



Neverdark

C.S. Einfeld, Aaron Einfeld (Illustrator)

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Warning! This book contains (1) very kick-butt Faerie Princess, an Evil Dark Lord, a rhino-beetle named "Gor", Dragonfly Riders, Bat Brigades and an extremely adorable, fluffy, pet firefly with anger-management issues.

From The Blurb:

The Faeries of Southnut are in big trouble. Lord Darkwater is up to no good.

The White Castle of Doru is under attack by the greatest army Princess Fiera's ever seen. Lord Darkwater is poised to crush her tiny kingdom unless the king gives Fiera up to become his wife.

Well, fffungus! She's having none of that!

The race is on for Fiera to outwit Lord Darkwater's Dragonfly Riders, Bat Brigades, and even a giant, faerie-eating Spider to save herself and, before it's too late, her whole world.

Neverdark Details

Date : Published December 9th 2011 by Goethe Books (first published November 17th 2011)

ISBN : 9781468058345

Author : C.S. Einfeld , Aaron Einfeld (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 260 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Paranormal, Fairies

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From Reader Review Neverdark for online ebook

Rachael says

Disclaimer: The fact that the author provided me with a free copy of Neverdark in exchange for a review has not affected this review.

The experience I had in this book was fantastical. In the middle grade fantasy genre, I know I can expect remarkable world building, charming characters, and entertaining plots. Combined with fairy tales (which I still may believe in), this book was *definitely* enjoyable for me.

The best part about this book is the world building and images. Sometimes I could imagine traveling the tree Fiera travels upon, watching them as they go on the adventure. I couldn't view the illustrations on my iPod Touch, although I was able to view them on my PC, and they helped further enhance the story (although the tale itself does not need any enhancing).

The plot was absolutely charming. I was reading this with my cousin, and my aunt was mad at me because she wouldn't go to bed and wanted me to keep reading. We literally had to drag her to bed, partially blindfolded, and then hide the Kindle and disconnect the PC for her to read. Hopefully that tells you how much children will enjoy this book.

I recommend this book to people who like fairy tales, or small children in need of a magical journey c:

Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says

King Utor Goldenoak of Southnut Kingdom of Doru has a problem and doesn't know what to do about it. King Utor has been asked for his consent to marry his daughter Princess Fiera to Lord Birchwood Darkwater at the King's Coronation Celebration which is in three days. The King has refused all previous requests Lord Darkwater has made for his daughter's hand sighting the Princess's Mother not being awake as one reason; that Lord Darkwater should wait until then. Lord Darkwater doesn't want to wait for the Princess's Mother to waken to marry her. He wants to marry her now before it's too late to control her. Lady Gooseberry dreads telling Princess Fiera about her upcoming nuptials to Lord Darkwater was completely unfair to her. Lady Gooseberry tells the Princess that she needs to see Old Mother Oak Tree for her help. Princess Fiera with her faithful companion Sparky the Firefly set out on a course to help save her kingdom. Princess meets many new companions along her journey. Will Lord Darkwater's forces find the Princess? Will the Princess find Old Mother Oak Tree in time? What will the Princess think of the Great Oak Tree? Your answers await you in Neverdark.

Michelle Cornwell-Jordan says

A delightful, fun filled adventure...Princess Fiera is a small Faerie with big troubles! When Lord Darkwater creates a contraption that is sucking all the syrup out of the beloved Oaks, Old Mother Oak Tree is in danger of dying, and if the Spirit of Oak Trees dies, all of South Nut will die! Out sets Princess Fiera on a journey to save her lands, along the way she meets many friends and companions, but right by her side is her faithful

companion Sparky the Firefly...who is extremely devoted to Princess Fiera and very feisty:)

When Princess Fiera discovers Old Mother Oak Tree and attempts to aide her, she soon finds herself frozen and in danger; All hope seems to be lost until Lord Willow, touches Princess Fiera and discovers what must be done...The Brave Princess Fiera's mission was to save her people and lands, and now her beloved friends gather together to save her. Marvel(Crow) Delvin(Caterpillar) Hamish McSquirrel, to name a few and many more... finds a solution, and comes together to save their beloved, brave Princess and their lands...

This was a very entertaining tale...It had cool characters, awesome action, and it slips in the message to young people about never giving up, and also working together as a team!

I fully encourage young people and young at heart to check it out:)

Karen Siddall says

I was utterly charmed by the C.S. Einfeld book for 'tweens *Neverdark*. What a super book to fire the imagination of reluctant reader pre-teen girls! It has the right tone, and is the right length (not too long!) while still encompassing great action, locations, and characters.

