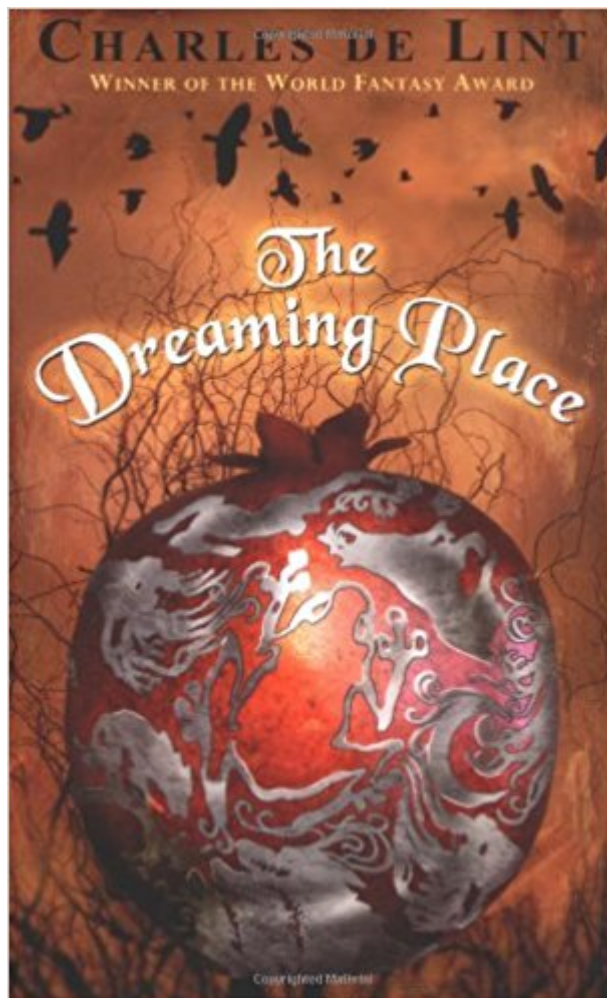


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The Dreaming Place



Synopsis

World Fantasy Award winner Charles de Lint conjures a thrilling, otherworldly tale of magic and family bonds. A young woman locked in rage yet seeking magic, Ash is drawn into a wondrous Otherworld of totems and dryads, living tarots and mystic charms. At the same time, Ash's cousin Nina is stalked by an Otherworld demon—a manitou who can force her mind and soul into the bodies of beasts. Ash must find the strength to overcome her own anger, learn the full power of magic, and save Nina before she becomes the manitou's weapon, turning the faerie realm into an arctic wasteland. De Lint fans will relish this urban and otherworldly fantasy, partially set in the author's trademark Newford. "A compelling fantasy that combines elements of Native American and Celtic mythology to create a fluid and unexpected otherworld, open to all with the ability to enter and traverse it."—School Library Journal

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7-12-- A compelling fantasy that combines elements of Native American and Celtic mythology to create a fluid and unexpected otherworld, open to all with the ability to enter and traverse it. Teenaged cousins Nina and Ashley have shared a bedroom since Ash's mother's death three years earlier. Ash is often sullen, uncooperative, and in trouble, and the two are usually at odds. Then a series of disturbing nightmares in which Nina finds herself awkwardly inhabiting the bodies of various animals leaves her shaken and convinced that Ash is somehow responsible. What Nina doesn't know is that Ash has stumbled into the dreaming place--the spirit world--and may be

the only one who can rescue her from the hungry manitou spirit who is causing her visions. Surprising combinations of formal and informal language from both spirit and human characters help to link the worlds, making the spirit world more accessible while readers' own becomes more mysterious. The satisfying conclusion hints at more otherworldly adventures to come. While Nina is a rather bland character, Ash and her colorful friends and adversaries, and icons such as the strange tarot cards that foretell her journey and the pomegranate that is pivotal in her quest, come alive through the text. Froud's effective illustrations depict the characters Ash meets as well as the cards themselves, and reinforce the mood of the tale. --Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA
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"A compelling fantasy that combines elements of Native American and Celtic mythology to create a fluid and unexpected otherworld, open to all with the ability to enter and traverse it." --School Library Journal

A marvelous story written at two levels: the real world of daily toils and the world in which magic exists. A young girl's loss of her mother and the abandonment by an uncaring father turns her hard, rebellious and uncaring. Even though she's rescued and raised by a loving aunt and uncle, she pushes away their love and turns against their seemingly "perfect" daughter. What will intervene to change the course of her life? Perhaps the Dreaming Place is the cure?

I loved the focus of this book. A teen could read it and learn much, an adult would read it (as I did) and it would evoke a gasp of wonder at certain points in the story. Well paced, well-developed story line, with no unnecessary descriptions and action. Straight and to the point, it nevertheless managed to capture images, emotions, and suspense that makes a beautiful fantasy novel, one that can be enjoyed again and again with multiple readings!

A wonderful short story, as is the case with everything he writes, it just comes to an end. Love the tie in to other book characters and places, native American lore is great.

I'm a huge fan of De Lint and I have to say this book did not quite live up to the other de Lint books I have read. Its characters were less complex, the story less vivid. A little too much stereotypical teenage angst - young girl with a dead parent, who does not fit in at school. That said the book's

audience is younger than I am. The perfect audience for book would be capped at 16(or younger). For the right reader this is a tales of facing circumstances and de lint's glorious fantasy realms. And it's a quick read. De Lint fans should not set their hopes to high but understand that this book is for a younger audience. If you are above 16(or a more advanced reader) and have not read de Lint before, start elsewhere.

I enjoyed this story very much. Written many years ago, it still evokes the tangled emotions of adolescence which in some ways never leave us. The plot was believable to me, but then I have always believed in magic and in actions having consequences. The resolution worked for me, as all the characters - both human and non human- learned and grew. Very satisfying.

This is the 1st of the Newford Series. The story held my interest from start to finish. I didn't read this first one until long after reading many other Newford Series stories. Meeting Bones and Cassie in the first book was a treat.

An easy, yet engrossing read for anyone who likes myth, mystery and magic. Highly recommended for young adults and adults young at heart who have retained the ability to wonder.

As always entertaining and thought-provoking. Love all he writes. He has a way of making you look at yourself and wonder if you truly appreciate what is in it and the magic we can all have.

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