



## The Tower of Geburah

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## **The Tower of Geburah** John White

One moment Wesley, Kurt and Lisa are poking around in their uncle's attic. The next moment they have stepped into the magical world of Anthropos, where their help is needed to free a king and defeat the powers of evil. Book Three in John White's Archives of Anthropos.

## **The Tower of Geburah Details**

Date : Published September 1st 1978 by InterVarsity Press (first published June 1978)

ISBN : 9780877845607

Author : John White

Format : Paperback 404 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Christian, Childrens, Young Adult, Christian Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Tower of Geburah for online ebook

### D.M. Dutcher says

It's much better than you'd expect. Wesley, Kurt, and Lisa are sucked through old television sets in their attic to the land of Anthropos, where the king Kardia is imprisoned, and the land suffers under the sorcerer Hociono. Can they trust Gaal and free the kingdom?

It's heavily influenced by Narnia, but John White adds enough creativity and imagery to make it rise above a standard book. He has a special talent with names: Kardia, Koach, Gaal, Mashal Stone, Bayith of Yayin, Sunesidis. he also has much more creativity in plot and image, too. Seven headed Ogres, evil Elm trees, a pigeon that gives strength when it sits on your shoulder, noble, good wolves-there's always a startling image that surprises you.

There are some downsides. The characters tend to be stock types like the noble king, the betrayer, and others. A lot of the plot involves the children doing stupid things to get in trouble. The writing is all right, though White can't decide whether or not the narrator is limited or omniscient third person. Sometimes it addresses the reader directly, but usually doesn't. Also, if you buy the physical book try to get the older, first edition for the absolutely beautiful cover art.

One last thing. This actually is the first book released in the series. While in the universe two books precede this, You really should read this first, followed by the Iron Sceptre.

But for what it is, it's an excellent Christian fantasy that still is engaging to read even now over modern books. Unfortunately after the The Iron Sceptre the quality of the books go down.

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### Skip Crust says

This was the book that drew me into the fantasy genre as a child. Although I don't think I could recite most of the plot line, I can tell you that I remember struggling with the ideas/emotions/spirituality within the book, even as a child. I have this book to thank for my interest today in sci-fi and fantasy novels.

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### Nioniel says

I think I stopped reading these books because the author decide to TOTALLY IGNORE John just as he was starting to get interesting and move on to his random relatives. Who were annoying little kids, by the way.

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### Josiah says

This whole series is great and I'm glad it was the first fantasy book I ever read as a kid because I owed my early childhood enthusiasm for fantasy to it. It's good enough and easy enough that I blew right through it when I was in grade four and I still read it today.

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### **Molly says**

This was kids' Christian fiction. Kids are sucked into another dimension and tempted, but probably triumph through the power of Jesus, except he's been cleverly disguised by giving him a new name. Except I don't know that, because the writing was so poor that I didn't get more than halfway through. My recommendation: read the Chronicles of Narnia again instead.

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### **Carrissa Cat says**

Wonderful as always. :)

Theophilus' name always makes me smile; Theophilus Gorgonzala Roquefort de Limburger V. Actually Theophilus in general makes me smile, crazy, vain, flying horse though he may be.

All joking aside, the rest of the characters are great too- Wesley who worries about everything and has to learn to trust Gaal, Lisa and Kurt who did some pretty stupid things but found out that they could be forgiven anyway. And the story is wonderful as well, three kids get sucked (literally) into the miraculous land of Anthropos to find that they have been chosen by Gaal the Shepherd to help free Anthropos from the hands of an evil sorcerer called Honcoino. The portals they enter through are two of five very old TV sets from their Uncle John's attic.

Oh and in case anybody wondered....

NEVER OPEN THE DOOR, STAY ON THE PATH, FOLLOW YOUR INSTRUCTIONS AND DON'T TRUST THE FLYING HORSE TO KEEP YOUR COURSE! xD

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### **Christine Ottaway says**

I have just given myself a Christmas treat by re-reading this book for the umpteenth time. It is one of my favourite middle grade stories because it mixes Biblical truths with a cracking good fantasy adventure. It is not fantasy in the sense of an incredible created world but rather a story set in the medieval world of Anthropos. There are in addition to humans, dwarves, friendly wolves and all manner of evil creatures including magicians and sorcerers.

It features three children from Canada drawn to Anthropos by Gaal the Shepherd to rescue the nation and Kardia king of Anthropos. The children face all manner of difficulties and evil but how they overcome and deal with their own failures makes a wonderful story. The themes of love grace, forgiveness and mercy are strong but not in a patronising and over simplistic way but woven into a realistic and compelling tale.

