



## **Everland**

*Wendy Spinale*

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*The only way to grow up is to survive.*

London has been destroyed in a blitz of bombs and disease. The only ones who have survived the destruction and the outbreak of a deadly virus are children, among them sixteen-year-old Gwen Darling and her younger siblings, Joanna and Mikey. They spend their nights scavenging and their days avoiding the deadly Marauders—the German army led by the cutthroat Captain Hanz Otto Oswald Kretschmer.

Unsure if the virus has spread past England's borders but desperate to leave, Captain Hook is on the hunt for a cure, which he thinks can be found in one of the surviving children. He and his Marauders stalk the streets snatching children for experimentation. None ever return.

Until one day when they grab Joanna. Gwen will stop at nothing to get her sister back, but as she sets out, she crosses paths with a daredevil named Pete. Pete offers the assistance of his gang of Lost Boys and the fierce sharpshooter Bella, who have all been living in a city hidden underground. But in a place where help has a steep price and every promise is bound by blood, it might cost Gwen more than she bargained for. And are Gwen, Pete, the Lost Boys, and Bella enough to outsmart the ruthless Captain Hook?

## **Everland Details**

Date : Published May 10th 2016 by Scholastic Press

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Author : Wendy Spinale

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## From Reader Review Everland for online ebook

### Rissa says

3.5 ??

Peter Pan is my favorite fairy tale but retelling are not usually interesting to me but her name is Wendy so i thought it was a sign. I really enjoyed the twist she brought to Neverland and the lost boys. I liked that she brought wonderland into this book with Hook doing the Bloodred Queens dirty work. It had new aspects to neverland and the lost boys, yet it stayed familiar/similar to the original

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### Amelia says

3.5 stars.

I enjoyed most of this book... not really the first half. The second half got better though.

Link to the full review: <https://amelianamora18.wixsite.com/am...>

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### Lilian says

I can't. This book was amazing, especially the ending! I need the sequel ASAP! I'm excited to see where they're going to take the story.

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### J. says

This wasn't one of my NEED TO READ books, but I'm always up for a good fairy tale retelling, so I thought I'd enjoy it. I also haven't read many Peter Pan retellings, so that was another plus; and I love England. Having read this, though, I'm mostly dissatisfied and disappointed.

I thought its greatest strength was that it was a very imaginative historical retelling of Peter Pan that sticks fairly close to the original (unlike, for example, Never Ever, which seems to be a more contemporary retelling).

I felt neutral about the writing; similes are really not Spinale's strength. I felt like I was being clobbered with them in the first chapter (and in general they seem to go together—where there's one, there are likely five in the next few pages), and again in the last few chapters. Examples: "Emotions collide inside me like a raging storm at sea" (301) and "He's won, and that simple fact chokes me like his fat fingers wrapped around my neck, stealing my breath" (302). Some of the writing also felt surprisingly repetitive, considering this is such a short book. For example, "I see a flash of admiration in Doc's eyes as he smiles timidly at Lily. My heart swells with hope for the brokenhearted Lost Boy. Since he has loved and lost once before, I wonder if another could mend his heart. Another like his first love, Gabrielle" (248).

But then there was the extremely occasional really gorgeous line, like when Peter tells Gwen, "What more is

left here for you but faith?”” (35).

The greatest weakness was the emotion, and by extension, the characters and the romance. I never really felt for Gwen even at crucial points in the book—like when Joanna tells her she’s a terrible mom, and when Gwen starts to think she might really care for Pete—and when I went back and tried to think through why, I figured out it mostly comes down to this: Spinale relies heavily on telling, rather than showing, to get emotion, backstory, and character relationships across, and this is not terribly effective. When Pete thinks Gwen is so brave and is entranced, I don’t really get it, because I don’t really see Gwen being all that brave (just somewhat whiny--and not that the whiny is unmerited, but it’s still the dominant trait). When Gwen is getting mad at Pete and saying he’s so arrogant and annoying, I felt distantly puzzled, because what Pete was doing on the page did not seem to warrant her overblown annoyed reaction. When Gwen starts to realize Pete is a nice guy and she might harbor some affection for him, I felt nothing, because I kind of thought he was a reasonably nice guy already. Also, even minor romances like Doc and Lily felt super, super awkward because Spinale kept describing it explicitly. For example, saying that they seem to have affection for each other—when they’ve just met! Attraction, sure. Affection, huh?

