



The Woven Path

Robin Jarvis

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The Woven Path is the first book in the compelling Wyrd Museum trilogy. All readers will be drawn in by the gripping storytelling of Robin Jarvis, where the fantastical elements combine with the seriously chilling. In a grimy alley in the East End of London stands the Wyrd Museum, cared for by the stranger Webster sisters -- and scene of even stranger events. Wandering through the museum, Neil Chapman, son of the new caretaker, discovers it is a sinister place crammed with secrets both dark and deadly. Forced to journey back to the past, he finds himself pitted against an ancient and terrifying evil, something which is growing stronger as it feeds on the destruction around it. Dare to enter the chilling and fantastical world of the Wyrd Museum in this first book of a compelling trilogy.

The Woven Path Details

Date : Published December 2nd 2002 by CollinsVoyager (first published 1995)

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Author : Robin Jarvis

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From Reader Review The Woven Path for online ebook

Suzanne Becker says

I hated this book. I'd give it a lower rating if it wasn't so excellently written. Some of the imagery and events cross from dark into outright horrifying. My problem is that I read The Woven Path at a very young age, so the multiple murder scenes and awful dog stoning seemed extremely inappropriate for a "children's book" (but I guess it's more of a young adult/teenager novel). I had nightmares for days after reading this; The Woven Path is one of the only books I actually regret reading. That said, Jarvis is a masterful writer, and perhaps older readers can get something out of this depressing novel.

Jennifer Lott says

My first overwhelming impression is that this book is too violent for children. Thankfully it does not seem to have been misrepresented in the market (I saw a quote somewhere stating it wavers between a teen and adult audience, and I agree with that). Nonetheless, the opening chapters were very deceptive: child protagonist upset with his dad for moving, exploring his new home the Wyrd Museum and finding it spooky...this in no way prepared me for an adult book that included brutal murders and dog mutilation. I am all for multiple perspectives of mixed ages, but I believe it should be clear from the start whether or not the adventure is to be child-centered. Having the kids who started the story suddenly shrink into a subplot felt unbalanced. I lost my focus on the kids as anything besides innocents in a bad situation; there was too much adult drama to get into their characters. I enjoyed Angelo's storyline very much, but apart from him, I could have used less adult drama. I give this novel points for its imaginative twists, descriptive powers, and bittersweet ending.

Donna says

I loved this book when I first read it at the age of 14. It's refreshing when a kids book deals with slightly darker subject matter, as this one does.

I really liked the story and character development - Ted was great. I think I even shed a few tears at one point.

X says

Do not judge this book by the cover or the dull sounding and ill-fitting synopsis! After the first few chapters which fit the synopsis nicely, the book takes a much darker (and more exciting, in my opinion) turn. There's time-travel, war, a talking teddy bear and, unfortunately, not many characters left by the end of the book. Despite the very odd-sounding above combination of things, I thought the book was very good and am looking forward to starting the sequel soon.

Chris B says

I was spell-bound by this book when I was younger, especially because at the time I was very much interested in World War II and the Blitz. Some of the imagery is still fascinating, such as Ted, who is a teddy bear containing the soul of a dead US Airman, and an escaped demon envisioning itself as the Nazi bug on World War II propaganda.

PaperTigerMaddy says

Another problematic novel from a wildly inconsistent author. (Spoilers)

Firstly, the 'romance' was an offensive literary poster child for 'No means yes'. Twenty chapters can be condensed into 'If I harass this unwilling woman for long enough, she'll fall in love with me out of sheer exhaustion, and then all the kiddie readers will cry because they're being brainwashed that this is real romance.' Are you kidding me? SO MUCH NO.

Secondly, the novel couldn't decide what its actual focus or genre was. Was it a kids adventure/mystery about a boy trapped in WW2? Was it a teenage horror novel about a mad girl and a monster? Or was it a boring kitchen-sink drama about characters I couldn't care less about, and clearly had nothing to do with the overall trilogy arc (...even before they all ended up dead)?

In the end, with basically the entire cast dead, the fact that Neil even goes to WW2 in the first place turns out to be entirely pointless. This is especially infuriating when the first 150 pages consist of boring scene setting within WW2, which at first, I tried desperately to ignore. Worse luck for me, the new kitchen-sink cast stuck around, and all the actual fun stuff (Who are the Wyrd sisters? Why do they have a magic museum? Where do the demons and vortexes come from?) was put on hold until the very last chapter, and instead replaced with a 200 pages of filler. This novel would have been much more rewarding if they'd just got straight to the point - bringing Edie to the present day. At the end, it becomes clear that this is so that she can be promoted to main protagonist, and be the focus of the trilogy arc proper in the following novels -- which sounds a lot more exciting than watching some 1940s W1 group Make Do And Mend for 20 pages.

