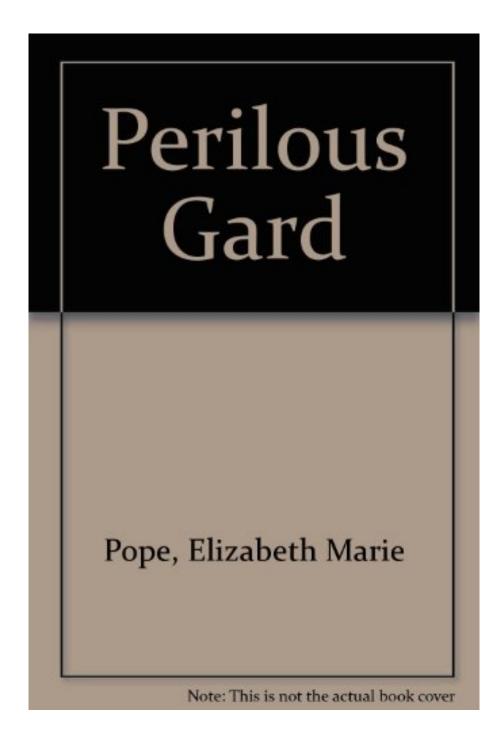


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In 1558, while exiled by Queen Mary Tudor to a remote castle known as Perilous Gard, young Kate Sutton becomes involved in a series of mysterious events that lead her to an underground world peopled by Fairy Folk—whose customs are even older than the Druids' and include human sacrifice.

Published on: 2002-02Original language: English

• Dimensions: 7.75" h x 5.25" w x 1.00" l,

• Binding: Turtleback

About the Author

No Bio

Most helpful customer reviews

83 of 84 people found the following review helpful.

The Good Stuff

By Kelly (Fantasy Literature)

The Perilous Gard is technically a young-adult book, but don't let that discourage any of you adults out there. Yes, it's totally PG; there is nothing in it that's inappropriate for a middle-schooler. And yet, it is still emotionally complex enough to satisfy an adult; in fact, it's more complex than many "adult" novels I've read.

The Perilous Gard is based on several traditional English and Scottish ballads, mainly Tam Lin. Elizabeth Pope further fleshes out the ballad's structure by rooting its elements in even older legends and traditions; the magical well that is the entrance to the faerie land is straight out of the Mabinogion, and the Faerie Queen's sinister plans for her handsome captive echo the ancient Celtic tradition of the sacred king's sacrifice. And all of this comes together to make perfect sense; the Celtic framework provides the background information that the ballad lacked.

Into this magical world comes Kate, a wonderful heroine who is challenged over and over, and meets every test with amazing emotional strength. She proves herself the equal of the faerie folk when she is kidnapped into their land; later she stands up bravely to save her friend Christopher when he is to be sacrificed. In this version of Tam Lin, the "holding fast" that Kate must do is symbolic and psychological; the guy doesn't actually turn into wild animals and stuff, and what happens instead is even better. And the ending--the ending is PERFECT. I don't think I've ever read a better ending, in any novel. Kate shows her true strength and mettle, and everything turns out exactly right. I won't give it away, but there is a great sense of "rightness" at the end. This is the good stuff.

34 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

There's a reason this is a Newbery Honor Book!

By Stephanie A. Cain

This is a wonderful book! It's not just for kids--I'm 25 and I read it for the first time yesterday.

Kate is a lady-in-waiting for Princess Elizabeth during Queen Mary's reign. Her sister gets Kate exiled to the Perilous Gard, a keep in the middle of the Elvenwood. Her new guardian, the sensible yet likeable Sir

Geoffrey Heron is called away almost immediately, leaving Kate in the care of the menacing Master John. Christopher Heron, Sir Geoffrey's brother, is a myterious and intriguing shadow around the manor, and there are rumours in the castle that he killed his neice in order to protect his inheritance. The villagers have a different explanation, though: that the little girl was stolen by the Faerie people who tend the Holy Well. As Kate investigates these rumours, she and Christopher are swept into a terrifying and deadly adventure.

The characters of Kate and Christopher are wonderfully round and engaging. Kate is smart, curious, practical and sharp-tongued, while Christopher is honorable, guilt-ridden, and full of dreams. These are two people I wish I knew! Sir Geoffrey, Master John, and the minstrel Randal are also developed well. Kate's sister Alicia, and the old maid Dorothy aren't so well developed, but still serve their functions in the story. The Lady in the Green is a fascinating and mysterious character as the Queen of the Pople of the Hill.

I highly recommend this book - this book is definitely deserving of the Newbery Honor!

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

One of the best

By A Customer

I stumbled on a copy of this book in the library and read it when I was 12. I must have checked it out dozens of times over the years until I finally got a copy of my own. It has become one of those books that I take with me wherever I go, from college to Europe, through med school and back again. And it's one of those books I look forward to passing on to my daughter. The story is well written, well-paced, full of twists and turns. Kate, the heroine, is wonderful, a character with whom we can all identify. She's intelligent, down-to-earth, and struggles to do the right things even when she's scared and mad and feeling all too human. My only regret is that Ms. Pope did not write more books.

See all 103 customer reviews...

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