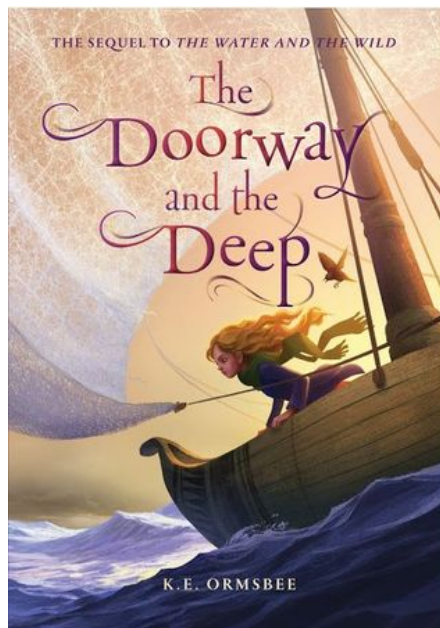




The Doorway and the Deep

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Even after escaping from the Southerly Kingdom, Lottie Fiske and her best friend Eliot have returned to the magical Albion Isle, despite the fact that she is a wanted criminal there, because she is seeking answers about her abilities, and her parents--but war is threatening Limn, and the answers she needs seem to lie in the Northerly Kingdom, along a road full of dangers.

The Doorway and the Deep Details

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From Reader Review The Doorway and the Deep for online ebook

Rachel Patrick says

This review (and others) can be seen in all its properly formatted glory on my blog *Beauty and the Bookshelf*

After reading and loving *The Water and the Wild* last year, I was eager to get my hands on the sequel. *The Water and the Wild* featured a Wonderlandish, Neverlandesque fantasmical world and had a quirky, fun cast of characters I utterly adore, plus some very promising prose. When an ARC fell into my hands (possibly from a magical, portal-like apple tree), I was excited to return to Limn and explore the territory of the Northerlies (my favorite, thanks to a certain character). So I fell into *The Doorway and the Deep* and perilous situations, dangerous adventures, and twist and turns.

My one "problem" with *The Doorway and the Deep* isn't even a problem, but I think I actually could've used an info dump of sorts for once. (Or I've never really realized before that an info dump of sorts was helpful.) I just had a hard time remembering what all happened in *The Water and the Wild*--who some of the characters were, how the book ended, how we got to where this book begins, and so on. And I was unfortunately unable to access either of my copies of *The Water and the Wild* (for the majority of my books are currently in storage, a horrible thing, I know) to get a little refresher, so I was a bit stuck. But the big kicker was DORIAN INGLE. How in the hell did I forget a character like Dorian Ingle? I cannot for the life of me remember who he is/was in *The Water and the Wild*, and that utterly baffles me, because HOW. How how how? In *The Doorway and the Deep* he became one of my favorite characters (didn't hurt that his nose piercing is like three rings okay) but I just don't understand how I could've forgotten he existed. THE HELL. So an info dump or a character guide--like, hey, these are/will be your favorite characters, better hope nothing bad happens to them!--would've been just a teensy bit helpful.

The Doorway and the Deep--and *The Water and the Wild*, for that matter--has three things going for it: characters, world building/story, and prose. Sometimes a book has one or two of those and does them well and it works, but this series has all three. If I don't care about the characters (or, at the least, if I'm not low key obsessed with at least one of the characters) then I'm going to struggle with caring about the book as a whole. Fortunately for *The Doorway and the Deep*, I'm extremely obsessed with one character, and all the (non-evil) characters themselves are good too. The story centers around Lottie Fiske, a Junie/Ramona/Eloise type of girl who went to Limn looking for a cure for her best friend Eliot and ended up finding (and learning) much, much more. Now (some spoilers for book one ahead) she's trying to conjure up her healing powers and keep Eliot alive, learn about her past, and stay away from that nasty Southerly King and any other enemies she may have. Lottie--the Heir of Fiske, by the way--is a character who wears confidence like a shield, but underneath she's plagued by worries and doubts and the fear that she's not good enough. But she's a fierce, adventurous girl who's willing to fight for people who aren't exactly hers, will protect and care for her friends, and who's not willing to go down without a fight. Of course, it helps that she's not alone.