In short, this series should be a duo-logy, not a trilogy.

It's also very frustrating that the reason for the first vortex randomly appearing and sucking them into WW2 in the first place is never explained. Unless.... vortexes are simply deus ex machina plot devices? *gasp* surely not. ALL of the vortexes are pointless to the main story arc except for the one that brings Edie to the present. So what, once again, is the point of this entire novel?!

Finally, NO five year old talks or acts the way Neil's brother does. I'm sorry, NONE. Jarvis needs to spend some time hanging out with ACTUAL children before he starts writing them all as unrealistically intelligent and slightly demonic Mini-Mes.

Can't believe this is supposedly one of Britain's best loved kids novels of the 90s. It isn't the first Jarvis novel to make me go 'WTF' - attempt to read Dancing Jax at your own peril. He's produced much better; namely,

Death Scent.

Lazellia says

I was obsessed with Robin Jarvis' books as a child, and was really excited when this one was released, but I remember getting about a quarter of the way through and giving up. I didn't like the time travel element and it seemed to be moving too slowly. In the last couple of years, I rediscovered his books with the Dancing Jax and Legacy of Witches series, and I decided it was time to give the Wyrd Museum series another go.

I loved the start of the book, but once Neil and Ted went back in time, I found my interest waning a little. I didn't particularly like some of the characters and settings, but I stuck with it, and I'm glad I did. After a slow patch towards the middle, the story really picked up and I was reminded of the fear and wonder I used to get reading Robin Jarvis as a child. From the point where Neil goes to the museum in the past, I was hooked, and I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the trilogy.

As with most of Jarvis' books, this has some frightening and gory moments, but they link into an intriguing storyline. I loved the characters of the three sisters, and I'm hoping that they're more prominent in the rest of the series. While the WW2 setting admittedly doesn't appeal to my personal tastes, it's still well worth a read. My previous experience taught me that the second book in Jarvis' series' are usually the best, so it's onto the Raven's Knot!

Matthew Hodge says

An outstanding start to a new Jarvis trilogy. A strange but hugely compelling combo of Norse mythology, time travel and East End London during the Blitz.

It's fantastical, it's scary, and ultimately heart-wrenching. What more could you want?

Jean Ryan says

This book surprised me. Looking at the cover and reading the back I thought I could tell I would like the book. Although, it didn't go the way I suspected I still liked it. It had more horror/scary elements than I usually read. When I think about it though it wasn't that there were tons of horror aspects more that the way people died was described more horrifically than I would have expected in a book for younger audiences.

Dark-Draco says

Wow - if this is fantasy aimed at children, then I want to go back to primary school!

It's the story of Neil, whose father becomes a caretaker at a strange old museum, where three old ladies live amongst some very odd exhibits. He meets a talking bear, gets sucked back in time and ends up fighting the Prince of Demons during the blitz. I don't remember the stories I read as a child having plots like this!

I loved it. It's powerfully written and doesn't pull any punches. It's very dark in places and some quite scary moments - I'm way past the target audience and I had to have a little shudder. The Webster sisters are gloriously horrid and I love the weaving in of the old legends of the three Fates and the tree of life. It had me on the edge of my seat and I couldn't wait to read the next bit. Now to move on to the second book in the trilogy to see what happens next.

Kirsty Cabot says

First read around 1997

S.L. Dearing says

The first in the Wyrd Museum Trilogiy (which is one of my favorite series).

The story is solid and the set up fantastic, as it leads the reader to 2 more exceptional children's books. My only complaint is that the character of Tony is supposed to be from Brooklyn, but reads more as if he is Cockney, but seeing as how the author is English, I can see the issue. However, Robin Jarvis does get the accent correct by the end of the book. Other than that, it's a great read!!

Michelle allan says

DNF

Rebecca says

Read so long ago and I can't remember details but know o was transfixed. Maybe time for a reread.

Sandra Visser says

In a grimy alley in the East End of London stands the Wyrd Museum, cared for by the strange Webster sisters – and scene of even stranger events.

Wandering through the museum, Neil Chapman, son of the new caretaker, discovers it is a sinister place crammed with secrets both dark and deadly. Forced to journey back to the past, he finds himself pitted against an ancient and terrifying evil, something which is growing stronger as it feeds on the destruction around it...

Dare to enter the chilling and fantastical world of the Wyrd Museum in this first book of a compelling trilogy.

The idea of the museum is interesting, but the execution is repetitive and too similar to Jarvis's previous books. I hate his malicious streak that causes him to let masses of horrible stuff happen before there's finally a glimmer of hope at the end. The Webster sisters are irritating and the idea of the teddy is just silly. Time-travelling to WWII is original, but once again there's (view spoiler) Jarvis could really try something else for a change
