



Clariel: The Lost Abhorsen (Old Kingdom)

By Garth Nix

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Award-winning author Garth Nix returns to the Old Kingdom with a thrilling prequel complete with dark magic, royalty, dangerous action, a strong heroine, and flawless world building. This epic fantasy adventure is destined to be a classic and is perfect for fans of Rae Carson, Kristin Cashore, Scott Westerfeld, and Cassandra Clare.

Clariel is the daughter of one of the most notable families in the Old Kingdom, with blood relations to the Abhorsen and, most important, to the King. She dreams of living a simple life but discovers this is hard to achieve when a dangerous Free Magic creature is loose in the city, her parents want to marry her off to a killer, and there is a plot brewing against the old and withdrawn King Orrikan. When Clariel is drawn into the efforts to find and capture the creature, she finds hidden sorcery within herself, yet it is magic that carries great dangers. Can she rise above the temptation of power, escape the unwanted marriage, and save the King?

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Editorial Review

Review

“Between striking characters—from the heroic if not entirely competent young Abhorsen-in-Waiting, Belatiel, to the enigmatic, catlike Mogget—and Nix’s brilliantly complex magic system, this superb tale is exactly the book fans of the series have been awaiting.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“Clariel is a deeply sympathetic character faced with complicated choices, the consequences of which are frighteningly uncertain as she is pulled between the wild Free Magic and the disciplined Charter. A bittersweet story.” (Booklist (starred review))

“Nix pens a compelling character in Clariel while his skill in rendering both politics and magic is strong. This excellent work can be enjoyed independently of the other Old Kingdom novels, but will certainly draw readers to those works.” (School Library Journal (starred review))

“Nix’s tale provides a complete experience unto itself. But his focus on this strong character whose overriding passion is to go her own way provides a hugely satisfying background to the other Abhorsen books. A suspenseful prequel to the much-loved Abhorsen books, showcasing the independent Clariel.” (Shelf Awareness (starred review))

“Beautifully written, magnificently imagined, and wholly original, Clariel is Garth Nix’s finest work yet.” (Holly Black, New York Times bestselling author of *The Coldest Girl in Coldtown*)

“The old magic returns in this sterling prequel to one of YA’s classic series.” (Scott Westerfeld, New York Times bestselling author of the *Uglies* series and *Afterworlds*)

“A brilliant return to the Old Kingdom—one of the most exciting and original magical worlds ever devised.” (Alison Goodman, New York Times bestselling author of *Eon* and *Eona*)

“A thunderstorm of a tale, bitter and brutal but dazzling in its ferocity.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Fans will treasure this long-awaited opportunity to return to a much-loved world, built with as much originality and richness as ever.” (Horn Book Magazine)

“Nix fans will surely rejoice at this sharp, gripping prequel to his beloved fantasy trilogy of Sabriel, Lirael and Abhorsen. The beauty of a prequel is that it will not only present unknown scenarios even to the most intense devotees but also pave a path for new fans to dive into the existing trilogy.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books)

Praise for SABRIEL: “Sabriel is a winner, a fantasy that reads like realism. Here is a world with the same solidity and four dimensional authority as our own, created with invention, clarity, and intelligence. I congratulate Garth Nix. And I look forward to reading his next piece of work.” (Philip Pullman)

Praise for LIRAEEL: “What makes Lirael a delight is the magic that Nix brings to his story and to his characters.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“Riveting.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

Praise for ABHORSEN: “Breathtaking, bittersweet, and utterly unforgettable.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

From the Back Cover

Clariel is the daughter of one of the most notable families in the Old Kingdom, with blood relations to the Abhorsen and, most importantly, to the King. When her family moves to the city of Belisaere, there are rumors that her mother is next in line for the throne. However, Clariel wants no part of it—a natural hunter, all she ever thinks about is escaping the city's confining walls and journeying back to the quiet, green world of the Great Forest.

But many forces conspire against Clariel's dream. A dangerous Free Magic creature is loose in the city, her parents want to marry her off to a killer, and there is a plot brewing against the old and withdrawn King Orrikan. When Clariel is drawn into the efforts to find and capture the creature, she finds hidden sorcery within herself, yet it is magic that carries great dangers. Can she rise above the temptation of power, escape the unwanted marriage, and save the King?

In *Clariel*, *New York Times* bestselling author Garth Nix weaves a story that is as rich and compelling as the original Abhorsen novels. *Clariel*, prelude to the Abhorsen trilogy, is set approximately six hundred years before the birth of Sabriel. Devoted Old Kingdom fans and new readers alike will clamor for this epic fantasy adventure.

About the Author

Garth Nix was born in 1963 in Melbourne, Australia. A full-time writer since 2001, he has worked as a literary agent, marketing consultant, book editor, book publicist, book sales representative, bookseller, and part-time soldier in the Australian Army Reserve. Garth's books include the award-winning fantasy novels *Sabriel*, *Lirael*, and *Abhorsen*; *Clariel*, a prequel in the Abhorsen series; the cult favorite teen science fiction novel *Shade's Children*; and his critically acclaimed collection of short stories, *To Hold the Bridge*. His fantasy novels for younger readers include *The Ragwitch*, the six books of the Seventh Tower sequence, the Keys to the Kingdom series, and *A Confusion of Princes*. His books have appeared on the bestseller lists of the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, the *Guardian*, and the *Australian*, and his work has been translated in forty languages. He lives in Sydney, Australia, with his wife and two children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Johnny Cervantes:

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Allen Reilley:

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Janice Arias:

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