



The Nethergrim

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The people of Moorvale put their faith in the legend: The knight Tristan and the wizard Vithric, in an epic battle, had defeated the evil Nethergrim.

That faith is shaken when livestock go missing, only to turn up as piles of bones. But it's when a group of children disappear that they know for sure: The Nethergrim has returned.

Edmund's brother is one of the missing, and Edmund knows he must do something to save his life. But what? Though a student of magic, he struggles to cast even the simplest spell.

Still, he and his friends swallow their fear and set out to battle an ancient evil whose powers none of them can imagine.

The Nethergrim Details

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Author : Matthew Jobin

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From Reader Review The Nethergrim for online ebook

Jacki says

Dark, entralling, and charming. Great for Last Apprentice or Harry Potter fans.

Review at storytimehooligans.wordpress.com/2014...

LovesHorses says

The Nethergrim is the kind of new book many of us have been awaiting for a long time - a story that engrosses us fully in a world so well crafted that it seems entirely real. The middle ages world of the Nethergrim is immersive and captivating with a cast of characters that will become your friends - and your foes - that stay with you long after you finish the book. The characters and the plot have the depth and richness to make this book as entertaining for adults as it is for kids.

The three young characters have lives that readers can relate to at the same time as we can enjoy their extraordinary adventures. Aren't you tired of books about "the chosen ones", people who have special powers or are secretly the descendants of royalty? I know I am! It was so refreshing to read about characters who may have talents but they are not superhuman. Yet when faced with great evil, they overcome their limitations and become heroes.

The magic theory in The Nethergrim is really cool, the ideas are so woven into real science and mythology it gives the world a truly rich feel. I like how the author draws on ideas from philosophy and creativity/poetry and applies it to magic!

As for the adventures, I don't want to give anything away at all, so all I can say is that this book will make you think - no matter what your age. You will not only be entertained but intrigued, the concepts are deep while they are fun.

Tess says

JUST BEAUTIFUL. Dark, yet full of hope and real human nature. This is sure to be the next big thing, it was an amazing book and I can't wait for the next one. This book is definitely worth picking up even if you don't normally like YA or fantasy, it transcends those genres. I'm going to read it again and savor it.

Dolores says

What a pleasant surprise! I am not a fan of fantasy novels, but I am now a fan of the Nethergrim series. The main characters and the world building were interesting and well-drawn, with a perfect dose of medieval magic. I became so immersed in this story and it was so believable; not once did I find myself saying, "Are you kidding me?"

This is perfect for fans of "Eragon" and "Narnia". I can't wait 'til someone else I know reads this so we can talk about it.

Sally says

It has been such a long time since I've been so engrossed into a book. This book was amazing and is definitely one that I'm going to keep an eye on.

I loved Edmund. He isn't described as tall, dark, and mysterious probably because it is a middle-grade book. I'm not one who fawns over male protagonists who have everything going on for them. Edmund was really likeable and felt really real to me. Maybe it was the underdog vibe I was getting from him.

The only thing that got me a bit iffy was Edmund being to use magic so quickly. I kept thinking that throughout the book a mentor would come along. Heck I even thought Vithric was going to be his mentor, you know, before I knew too much.

While I clued-in on some twists, this book got me intrigued with the plot. I even found myself completely surprised on some parts. Ohhh, I can't wait to read more!

Morgan (The Bookish Beagle) says

So very impressed. It was darker and grimmer than I expected, but had that thread of hope in it that reminded me of both the first Harry Potter and the Seven Realms series. I was drawn in from the start and thought it was such an enthralling adventure. I loved Edmund and Katherine and Tom, though I felt desperately sorry for him. They were believable albeit very brave 14 year olds. I loved the legends and the magic system. And I just loved the writing, it was crisp and melancholy, menacing and exciting. I also thought the story wrapped up nicely for a first book while leaving plenty of adventure to be had. Highly recommended for fantasy fans, it's the kind of book I would have loved in middle school that can still be enjoyed and appreciated by adults.

Alex Scholz-lague says

The Nethergrim by Matthew Jobin was absolutely stunning. When this book is out in April, I would strongly advise picking up a copy, as I couldn't stop reading. The world and characters felt truly alive to me, and I can't imagine the quality of this book when the final version is released. If you enjoy fantasy on any level, this is a must read.

