



The Monster in the Hollows

Andrew Peterson, Justin Gerard (Illustrator)

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Book Three of The Wingfeather Saga

Janner Wingfeather's father was the High King of Anniera. But his father is gone. The kingdom has fallen. The royal family is on the run, and the Fang armies of Gnag the Nameless are close behind.

Janner and his family hope to find refuge in the last safe place in the world: the Green Hollows--a land of warriors feared even by Fangs of Dang. But there's a big problem. Janner's little brother-heir to the throne of Anniera-has grown a tail. And gray fur. Not to mention two pointed ears and long, dangerous fangs. To the suspicious folk of the Green Hollows he looks like a monster.

But Janner knows better. His brother isn't as scary as he looks. He's perfectly harmless.

Or is he?

Join the Wingfeathers on an adventure filled with mystery, betrayal, and sneakery in a land of tasty fruits. There's a monster on the loose and the truth lurks in the shadows.

The Monster in the Hollows Details

Date : Published May 10th 2011 by Rabbit Room Press (first published May 2011)

ISBN : 9780982621431

Author : Andrew Peterson , Justin Gerard (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 348 pages

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

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From Reader Review The Monster in the Hollows for online ebook

Ryan Boomershine says

We bleed Annieran.

Jacks says

I love this book. It has such good literature. I like the end it makes me get geared up for the next book!

Comment if you like

Carol says

I spend one day a week with my grandkids; I read aloud to them during meals, while they draw, etc. We usually read 2-3 chapters a week with gaps (of time, living, and lambing) between readings. I knew this series was special when they could perfectly describe the circumstances of the chapter we last read the week (or two) before...and when they consistently begged me to keep reading! It kept a 4, 7, 9, and 13 year old mesmerized.

This book fostered conversation and discussion. The boys had theories about the plot direction, hidden identities, possible saviors, etc. Our reading was often punctuated by these speculations.

And that's why **I** loved this book. This book was the field upon which we connected. We joined our imaginations, teased out meanings; we howled at treachery, yelped at surprising twists and groaned at cliffhanger chapter endings. We laughed when the bad guy 'got his' or when the text was hilarious.

Today we manipulated our schedule so we could finish the last ten chapters. The kids were indignant that I didn't think to bring Book 4 with me. My nine year old sighed and lamented, "When we finish reading Book 4 how are we ever going to find another series this good?"

Sarah Booth says

This is the third book in the Wingfeather saga. It's basically fairytale-like fantasy of displaced royalty in the traditional good vs. evil story line. The enemy, the Fang, are a genetically mutated army created by Gnag the Nameless who deposed the Wingfeathers of Anniera and destroyed the kingdom. The Queen, and her children went into hiding because Gnag wants the children (known as the Jewels) for some nefarious purpose and war is everywhere with changing allegiances of the different non-Fang groups. Published by Christian press, I was hesitant at first of reading a Christian story in that sometimes one finds the tale an opportunity to disparage non-Christian views, but these stories primarily refer to God as the Maker and don't go into dogma other than the standard views of good vs. evil and be nice to others so the book could be read by anyone no matter their religious affiliation. While a YA novel/series, it's just fun fantasy about coming of age and taking out life responsibilities often when they feel overwhelming. There are underlying themes of acceptance and forgiveness which will resonate with everyone while adventure happens all around. I like the tales and decided to finish the series because it is a fun adventure with good morals that isn't preachy, but a nice break from reality into a world of dragons, song maidens and winged men.

Lisa says

Amazing. The Wingfeather Saga is full of Truth in a way that very few stories are. When I first began the series I wasn't sure if I wanted to read more. After reading book 2 I realized what a treasure I'd found. Now I find myself lost for words to describe the poignancy and the beauty. I can't wait to finish reading book 4, and I look forward to reading these again and again with my children.