Side issue: (view spoiler)

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### **Brittany (Brittany's Book Rambles) says**

*Everland* has everything you love about Peter Pan but reimagined to include a dark, steampunk, dystopian-like world. My heart is absolutely soaring after reading this book, and I love all of the new twists that were added to the story. Though I haven't read the original Peter Pan novel (and shame on me for that) but I think that J.M. Barrie would be proud of this retelling. It even incorporates some of the original lines from *Peter Pan*, which just makes me extremely giddy. I had so much fun reading *Everland*, that I wish that I could read it again for the first time. *Everland* is definitely one of my favorite retellings and by far one of the best steampunk novels I've ever read!

Read my full review of *Everland* ^\_^

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### **Nikk the Sapphired Book Dragon says**

I enjoyed this both more than I expected but also for different reasons that I thought I would. I went into the story expecting the steampunk but not quite ready for the dystopian edge to the story. I found the first couple chapters didn't really pull me in and if it hadn't been for the fact I had to write discussion questions for later in the book, I might not have pressed on. I am glad I did though as I began to find myself more and more intrigued. I really quite liked the way the author spun her tale around the peter pan tale and liked the mixture of both the obvious references I.e. bella's Metal wings to the more subtle or clever I.e when pan asks Doc if he has lost his marbles.

Over all, I found myself drawn to the strange and intriguing story interested to how the story would play out. I am not completely sure if I will move on to book 2 as the ending left me kind of non plussed but overall I did enjoy the read.

I give this book a solid 4 stars.

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### **April Sarah says**

Review to come.

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### **Rachel Patrick says**

This review (and others) can be seen in all its properly formatted glory on my blog [Beauty and the Bookshelf](#).

Peter Pan retellings are my kryptonite. Beauty and the Beast may be my favorite fairy tale and movie, but Peter Pan shit is my trash. Some retellings may not be as appealing as others, but I still want to read them because Peter fucking Pan. Everland fell into the category of retellings that I'm not super excited about (and honestly, I'm not a fan of that cover like at all), but I liked how it wasn't set in Neverland and how it had a sort of steampunk quality to it. Now, I can't really dislike a Peter Pan retelling. I just can't. But this is probably my least favorite.

My main problem with Everland is that it's not at the quality I like my books to be at. It's just not. It's not that it's too young; I like Middle Grade! But the writing wasn't my favorite, and it came off as kind of draftish to me. And don't even get me started on Hook's point of view. Once I realized what the writing style was--what level it would be--I got along with it and I liked Gwen's point of view. But Hook. It's like the stereotypical mean girl in a Lifetime movie who's trying too hard and is so over the top mean girl that you want to slap her. Hook's point of view was like that. It was not good, okay? Too sneery, too many exclamation points, too inconsistent in the characterization--just too much and not enough. It's like Hook told you everything instead of showing it to you. And Hook, honey? NO.

Aside from all that, Everland wasn't all that bad. Sure, it was a little obvious with some of the Peter Pan references, horrible things would happen and you wouldn't be emotionally invested enough in the story to be affected, a lot of things happened rather fast (I swear this all took place in like twenty-four hours and Gwen never slept for the entirety of the story), and I can't tell if this is a series and more is supposed to happen, and I'm not sure what the era is--or the world--but it's still a nice, fun, simple little story. It just wasn't my favorite.