Colin says

Actual rating: 4.5 stars.

Oh man, what a surprise this book turned out to be. Firstly, shout out to Mr Jobin for creating a YA fantasy book that I don't want to throw out the window. Secondly, shout out to my friend and book reviewer extraordinaire Faye! For introducing this gem of a book to me in the first place!

I'm a huge Fantasy fan in general and I read everything from epic fantasy to urban fantasy but I have to say, YA fantasy is a genre I'm not too fond of these days. Most of the time, these books are more fittingly described as teenage soap operas set in a fantasy backdrop. I've had enough love triangle drama and cheesy ass romance to last me a life time, thank you VERY much.

With that being said, I started this book with a degree of apprehension. What if it turned out to be another stupid ass paranormal romance book? But I had no reason to fear, because by the time I turned the last page of this wonderful book, I was utterly delighted. And ecstatic. Feelings that YA fantasy rarely evokes in me any more. Yet, this book had done it!

What I loved:

The setting and the characters

To be quite honest, the story is not that epic in scope (although I have no doubt that it'll become more so in later installments) but what I did see, I loved. I'm always a sucker for medieval settings in Fantasy stories, I think there's something so innately magical and mysterious about that particular period in human history (although I would NEVER want to live in that time!).

As for the characters, man, forming a connection with them was so incredibly easy. The trio of Edmund, Katherine and Tom was one I could cheer on without hesitation. We switched between their POV's quite frequently, but it was never jarring or annoying. I also very much admired their courage and determination to fight until the very end, to never give up hope and to never leave a friend/sibling behind.

Plot

This book kept me intrigued the whole time. Twists and turns aplenty. Startling revelations. What else is there to say? It was freaking awesome.

NON-absent parent syndrome SAY WHUUUUUUUT

Okay, this is a kind of a weird one for me. I say that because I seem to be one of few people who ISN'T bothered by absent parent syndrome. I think that if a story is well written enough, I can generally let that sort of thing slide, but it's really never bothered me in any story that I've read. The few stories that DO feature parents that aren't dead, drug addicts or incapacitated in some other way, I find myself getting pretty annoyed at them because literally the only purpose they serve is to be an obstacle for the protagonist.

Not so much in The Nethergrim!

Parents are present and they are definitely here to stay. And despite me not being particularly bothered by this recurring trope in YA fiction, I still found the family dynamics and relationships BEAUTIFUL to read. These parents aren't perfect; I remember being quite irritated by Harman and Sarra (Edmund's parents) but by the end of the book, they've completely changed their tune and they're much happier for it. Watching the growth of Edmund's little brother Geoffrey was a beautiful thing; he's one hell of an annoying brat at first, but after his experiences (NO SPOILERS), he becomes someone who is much older and more mature.

The relationship between Katherine and her father, the legendary John Marshal, was by far my favourite. You can tell that Marshal loved his daughter and wanted to protect her, but knew in his heart that she was no pushover either. He taught her how to wield a sword and fight, just as he would have done if he had a son.

As far the relationship between Tom and his master Athelstan.....well, let's just say the less said about THAT, the better(just thinking about it makes me blood boil to be honest). AND OSWIN. I DON'T GIVE A FUCK HOW DESPERATE YOU ARE, YOU DO NOT STAB SOMEONE IN THE BACK LIKE THAT YOU FUCKTARD.

Next stop: MOVIE ADAPTATION WEEE

So when reading this book, did anyone not think about how FREAKING great this story would be if it was adapted for screen? The whole time I was reading this, I was getting some SERIOUS cinematic vibes. It's visually exciting, the plot moves at a break neck pace AND it packs an emotional punch. If that isn't the perfect formula for a movie, I don't know what is. Seriously.

What I didn't love so much

Some instances of uneven pacing

Okay, so the story moves at a consistent pace for the most part, but I do feel that there were certain times that the book slowed down WAY too much. I wouldn't call it dragging exactly, but things definitely could have moved at a brisker pace at those points. Honestly, this didn't bother me as much as the next issue...

Instances of weak characterisation

As much as I loved the characters, I DO feel some of them were kind of....dry. Especially in regards to Tom and Katherine, the two other main protagonists.