Speaking of characters ... Princess Fiera is feisty and never sulky, whiny, or petulant. Her pet firefly, Sparky, IS adorable. And the characters that she meets along her journey are everyday creatures, but on a much bigger scale that we all know. Their conversations are realistic to the point where I could hear them in my head.

There is danger but not too much to scare off a younger audience. There is tragedy; I ached for the baby Rhino beetle. (Seriously.) And there is plenty of fodder for classroom discussion if introduced into a school setting.

Add to this some nice illustrations to help the imagination along!

Caron Rider says

This is a delightful tale that I thoroughly enjoyed! When I saw this come up for review, I thought it perfect for my daughter to read. Fortunately, she went out of town and left me to read it alone. :) The world the author created makes for an entertaining read, and I loved the clever correlations formed with names, nature, and mythology. The characters were engaging and the tone spot on for this fairy tale. A kingdom in danger, a princess to the rescue, and a quest...what more can a reader, especially a middle grader, ask for?

seanat (elka) says

Review written by Natalie aged 9:

Absolutely brilliant! One of the best books I've ever read! I found the part when Lord Darkwater started

talking to the flower pot hilarious and I loved all the adventure. My favourite character was Sparky the firefly. I loved the cartoony illustrations that popped up during the book too. A fantastic modern fairytale for both boys and girls with lots of humour and adventure! This is now my favourite book EVER!:-)

(Many thanks to the author C.S.Einfeld for kindly making this available to my daughter. She read it over 2 days, could hardly put it down. She has been showing us all the pictures in it and telling us all the storyline. This is her first review.)

Leanne says

*Received e-book through Early Reviewers program from LibraryThing for an honest review

**also posted on Amazon.com under Leanne

Neverdark by C.S. Einfeld is a modern fairy tale set in the land of Doru, with the Grand Old Oak Tree being the home of the faeries and other woodland insects/creatures. The story starts with the faerie Princess Fiera of Southnut learning of her impending marriage (3 days!) to Lord Darkwater of Northbark. The reader discovers that Lord Darkwater has heard about a prophecy naming Fiera the “Heart of the Generation” – the only one who can save his kingdom from its depletion of its main food source, oak syrup. When Princess Fiera finds out about Lord Darkwater’s role in the disaster and her own prophecy, she sets out to locate Great Mother Oak for her advice. On her journey, she encounters different species, makes new friends, and sees the dying lands, all while evading capture by Lord Darkwater’s armies.

I found Princess Fiera to be a charming, loveable protagonist with a kind heart. In addition, I enjoyed the secondary characters she meets, especially Mandabull the ant – it was moving to see his hatred of all faeries dissolve after spending more time with Fiera. I also thought her interactions with her pet firefly, Sparky, were adorable (even though she didn’t understand him). Furthermore, the illustrations in the book, done by Einfeld’s husband, added a whimsical, sweet touch to the story.

Overall, Neverdark was a cute, entertaining story integrated with several morals, which reflect issues currently in our society. I think middle grade children would love it and mothers can also enjoy reading this to their children at bedtime, even helping to possibly start discussions about these grown-up topics. I would recommend this book to fans of James and the Giant Peach and other modern fantasy books.

Hard says

Einfeld has a wonderful voice, and Neverdark contains all the key components of a classic children's fantasy story. In recent times many children's offerings have tried to stray from the classic path, and although some may have fleeting success classics remain timeless for a reason. Fiera and Sparky enjoy a typical Peter Pan / Tinkerbell relationship, as all reluctant heroes have a trusty sidekick. Another familiar theme is the two lives being tied. Neverdark never tries to be eco-friendly green or hand out lessons on political correctness. It's simply an excellent children's story told in an endearing and passionate way - just the way they used to make 'em in the good old days.

I'm not in the habit of reading children's stories but reading this one took me back. One of the best I've read.

Suzanne Pringle says

This was a wonderful story about faeries, trees and lots of woodland creatures. I was able to get a free paperback courtesy of the author. Thanks so much. I really enjoyed reading it.

My emotions ran from frustration and hate at the beginning. Lord Darkwater is just a big meany who wants the fair Princess Fiera as his bride. To a great sadness when the Great Mother Oak is almost destroyed because of greed. To happiness at the very end when all is restored and hope is brought forth.

Being a faerie book and following Fair Fiera's quest to find Mother Oak, you meet creatures such as noble ants, to Mexican crows, to feisty squirrels. Each makes a lasting and deep impression and friendship!