The world of Everland is an...interesting one. London is no more, thanks to the Bloodred Queen of Germany (or something like that), the Horologia virus, and her soldiers the Marauders. London is in an apocalyptic state. The virus kills adults first, then females, then males are the last to get it. But one girl might be the cure and the only way to save everyone else. Hence where everyone's favorite characters come in. And despite the issues with this story, I did like Gwen and Peter, Gwen was the sister trying to save her siblings and just survive, and Peter's the boy who comes along and offers help right when it's needed. Some things were a little too fast--like, hello, stranger danger--and maybe their feelings for each other, much as I rooted for them, were awfully quick, they were likable. Although sometimes Peter's characterization seemed a bit off, and that kind of bothered me. Bella was a viable Tink, and I liked the different personalities and talents of the Lost Boys, though I would've liked to see more of where they were all holed up. And again, Hook--I'm just not even going to go there again.

Everland had the makings to be a really unique and cool take on the Peter Pan tale, with steampunk elements, an apocalyptic London, and no actual Neverland. But as someone who's kryptonite is Peter Pan retellings, it pains me to look at this novel and not feel much joy or positivity. This novel just isn't at the level I like to read, and it needed to spend more than a day telling what could've been a very neat story and really worked on fleshing everything out. It wasn't a bad novel, and I didn't dislike it--honestly, I'm stingy and too nice when it comes to that--but it's just not my cup of tea. And I will not, unfortunately, be flying off to Everland.

*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Cait • A Page with a View says**

The absolutely AMAZING concept should get 5 stars. But the actual story itself should get 1 star. So... 2.5 stars in the end?

This is really one of the most original fairy tale retellings I've ever seen. I was utterly entranced by this steampunk version of Peter Pan and all of the clever twists! The basic plot is that the pirate marauders of the German Bloodred queen unleashed a deadly virus on London and a lot of kids managed to survive. But now the queen might have the virus, so her son Hans Otto Oswald Kretschmer (H.O.O.K.) is leading his zeppelin of soldiers in the search for the single girl who is an Immune. They're abducting random kids and giving them to some professor in order to make a cure.

Gwen is the single girl who is immune and was forced to grow up quickly after her parents died. The story starts with her caring for her sister Joanna and brother Mikey until the soldiers take Joanna. Gwen soon meets Pete, a teen with red hair & bright green eyes, a forest green tailcoat, and goggles. Bella (Tinkerbell) is a petite girl who can fly with a really cool steam-powered winged jetpack. Pete tells Gwen that underneath the second star to the right is Everland. All of the orphan kids/survivors of the virus are staying underneath it and have built a whole Lost City in the subway tunnels. Gwen finds out that Peter needs her because Bella is dying and most girls aren't resistant to the virus (hence the whole "lost boy" scene).

So the premise and worldbuilding were absolutely AMAZING. I adored this dark, gritty steampunk version of London so much! There were even crocodiles in the sewers to eat the dead. But I'm still not entirely sure if Everland is London or the palace/headquarters for Hook or... what. Most of the explanation of everything didn't come until *well* into the story.

### Now for the actual review of the story:

Unfortuantely, this story completely failed in almost every area. The writing was weak, the characters were flat and incredibly unrealistic, and the dialogue was almost painful to sit through. Every single character annoyed me beyond belief with their mood swings and confusing choices. Pete and Gwen would fight for no reason, Bella was hostile for no reason, there was extremely forced drama for no reason... everything just felt like a bad middle school play.

What really killed everything for me was Hook's POV. (Gwen's POV wasn't great, but I could sit through it at least). But Hook was BEYOND flat, dull, robotic and just...*weird*. I don't even know how to explain how bad it was. I lost total interest every time it got to his POV because he barely seemed alive.

I ended up stopping this book at 60% because it was just too big of a letdown. But I still love parts of the general concept!!

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### **Evelyn Medina says**

I genuinely loved reading this book and it was so much fun! I loved the steampunk aspect (obviously) but I also loved the fact that even though it was a retelling and I was comparing it to Peter Pan for a while, it definitely stands on its own. I love that Gwen starts off a little meek and timid but she's actually a badass. And even though he was the villain, when I was reading from Hook's perspective, he actually seemed very human. Not just some bad guy who hates everyone. I only gave this 4 stars though because the whole virus aspect reminded me A LOT of the Lunar Chronicles. If you've read this book and the lunar series, you'll get where I'm coming from. Overall though, such a fun read!!!