Lottie traverses Limn and the courts and their people (and a variety of creatures) with the help of Adelaide, Oliver, Eliot, Fife, and, occasionally, the wolf-like creature the Barghest. If you were to put them at a table to paint, Lottie would have paint everywhere and be mixing colors while Adelaide's side of the table would be clean and orderly, and she herself would be paint free. Adelaide is Miss Prim and Proper, and she's the voice of reason and glue that helps keep the group together and moving forward. Her brother Oliver is quite possibly one of the coolest people ever, because though it seriously sucks that he can't touch people without hurting them, his eyes are basically mood rings and he sometimes speaks in poetry. Sweet, sensitive Oliver. Then there's Eliot, the only full-blooded human of the group--and Lottie's weakness, because she believes she's the only one who can save Eliot from his fatal sickness, and she'll do anything to keep him alive. So, you know, sometimes Eliot gets in the way. Lastly is Fife. FIFE DULCET, the spritely boy who absolutely

must be descended from the one and only Peter Pan (he can, after all, basically fly). I'm only slightly obsessed with him, o k a y ? He's just my favorite and the best. He, like Lottie, can be snarky and throw a bit of a fit if he doesn't get his way, but he's the much needed comic relief, the one who won't take things too seriously (or seriously at all, to be honest). And he's my favorite and if anyone hurts him I'll hurt them back.

As I had previously mentioned, The Doorway and the Deep succeeds in the world building and prose departments. Limn is a world that's magical and mystical like Neverland and Wonderland, a place filled with its own rules and ways and patterns and creatures. (Aaand why don't these books come with a lovely map?) The prose helps build that world and pushes the story along. The prose fits with the mood and tone of the story: it's light and whimsical and lovely. It's a voice-centric kind of writing (and if you know me then you know I love voice), and it's also the kind that caters well to the story and works.

In the end, The Doorway and the Deep was a well-paced sequel that upped the stakes and put Lottie & Co. all over the map as they went on a very important quest. This could be a possible spoiler, but K.E. Ormsbee promised there'd be kissing in this book and she. did. not. disappoint. (Who am I kidding? I was grinning like a fool.) The prose brought it, the world and story pushed it, and the characters carried it all to the end as we went deep, deep into the doorway(s) of Limn. Whether or not you're a Middle Grade reader is beyond and beside the point: you can be any age and enjoy these books, I pinky promise you. And me? I just need the next book already, because that cliffhanger was a freaking cliffhanger and WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT? I'll just sit here waiting and drawing the mark of the Northerlies on my wrist until I get it. Oh, and of course: #FifeandtheNortherliesFTMFW.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Full review to come closer to release date, but for now I did an early review as part of Ninety Second Novel, which can be found here!

But just know: you should totally read this series. Especially if you're a fan of Wonderland, Neverland, any magical land, fantasmical stories, lovely prose, and characters akin to Peter Pan (#FifeandtheNortherliesFTMFW).

Erin Wert says

I love Kathryn, but I hate Kathryn. So much happened in the next book in the series, and it also left me with so many questions. I need answers, I need more. It was a joy to join Lottie on her adventures once again.

Rebecca McNutt says

The Water and the Wild is one of my favourite middle grade novels, so I'm really glad K.E. Ormsbee put out a sequel. Eliot becomes a more central character, Lottie is more resourceful than ever, and their adventures never let up on the excitement. :)

Rebecca says

It had been a while since I had read the first book in this series and it took me a while to remember all of the characters. However, once I got back into the flow of things, this was a satisfying continuation of *The Water and the Wild*. The beings and places were a solid continuation of Ormsbee's skillful worldbuilding. In many way, the journey of a group of assorted characters reminded me of *The Hobbit*--only for younger children. I only wish this series had more readers. This would be 4 stars for me if Ormsbee had done a better job of reintroducing the characters.

Gail says

In “Doorway and the Deep,” K.E. Ormsbee redeems the sins of “The Water and the Wild,” capitalizing on all the promise that lay dormant there. Though her foreshadowing is still a little heavy-handed for my taste, all the other flaws of the first installment are absent, replaced by characters, plot developments, and prose that make for a truly relatable, middle grade page-turner with more than a hint of feminism.

Here are a few of my favorite quotes:

“You can’t trust anyone, not on the road north. You can only ask whose betrayal will cost you the least.”

“Lottie smiled into her flask of water. She found it funny that, however handsome Adelaide might have found Dorian Ingle, she didn’t hold back her usual criticisms.”

“She was important in this world. She wasn’t useless.”

“But Lottie learned soon enough that the presence of hope did not make for an absence of discomfort.”

