



The Shadow Door

Nykko (Guionist) , Bannister (Illustrator) , Carol Klio Burrell (Translator) , Corentin Jaffré (Colorist)

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It's bad enough when Max, Rebecca, Noah, and Theo just think Grandpa Gabe's house is haunted. But then the old movie projector in the library opens a passageway to a world of monsters and creatures made of shadows - a place of secrets and dangers set loose when the sun sets. The only weapons to fight them lie in the land on the other side of the Shadow Door...

The Shadow Door Details

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quinnster says

Creepy, funny, sad and hopeful are the words I would use to describe this series of books. I picked them up at the library when I was waiting for Emma the other day thinking she would like them, but the cover for The Parting was slightly creepy so I decided to read them first. Good thing I did!

I've seen the books recommended for ages 7+ and also 9+ and I think the 9+ is more accurate. The books deal with some heavy issues, like death, child abuse and terminal illness. Nothing too graphic, but heavy nonetheless. While I'm sure Emma could 'handle' it, I think we can wait a couple of years first.

But I did enjoy them! The art is reminiscent of Calvin and Hobbes, especially Max. The full color books lend to the richness of the Elsewhere world that the kids find themselves in. Despite their issues the kids are bonded and only want to look out for each other and help keep everyone safe. While they are certainly brave and courageous, there are always moments of showing their age so that it's clear that these are still, despite their adventures, children.

There are still many questions left unanswered and things begin to get a little confusing near the end of The Parting, ending with a 'To be continued' cliffhanger. And yet, I can't find anything about another volume coming out anytime soon. Hopefully, that's change soon!

Vanessa Montalvo says

Have you ever been through a wormhole if you haven't and you want to see where it might take you. I think this book is science fiction because of what the story is about. I thought this book was pretty interesting because of what happens when you press just a button that looks like a tape recorder and how a type of monster is scared of the light.

The setting of this book is a house where a man they call old man Gabe because he died they wanted to go check it out so they went and got a surprise it also takes place in a forest where other creepy animals live. Like for example Rebecca wanted to go to his grandpa's house to get back some books he wrote but then she pressed a button that looks like a tape recorder so she went through some type of worm hole so then Max a friend went after her then they both were trapped there but someone came to help them. The conflict is person vs. nature since they were fighting to get out of a mysterious forest and cave. There are 3 boys Noah Theo Max and Rebecca. Max has black hair. Noah has brown hair and Theo has orange hair. Max is the misbehaved one. Theo is the smart one and Noah is the person that follows everyone.

I had predicted that Noah, Max, Rebecca, and Theo were going to be stuck forever at the mysterious forest, but it turned out that they didn't find a way to get out. At the end just shows that they were waiting and staring at a statue. Because of that they might never get back. I was surprised that they didn't find a way to get out because I really thought they were going to get out with another portal but I guess not.

The shadow door is a good title for the book because the way they got there was because of a shadow door and some type of portal. That is why I think it's a good title for the book because of the shadow door and where it takes you. It takes you to some type of world that are just shadows and all type of monsters and creatures. This reminds me of a type of movie that they were just playing chess and all of a sudden they were

in another world like if they entered a type of portal.

I would give this book a 9 because I really liked it. The reason I liked it was because of the intense and also because of the type of story it was. I would recommend this book to people who like science fiction and also a type of comic book. So this is how the story was if they went to a mysterious world and never came back.

Cynthia says

I really like the art, but I'm not really connecting to the story or the characters. The story jumps around and I feel like I'm missing pages.

Amanda says

Translated from the French--I wonder if it suffers from losing something in the translation?--even the series name in French translates differently "les enfants d'ailleurs" ("the children from elsewhere"). Why didn't they just call it that? Why the name change? *le sigh*

The story-line is *tres* bumpy and feels at times like there are sections and whole pages missing. I had to keep double-checking to see if I had missed a section, but *non*, there was the panel I had just read. I plowed on through the rather ominous story. This is dark for kids and a bit mature in the way "Amulet" starts out dark and mature or that "Bone" starts out dark and mature--but lacking "Bone's" humor.

I want to find out more, and I like the refreshing change of have a MC girl POC so I will read more if my library gets more.

Hamster says

This graphic novel felt like it was written by a screenwriter. The scenes were very cinematic. Great story. The art was pretty good too. The only problem was that great dialogue for a movie doesn't translate very well to comics. I found myself confused more often than not. Since the voices in my head all sound the same, I had trouble figuring out who was saying what and what it meant. I'm all for realistic, conversational dialogue, but comics need to be more about the art and less about the little white bubbles. Simplicity. Even if it means sacrificing realistic conversation.