Jenni Simmons says

Oh, how I have missed these beloved characters! Andrew Peterson is such a gifted storyteller. And I confess, I choked up at the end of this book, full of truth, goodness, beauty, valor, and humor. I don't care what age you are, I highly recommend this series to you. I read the first two books and we own them, but I thoroughly enjoyed listening to this audio book read by Andrew Peterson. Truly delightful. But I definitely need to purchase this book when we're able, to dwell on our bookshelves along with our other most favorite books.

Rick Dobrowolski says

This series of books is so good. They keep getting better and better. My daughter never stops asking me to read to her. This time, it was me begging my wife to let my daughter stay up later so that I could read to her "just one more chapter."

L.a. says

The Book...

I will admit my bias from the beginning. I am a fan. However, bias or not these books stand on their own. Andrew has crafted a wonderful story and in the process shown us ourselves. As Socrates attempted to wake up the Athenians and reveal truth only to garner their hatred, Andrew Peterson has succeeded and won our affection.

He knows how to wrap up a chapter so that you have no choice but to read the next, and the next.

I don't think this book should be read without first reading the two books that lay the foundation. *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*, and *North! Or be Eaten*. There is a lot of context and character development in the first two books that set this book up.

If the qualification of a good book is that you're sad it's over at the end then *The Monster in the Hollows* definitely hits the mark. Mercifully the author gives us something to look forward to.

Katie Grace says

This book was amazing.

It took me a little while to get into it. I read *North! or Be Eaten* a few months ago, so maybe that was the case--that I had been away from the storyworld for awhile.

But once I got into the book, there was no coming out.

The characters were so real. Leeli, Janner, and Kalmar interacted like REAL siblings. They weren't perfect with each other. They sometimes disagreed, but the trials pulled them together, and I loved the way Janner and Leeli stood up for Kalmar.

And Kalmar. Oh my. Because of spoilers, I can't say what it specifically is about him, but in the last book he went under a big change. And he suffers because of it immensely. Kids ridicule him and he's not easily accepted by others. He tries to stay strong. His character is very complex, and I'm very excited to continue his story in *The Warden and the Wolf King*.

Being a Christian book, I wish there was more of the "Maker" involved and the children's relationship with Him. It was only the mom, Nia, that mentioned Him in passing comments.

Clean, epic fantasy. A twisted plot. Humorous moments, and let-me-grip-the-book-so-my-knuckles-turn-white moments. Fantastic.

Rachel Thomson says

On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness is a whimsical adventure tale, funny, scary, inhabited by Fangs of Dang, crazy sock men, and genuine recipes for maggotloaf. North! Or Be Eaten, Book 2 of The Wingfeather Saga, is the classic journey story: a book of creatures, encounters, fascinating locales, and of course, coming of age.

But it's in *The Monster in the Hollows* that this series steps up and takes its place as a true fantasy epic — still quirky, still definitely located in the world of Aerwiar and not in Middle Earth, but firmly rooted in epic soil. *The Monster in the Hollows* is a bigger, sadder, older, and more beautiful part of The Wingfeather Saga than we've seen before.

(Warning: series spoilers ahead.)

The story begins, as all good sagas do, where the previous book left off: with the Wingfeather family sailing across the Dark Sea of Darkness in search of refuge in the Green Hollows, homeland of Nia Igiby Wingfeather and the last place in all of Aerwiar that is still free. But what begins as a warm welcome for Nia and her children quickly turns sour when the transformation of Kalmar is revealed: the Hollows are still free because its people have vigilantly driven every Fang from their land, and they are not keen to welcome one into their bosom now.

A startling sacrifice from Nia convinces the Hollowsfolk to accept all of her children — but no sacrifice can buy their trust. Janner, Kalmar, and Leeli settle into their new home and school, caught between the delight of being children again, with a home far from Fangs and from fear, and the knowledge that they are outsiders here. Janner struggles to love and protect his brother even as he resents him for estranging them.