“‘Stop it,’ she hissed, glancing around the table in embarrassment, only to find that everyone else was too deep in either drink or conversation to notice.”

“‘But you must understand my position.’ ‘Why?’ cried Lottie, ‘Why must I understand yours when you won’t understand mine?’”

“‘But you’re seeing it from your perspective, Lottie, and not from the perspective of old men - and the old men are still the ones who make the decrees and write the newspapers down in the South.’”

I can't wait for the next installment!

Amanda says

Disclaimer: I won this as an ARC from the publisher and am finally doing the review.

The adventure goes deeper and a bit darker as the reader learns more about Sprites and about New Albion and keens and Lottie Fiske and her heritage. I had the hardest time ever forcing myself to stop reading this

and come back to real life and do grown-up-y sort of stuff. I really enjoyed reading about the group and how their relationships changed and developed. Oooohhh!

The author must believe in torturing readers--making us wait that long and leaving us hanging--Madam is reading this right now and when she comes to the end...oh my! She is loving these characters SO MUCH! She will be vexed having to wait. Our characters will be more developed (or something?) by learning patience and waiting. *sigh*

Cindy Hudson says

The Doorway and the Deep, sequel to K. E. Ormsbee's The Water and the Wild, starts off with Lottie and her friends living in Wisp territory, where Lottie is taking lessons to sharpen her ability to heal others. She knows her friend Elliot will need her skills one day, and she wants to be ready.

But when the head of the Wisps makes a deal that sends her to the North, she once again sets out on a journey with her friends. There are dangers to be sure, and Lottie goes against her will, yet she's also lured by the promise of finding out more about her parents.

The Doorway and the Deep should delight fans of the first book in the series, leaving them eager to read the next title. While there's less exploration of Lottie's relationship with her friends, there's an expanding cast of fascinating characters and adventuresome exploits. Once again, Lottie has to determine who to trust and how to act on her own instincts. The book ends in a cliffhanger, but one that feels more satisfying than cliffhangers often are. It will be interesting to see where Lottie's tale goes next. I recommend the series for readers aged 9 to 13.

The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Erinn Gillespie says

<https://youtu.be/HZoenF4LLho>

Stacy268 says

It started slowly then picked back up. You really need to read the first book to get backstory and characters, but I remembered as I went along. And Fife! <3!

Keara Brown says

The Doorway and the Deep is about a girl named Lottie and her friends going to the Northerly Court where Rebel Gem lives (she is the ruler of the Northerly Court). Lottie's keen (a keen is basically a superpower inside you) is healing, but Lottie doesn't know she can hurt people to.

I would recommend this book to everyone I know especially to people who like magic and action in their

books.

Ashley Blake says

Loved this sequel so much. Lyrical and magical and imaginative, Ormsbee sucked me back into the world of Limn from the first page. I adore these characters and I was so happy to be back with them and this book only developed them more and cemented them into my heart. And that ending. Hoo boy, that ending.

Leah says

[Lottie heals Eliot; they go off to Limn togeth

Cheryl says

I am thoroughly enjoying this series. This is the 2nd book. I am very anxious for the next book to be released because I really need to know what happens next. I think she has great characters and I like the world she has built. I'm an adult so I would have to talk to a kid to see what they think but I think kids would like it. It may be scary for a very sensitive kid and you might want to wait until the next book comes out before you read this one.

John Wheelles says

Not a stand alone, still fun and filled with adventure. Surprise twists? There were a few. Interesting characters in unusual locations using magic to avert war. I'm sure you'll enjoy this story, as long as you don't mind cliffhangers...

MrsK Books says

Since Lottie's return from New Albion, Eliot has had the best prognosis. Eliot's father has sold his business and moved. Their previous adventures lead Lottie into the discovery about her talent. Yet, now was the time for Lottie to return to New Albion in a quest to "sharpen" her "keen." With the understanding and approval of Eliot's father, they both re-enter the world beyond the apple tree and are created by their friends in Wisp Territory. Knowing what your "keen" is and being trained in its use leads Lottie to discouragement and impatient decisions. Just when Lottie thinks nothing will change... she discovers a key in her pocket.

With delightful characters, inviting settings, and various... seriously life-threatening quests, Lottie will become a heroine that you will always want to re-visit!

Fantastical adventures are awaiting you, enter within these covers and discover your newest friendships, MrsK <https://mrskbookstogo.blogspot.com/>

