

## Morgan Le Fay: Children of This World by Jo-Anne Blanco

### 5 Stars

The second book in the Morgan Le Fay trilogy picks up immediately where the first ended with the arrival of High King Vortigern to young Morgan's home. The presence of the king brings heightened tensions around the castle, as the children begin to experience more closely the damage of war. And all the while Morgan's magical powers are growing, leading to more interest from the mythical god-like entities of the land, more suspicion from her friends and more danger from the Faerie realms, who were angered by Morgan in the previous book.

Having read the first Morgan Le Fay book, many of the characters and events were familiar to me although the book does offer a brief introduction to each returning character and probably could be read as a stand-alone novel. The writing style is highly readable, and the story is engaging throughout, with action intertwined nicely with more thought-provoking themes. The book discusses a lot of topics that had a huge influence on medieval lifestyles, such as religion and the class system, and by presenting them through the eyes of the child protagonist Morgan, they are analysed succinctly and without bias.

One of my problems with the previous book was a slight disconnect between the magic and the war; however, in the chapter in the trilogy, there is no such issue. As Morgan explores her magic and learns new powers, the ramifications have huge effects, and the reader can often feel a captivating and pleasurable sense of foreboding when her actions begin to lead to consequences that the naive mind of a child would not have foreseen. Both the magical beings and the adults in the novel are often painted as bad or good characters by Morgan, but the true nature of many of them is left unclear which adds to the mystique of the novel.

The age of the children is still a slightly odd point, but clearly, there is a magical element in play. Morgan is often slightly frustrating in her refusal to talk to trustworthy characters about developments in her abilities and visions, but without some childish stubbornness the mysteries of the book would perhaps be resolved too quickly. The god-like creatures that appear to be influencing Morgan are also very intriguing, and the book contains lots of nice sections of Greek and Roman mythology.

Overall I would highly recommend this book. The characters feel fleshed out and unpredictable, and the enhanced proximity of the war makes the book feel well-connected and exciting while retaining the moral discussions and excellent writing style of the first novel.

Boromir

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review