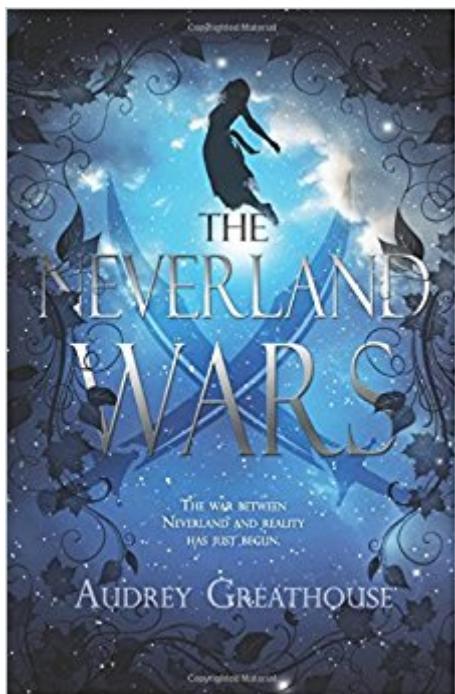


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The Neverland Wars



Synopsis

Magic can do a lot—give you flight, show you mermaids, help you taste the stars, and solve the budget crisis? That's what the grown-ups will do with it if they ever make it to Neverland to steal its magic and bring their children home. However, Gwen doesn't know this. She's just a sixteen-year-old girl with a place on the debate team and a powerful crush on Jay, the soon-to-be homecoming king. She doesn't know her little sister could actually run away with Peter Pan, or that she might have to chase after her to bring her home safe. Gwen will find out though—and when she does, she'll discover she's in the middle of a looming war between Neverland and reality. She'll be out of place as a teenager in Neverland, but she won't be the only one. Peter Pan's constant treks back to the mainland have slowly aged him into adolescence as well. Soon, Gwen will have to decide whether she's going to join impish, playful Peter in his fight for eternal youth—or if she's going to scramble back to reality in time for the homecoming dance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Greathouse took a classic story that has been retold over and over again and added her own unique twist....Excellently written." -Teen Reads "It brought back all that I loved about Peter Pan as a child. Through this world, the author explores the themes of what it means to grow up." -The Underground "Gwen's description of growing up and high school life is one of the most accurate that I've ever read" -Across the Bookiverse

Audrey Greathouse is a nine-time winner of the National Novel Writing Month challenge. Her BA in English Language and Literature comes from Southern New Hampshire University, where she completed her honors thesis on Victorian children's literature. In 2013 she sold her first young adult science-fiction novella, Dr. Derosa's Resurrection, to Mad Scientist Journal for serial publication and has written for HOOKED (iOS) and Tapas (iOS/Android). Initially from Seattle, she is enjoying the footloose lifestyle her freelance fiction writing affords her. Audrey is a classically trained pianist and unconventionally trained circus artist, specializing in fire eating and aerial silks. Her long-term goals as an author are to make a modest living writing novels and to build a following that will dress up and participate in her avant-garde art projects.

I cannot stress how disappointed in this book I was. Peter Pan is one of my favorite story, but this...this was just terrible. Gwen is supposed to be 16 but acts like she's 12. So much of the story just falls short of every expectation that I have had for it. The first 15 percent was explaining the ordinariness of Gwen then her sister gets taken and everyone is more concerned about Gwen finding out about magic. They all seemed okay with the fact that Rosemary is missing. Peter is borderline abusive to Gwen and she just takes it. He calls her a dumb girl on several occasions and instead of defending herself she agrees with him. Is this what we want to teach our young girls? The story is supposed to be able a war between the two realms and we see nothing relating to this until like the last 10% of the book. Nothing within the book makes readers emotionally connected or concerned for the readers. We don't even know WHY there is a war between the realms other than adults want magic? Is that enough for war? I mean Pan is kidnapping children wouldn't that be a bigger issue than the use of magic? There were points when I thought the story was going to head in one direction, but then goes into a completely different one that didn't seem to relate to the plot of the story. It just doesn't develop well. I get that the idea is the build up Gwen's interconflict of whether or not to remain innocent or grow up, but this could have been done better/differently through dialogue or Gwen experiencing different aspects of Neverland while searching for the piper and aviator. I almost wanted to give up on this book several times. The idea is interesting and has a lot of potential, but it didn't land among the stars.

This is a book for those who have never really grown up and still dream of the wonders of Neverland. Gwen is sixteen. Basically, all grown up but part of her doesn't believe adulthood is all it's cracked up to be. Although some things...such as a certain guy at school...aren't too bad. When her

little sister goes missing, she learns that adults and especially her parents are hiding something. Magic is real but not in infinite amounts. And the adults on Earth/reality have decided they get the monopoly on determining where it's used. Peter Pan and Neverland in the traditional form have not been forgotten in this story. There are many elements which run parallel to the adventurous island, but on the other hand, some things have changed. Peter Pan is a little older--the explanation for this is clever!--and he's well aware of what's happening as the adults drain magic. Still, the core of him remains Peter Pan. Eating stars, chit-chatting with mermaids and going on adventures make the slide into pure children fantasy. Yet, the intended audience is the younger end of YA. The straddle from childhood to adulthood comes across masterfully. Illogical, whimsical fantasy meets themes such as first love, beer parties and high school. Still, in this book, it's the fantasy that reigns and most time is spent in Neverland, which gives the plot, at times, the feel of an upper middle grade read. Gwen is seen as a story teller, and this is the reason Peter Pan has for fetching her despite her age. To follow this, several stories are 'told'. Although meaningful, they pulled me enough out of the book that I caught myself skimming through them. But aside from these, the book grabs and doesn't let go. There's a lot going on and so much to cheer for. The writing is fitting even for upper middle grade and has themes completely fitting for kids 14 and above. I can't wait for the next book to come out because Gwen and Peter still have a big adventure before them.

I really REALLY wanted to like this book. The cover is so pretty (and gets the star) and I love Peter Pan retellings. The first 3 pages were engaging and then it immediately became really awful. I was painfully aware that this was an adult was writing for a teen, mostly because the author kept referring to everything as "teenage" this or that. I never felt like I was IN the story. It took forever for the problem to be laid out and even then there was no sense of urgency in the plot. Even when the main character gets to Neverland, there is no real action. The book just dragged me along until I finally stopped picking it up (a little after 100 pages in).

originally posted on A Bibliophile's Reverie An interesting take on Peter Pan, this book brings back the wonders of every child. We all dream that we will have Peter fly to our room and take us to Neverland, but for Gwen, it didn't seem like a reality. Sure, when she was a kid, she believed in fairy tales, but now she was in High School and things like that didn't happen. At least, that's what she thought, until her sister was kidnapped by Peter and taken to Neverland. Now she must save her and the only way to do that is to be taken by Peter to Neverland. I found this book to be very interesting, although slow in

some areas. It felt a lot like the Disney movie that came out when I was in middle school, but with Peter being a bit older. In this story he is high school age, because every time he went to the real world, it started to take a toll. I liked this idea and it made perfect sense to me. I did want to know more about the war, what the reason behind it was, and why Gwen found herself in the middle of it. I also didn't care for the ending, and didn't understand why she would go to there (wouldn't spoil it) so it felt a little rushed and off to me, especially after everything that had happened. I do want to know what happens and can't wait to read the next book. All in all, if you love Neverland, definitely read this book. I give it 3.5/5 stars, as I think it got have a little substance to it and a little better ending, but it is still really entertaining and I would recommend it to anyone who doesn't want to grow up. Also, the mermaids were pretty cool! |

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