



The Light Between Worlds

Laura E. Weymouth

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Five years ago, Evelyn and Philippa Hapwell cowered from air strikes in a London bomb shelter. But that night took a turn when the sisters were transported to another realm called the Woodlands. In a forest kingdom populated by creatures out of myth and legend, they found temporary refuge.

When they finally returned to London, nothing had changed at all—nothing, except themselves.

Now, Ev spends her days sneaking into the woods outside her boarding school, wishing for the Woodlands. Overcome with longing, she is desperate to return no matter what it takes.

Philippa, on the other hand, is determined to find a place in this world. She shields herself behind a flawless exterior and countless friends, and moves to America to escape the memory of what was.

But when Evelyn goes missing, Philippa must confront the depth of her sister's despair and the painful truths they've been running from. As the weeks unfold, Philippa wonders if Ev truly did find a way home, or if the weight of their worlds pulled her under.

Content warnings are available at www.lauraeweymouth.com/books

The Light Between Worlds Details

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Author : Laura E. Weymouth

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From Reader Review *The Light Between Worlds* for online ebook

Leah says

How dare someone think to write this! I mean ... this was just ... COMPLETELY, UTTERLY AND IRREVOCABLY DEVASTATING!!!

First, let me start off by saying I had ridiculously high expectations for this book. Ever since the deal was announced, say a year and a half ago, I have kept an eye on every single update. The title change, the cover reveal which then changed as well (to a masterpiece, I might add), when ARCs went out, etc. The author even followed me back on Twitter a little while ago and I lost my s**t. In other words, I have waited a long time to read this book. Yes, I could very well have set myself up for failure, but this piece of perfection met every single one of my lofty expectations and left me a puddle of distraught despair.

Second, do not go into this expecting to get a rip-off of Narnia. Rather consider it the sequel to the Pevensie (in this case Hapwell) children's adventures you never got. This novel tackles all the implications and consequences of growing up, of finding who you are in a magical world, only to be thrown unceremoniously back into your original, boring world and having to start all over again. And let me tell you yet again that this was devastating! I did not expect how broken my heart would be over this. It is completely realistic and believable, which makes it all my sob-worthy.

Speaking of the Hapwell siblings, prepare to become far too attached to them. The book is told in dual POV, and I really enjoyed the format. The first half is told from the youngest Hapwell, Evelyn's POV almost six years after their return from The Woodlands. In between this, there are flashbacks that take us through the Hapwell siblings' time in this magical world. Evelyn was eleven when she first crossed between worlds, and it was her call that brought them to The Woodlands. Growing up in the midst of WWII in England, she and her siblings were shunted back and forth between school and other peoples' homes for safety. Naturally, she was never able to put down roots to call somewhere home until The Woodlands. Her chapters follow her as she struggles to find her place in England, but all she wants is to go back home. The second half is told from Evelyn's older sister, Philippa, with the flashbacks showing how life was in the five years since they returned home. While Evelyn can only think of The Woodlands, Philippa can only think of her sister's well-being. Jamie, the oldest brother, pops up between each sibling, but it's clear he is at a loss of what to do for either sister. In short, THIS BOOK WILL CRUSH YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE HAPWELL CHILDREN.

Finally, I cannot end without exclaiming that Laura Weymouth's writing is beautiful. Usually, I never quite know when to apply the description of lyrical to a novel because of how ambiguous I find the term at times, but this hit it right on the head. It is lush and vivid, and Weymouth gets right down to nitty-gritty of each character with lovely prose. In considering how much the characters dwell on their situations, their fears and desires, Weymouth walks a very fine line and comes off at the end being victorious in avoiding sounding repetitive.

Overall, I cannot recommend this book enough. It is a fantasy standalone that I question if we ever needed it because it holds up to the light of day the consequences of the fantastic experiences so many of our beloved characters go through. We never see what happens after the day is won, the war is over, the world and loved ones are safe. There are parts of these characters that can never be the same, and while this was unbelievably destructive on my emotions, I cannot wait to read it again.

*September 28

I NOW HOLD A PHYSICAL ARC IN MY HANDS BECAUSE MY LOCAL BOOKSTORE IS THE GREATEST.

I don't think you realize how excited I am to dive into this now. That display is lucky it's still in one piece.

Korrina (OwlCrate) says

A picked this book up on a total whim and absolutely loved it. The writing was fantastic, and the story made my heart ache in the best way.

◇lilly◇ says

◇ ARC PROVIDED BY THE PUBLISHER VIA EDELWEISS IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW ◇

Have you read *The Chronicles of Narnia* or watched *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*? If yes, **don't come anywhere near this book**. Reread or rewatch Narnia instead. You'll be getting the better execution of the exact same premise.

