adds a distinct and recognizable identity to each character. Finally, the reading is very respectful. By that I mean the book is not read as though it were just some silly children's book. It is treated as the triumphant work that it is and this adds greatly to its weight and impact. Please note that there are 8 compact discs. Runtime is a bit under nine and a half hours. Enjoy.

The wonderful conclusion to "The Dark is Rising" sequence brings Will and Merry and the three children together in a last race against time and magic and betrayal to the final conflict. Lovely scenes here of day to day life and how "The Dark" isn't just men on black horses sneering and cursing. Read the whole sequence but read this one too - its just beautiful.

I first read this series in high school. I had kept the compilation hard back on my shelf and read it to my kids as they grew up. Then one day while living in England (we are military and spent 6 years there), I came across the movie The Seeker. I enjoyed it and bought the U.S. version. About the third time I watched it, I realized what it was from (different from book in some places). So I pulled out the big book to read again and realized it was too heavy to carry around and ordered the series on my kindle. It is a mixture of Celtic and Authoritarian stories. I highly recommend it to all ages of readers interested in fantasy and mythology, but also to those who enjoy a good story

This series is a wonderful one that I wish I had read earlier! It is filled with great adventure, great friendships, mystery. Good vs evil and takes place in my favorite places! Namely Wales and England.

While my favorite of the series is the second volume, "The Dark Is Rising," this is the best of the rest, I think.

I liked everything about this book and series. I just wish it didn't have to end. All her books are a must read.

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