But something strange is happening in the Green Hollows. A monster lurks in the shadows, a voice calls to Janner out of eerie visions, and Kalmar, it seems, has a secret . . .

In *The Monster in the Hollows*, Andrew Peterson once again weaves a tale that rings as true when it's exploring the firesides of home as it does when it's delving into the exotic places and peoples of a beautifully rendered fantasy world. As ancient secrets are revealed, revolutions are fostered, and the forces of evil gather for attack, we find ourselves caring just as much — or perhaps more — about the love between brothers, the faith of a mother, and the success of children in school. The forces of good, after all, are not concentrated in some distant castle or far-off king, but in frail human vessels in need of family, forgiveness, and the power of hope.

As before, the story is primarily told through the eyes of twelve-year-old Janner, the oldest of the Igiby children and the Throne Warden of Anniera whether he likes it or not. Much of the saga's attention hovers, with Janner, at the outer edge of childhood. But the more adult story which readers have been able to glimpse all along through Podo, Nia, and Artham comes into the foreground in a greater way in *The Monster in the Hollows*, as Nia especially takes on a more central role.

New characters are introduced — including the memorable Head Guildmadam of the Ban Rona school, Olumphia Groundwich — and subplots from previous books carried to their conclusions. (I found the further fate of Sara Cobbler to be particularly interesting, and particularly affecting.) The setting, Ban Rona of the Green Hollows, is likewise more adult: the fearsome toothy cows, bomnubbles, and snickbuzzards of Skree — terrifying as they could be — have faded into the background, replaced by the rotting, misshapen cloven of the Blackwood. Where Glipwood Township was as amusing as it was oppressed, Ban Rona is the stuff of legends. And this book, for the first time in the saga, is entirely devoid of footnotes.

All in all, *The Monster in the Hollows* is a wonderful read, both entertaining and deep, and an effective launching pad into the fourth and final book in the series. For that, we'll have all just have to wait, content in the knowledge that it's likely to be worth waiting for.

Joel Wentz says

Finally, finally, finally the Wingfeather Saga hits its stride here!! There has been enough to keep me interested in the previous two books, but Peterson gets right to the heart of the story in this entry. The distracting footnotes are gone, the trying-too-hard-to-be-funny prose is gone, and most importantly, the main characters are actually given some depth and agency! I learned more about the kids (particularly Janner and Kalmar) in this book than in the first two combined! The tension of their relationship is palpable, and I found myself completely absorbed in it, which is the exact ingredient that has been missing from this series thus far.

Additionally, the plot-lines that have been introduced in the previous books finally begin to pay off in spades. There are some genuine surprises to be found here, and some remarkably emotional scenes. I'm so thrilled that the Wingfeather books have finally landed here, as this is what I have wanted from them the whole time! If you are considering starting this series, know that the payoff in book 3 is well worth it. Now on to book 4!

JonathanT says

I LITERALLY CANNOT EVEN. This book was creative, brilliantly plotted, and it blended so many emotions together for me. Sometimes I think the third book of a four book series can be tough to pull off, but Peterson pulled this one off perfectly. I loved every minute of it.

In the third book of the series, the conflict is mostly action-less. It's a break from the pandemonium of books one and two. It gives us some time to breathe before book four comes along. In this book, instead of facing armies, Fangs, and other monsters, the Wingfeathers are pitted against hatred, distrust, and deceit. IT LEGIT MADE ME ANGRY AT PARTS. (view spoiler)

Despite the fact that this book lacks the same amount of action as the previous two books, it's still just as compelling. (if not even more so) The build-up to the climax and the way each character plays into the conflict (even good characters, like Rudric) was done SO WELL. SO, SO WELL.

Not only do the characters each add to the main conflict, but so does the setting. Basically it revolves around how the Wingfeathers are forced into a society that's hostile to their presence (and by "their presence" I mean "Kalmar's presence"). The culture and history of the Hollows adds more fuel to an already complex conflict, by throwing in things like *Turalay* and the *Durgan Guild*.