There isn't an ounce of originality in *The Light Between Worlds*. It's practically a recycled version of Narnia, minus Edmund:

- ✓? ~~four~~ three children are swept away to a magical medieval land through a ~~wardrobe~~ bunker;
- ✓? the godlike ~~lion Aslan~~ deer Cervus serves as their spiritual mentor;
- ✓? the magical land is threatened by an evil tyrant who the children should help defeat;
- ✓? little sister ~~Lucy~~ Evelyn befriends the supernatural creatures and feels more at home in their world;
- ✓? big sister ~~Susan~~ Philippa turns her back on the magical land once the children are back in our world.

And as if these similarities aren't enough to appall any Narnia fan, **little to nothing happens in the first 25%**. The storyline follows the children's arrival in the magical land and Evelyn's 24-hour mental pity party five years after their return simultaneously. The flashbacks are predictable because you're witnessing a less exciting version of Narnia which barely scratches the surface of the fantasy classic. The "after" chapters are boring because of how mundane they are. Evelyn goes to boarding school. Evelyn reads poetry. Evelyn takes a walk in the woods. Evelyn pulls weeds. Evelyn makes a phone call. **There are a million amazing things you can do with the "after Narnia" premise, and this book throws every opportunity for adventure and excitement out the window**. The occasionally striking writing is the only thing keeping *The Light Between Worlds* from a 1 star rating.

I wasn't aware that you could write a bland Narnia, but I guess I stand corrected. DNF at 25%.

More of my reviews can be found on my blog, *Valley of the Books*.

London Shah says

You don't even know how much you're going to love this book... Oh my goodness, it is haunting in the most

beautiful ways. Prepare to meet one of the most unforgettable MC's you've ever read about—I can't believe how much I connected with Ev!!! I still think about her, and that's something when you consider I read an early draft of this story. I cannot wait to read the final version. So utterly beautifully written, a heartbreaking premise, and an MC who will grab your heart and run away into the woodlands with it. Oh my <3

Hamad says

This review and other non-spoilery reviews can be found @The Book Prescription

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

“A Woodlands heart always find its way home”

? The moment I set my eyes on this cover I knew I was going to read this book. It has one of the best covers ever. I wanted the inside to match the outside, well it happened but to a certain degree.

? Let's just say that the first thing that caught my attention was the writing style, Laura is a very good writer and for those who like poetical writing then this book is for you, it literally even had many verses of poem. The prose flowed easily which made this quite fast to read despite it being a bit heavy kind of book.

? The Edelweiss page says that this book genre is Young Adult Fiction / Fantasy / Wizards & Witches, but I actually disagree. I thought it was going to be like that which makes you think it will be action packed with wars and tactics and stuff but nope! I can't find one genre to put this into as it was a mix of Magic realism/ fantasy/ contemporary and historical fiction. So think of this more as a quiet book rather than a fast action packed one.

? This was also a bit confusing at first because it jumps between the real world and the Woodland world. between past and present and between Evelyn and Philippa. But after a few chapters I got the hang of things and that wasn't really a problem.

? I saw mixed reviews about this when comparing it to Narnia, some said that is a must for fans of Narnia and some said that it is a big No for those fans. I say try it and have your own opinion. I never watched Narnia (I know!!) so I can't judge but there are similarities as jumping into a different world where time flows different from our world. So the characters grow in Woodlands for a few years and then they go back to the real world as young children. I found this idea a cool one and so if you like it give this a chance.

? It is also more of a character driven book that deals with families, wars and sisterhood. I expected it to be like HP kind of book with more magic and creatures and adventures and that never happened. That actually affected my rating.

“If it's your heart that fails you, we'll teach your hands what to do. Then they will act before your heart can stop them”

ARC provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Drue says

Thanks, Edelweiss and HaperTeen for providing me with a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

*"The heart of a woman falls back with the night,
And enters some alien cage in its plight,
And tries to forget it has dreamed of the stars
While it breaks, breaks, breaks on the sheltering bars."*

Oh boy, had I expected this book to be completely opposite of what I got? Yes. A thousand times.

Weymouth has a way with words. Each sentence contained a deep thought and emotion. Some people thought that this book is similar to Lewis's 'The Chronicles of Narnia'. I disagree, however. This book definitely has a similar concept to that beautiful series, and the characters are similar too. The thing about this book is that it says more about finding your way back home. The age-old question: Who am I? Where do I belong?

Further, Weymouth also explores a bond of sisterhood. The book is divided into two perspectives told in the first person, which I thought was interesting. When I started reading the book, I wasn't able to follow the storyline. There is a past and then there is the present. When I realized what was going on, the reading was a breeze. It felt like I was in an ancient Britain.

Find more reviews on: [The Secret of Drue Isle](#)

Hollis says

This book is achingly horribly painfully sad.

The pitch for THE LIGHT BETWEEN WORLDS is basically what would life be like for children, grown into heroes or saviours in another world, to come home (ie, post-Narnia). Or to what was once home. I'm not sure exactly what I expected from such a plot, and of course I didn't read the synopsis before diving in, but I was totally unprepared for this experience. In a good and a bad way.