Since The Nethergrim is very much a plot driven novel, I COULD let this slide, but I think that Tom and Katherine should have been as fleshed out as Edmund was, considering the fact that THEY also narrate the story at several points. I also wanted to dive deeper into the characters of Vithric, Tristan and John Marshal. We may get their back stories at a later point in the series, but I do feel that this kind of thing should have been well established in the beginning (I'm really starting to think this novel should have been bigger muahahah).

Final thoughts

All in all, I REALLY enjoyed this book, and I will, without a doubt, pick up the next one when it comes out (WRITE FASTER, MR JOBIN). One of the best YA fantasy books that I've read in a VERY, VERY long time. This man has single handedly restored my faith in this genre. YA fantasy authors could learn a thing or two from Matthew Jobin! Keep up the FANTASTIC work, sir!

P.S: THAT. COVER. IS. ORGASMIC.

Faye, la Patata says

For many months now, I've been trying to find that perfect YA Fantasy book to satisfy my thirst, but have found nothing that could really satiate that intense craving. So many of them these days have vague and shitty world-building, flat characters, and plotlines that are more apt to be called "plotholes". The majority of them also put too much emphasis on the romance, so much sometimes that other important aspects are forgotten and greatly overshadowed (I am looking at you, *The Winner's Curse*). Since then I've cursed this genre under my breath, and despaired over the fact that books of quality that are more about the adventure and friendship are far and few between.

Thankfully, just like how Vithric saved Tristan against dark and sinister creatures (which pretty much jumpstarted their saving the rest of the world), *The Nethergrim* rescued me from this dark abyss and gave me hope that perhaps this genre isn't so dead and lackluster after all. The spectacular and visually-enticing cover aside, I enjoyed this book a lot, and found myself not having problems at all picturing it in my head. In fact, I'd go ahead and say everything about this book screams BLOCKBUSTER FILM. Character-wise and (especially!) plot-wise, I can see it perfectly as a film that people of all ages would enjoy. **Yes, adults, you can read this and not worry about gouging your eyes out of your sockets.** It's that good.

The Nethergrim follows the story of Edmund. He is the son of an innkeeper and is expected to inherit the business, but deep inside, he has the heart of a wizard. Despite his father's disapproval, he hoards books that talk about magic and tries to understand them whenever he is out of his father's sight. He is resigned to his "fate", but at the same time, he can't resist his own calling. One day, tension rises in the town when livestock and farm animals keep disappearing, only to be found days later completely eaten except for the bones. It rises even higher when children also started disappearing, a situation that's oddly similar to one many decades ago, when the feared Nethergrim caused havoc in the region. But that can't be, right? The Nethergrim was slayed by Tristan and Vithric. In that case, there can only be one answer: he has risen again.

CHARACTERS

What I appreciate the most about this book is the fact we follow a trio of normal friends. And by normal, I mean they're not *les chosen ones* that are often too apparent in Fantasy books these days. Edmund is the son of an innkeeper who loves to read and learn new things in a town where the majority of the residents don't even know how to write their name; Katherine is the daughter of a stable master who has been trained to fight with swords, and; Tom is the slave of a cruel master, who makes him work hungry and tired until the light of dawn. **Three different individuals whose backgrounds paint a picture of the lifestyle of the medieval ages, I find them the book's strongest points, as even though they're different from each other, when put together, they blend beautifully.**

There were times I did want to punch Edmund, but for the most part, he's a cool main character. I love how he isn't someone who's inherently good at what he does. We see his frustration as he tries to learn how to cast magic, and how he's determined to steal one after his father burned his stack of hidden books (nooo!). I love how despite not being someone really special, despite not being strong enough or smart enough or witty enough, he still goes to save his brother from the clutches of a highly sinister entity. He is definitely easier to relate to in many levels as his struggles feel real and familiar.

If I have a complaint regarding this aspect, it is that I felt Katherine and Tom are not fleshed out enough. We get a bit of backstory from them, but unlike towards Edmund, I am not as attached as I want to be (I do feel sorry for Tom, however. His master's very cruel and the instances when I wanted to jump into the story and punch the lights out of him were too many).

WORLD-BUILDING/SETTING

Unfortunately, we only see a bit of the world here, and only in the parts surrounding Edmund's town. I'm not really bothered about it, though, as during reading, I was able to visualize the sceneries and the scenes clearly. There is a map included in the book, which gives a detailed illustration of what this part of the world looks like. Yes, this book is largely centered on a small area, but the end of the book hints of greater adventures beyond the world Edmund and his friends have known, and I'm terribly excited about it.