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### **Karen ?✿ says**

I typically stay away from re-tellings because there are just so many that are poorly done and often lazy in execution. But I received the audio for free from audiobooksync this year and then it was chosen for a group read with NBRC so I began!

At the start I was really impressed. I loved the steampunk/dystopian take on the novel and I thought it was very clever. A great way to bring a classic story to today's readers. But by about three quarters in I felt it dragged quite a bit and kind of limped along to the end.

Overall I'm glad I read it and I would recommend it to others wanting an easy read who are curious about this retelling.

It's a 3.5 star book for me and I'm not really interested in finishing the series. I think this was enough ?

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### **Brittany says**

*Everland* is a steam-punk/dystopian retelling of Peter Pan. A quite enjoyable one at that.

It takes place in a post-apocalyptic London that was destroyed by bombs and a deadly virus known as the Horologia virus.

The chapters alternate between Gwen and Hook's POV. While I would have liked to see a chapter or two from Pete or Bella's perspective I can understand why it focuses more on Gwen and Hook.

Hook is looking for Gwen who he finds out is the only person who is truly immune to the virus so he needs her for a cure. Meanwhile, Gwen with the help of Pete and the Lost Boys sets out to rescue her sister who was captured by Hook and his marauders.

I don't want to spoil the book for anyone so I won't say any more than that but if you're a fan of retellings that manage to stay (somewhat) true to the original while also crafting an imaginative new story I'd suggest giving *Everland* a try.

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\*ARC provided by Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Kimber Silver says**

3.5 rounded up to 4 for a good concept and an interesting ending.

In this Peter Pan-meets-steampunk/Mad Max, *Everland* is a new twist on the original fairytale. As with the prototype, Pete is our hero; a cocky bit of fun with all manner of tricks up his sleeve. His sidekick, Bella, the Tinkerbell of this yarn, adds a bit of pre-teen lovelorn angst with a large helping of attitude. And, of course, we have the villain, Hook.

While the players are reminiscent of the original, this is set in a dark, dystopian society without the magic of pixie dust and fairies. A bomb containing the Horologia virus has been dropped on London, quickly decimating the population, beginning with the adults. Children are less susceptible, though not immune, and must now find a way to live as orphans. What's left of humanity splits into hunters and the hunted. Fifteen-year-old Gwen Darling and her younger siblings, Joanna and Mike, believe they are among the last survivors. Hiding from Hook and his marauders they scavenge to stay alive. Gwen happens upon Pete and Bella while searching for food, and so the adventure begins. Pete introduces his new-found friends to the city of 'lost boys' where a semblance of civilization has been restored, including running water and light via some steam-powered tinkering. But, as with any good tale, there is a looming secret...

*Everland* is a cute story and, while I guessed what was going to happen, I didn't lose interest. I would suggest, though, that it might better-suit a younger audience.

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### **Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says**

I enjoyed this so much!!!

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### **Skylar says**

I got this book in my owl crate and its..... Cute. not amazing. but cute. a nice little snuggle up read if you're looking for a interesting escape. A little cheesy at times....but cute.

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### **Liz (alaskanknitandlit) says**

I actually finished this the other day, but for some reason my goodreads kept tweaking out whenever I would go to mark as finished.

SO anyways, this was a fun book! It didn't necessarily WOW me, hence the 4 stars but I still very much enjoyed it.

I loved the steampunk theme to it, and the plot is pretty creative. For all you retelling junkies out there, read this!

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### **Nicole Alycia says**

I love a good retelling and this is, by far, one of the better Peter Pan retellings out there. That's my opinion at least.

This book followed the original storyline pretty darn closely but in its own little world. I could easily figure out who everyone was supposed to be (I mean, the names were pretty similar) but I could also picture scenes from the Disney movie that corresponded with what was actually going on. I loved it!

I liked the characters, I liked the world it was set in, and I liked that there wasn't magic in it. I figured there would be with the type of story it was but it was just normal people who were incredibly smart and resourceful.