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### **Scott says**

This may be the worst four star book in my books, but I read it about a thousand times as a kid and "really liked it" every time. It's no work of great literature, but it sure resonated with me for some reason. The others in the series weren't quite as good though....

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### **Jane says**

This was the first book I read of the series and probably my favorite, I think. It has been years since I read these books though. When I originally read this book I probably had an original copy with a different cover that was sitting around my house. Several years later I saw books 1-5 on sale in a CBD catalog or something and got them. It must have been before 2001 though because I don't ever remember seeing book 6 before sometime in recent past on goodreads.

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### **Tiffany says**

This book is very good centered around a spiritual theme. Like C.S. Lewis Chronicle of Narnia books, this books has a lot of meaning and symbolism with Christianity. My brother left it for me to read, and it took me a long time to convince myself to pick it up because of how big it was. I loved it, however, and it holds a lot of meaning about struggling to do what is right.

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### **Hope says**

I really enjoyed this when I was young. As I got older, I realized it is sort of a mish-mash of the Narnia books and The Lord of the Rings, and just about any other fantasy series, with an obvious veneer of Christianity. Like I said, I enjoyed the series, but I don't really need to ever read them again.

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### **The Rusty Key says**

Reviewed by Rusty Key Writer: Becca Worthington

Recommended for: Boys and girls, Ages 10+

One Word Summary: Magical.

As a child, my family read out loud a lot. It would happen primarily after dinner, my father reading us book after book loudly enough so that my mother could hear from the kitchen as she washed the dishes. It began with picture books, as we four kids sat in his lap and took turns flipping the pages with their crisp sound, marveling at the artwork as my father changed his voice for the characters with almost Houdini-like magic. When I was around six, as the third child, we graduated to chapter books and began with The Lord of the Rings (my father's vocal gifting being responsible, I'm afraid, for instilling an unshakable life-long fear of Gollum from a very young age) before moving on to the Narnia tales.

By the final page of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, I was in love with the wide-open possibilities of the genre, and I have never stopped being impressed by the imagination that it takes to write a truly good children's fantasy. Not only do you need to create a cast of strong characters and a compelling plot, like any other book, but you need to do it in a land full of magic and mystery. The majority of your characters

probably aren't human, your antagonist and his minions must seethe and writhe with all the evils of Hell, and your protagonist must be real and relatable while exemplifying purity, strength and beauty, and yet somehow during all of this you must also convince your readers to believe—and give weight to—the absolutely unbelievable. I can't speak for the rest of the allegorical children's fantasy series "The Archives of Anthropos," but in its first book, *The Tower of Geburah*, John White does all of these things quite masterfully.

It starts similarly to Narnia: three siblings travel through an everyday portal (albeit a glowing television set rather than a mothball-filled wardrobe) and find themselves in the magical world of Anthropos, having been summoned by the powers of Gaal (an Aslan-type Christ-figure) to help defeat the Dark Lord and free the kingdom from his cruel rule, returning the captive King Kardia to his rightful throne. All the while, the siblings remain, very clearly, young children whose innocent faith and determined bravery alone keep them upright and focused on the task at hand.

I loved this book as a child, and while the rediscovery was a delight, I should admit that my life-long love for the book might have infused a certain overlooking of its errors. For one thing, for the non-Christian reader the religious allegorical aspect may be too heavy-handed at times. For another thing, although John White is clearly paying significant homage to both *The Lord of the Rings* and *Narnia* in this fantasy, at times it mirrors elements so completely that it truly feels closer to a blatant rip-off. But while it would be dangerous—nearly blasphemous, in fact—to compare any modern work favorably to such lauded and respected classic adventure tales, *The Tower of Geburah* does hold much of the same appeal. Much like its predecessors, it successfully carry on the tradition of a wildly adventurous other-worldly fantasy where the kids are ill-equipped to take on the weight of the tasks they are handed, but gamely plod on toward success nonetheless. And much like its predecessors again, it leaves the reader nail-gnawing and cheering as we travel through Anthropos next to the children on this journey. A journey, I must say, that is absolutely worth taking.

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### **Joy says**

This is one of my favorite children's books! It is an allegory in the style of *Chronicles of Narnia* but it is definitely not a cheap imitation! There are parts of it that I go back to every once in a while to be reminded of the important concepts I first began to understand through this book. It was the character Gaal in this book that made me wonder "Could Jesus really be as wonderful as this?" and gave me enough hope that I found out for myself. This book also works well as a read-aloud book!