I loved how the Wingfeathers grew stronger as they had to face down opposition together. I loved how Janner slowly, slowly, slowly is finally growing into a true Throne Warden. His development in this book was FANTASTIC.

Some of the main characters still have semi-cliche roles (mainly just the siblings), but each one of them is maturing out of those and into characters all their own. Plus, we get a decent amount of new characters in this book, which was pretty fun! Some of them have names we've heard before, others are completely new, but each one of them adds to the story in unique ways.

What else to say? I loved Artham again (he needed more screen time though), and I loved Sara's plotline, and I loved Kalmar and Janner. Rudric's plotline was done SO WELL, and it really gave the conflict an interesting twist, but... OUCH. MY FEELS. (view spoiler)

However, on the negative side, there WERE a few weak/confusing plot points. (view spoiler) Most of it was easy to follow, but there were parts that didn't make sense.

Plus, there was just a liiiittleeee bit of "good" magic in this, which I would disagree with. It was fairly minor (most of the magic in this series is evil), and mostly just at the end, but still there. That's probably the main reason this series is four stars instead of five.

Age-wise, I'm thinking maybe... 13+? It's really not that violent but this series would definitely be scary for younger readers. *nods* BUT I LOVED THIS. EVERY MINUTE OF IT. My review doesn't really do this book justice. xD

Tyler Eason says

This is a thoughtful, substantive, and beautiful story. It shows the strength that lies in weakness and the love that exists between family. I can't wait to finish the last book.

Nicole says

[

Janner in the library smelling the books.
Kalmar protecting the cloven (who turned out to be Esben :0)
Everything about Leeli with the dogs.

Sarah Rodgers says

I started reading the Wingfeather Saga almost a year ago, and went into it a little hesitantly. If this was going to be a singer/songwriter's dreamy attempt at literature, and nothing more, I wasn't sure I wanted to subject myself to the disappointment. After all, I enjoy Andrew Peterson's music.....

But Andrew Peterson is not merely a singer/songwriter. He is a master storyteller, no matter the medium. And in the Wingfeather Saga, I was pleasantly surprise--blown away--to find a truly precious story in the tradition of the Chronicles of Narnia. And I don't ever, EVER reference Narnia lightly.

The series began with On The Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness, in which the land of Skree suffers under the great evil of Gnag the Nameless and his wicked minions, the Fangs of Dang. Janner, Tink and Leeli Igiby

are just three ordinary children growing up under Gnag's oppression, until they discover the secret of the Jewels of Anniera, and realize their heritage is more than it appears. In the second book, North! Or Be Eaten, the siblings find themselves running for their lives, fighting and fleeing and fighting again, and they discover that the house of Wingfeather has enemies around every corner--and friends in unexpected places.

Book 3, The Monster In The Hollows, picks up with siblings Janner, Tink (now Kalmar) and Leeli seeking refuge in the land of their ancestors. The Wingfeather children, it seems, have at long last reached a place of rest and safety, protected at least temporarily from Gnag the Nameless and his terrible Fangs of Dang. Like the first books, this one has its share of fascinating characters, vivid places, blood-chilling scarytale beasts, warm humor and epic adventure as the children discover that pursuant Fangs are not the only enemies they must beware of. Janner struggles with his role as eldest brother and makes difficult strides towards manhood as the Throne Warden of Anniera; Kalmar wrestles with guilt and regret even as he strives to hold onto his own identity; and Leeli explores her mysterious gifts more deeply than ever before. All three of the children have faced external dangers uncounted in the first books; this one finds them each growing as they learn who they are, both as the Igibys and as the royal Wingfeathers, and understanding how to fight internal monsters of their own.

But--are they truly safe? Can it be that the Green Hollows is the refuge they've sought for so long?

