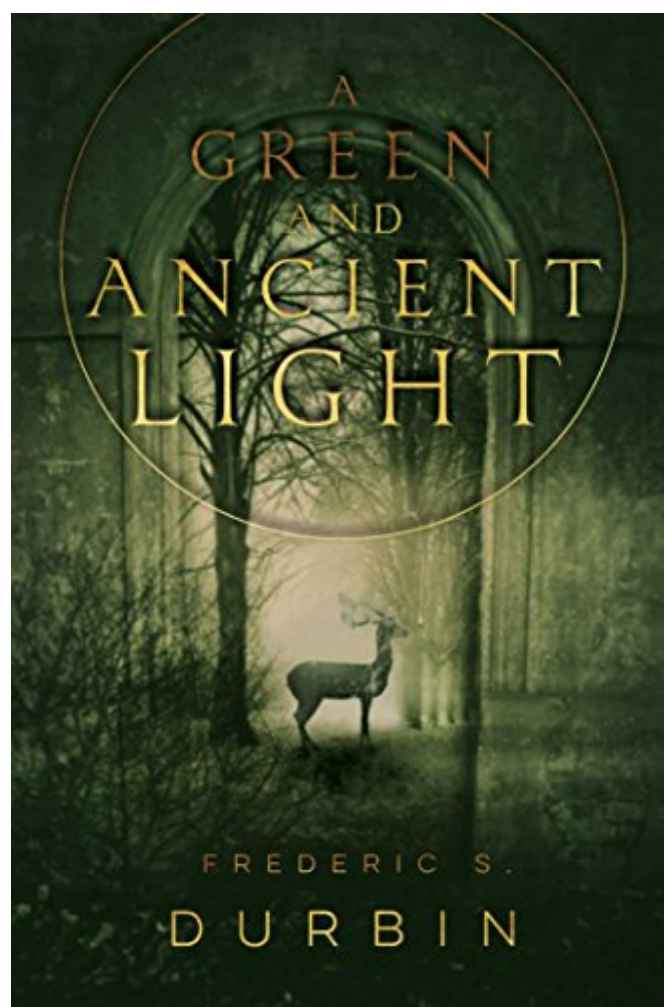


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A Green And Ancient Light



Synopsis

A gorgeous fantasy in the spirit of Pan[™]'s Labyrinth and John Connolly[™]'s The Book of Lost Things. Set in a world similar to our own, during a war that parallels World War II, A Green and Ancient Light is the stunning story of a boy who is sent to stay with his grandmother for the summer in a serene fishing village. Their tranquility is shattered by the crash of a bullet-riddled enemy plane, the arrival of grandmother[™]'s friend Mr. Girandole[™] "a man who knows the true story of Cinderella[™]'s slipper" and the discovery of a riddle in the sacred grove of ruins behind grandmother[™]'s house. In a sumptuous idyllic setting and overshadowed by the threat of war, four unlikely allies learn the values of courage and sacrifice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had the good fortune to read this book twice: first, years ago, in manuscript and now in its perfect form as published novel. I don't use the term "perfect" lightly. This book is perfect. There are few books to which I eagerly return again and again. They are classics from my youth, or works that remind me of these classics: Tolkien's and C.S. Lewis's books, of course; "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"; Natalie Babbitt's "Tuck Everlasting"; "The Once and Future King". Books

discovered outside of my youth would be William Hope Hodgson's works, Hope Mirrlees's *Lud-in-the-Mist*, H.P. Lovecraft's and Robert E. Howard's tales. Fred's latest book is shelved with these. It does feel a bit weird to be friends with someone who now has written one of my classics, though it can't be much different than how C.S. Lewis might have felt after reading *The Hobbit* or *The Lord of the Rings*. Fred's book is a classic in that it not only is a deeply engrossing story but that it teaches wisdom. I have learned a lot this summer, with this book, and through my friend. And I expect I will learn even more through the years, as I age, as I reread. This is not lightly worded. Just like the grove of monsters -- a mysterious, overgrown garden whose bushes and brambles occlude many an awe-inspiring statue -- this book hides elements of wisdom, reflections and observations about much of life's experiences. You might have to look for them. More often they seem to jump right out of the thickets at you, surprising and astounding, while you only were making your way, drawing aside vines and foliage while you were trying to find a path through the brake. One of these surprises is the nature of Faery (Fred's spelling) itself.

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