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Greenwitch (The Dark Is Rising Sequence)



Synopsis

Simon, Jane, and Barney, enlisted by their mysterious great-uncle, arrive in a small coastal town to recover a priceless golden grail stolen by the forces of evil -- Dark. They are not at first aware of the strange powers of another boy brought to help, Will Stanton -- nor of the sinister significance of the Greenwich, an image of leaves and branches that for centuries has been cast into the sea for good luck in fishing and harvest. Their search for the grail sets into motion a series of disturbing, sometimes dangerous events that, at their climax, bring forth a gift that, for a time at least, will keep the Dark from rising.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grades 4-7--In this third book in Susan Cooper's Dark Is Rising sequence (McElderry, 1985), Simon, Jane, and Barney return to Cornwall with their Uncle Merry after learning that the grail they had found in Over Sea, Under Stone (Harcourt, 1966) has been stolen from the British Museum. Will Stanton and his American uncle come to Cornwall as well, and initially there is some tension between the children. The locals are preparing for a celebration in which the women fashion a being from sticks and leaves and toss it into the sea. Jane's kindness wins the favor of this mystical effigy and it yields its secret the manuscript that will make it possible to decipher the writing on the grail. Although the grail has been stolen by the Dark, it is found and the writing proves to be the prophetic rhyme whose words will be fulfilled in the next books. The story requires some knowledge of the previous books, and only becomes complete after reading the subsequent books. This exciting and

beautifully written story is filled with magic and mystery. It is unfortunate that the man who stole the grail identifies himself as part Romany, or Gypsy, thus reinforcing a negative stereotype. Alec Jennings does a superb job of reading this tale, as he has done with the first two books in the series. His expression and pacing suit the story well, and he is at ease with Cornish names and words. There are two places where editing cuts words short: when Merry tells the children to "look it up" it sounds like "crit up," and when the thief tells Barney to "open the box" it sounds like "pen the box." These quibbles aside, the technical quality is excellent. Libraries in which this series is popular will want this recording if they are buying the others in the sequence. Otherwise, *The Dark Is Rising* (Aug. 1999, p. 68) and *The Grey King* (Oct. 2001, p. 89) are more vital purchases. Louise L. Sherman, formerly Anna C. Scott School

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"When most people hear 'large-print book,' they immediately think senior citizen. But large-print editions of popular children's books -- from the powerhouse Harry Potter series to timeless classics like *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* -- are now making their way onto the shelves of the Children's Department at the Canton Library. . . . Although large-print editions are targeted to the visually-impaired or dyslexic child, they can also be used by standard-vision readers. So Kershner [Children's librarian at the Canton Public Library] has decided against creating a special section in the Children's Department (as exists in the Adult Department) opting instead to intersperse large-print books on the shelves with the regular print versions of the same titles." -- *The Observer and Eccentric* (October 2000) (The Observer and Eccentric 20001001)"Thorndike Press has helped me not only find books I want to read, but they also look like regular books. That's important when you're a kid and you can only read Large Print, you want your book to look like all the other books. I'm reading a lot more now that we have found Thorndike Press." -- Jim Bernardin, Islamorada, FL"Everyone loves to read, there's nothing like curling up with a good book. We're a reading family, so when our son was diagnosed with Stargardt's Disease and only able to read Large Print, it was particularly difficult. Books on tape are wonderful but they don't fill the void of actually reading a good story. Large Print books have been around a long time for older people, but to find a good novel for a young person in Large Print began to feel nearly impossible. The books that Thorndike Press publishes have truly made a difference in my son's reading life. He can enjoy current novels as well as some of the classics that he missed reading when it became too difficult with regular print." -- Sara Bernardin, Islamorada, FL"

Susan Cooper is one of the few contemporary writers who . . . create the kind of sweeping conflict between good and evil that lies at the heart of all great

fantasy." -- Psychology Today --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

In the third volume of "The Dark is Rising" sequence, author Susan Cooper brings together the protagonists of the two preceding books - Simon, Jane & Barney Drew, and Will Stanton - and returns the setting to the Cornish fishing village of Trewissick. Every year, the women of Trewissick build an effigy of leaves and branches called the Greenwitch, and cast it from the coastal cliffs as an offering for good fortune and good fishing in the coming year. As it sinks beneath the waves, it becomes much more than an artificial figure, growing into a potent magical force, before being lost to the depths. Meanwhile, The Dark has stolen the grail which the Drews had rescued from its clutches in "Over Sea, Under Stone" but its agents can only decipher the grail's power with the help of an ancient scroll. That scroll has been lost to the sea off Trewissick, and the Greenwitch has found and claimed it. Both the Light and the Dark desperately need the full power of the grail, and the Dark plan to gain control over the Greenwitch in order to obtain it. Jane Drew, present at the making of the Greenwitch and sensing a deep sadness and loneliness in the creature, makes a connection that will draw her and siblings deeply into this conflict with powerful supernatural forces. It will be Jane, now, who will be key to holding the rising Dark at bay. "Greenwitch" is the shortest of the five books in this series, but it is perhaps one of the deepest and most eerie. In it, we revisit the Drews, and see Will Stanton coming into his power, but it is the relationship between Jane and the Greenwitch - and the manifestations unleashed on the seaside town - that make this a memorable read.

This is the third book in the Dark Is Rising Series. Once again Simon, Jane, and Barney join Great-Uncle Merry on a quest to find an unknown object in Trewissick, South Cornwall. Only this time, they are joined by the mysterious Will Stanton. This book is filled with adventure and mystical powers as the Drew children help the "Old Ones" in the battle of the "Good" against the "Dark." The ancient village custom of the making of the "Greenwitch," starts a cycle of forces from the "Old Magic" of the sea as the Dark draws closer and close to finding the key to read the golden grail and unlock the power for the Dark to defeat the Good. The Drew children must learn to work with Will through unexpected turns and twists that leads to the explosive ending when the Good once again pushes back the Dark.

I read these books when they first came out. I was Will's age at the time and they caught my imagination. I'm rereading the series now in my late 40s and enjoying them immensely. This book

was my least favorite back then, but I liked it much better this time around. The series is a lovely mixture of adventure story with old legends of the British isles. One of the great works of children's fantasy.

I bought the complete boxed set of this series from a Scholastic Book Fair back in '70s. I was in third or fourth grade at the time and loved those books. Almost 40 years later, I still love them. 'Greenwitch' takes place in Cornwall and the mix of adventure, legend and mystery is still a delight. This is the third book in the series and you really should read the first two, 'Over Sea, Under Stone' and 'The Dark is Rising', before reading this one. Jane, Simon and Barnabas reappear in the final book, 'Silver on the Tree', so be sure to finish the series. This series has really held up well and even though it is aimed at younger readers, my adult self still enjoys them. I'm especially happy that all five books are now available in the Kindle store. They make a nice addition to my (very old) boxed set.

Joining the characters of the first 2 books, Greenwitch tries to meld the magic of Book 2 with the childish innocence of Book 1. It's not a perfect mesh, and is not as memorable as the other books in the series, but it's still a good read. Greenwitch is actually Book 3 of "The Dark Is Rising sequence", not Book 4 as indicates.

this book was very good, I liked it. however, I feel that cooper's writing style was slightly different than it was in the dark is rising, it seemed much more modern and a tad less descriptive, but all in all it was an excellent book. Keep up the good work Cooper!

The continuing saga of young friends in the fight against evil. A young adult story the is also a wonderful series for adults as well. Susan Cooper is an author I intend to follow!

Perfection Æ•Æ

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