Of course not. There's a monster in the Hollows. And it's not what you think.

I caught myself, towards the end of this book, feeling like I really had the whole thing figured out. I called it. Well, I thought, jumping to conclusions while only three quarters of the way through, this book did seem more predictable than the others. It's okay. I still enjoyed the story. And then, Andrew Peterson did it again. Just when I thought I knew exactly what was going on, he turned the whole thing upside down in a climactic battle where the truth--all of it--the baffling, the impossible, the tragic, the horrifying and the glorious--is ultimately exposed. He kept me guessing until the end. I choked up. And I loved, loved, loved this book.

The characters of Janner, Kalmar and Leeli--all of whom I've grown to love through the series--see some real growth in this story. Up until now they've faced Fangs and bomnubbles and sea dragons and toothy cows and the Fork Factory and the wilderness; now they face school, identity struggles, mistrust, betrayal, and fitting into a foreign land. All this is told in Andrew Peterson's distinct style, which somehow manages to blend the comical and absurd with the profoundly moving. For me, the one enhances the other. I highly recommend this series. Here's looking forward to the fourth and final installment, The Warden and the Wolf King, which will be available.....er.....whenever Andrew Peterson decides he's held us in anticipation long enough and carves out time to write it. I'll be waiting.

Gillian Bronte Adams says

Finally! A land free of Fangs! Well, almost... After a harrowing journey across the Dark Sea of Darkness, the Wingfeathers arrive at last in the Green Hollows, safe and sound. But there is one slight problem. The Hollowsfolk make it very clear that Kalmar, now possessive of whiskers and a tail, is not welcome.

As the Throne Warden, Janner is pledged to protect his younger brother. In school, at home, on the playing field. Each day presents new challenges as he and his siblings adjust to life in the Hollows. What is a Throne

Warden to do when he doesn't want to be the Throne Warden? And how does he protect a King who doesn't want to be the King? Bullying classmates are the least of Janner's troubles, however, for whispers of a monster in the Hollows threaten to bring the fear of the Fangs back into their new life.

Since reading the first two books in the Wingfeather series, I eagerly awaited the release of book number three: The Monster in the Hollows. It was with a great sense of excitement and trepidation that I first cracked open the cover and peered at the tale penned upon the pages within.

True to form, Andrew Peterson once again weaves a tale of incredible beauty and depth, wrought with themes of love, loyalty, family, and self-sacrifice.

Peterson's characters talk and act true to life, so much so that at times it seemed like they were living breathing human beings who might at any moment step off the pages of the book and into my backyard.

The Monster in the Hollows presents a plot that is unique and original and resorts in many paper cuts from speedy page turning. While the action is not quite as intense and dark as in the previous tale, the story draws you in like a fish on a line until you are hooked and cannot get away.

I highly recommend The Monster in the Hollows and all of the Wingfeather Saga to any lover of fantasy.

ashley nicole says

[and Esben's (hide spoiler)]

Suzannah says

A solid entry in the series, ending with a couple of incredible and satisfying twists which I never saw coming. That said, I felt like I had to read through a lot of unrelated stuff to get to the good bits in this installment. After Janner's ordeal in the Fork Factory in the previous book, his adventures at school in the Hollows seem a bit anticlimactic, while I felt we got a lot of foreshadowing of trouble on Kalmar's behalf which never quite paid off.

Yes, I'm probably being overly picky here. Still a very fine story, and did I mention the amazing twist at the end?

Victoria says

Finally!! I actually enjoyed this one. In my very inexpert opinion, Peterson is finally figuring out what tone he wants these books to have.

Nika says

The Wingfeather Saga has both the lightness of imagination and the depth of spiritual significance at the same time. There were several things that I NEVER saw coming in this book! I was so surprised, I dropped my jaw while I was reading! It is a delight that Peterson writes for youth, as well as adults, in the same story. It leads to meaningful conversations with students, which is always a good thing!