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### **Steve Roach says**

I remember reading this as a teen, so I wanted to see if it was still good as an adult. While this is the third book in the series chronologically, it is the first that he actually wrote. As such it isn't as well-written as the ones he wrote later, but it is still good.

The similarities to the *Chronicles of Narnia* are of course striking, considering that he intentionally wrote this

book for his children to be "like" them, but White does have his own style and the book quickly breaks out of the C.S. Lewis mold. The *Anthropos* books in general seem to be slightly more mature than the *Narnia* books; that is to say, the *Anthropos* characters battle more interesting personal flaws than those in Lewis' books.

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### **Stacy says**

I think this book is probably best read aloud. The beginning feels rather rushed, as though the author just can't wait to get the adventure started, while later chapters are very engaging. Some chapters feel as though they needed one or two more edits, but the story is great. It has a kind of *Narnia/L.O.T.R.* feel to it.

Three siblings are transported to a different world, *Anthropos*, in order to help save it from destruction. This is very much a Christian allegory. It does have some parts that may be scary to younger readers. If you have ever heard, "Blue light is true light" I would suggest reading this book. As of the time I am writing this review, I have yet to read the rest of the series and am looking forward to doing so.

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### **Vaughn says**

A great read for anyone who is looking for Christian fantasy in a similar vein to "Pilgrim's Progress." *The Tower of Geburah* is a well-written story with interesting plots and well-developed characters.

While there is an allegorical aspect to each of the character's names (e.g., Gaal, means "Shepherd" and "Geburah" is Hebrew for "strength"), this is no "Pilgrim's Progress." Good reading and highly entertaining.

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### **J.Aleksandr Wootton says**

*The Archives of Anthropos* are essentially a poor imitation of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, originally written at the request of theologian John White's children for a story that was "just like Narnia."

Unfortunately, while C.S. Lewis was a mythologist first and a theologian second, White is a theologian first and a mythologist somewhere down the line, and it shows. The books are decent allegory-fantasy, drawing on classical and biblical mythology - quest-based action adventure stories with good character arcs. But the allegory is rather too obvious, some of the names are a bit corny, and the setting doesn't quite convince.

Don't misunderstand me - I enjoyed this series as a kid and read it through multiple times. But I re-read *Narnia* as an adult and I love it just as much - though perhaps for different reasons - as I did as when it was first read to me as a five-year-old.

Goodreads lists the *Tower of Geburah* as #3 but, like the *Narnia* books, the *Archives of Anthropos* are best read in real-world publication order, rather than internal world-order. In this case that's 3, 4, 1, 2, all equally decent stories. 5 is fine, but I'd not suggest bothering with 6.

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## **Heather says**

I haven't read this yet, but I am sure the series will be amazing. My dad, John's son, told me it was like Narnia, so I would probably like it. I've only really looked through the first few chapters because I had other things to read but I'm sure my grandpa did a great good :D

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## **Ricky Ganci says**

It was pretty good – some distinct similarities with Narnia, and some very good allegorical elements. I really enjoyed the trip to the tower of Geburah itself; that was by far the most engaging part of the story by far. It started well, slowed in the middle, and ended satisfyingly. I'm interested to see what will happen in the remaining books.

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## **Jessica Snell says**

It was great fun to revisit this childhood favorite by reading it aloud to my daughter.

You can almost think of this series as super-awesome Narnia fan-fiction, except that White's fantastic setting is completely his own. All the things I remembered loving - the perilous journey, the courtly characters, the courageous choices - they were all still there. And I appreciated the avuncular, first-person voice of the unnamed narrator a lot this time around.

There were awkward bits to the prose here and there that would have been edited out, I think, if this were published today, and there's certainly more telling (as opposed to showing) than is allowed by current literary fashion. But I'm glad those rules weren't around back when this came out, or the world would have missed these fun stories.

And the completely accessible spiritual meaning implicit in them. White isn't subtle about the Christian allegory, but that means it's perfect for young readers (or listeners). I enjoyed the delight in my daughter's voice as she'd shout out the real-world meaning of this character or that event - she loved figuring it out, and I think she (like I) will remember the stories and their lessons even decades later.

Which makes it sound like this book is just a thinly-veiled sermon. It's not. It's a fantasy and an adventure story first. While clearly an allegory, it's not dry at all. There are battles with trolls and quests for treasure and enchanted knights and spooky wizards and . . . and, and, and. Lots of fun. Old-fashioned fun? Yes. But sometimes that's the best kind. Looking forward to rereading the next one!

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