

Into the Woods

By Lyn Gardner

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A twisty-turny, not-quite fairy tale that is sure to please, now in paperback!

Storm, Aurora, and Anything Eden live in a decaying mansion on the edge of the wilds with their erstwhile father and indolent mother. When an accident leaves them orphaned and at the mercy of the sinister Dr. DeWilde, these three courageous and eccentric sisters are forced to flee into the woods, where they encounter kidnappers, sweets-filled orphanages, mountains of ice, diamond mines, and some ravenously hungry wolves.

Taking inspiration from numerous fairy tales and weaving them into a wholly original story, *Into the Woods* is a whirlwind of a novel, full of imaginative happenings and dastardly deeds.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Starred Review. Grade 5–9—This gothic, wildly adventurous romp through the dream country of fairy tales celebrates the power of sisterhood. The Eden girls—beautiful, domestic Aurora; bold, reckless Storm; and baby Any—live at Eden End, a dilapidated estate near a rat-infested village in a setting that vaguely resembles rural Victorian England. On her deathbed, their mother bequeaths Storm a pipe, whispering "Beware of its terrible power." A year later, their grief-stricken father departs on a mysterious expedition, leaving a note that warns Aurora to be careful on her 16th birthday. Enter the mysterious, evil Dr. DeWilde. He wants the pipe. He and his ravenous wolves chase the sisters from their home and pursue them across a landscape familiar to readers of European myths, fairy tales, and fantasy. Elements of "The Pied Piper of Hamlin," "Rapunzel," "Hansel and Gretel," "The Snow Queen," and many other tales figure in the story. The breathless plot, which pulls readers into an escalating series of dangerous situations, hairbreadth escapes, bitter defeats, and surprising triumphs, is grounded in the realistic personalities of the sisters. As their relationship develops, they appeal to readers as much for their flaws as their strengths. Grey's black-and-white illustrations, interspersed with the text, advance the action. A descendant of Joan Aiken's *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* (Doubleday, 1963) and its sequels, this book is distinguished by a strong, descriptive style. It should have wide appeal as a family read-aloud or absorbing read-alone.—*Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams*
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From Booklist
Following their mother's death and father's abandonment, Storm and her sisters are left alone. The arrival of the evil Dr. DeWilde and his retinue of wolves forces the girls to flee, running into the woods before he can locate a musical pipe given to Storm by her mother. The ensuing adventure takes the girls afar as they encounter a house of sweets, a long-lost great-grandmother, and the Pied Piper, who lures children away. Gardner's fast-paced fantasy-adventure cleverly borrows from well-known fairy tales, and astute readers will enjoy identifying the many folkloric references. The sisters are especially interesting characters--homebody Aurora is addicted to cooking and cleaning, fearless Storm is drawn to pyrotechnics and acting on impulse. The baby astounds all with her amazing vocabulary. Grey's appealing black-and-white illustrations add humor and detail to the story. This will be a popular pick, especially for fans of Jean Ferris' *Once upon a Marigold* (2002) or Gail Carson Levine's Princess Tales series. *Kay Weisman*
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About the Author
Lyn Gardner is a theater critic for *The Guardian* and goes to the theater five or six nights a week, which should leave no time for writing books at all. Prior to joining *The Guardian*, she was a tea lady, a waitress, sold (or failed to sell) advertising space for a magazine called *Sludge*, wrote for *The Independent*, and helped found the London listings magazine, *City Limits*, the largest publishing co-op in Europe.

Mini Grey's last picture book, *Traction Man Is Here!*, won the 2005 *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award and received five starred reviews.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Dabney:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want really feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Often the Into the Woods is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Sarah Ford:

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Alice Lawson:

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George Conner:

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