



Across the Wall: A Tale of the Abhorsen and Other Stories

By Garth Nix

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Nicholas Sayre will do anything to get across the Wall

Thoughts of Lirael and Sam haunt his dreams, and he has come to realize that his destiny lies with them, in the Old Kingdom. But here in Ancelstierre, Nick faces an obstacle that is not entirely human, with a strange power that seems to come from Nicholas himself.

With "Nicholas Sayre and the Creature in the Case," Garth Nix continues to explore the magical world of the Abhorsen Trilogy. In additional short stories that range from two widely different takes on the Merlin myth to a gritty urban version of Hansel and Gretel and a heartbreak story of children and war, Garth Nix displays the range and versatility that has made him one of today's leading writers of fantasy for readers of all ages.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—Twelve short stories and one novella are stitched together with the popular Australian author's commentary on his writing life. Nix includes one choose-your-own-adventure type story, *Down to the Scum Quarter*. A spoof on the genre, it takes place primarily in a bordello and is rife with literary and role-play allusions, but lacks a satisfying story arc. Other selections, more traditional in format, include a disturbingly gory and unforgettable *Hansel and Gretel* set in a dark cityscape, two spin-offs from Arthurian legend, and a Western fantasy that owes more to the movies than to history. In the novella, *Nicholas Sayre and the Creature in the Case*, the scion of a political family wants nothing more than to cross the forbidden Wall and be reunited with his friends in the Old Kingdom, where magic is practiced and understood. To that end, Nicholas agrees to engage in espionage for his powerful uncle, only to be swept up in a terrifying scenario as a mummified monster is brought to life with his blood. Readers of the author's bestselling *Abhorsen* trilogy (Morrow/Avon) will find themselves right at home in this horror/fantasy/mystery but those new to this world will find the first pages slow going as they try to piece together the nature of the alternative reality and to identify offstage characters and events. At times self-indulgent (the text of the author's first book, written at age six, is included in his notes), this collection will nonetheless delight true fans.—*Carolyn Lehman, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-10. The jacket of this short story collection features Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon's representations of Lirael and Nick--the same Ancelstierran who unwittingly served as the Destroyer's pawn in book three of the *Abhorsen* Trilogy. The image corresponds to the opening novella, in which Nick encounters a bloodsucking Free Magic monster during a visit to Ancelstierre's top-secret intelligence agency. The story teasingly refers to British mysteries and spy fiction, parodic elements that will appeal most to Nix's adult fans. Even less-experienced readers, though, will enjoy getting to know Nick on his own terms, unhampered by the evil influences of a body-stealing demon. The remaining 11 stories (all unrelated to Nix's best-known alternate reality) include selections clearly intended for middle-graders as well as more sophisticated offerings containing frank references to sex and violence spattered with "blood and brains and urine." Buy this with the understanding that the packaging will attract the full spectrum of Nix's fans, but that younger ones may get more than they bargained for. *Jennifer Mattson*

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Review

"Anyone familiar with Garth Nix's children's trilogy *Sabriel*, *Lirael* and *Abhorsen* will snatch up this anthology... there's a little bit of everything here." *SFX*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wendy Brame:

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Scott Rochelle:

The book Across the Wall: A Tale of the Abhorsen and Other Stories has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. The writer makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this article book.

Steven Murray:

A number of people said that they feel weary when they reading a guide. They are directly felt that when they get a half parts of the book. You can choose the actual book Across the Wall: A Tale of the Abhorsen and Other Stories to make your own reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the sensation about book and reading through especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to start a book and study it. Beside that the book Across the Wall: A Tale of the Abhorsen and Other Stories can to be your new friend when you're experience alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of their time.

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