



The Book of Life

Steve Griffin

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A sickly girl and her helper, trapped in a house on the swamp.

An English girl who arrives out of nowhere in the night.

A mystery that must be solved before all three can return to where they belong.

Exploring her inherited garden, Lizzie Jones is transported through another portal to the Louisianan swamp. There she is pursued by terrifying creatures to Cypress House, where an ill girl and her carer are trapped.

But Cypress House has its own mysteries Lizzie must solve before she can return home. Who is Caroline Day, the ‘ghost girl’, and what is her connection to Lizzie’s past? Why does the threatened hurricane never arrive? Who is the mysterious odd-job man, Mr Paterson? And how will Lizzie ever find the portal when it’s lost in the swamp?

A fast paced mystery adventure for lovers of His Dark Materials and Harry Potter.

Praise for ‘The City of Light’, Book 1 of The Secret of the Tirthas: “an entertaining and exciting book...I can’t wait to read the next adventure.” Guardian Children’s Books

The Book of Life Details

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Author : Steve Griffin

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Anna says

Thoroughly enjoyable sequel to 'The City of Light' - pacy and atmospheric. Great for young/mid teens and up. Recommended.

Vesmeister says

This is a great follow up to The City of Light; in fact I found it even more of a page-turner than the first book. Entertaining for teenagers and adults alike, most of the tale is set in the swamps of Louisiana. Our young heroine Lizzie appears to be stuck in some kind of time-warp and finds herself facing voodoo, zombie-like creatures and the sinister Mr Paterson. Neatly woven through this storyline we learn more about the Tirthas and mysterious Book of Life. An intriguing final chapter leaves you waiting eagerly for the final instalment of the trilogy.

David says

A terrific read for young adults (and older readers would enjoy it as well) which goes deeper into the mystery of the Tirthas - a network of portals accessed from a Herefordshire garden - connecting other times and places. It is darker than the first book of the series and places Lizzie, its young heroine in more peril as she fights evil in the swamp lands of Louisiana.

The author has a gift for describing places without ever letting his descriptions get in the way of the story and the atmosphere of the swamps comes over very well.

Linda Lou says

Time is of the essence. Time is ticking away. Time is running out like sand in an hour glass.

Lizzie starts to come into her own in this book. She develops and comes to know herself and trust herself. She discovers secrets but the meaning of those secrets are still hidden. I loved the way Lizzie grew and evolved. The secrets of the past affect and set the stage. This is Lizzie's history. This is Lizzie's reality. This is Lizzie's story.

Lizzie is caught in the bayous of Louisiana with bleak possibilities of getting out. This tale of the Tirthas takes a strange twist in this second book. It is eerie. I mean, a creepy kind of eeriness. The kind that gives you goosebumps, makes the hair on the back of your neck standup and makes you jump at the slightest sound because you just know....but you don't know. And that is the scary part. I have been to the bayous of Louisiana and Mississippi in the middle of a hot afternoon and it gave me the heebie jeebies. The strangeness of this world envelopes you and holds you captive as if the curtains of moss hanging from the trees are

closing in on you and you just know the alligators are sneaking up on you. The silence is broken only by a faint slithering sound or a call from an occasional bird. I felt it all...the whole terror of it alongside Lizzie. The author took me to this place and I went willingly and I would go again.

Elisabeth Korn says

Fast paced mystery adventure in a 'Southern Gothic' setting. Some of it was pretty creepy. Very enjoyable, for kids and grown ups!