The one spot I had trouble with was how quickly Darkwater went from a bitter, greedy man to a hopeful, happy man who changed his name to Clearwater. My question was how can someone with that temperament turn from mean to nice so quickly? But when you think of his life story, he wasn't really mean. Just a misguided genius who had great plans that went awry. When he was able to get his mind right again he used his brilliant mind to change things and make things better.

A great story that I think all people, children and adults alike would enjoy!!

Shalini Boland says

This is a classic fairy tale with a contemporary feel and I read it in just a couple of sittings. Aimed at tweens, this beautiful feisty little book kept me (aged 42) totally absorbed and entertained.

Fiera is a fairy whose life and home is under threat and who must embark on a quest to save all she holds dear. The format isn't new, but the telling is fresh and funny. Einfield's voice jumps off the page with humour, originality and a sense that you are in the company of a born story teller.

I instantly bonded with the characters - all distinctive and wonderful. (Manuel the crow is my favourite). I could picture this as a Pixar movie - there's comedy, pathos and adventure in spades. Added to this, Aaron's illustrations made my heart skip a beat every time one appeared on the page.

If you have children, I urge you to get them a copy. If you don't, then read it yourself. What an absolute treat!

Kitty Austin says

Book Title: "NeverDark"

Author: C.S. Einfield

Published By: Self-Published

Age Recommended: 10 +

Reviewed By: Kitty Bullard

Raven Rating: 5

Review: C.S. Einfield is a master at children's storytelling. I absolutely loved this book. It balanced the perfect amount of adventure with the perfect amount of excitement and kept me riveted the entire time. The characters are bright, lively, and completely loveable. There is even a surprising and wonderfully happy ending and the entire book is illustrated with pictures that children will simply adore.

The imagery of this novel is spectacular, you completely forget at times while reading that Fiera and her friend Sparky the Firefly are traveling on a tree! It seems their adventure is taking place on a landscape much larger and in regard to their size you can see where a tree would be much larger to them than it could ever appear to us. I whole-heartedly recommend this beautiful story to all kids from ages 10 and up. Even children younger will love the story and parents could definitely read a chapter a night as a special treat before bedtime. It's the kind of story that could promote some magnificently adventurous dreams for the little ones!

I feel all parents should grab a copy of this novel for their children you will not be disappointed this book brings so much wonder to the young and the young-at-heart. I await more to come from this author with great anticipation!

Read more: <http://www.greatmindsthinkaloud.probo...>

Jeanette says

Neverdark is a children's story of a faerie princess named Fiera and her quest to save her kingdom from the evil Lord Blackwater. The story is written beautifully, with detailed descriptions and a natural flow of the plot. Add to this strong protagonists that exemplify courage and dedication to their task, and you have a fantastic children's book. I really enjoyed Fiera as a character. She is a strong female lead whose tenacity and quick thinking lead her in her adventures. She has a big heart and is just so likable!

This book can be used as a trigger to start discussions with children about what it means to be courageous, overcoming obstacles, and present day issues such as environmental sustainability and responsibility. I plan on giving this book to my neighbors who have 3 little girls to read! I'm sure they will love the engaging story line and the beautiful illustrations!

Rhonda says

Neverdark was good story with many layers. Its about a faeries princess and her kingdom in a big oak tree. Their are four different faeries countries in the oak tree. She while still young has to marry Lord Darkwater or her kingdom will be taken over.

Her governess thinks that she needs to sneak out of the castle and travel the other kingdoms to the Oak tree spirit and save thier kingdom because of a prophecy.

Fiera starts out spoiled but soon changes when she meets others who are worse off and she changes and I

really like the changes. She meets others along the way that she helps and they help her too. Some of the issues they face are envirment destroyed because of greed . That when people work together they can make a difference. don't hate a whole group because of bad ones in a group. I think people of all ages can enjoy this story. I was given this ebook in exchange of honest review from Library thing.

Renee says

This review consists of two parts: 1. My daughter's review (she's 9) and 2. My review (the Mom). These are excerpts - for the full review, please visit us at www.motherdaughterbookreviews.com

DAUGHTER SAYS:

What I liked and disliked about it: I liked alot of different things about the book. When we first started reading the book, I was wondering how the author knew that there were real faeries. I thought maybe I could look for faeries on trees, bushes, or in a forest. I'd like to know from the author if she's ever seen any real faeries or knows where to find them.