Weymouth's writing is stunning and I want more from this author; that is without question. However I found the first hundred pages of this story incredibly slow, even boring, and then the rest just.. hurts. This story is painful. It's about overpowering loss and grief and longing set post-WWII, which is already kind of gloomy, and I'm just.. well, feeling pretty depressed. There is so little hope in this story, which is less about their adventures and more about an emotional journey for two sisters -- one of whom moves on and the other who only wants to return -- and I basically read half of this book choking back tears and emotion and agony. So, you know, if that isn't your idea of a good time this might not be the book for you.

Despite the slow start it isn't dull it's just lacking in any real happiness. Which I suppose is supposed to be the mood. And also why I'm not rating it. Again, this is beautifully written and the talent of the author is very present but holy god I don't want to put myself through this again.

**** I received an ARC from the publisher (thank you!) in exchange for an honest review. ****

Melissa says

A yearning, aching lovely take on what happens when you find your way free of your own world and into one that suits you better--then are forced back home again. This is a book for anyone who dreamed of being Lucy Pevensie or broke their heart over poor Susan, with the mystical, lonesome feeling of a clearing happened upon in the woods.

Vicky Who Reads says

4.5 stars

A lot more character based than I expected, but still really good! Very introspective.

Cindy says

If you have loved Narnia, you **MUST** look this book up next fall. I don't even have words to describe how much I adored it; the lyrical, literary prose, the deeply flawed but eminently relatable characters, the utterly phenomenal premise. This book is like nostalgia incarnate, and not quite like anything I've ever read. ♥️♥️♥️? DEFINITELY read it.

Ameema Saeed says

4.5 stars.

I'm an Indigo Employee, and I received an advanced reading copy of this book, in exchange for my honest feedback.

The alternate ending to Narnia that you never knew you needed. This book was devastating (in the best of ways). Covering incredibly heavy topics like grief, loss, trauma, and mental illness – this book was truly genre-defying. Almost split into two stories – this read half like the story of a young, troubled girl – torn between two worlds; and half like the new adult coming-of-age story of a woman who loses her sister. Somehow, the two stories worked, and together told a heartbreaking (but strangely uplifting) story. I really loved this book – I was surprised by how much, and am excited for more from this author.

Brittany (The Book Addict's Guide/Novelly Yours) says

Initial Impressions 8/19/18: *4.5 stars*

What a beautiful book this was! THE LIGHT BETWEEN WORLDS wasn't quite what I was expecting but it

turned out to be even better. The focus was much more on the time after the fantasy world and how the three siblings had to deal with being back in the real world and it made for such an emotional story. I loved the characters and how real everything felt. The emotions really struck me and I connected with these characters so much.

The writing was positively gorgeous. It was a tad flowery at times which sort of took away from some of the beauty because it was so well-written that it didn't need to be over the top. Those quiet moments and emotional connections did the work so the overly flowery passages weren't necessary, but they still evoked emotion as well, even if they did become a bit distracting. I was easily swept away with this story and I had a hard time tearing myself out of this world.

I actually really appreciated that this book wasn't so much about the fantasy world that these children found but about how it changed them and the people they became. It wasn't about all of them needing the world and everyone took away something different from the experience. I loved the sibling connection and the other relationships in the book were positively perfect as well. Tom was easily the best character in the book and I loved him so much, and Philippa's Jack made for a wonderful addition as well. It's wonderful to see supporting characters doing just that -- supporting the leads for exactly who they are, despite heartbreak, secrets, stubbornness, and all the other things.

I actually didn't quite love the ending. It was quite fitting and I knew it was one of two possibilities but I still didn't love it. It also leaves a lot of questions left unanswered (like what will happen after the closing chapter), but it's also not necessary to address those questions because that would be another story entirely. I'm so glad I read this book and although it wasn't what my heart told me I was in the mood for when I picked it up, it found its place quite fittingly.

Britt says

Wow, this book was quite a trip. It started out with a Chronicles of Narnia vibe but then turned into all of the darkness and poetic beauty of Wintersong. This book gives insight to what might happen after Narnia. They've lived in a different world, are years older, different people – and then get thrown back into their younger bodies in this old world. It is a story about the bond/relationship between sisters, and dealing with loss, grief, and guilt. Keep in mind that this is a pretty emotionally intense story (feeling lost, depression, self-harm) so take care while reading. It is also interwoven with poetry, magic, art, and finding where your heart calls home. Laura Weymouth enchants you with the Woodlands and makes you never want to leave. It is heart-wrenching and beautiful and definitely worth a read this Fall!

Nadhira Satria says

Boring and a complete rip off of Narnia.
bleh

Gaby (lookingatbooks) says

Update: I got an arc ?????

May 5th, 2018

Someone said this is like Narnia....

I am so ready for this book to come out?
