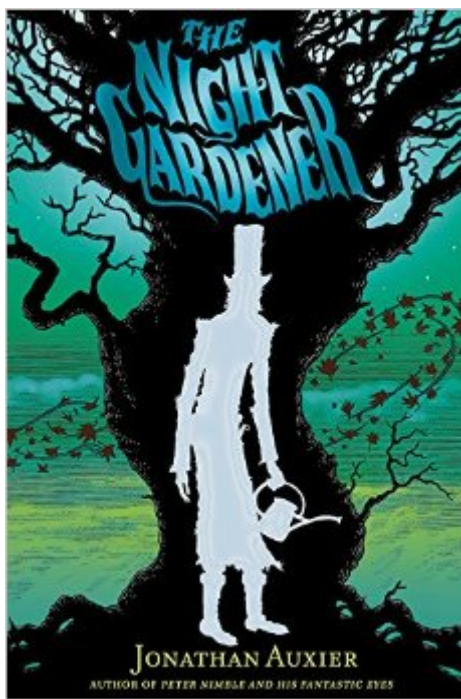


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# The Night Gardener



## Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller, *The Night Gardener* is a Victorian ghost story with shades of Washington Irving and Henry James. More than just a spooky tale, it's also a moral fable about human greed and the power of storytelling. *The Night Gardener* follows two abandoned Irish siblings who travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house. But the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious spectre and an ancient curse that threatens their very lives. With Auxier's exquisite command of language, *The Night Gardener* is a mesmerizing read and a classic in the making. Praise for *The Night Gardener* STARRED REVIEWS "Lots of creepiness, memorable characters, a worthy message, Auxier's atmospheric drawings and touches of humor amid the horror make this cautionary tale one readers will not soon forget." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Storytelling and the secret desires of the heart wind together in this atmospheric novel that doubles as a ghost tale." --School Library Journal, starred review "Auxier achieves an ideal mix of adventure and horror, offering all of it in elegant, atmospheric language that forces the reader to slow down a bit and revel in both the high-quality plot and the storytelling itself." --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "All proper scary stories require a spooky, menacing atmosphere, and Auxier (*Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*) delivers the goods with his precise descriptions of the gothic setting and teasing hints of mystery and suspense." --The Horn Book Magazine Summer 2014 Kids' Indie Next List

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; First Edition edition (May 20, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 141971144X

ISBN-13: 978-1419711442

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (169 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #89,873 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #558 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror #620 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up &

Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

Every now and again when we get really lucky, we encounter a story that reminds us why thereâ€™s nothing in the world that compares to finishing a really good book. For a reading teacher itâ€™s an essential reminder that we must do more than deliver skills to kids. We need our students to experience what itâ€™s like to lose themselves in a story. It is with the utmost reverence that I express how Jonathan Auxierâ€™s forthcoming title, *The Night Gardener* has captured the very essence of a good storyâ€™s power. Itâ€™s a tale so ethereal, it made the world around me feel two dimensional in comparison. Plenty of great books keep you entertained from the first page to the last. For me, the mark of an exceptional book is how much I remember about it weeks, months, even years after Iâ€™ve finished. Itâ€™s been six months and I can still feel the story. I can picture Constanceâ€™s ring falling off of her finger and the need to put the book down for a moment so I could take in how the action of a ring hitting the floor could evoke such terror. The deep pride I felt for Molly, who could take an ordinary button, what little she has to her possession, and transformed it into a sense of security for her brother. And Kip, whoâ€™s cheery, confident, and courageous demeanor preserved Mollyâ€™s true north. Itâ€™s not just the world, and characters, and tone of the book that still resonates. With its suspenseful spookiness, vivid world, endearing characters, and expert pacing, my hunch is that this is a book that will inspire the same feelings for many, many kids. Iâ€™m thankful for *The Night Gardener*. Itâ€™s a story that helps us see the person that we are and the person we want to become more clear.

For whatever reason, 2014 is a dark year in childrenâ€™s middle grade fiction. I speak from experience. Fantasy in particular has been steeped in a kind of thoughtful darkness, from *The Glass Sentence* and *The Thicket* to *The Riverman* and *Twelve Minutes to Midnight* with varying levels of success. And though none would contest the fact that they are creepy, only Jonathan Auxierâ€™s *The Night Gardener* has had the chutzpah to actually write, "A Scary Story" on its title pages as a kind of thoughtful dare. A relatively new middle grade author, still young in the field, reading this book itâ€™s hard to reconcile it with Auxier's previous novel *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*. It is almost as if Mr. Auxier took his whimsy, pulled out a long sharp stick, and stabbed it repeatedly in the heart and left it to die in the snow so as to give us a sublimely horrific little novel. Long story

short this novel is Little Shop of Horrors meets The Secret Garden. I hope I'm not giving too much away by saying that. Even if I am, I regret nothing. Here we have a book that ostensibly gives us an old-fashioned tale worthy of Edgar Allan Poe, but that steeps it in a serious and thought provoking discussion of the roles of both lies and stories when you're facing difficulties in your life. Madcap brilliant. Molly and Kip are driving a fish cart, pulled by a horse named Galileo, to their deaths. That's what everyone's been telling them anyway. Living without parents, Molly sees herself as her brother's guardian and is intent upon finding a safe place for the both of them. When she's hired to work as a servant at the mysterious Windsor estate she thinks the job might be too good to be true. Indeed, the place (located deep in something called "the sour woods") is a decrepit old mansion falling apart at the seams.

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