



Beyond World's End | The Genie and Her Bottle

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News/Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

Children who read *Beyond World's End* were positively excited by it; 'a very serious story but mystifying and exciting,' Set in today's world of a twelve-year-old boy, fostered by his grandmother and threatened by her possible re-marriage, and in a world beyond any time and place where another young child has been imprisoned by the Kraken, the story brings both worlds crashing together, Chris, with Jane, who in the real world is hardly his friend, overcome their testy relationship to seek out a legendary sword and confront the power of the Kraken. In doing so they realise a little of how happiness emerges from pain, and temper their own needs and frustrations. A story full of tensions, fears and frustrations but eventual resolutions. (10+)

The Genie and Her Bottle is a much less satisfying story, Unlike the very real characters of **Beyond World's End** those of this second book are decidedly plastic. Parents are obsessed with gin and tonic, tennis parties, holidays in the Bahamas; there is an absent minded Swedish au pair and the two children Alex and Rob appear to live lives utterly independent to those around them. Floating ephemerally amongst them all is a very bad-tempered genie released from her bottle by the children. Perhaps her bickering and selfishness is a metaphorical expression of the family's unhappiness! If there is any such intention then when she is finally stuffed back into her bottle there is no resolution to the children's real plight. A bad-tempered story which leaves the reader decidedly dissatisfied.

Running Order:

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