I'm really looking forward to reading the next book!

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### **Vikki says**

I was not entirely sold on this book when it came in my Owlcrate box last year since I am not into Peter Pan and retellings are usually hit-and-miss with me but decided to give it a try for Owlcrate-a-thon (Owlcrate readathon). I am glad I did. It is sort of like The Walking Dead meets Lord of the Flies.

This story revolves around Gwen (never called Wendy in this retelling) trying to keep her siblings, Joanna and Mikey, alive after a plague wipes out almost everyone in England and possibly the world except for young children especially boys. This plague started after Queen Katherina of Germany had her son, Captain Herman Otto Oswald Kretschmer, or Captain HOOK, invade England and destroy a weapons lab that contained the virus that killed or sickened just about everyone. Captain HOOK and his Marauders now search for survivors which are mostly young boys so they can be experimented on in hopes of finding a cure. When out scavenging for food one day in Everland (old London), Gwen runs into Pete and Bella when trying to hid from Marauders and they follow her home to discover Joanna has been taken by Marauders. Gwen and Mikey decide to join Pete's group, the Lost Boys in the Lost City, in order to get help rescuing Joanna. Gwen, despite her age and gender, appears to be showing none of the virus' flesh-eating symptoms which leads them to think she is immune and the key to finding a cure that is starting to affect a third of the Lost Boys. Once Captain HOOK finds out about the possible "Immune" he will stop at nothing to get Gwen so he can return home a hero.

It was more of a dystopian novel (one of my favorite genre) than steampunk to me and the references to the retelling of the Disney movie Peter Pan were the famous lines reused in a totally difference context most times than in the original story.

The end-of-the-world scenario reminded me of The Walking Dead in the way they had to fight for their survival against not only disease but other survivors and Lord of the Flies in the way that it is a colony of children and there is some in-fighting. I loved this book and cannot wait for the sequel.

I gave this book 4 out of 5 stars on Goodreads.

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### **Anniken Haga says**

After reading the two latest Owlcrate-books, and really liking them, I had some hope for this one.

Not only had I "learned" that owlcrate books were easily read and intriguing, but this one was a steampunk book.

I love a good steampunk book.

When I also opened it, and realised it was a retelling of Peter Pan, I was overjoyed, seeing how I'd just - the same day - finished listening to the original Peter Pan story.

But it did not live up to the expectations...

I was intrigued at the beginning.

Here was an author turning everything steampunk, and I loved it! Bella's wings, the gasmasks, gas-lamps and a dark and gloomy London.

But after a while this wasn't enough to save the book.

I had a had time feeling for any of the characters. They didn't seem real, and therefore I didn't believe in them.

The story also soon started to plummet, and everything went really slow.

The whole book is just, what, one day? two at the most? But I never got a real sense of time, and with everything that happened, but that wasn't nessesarly for the story, it just draged.

I also had some other problems with the books.

'cause for it to be logical, everyone must have been children, or at most, teenagers. Even Hook. This was part of why I didn't believe in the characters.

As Gwen - the protagonist - actually say in the book; did the virus - that killed all the adults - only spare the geniuses? A child docter making a vaccine? Ingeneats not older than 13 years old creating a city?

And lets not forget Hook, whom bombed all of London, and set for the "apocolypse". He had to have been a child - or a teenager - as well, to not have died in the start.

Not plausible!

And what time was the book set in?

Steampunk is normally set in the victorian era, and so I assumed this one would be as well, but women could be doctors. And no one raised an eye if a female walked around in trousers. But then again, they find a corps in corsets and floppy scirts...

Nothing made sense to me!

So although I read this book fairly quick, I was deeply dissapointed. It was lacking in so many ways. I know its supposed to be the first book in a series, but I will not be reading on, I think.

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### **Rachael ( RachaelRexds ) says**

Really enjoyed Everland! It's rather dark but it's also a quick read with a great cast of characters :)

Looking forward to the sequel coming out on 9th May!

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