BeckyWei says

They lived an ordinary life but were dispersed to four places because of an accident and started the fantasy road.

Jason Scott says

The translation isn't that great... the artwork is good, the story could be better but the dialogue is what hurts. It feels like panels are missing. The characters art flat and all blend together.

Ok for younger kids.

Dolly says

This is the first book in The Elsewhere Chronicles series of graphic novels by Nykko and Bannister. I discovered the first couple of books at our local library and our oldest liked them so much, I put the next few on hold right away.

The story is a bit disjointed (perhaps something was lost in the translation), but it's very dramatic and engaging, too. I liked the interaction between the characters, and even though I'm not exactly sure what's going on in the story yet, I'm drawn into the tale. I loved the illustrations - the images have nice details and I loved the grandfather's house, filled with books and gadgets. I'm looking forward to reading The Shadow Spies next.

Rainbow says

Rated 3 stars

Ages 11+

Nick says

Very enjoyable, but not a stand-alone story. The writing was a bit rushed, although the story itself was interesting. The artwork was good but not great. I think the overall series may end up being better than this part, because the story may make sense by then.

Myles Wolfe says

interesting start to the series. I enjoyed the characters. I thought a few of the panels might be a bit scary for a younger middle grade reader. Reminded me of Amulet a little bit.

Tara Carlisle says

Not one of my favorites but would like to read the second one to see where this story is going to go. Maybe I will end up liking this series better.

Shannon says

I read the first five books in this series in one sitting, simply because they were short, I had the time, and I had them all out from the library. There will be **NO SPOILERS** for the rest of the books, rather, I thought I'd just give my overall thoughts about things in general.

First off, **I hope you can actually find this series**; it seems my library placed a huge order for all sorts of graphic novels for kids recently but not many people can find them at their own. If yours has a section like mine, I'd also recommend Lou! and Ernest & Rebecca. What's also interesting is that all of these authors, including this one for The Elsewhere Chronicles, are all French! I have no idea what possessed my library to order a bunch of graphic novels for kids by French authors ... but I'm sure glad they did.

Of the three series I've mentioned, although they're all shelved in the same section (ages 9/10+ [or grade 4 and up]) **this one is definitely the most mature**. I had no idea I'd be in for so much death and tragedy, for one thing. The last two volumes are stronger than the first three, and actually started to remind me of another series I love: Amulet, though **Amulet is by far a much better series**.

The Elsewhere Chronicles and Amulet are actually very similar stories and are also written for the same age bracket, but The Elsewhere Chronicles falls short in that it's not as well-written, well-drawn, nor well-developed as Amulet. Most likely you'll be able to get your hands on Amulet at your library, it's a much more popular series and that's why I'm giving it a mention here. **If I had to pick between the two I'd read Amulet instead**.

It's fantastic that the heroine is black, though unfortunately she's surrounded by white people. Even her family (I'm not kidding here) is white. In Elsewhere there's a brief interlude where the kids walk through a fishing village and I'm pretty sure even the natives were just tanned white people. I was really confused by this; on one hand I loved that the heroine is black, but on the other ... why is she the only one?

Each book is very short, around 40 pages or so, and reads like a picture book that wants to be a graphic novel. **The story is there, but the pages that should include character and plot development are not**. All together, the five books in this series could have easily been bound as one book instead. I didn't feel this way with the other two French series I mentioned above so it was disappointing to find so much lacking here.

With that being said though, I'm on the edge of my seat waiting to find out what will happen in the sixth book: The Tower of Shadows because I think things were really starting to hit their stride and get exciting. With a bit of googling, French Wikipedia seems to be telling me there's a seventh book coming out in December. I'm glad then that at least everything won't be wrapped up in one last book, which I had been afraid of, because **even though I complained a bit that a very similar series is a lot better, I still enjoyed reading this one and want to know what happens next**. Here's hoping that mine (and your) library gets it in stock!

Sam Zhou says

This story is by Nykko, it is a story about four children, they find an old machine and turn it on, suddenly, there is a big hole appear, and four hands come out and take them in it, they meet each other in a village.

Harla says

Graphics a little too dark and I mean the pictures are dark not so much the plot. But other than that the storyline was interesting and pulled me along. I may read on...