With regards to the origins of The Nethergrim, what I appreciated about it is the fact we don't know much about it because the heroes who've fought against it are mum about what happened. **What it is, where it's from, where it lies, are all a mystery the majority of the book, and the journey of finding more about it was fun and intriguing.**

ACTUAL PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Man, can you believe this? A YA/MG book where parents are actually existent! I shit you not when I say the majority of books in these demographics usually has the absent parent syndrome, where they're a.) workaholics; b.) dead; c.) on a honeymoon in the Caribbean and won't be coming back for, oh, the next few weeks. Give or take.

Kidding aside and all seriousness in now, I really appreciate how *The Nethergrim* realistically portrays parents and their roles in the lives of their children. There are parents who expect too much from their sons and dismiss their individuality for the supposedly "sake of the greater good". There are parents who realize their mistakes, learn from it, and become better fathers. There are parents who are loving and caring and willing to sacrifice their lives. The whole package. **They aren't absent, they're here, and they're not going away anytime soon.**

TWISTS

There are times I think I've read everything and nothing can surprise me anymore. Most of the time, that's true. When I read the usual book, I can see the twists coming miles away, and the sheer predictability of it all makes me very sad. I love it when a book surprises me, when it shocks me, when it angers me (in a good way...), when it leaves me with my jaw wide open.

I am very sorry to say that when I started this book, I expected less of it in that regard, because I thought I could call on the twists early, but apparently that was naive of me. Many times throughout the book, I was left thinking, "Holy shit, what the fuck? Are you serious?!" and then go, "Crap. I didn't see *that* coming."

Of course, being the very compassionate and kind reviewer that I am, I'm not going to disclose what those twists are (I am quite tempted to, though), but let's just say if there's one thing you can definitely look forward to here, it's the assurance the climax will take your breath away.

OVERALL...

I love it. There are some stuff here and there that may need a bit of polishing and tweaking, but overall, it's a fun read that will prove itself enjoyable to all ages and sizes. It's that kind of book whose storyline you can perfectly see could work as a film. Plus, with the trio of main characters, there will rarely be a boring moment. Some may find it too young for their tastes, and I can finally understand where they are coming from, but it's an enjoyable read nonetheless!

Tamara Richman says

Awesome, awesome, awesome! Lord of the Rings lite! Great adventure fantasy with enough dark mystery to keep middle schoolers enthralled. Would have liked more background about magic and out it works but I'm sure it will be addressed in the sequel. Great for fans of Ranger's Apprentice, Eragon, etc.

Regan says

4.5

Ruth Feathers says

Yes!

Booklover23 says

The Nethergrim is being marketed a young adult or maybe middle grade fantasy, but it is definitely appealing to adults. The author manages to craft a story with layers that provides great crossover potential. The writing is so well crafted it is difficult to believe this is his first book. I got so caught up in the characters and their story that I could not put it down, I barely got any sleep for 3 days while I devoured this book! I contemplated taking time off work to stay home and read it :)

The characters are so well imagined they took on a life of their own in my head and follow me around still. The story was powerful and thought-provoking while still being suitable for younger readers. Adults will come to it with a different perspective and recognize some of those layers I mentioned.

The ending was so exciting and left me wanting to read the next book right away (how long do we have to wait for that?) but didn't leave me hanging - a hard balance to strike in a series.

This is definitely a book you want to add to your "to read" list!

Sydney says

LOVED THIS SO MUCH. My only regret is not waiting to start until all three books have been released. It's going to be a very long wait, indeed.

Lisa says

While browsing through the book galleys at work I came across "The Nethergrim". It looked interesting and although it is written for children 10 and up, I gave it a try. I was immediately drawn into the story of three friends (Edmund, Katherine and Tom) and their lives in the tiny village of Moorvale. After mysterious animal and children disappearances, the friends are forced into battle against the evil Nethergrim and his horrible minions. The Thornbeast was especially disturbing and scary to me. The characters were well written as were the descriptions of the land, creatures and actions. My only problem with this book was now that I have read it, I'm already eager for the next one. I enjoyed this book and will recommend it to my customers.
