

Lyd, who was afraid of so many things, finds courage ~~she~~ did not know she possessed, her own ancestral roots, and the acceptance of one of her "own" people: Simon, the Cornish fisherman's son. Armed with this strengthened sense of self, she feels more a part of her adopted family, and mistress of her own destiny.

Of all these books, *The Wyndcliffe*, and *The Chill in the Lane* best handle the problems of girls adjusting to their own style of growing up, different as that may be from everyone else's. The contrast between Anna's well-to-do but rejecting family and the honest concern shown by Lyd's working class parents and brother is interesting, but does not alter the similarity of the endings: where Anna gains self-confidence by bearing the ridicule of her sister and brother, Lyd gains strength because her family and Simon so totally accept her and try to help her with what they recognize as a serious problem. In the end, both girls opt for reality.

—Charlotte Moslander

THE LERNER SCIENCE FICTION LIBRARY edited by Roger Elwood. Illus. by Kathleen Groenjes. 8 volumes. Lerner Publications, 1974. 48 pp. each. \$3.95 each, \$31.60 series. Age level: 9-12

Adrift in Space & other stories
The Graduated Robot & other stories
Journey to Another Star & other stories
The Killer Plants & other stories
The Mind Angel & other stories
The Missing World & other stories
Night of the Sphinx & other stories
The Tunnel & other stories

Reading teachers and librarians will be interested in this 8 volume set of short stories for intermediate and junior high school children who are reading at the 5th grade level. Each book contains three to five original stories by sf writers, written especially for children with high interest and low vocabulary levels. The stories are diverse and amusing; as an example "The Killer Plants" concerns a farmer's son who is walking through the fields one day only to discover giant plants put there by aliens plotting to take over the earth. The boy's ingenuity and quick thinking bring the story to a startling conclusion as the aliens are beaten at their own game.

This new series should be well received by all those concerned with children.

—Marylou Hewitt

LAVENDER-GREEN MAGIC by Andre Norton. Illus. by Judith Gwyn Brown. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1974. 241 pp. \$5.50

Three children are uprooted from their Boston home and go to live with their grandparents in rural Sussex, near the town dump. Dimsdale is more than that, however, it is the locale of one of the oldest family sites in the area, and an ancient curse. Holly's grandparents are efficient recyclers and are a respected part of their community, but Holly, at an awkward age when she is too aware of being black in an almost all-white community sees only degradation, and her hurt and anger in her new circumstances nearly causes her to bring great danger to her new friends and neighbors. She sees her mistake in time and with her sister and brother help out a new friend from the past, who in turn helps them.

Besides the obvious moral—which Ms. Norton handles with sensitivity—there is a magic quality to the story which deals with witches from the past and a magical maze. Herbs and flowers and a rural setting texture the story with color, scent and all the good things to be found living close to the earth. For an extra treat the writer has included at the back some recipes for good spice concoctions.

The illustrator has created fine pen drawings which exactly capture a scene: inside the grandparents' house, deep in the evil left side of the maze, the children's Halloween costumes and so on evoking a feeling of scene and person exactly complementing the text.

This is a fine story for young people.

—Gail C. Futoran

AUTHORS' CHOICE 2. Illus. by Krystyna Turzka. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1974. 246 pp. \$6.95. "Stories chosen by Joan Aiken, John Christopher, Elizabeth Coatsworth. . . ." Age level: 10 up

The eighteen authors whose "choices" are included in this anthology are all noted for writing children's books which are also enjoyed by adults. Their tastes range from Damon Runyon, to Theodore Sturgeon, to Oscar Wilde, and include a youthful diarist named Maggie Owen. There is Victorian sentimentality here, and uninhibited Western American earthiness, a fine sense of the ridiculous, a love for beauty and much, much more. Like the stories they write, these authors prefer literature with a wide appeal. This is a book to be bought, savored, shared, and returned to, over and over. I have not yet had a chance to read its companion, *Authors' Choice*, but that will be remedied as soon as possible. For those who like to "meet the author," there are short bio's of choosers and chosen at the end of the book.

—Charlotte Moslander

THE FOUNDLING AND OTHER TALES OF PRYDAIN by Lloyd Alexander. Pictures by Margot Zemach. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1973. 87 pp. \$5.95. Age level: 9 and up

These are short stories about characters who have appeared in the novels of the Prydain cycle. Mr. Alexander's last novel won a Newbery, and he is one of the most competent producers of juvenile fantasy.

The Prydain books are derived from Welsh legend, and these short stories are essentially in folk/fairy tale format. Thematically the stories are quite traditional. There is a young man who reads too much in a magic book, a farmer who requests the wrong wish from a dwarf, and a harper who outwits death (among others).

While the book is handsomely produced with attractive black and white illustrations, the wide margins and relatively large print give relatively little text for the money. (This is not a picture book.)

—Leslie Bloom

THE JARGOON PARD by Andre Norton. Atheneum, 1974. 194 pp. \$6.95. "A Margaret K. McElderry Book."

After more than five years of reviewing, I have decided that it takes more skill to create a good juvenile novel than to write its adult counterpart. This book is a prime example. Basically sword-and-sorcery, the plot revolves around a youthful misfit in a kingdom where Wise Women exercise their talents in use of the Power, Wereriders have their own territory outside the borders, and there are places and scrolls better left untouched. Kethan is heir to the House of Car Do Prawn by virtue of being the son of the Lady Heroise, sister to the current leader, for lineage is recorded through the female line in Arvon. What the reader, the Lady Heroise, and the Wise Woman Ursilla know that everyone else does not is that Kethan is not Heroise's true child, but was exchanged at birth for the daughter she really bore, as only a male can inherit the House, and only a son would further her ambitions. What nobody knows is that Kethan's father is a Wererider—until his supposed grandmother presents him with a belt made of leopard skin, with the likeness of a cat carved into the buckle, and the youth becomes a leopard at the next full moon. The rest is rousing good adventure, which culminates in a breath-stopping scene wherein Heroise's true child is called forth, Kethan is reunited with his parents, Ursilla's power recoils upon her, and great deeds are promised for the future.

This book was a joy to read—Kethan is a believable youth, with all the instability and raw nerve ends of adolescence, tempered only by his loneliness, his "differentness," and the training given by an old warrior who remembers times when the world was wider and harsher. The child reader is not treated condescendingly—Andre Norton is very much aware how early the talent for deciphering printed symbols is developed, so the vocabulary and style are as rich as those of the better "adult" novels of this genre, although the gorier and darker elements are not present. Here the Shadow world remains just that. A few wicked adults may make their own excursions thence, but Kethan is happy to dwell in the sunlight.

—Charlotte Moslander