I liked Princess Fiera because she's a faerie and I like faeries. I liked how she was brave enough to go on her adventure and how she cared about all the creatures who lived on the oak tree. I liked the magical pool of tears that Fiera and Old Mother Oak Tree made together and how powerful it was. The story was good because I liked how they were in danger and then they were safe, then in more danger, then safe again – that made it cool. I liked how they would meet up with new creatures who were either friends or enemies. Some of the parts were so sad that I almost cried like when the baby Rhino beetles were chained to the oak syrup rigs until they died.

I didn't like that it took so long to get to the good part and that all the other animals could talk but not Sparky. Why couldn't Sparky talk? But it's ok that Sparky didn't talk because it would probably sound weird for some reason. Probably because my Mom would do a bad accent like she did with the other animals. I wished that animals really could talk like they do in this book because then my cats and I could have conversations.

My bottom line: This book was AWESOME! I would recommend this book to probably just girls who are 8 years and older because younger kids might not be able to understand or pay attention (like my little brother when he listened to the story).

MOM SAYS:

What I liked and disliked about it: Einfeld draws us into the story by vividly describing an imaginary world plagued by many of the same social issues we currently face in real life. For example, descriptions of oak syrup rigs designed to extract the characters' most prized resource necessarily conjure up images of oil rigs greedily sucking up Earth's most coveted natural resource. The book itself has such a strong message about these issues and with the vivid descriptions of the dying oak tree, you can't help but draw the parallels to the greed of oil barons, clear-cutting, wars, diminishing rain forests, and so on.

Einfeld develops endearing characters in Fiera, her pet firefly Sparky, and the many creatures who help them

along the way. I loved the character of Fiera because she experienced a range of emotions and reactions that would be expected in this situation. She expressed her fear, determination, loyalty, and especially her compassion when witnessing the destruction of the oak tree as well as hearing the plights of the other creatures she meets along the way.

The other characters in the book were such a hoot! Ask my kids and they will tell you that whenever I attempt an accent, it always ends up sounding like the Count from Sesame Street, or put another way...like I'm from Transylvania! So, while Manuel the crow is from Mexico and Hamish MacSquirrel is Scottish, really they all sound like they're from Transylvania. This is where Aaron Einfeld (the illustrator of Neverdark, hubby of the author, and I understand, the linguistics consultant) would have come in handy with the interpretation of the dialogue! Regardless, we all had fun experimenting with accents while reading this book!

While the themes in the book are quite serious, the story itself is not overly dark. Because the book has a good versus evil theme, there are elements of the book intended to create tension. So, yes, there is a nasty overlord, armies of dragonflies, nasty bats, and a big spiderweb (with the suggestion of an equally big spider). There is also the mention of sad elements like the demise of certain creatures and of the oak tree itself. That being said, the book is not frightening nor gruesome. Also, the language is very tame. For example, swearing consists of phrases like "Bug guts!", "FFFUNGUS", "What on Oak?" -- you get the picture!

As with any story, it is necessary to begin with the introduction of the main characters, the description the setting, the relating of any backstories if necessary, the setting up the plot, and so on. As mentioned by my daughter above, it did take quite a few chapters to get the story rolling. However, that being said, I do believe that this was necessary in order to fully understand the story and for the plot to make complete sense. I only mention this, because I think a child would need to be at least at a middle-grade reading level (grade 3+) to be able to read and fully understand the story.

My bottom line: I read this story to both my children. My son (5.5 years old) listened to and liked the story but there were parts where he lost concentration because it was too long and complicated a plot. I really enjoyed this book and really enjoyed the story. You never knew what would happen next and we were excited to see who Fiera would run into around the next corner. I highly recommend this book to both boys and girls aged 8 and over.

Caroline says

I received a copy of Neverdark to review as part of the Read it and Reap event from the Shut Up & Read community here on Goodreads.

This is a really sweet little fairy tale with a bit of a modern twist where feisty fairy Princess Fiera sets off on a quest to save her kingdom and delivers a good environmental message along the way.

I really liked the world the author created and the variety of creatures Fiera meets on her journey. I thought the plot and tone were appropriate for a middle grade book (which it's intended to be), and I appreciated the strong female lead. I especially liked that the author managed to make her a take-charge kind of fairy, but

without falling victim to the trend to make her tough by making her "anti" girly things. You can be tough and still like pink/dresses/whatever! Frustrates me to no end when books aimed at tween/teens perpetuate the opposite notion, but I digress. Happily, Einfeld does a good job with this balance; a huge plus in my opinion.

Makes me wish I had a tween girl to pass it along to; maybe my nephews will sit still long enough to listen.
