



Quest for the Faradawn

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Deep in the ancient forest that the creatures called the Wild Wood amid the scented bracken and towering beeches, there were whispers of a legend whose ending was lost in the mists of time. It told of a heroic journey and a saviour destined to possess the secret power of the Faradawn. And so it came to pass, in the time of man's great war, that a human child brought the legend to life. Sensing, without knowing why, that it must begin a special, magical quest, he journeyed through the magical kingdoms of the world, his path filled with awesome marvels and strange terrors, his story a celebration of love, courage, and all that is brightest and best in life.

Quest for the Faradawn Details

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From Reader Review Quest for the Faradawn for online ebook

Terri Lynn says

I read this in the early 1980's and found a copy in the library now over 30 years later and couldn't resist reading it again. The animals of the forest and fields have an enemy- humans. They come into the animals' world gleefully murdering fox, deer, rabbits, partridges and other birds, badgers and more. The animals have created a system with an owl Warrigal and a badger Brock who warn the animals when the humans are coming with their killing sticks (guns) as does a dog Sam who lives with humans in the village but once lived with the animals when small. The humans even send poison down rabbit holes and badger holes just to kill them for fun.

One freezing winter night, Brock sees something odd. A sad couple leaves a wrapped up newborn baby buried by a tree. When they leave, he checks it out and finds a live baby boy and struggles to carry him home to his wife Tara who is expecting twins. She is able to nurse and care for the boy. Brock is forced to tell Warrigal and there is a council meeting to discuss it. The elflord sends his approval for the child to stay with Brock and Tara and the animal council agrees he might be part of a legend of a human helper who will come to save the animals.

Soon little Nab grows up more and more and when he is 11, he is horrified when he is finally allowed to see the brutality of the killings by the humans. He hates humans until one day he encounters a sweet little girl out on a picnic with her mom and he shyly approaches her. Not long after, he gets captured by hunters, beaten, and taken to their parents who call the police,

Read and find out the legacy of Nab and what happens with the animals. Will he become one of the brutal humans and show them to the animal homes or will he turn out to actually be that helper/savior that they were waiting for?

Greg says

Unoriginal mesh of jungle book, lord of the rings and watership down. As well as the boring and childish writing style, this travesty of a book, and all of its copies, should be destroyed.

Kaylea says

I read this years ago, but it is one of my favorites! Fantasy with animal characters that anyone could relate to. Made a big impact on me and the way I feel about all of God's creations.

Your Common House Bat says

I liked this novel a lot. It was simply charming but also very dismal at points. I think that it was the perfect book to kick off my summer reads. I am very nature oriented and love forests and the animals in them and so this book was right up my alley. I had the chance to read it in the woods to which definitely brought out the mood. Ford's imagery was captivating I loved all of the detail he put into describing the forest and the beach

scenes. Nab, Sam, Perryfoot, and all of the characters were just wonderful and I adored following them on their journey. Especially with the magical elements tossed in there.

Andreas says

Quest for the Faradawn is a book that starts off with the typical "raised by wolves" story and ends in what I can only describe as absurdity. Until the end, it was an average book that bordered on being just bad.

What I like in the book is that it doesn't pull punches when it describes the horrible ways animals die by the hands of hunters, making the reader feel bad for... existing, basically. I also like how the characters react to traumatic experiences, as they will often contemplate on who has died and all the happy memories they had, without lashing out like they would've if the book was like any Hollywood production. Lastly, the illustrations in my edition was absolutely beautiful. I don't usually point out illustrations in my reviews, but I figured I should because everything else is either average or bad.

The characters aren't characters as much as, "These are good guys because they are being treated badly," the author manages to divide humanity into one part that is good and one that is lesser (The lesser being the group that disagrees with his points,) the sorry excuse for lore is spat out at you only when it's necessary, it keeps adding things without setting them up once the plot starts, the main character does absolutely nothing other than being rescued, mysteries are obvious, and the things that are supposed to make sense mostly does not.

Then the ending happened. Without giving anything away, it made the entire book feel like an overly long, unintentional joke that had me laughing for minutes because it was so stupid. I've decided that I have to share this with my friends, just so we can discuss how terrible and hilarious the ending is.

I could only recommend the book to people because of that ending. If you're willing to sit through an entire book that borders on being bad just for the most out of nowhere ending ever, this is the book for you.

dara says

This book isn't typical of what I expect and love about Ford's writing. Even as a vegetarian, aspects of the novel struck me as propaganda, or close enough to it. The characters don't have much depth, and the attention to scenery was so detailed it bored me. Imagine the Redwall series, only with humans and goblins as enemies, and none of the cuteness. Only its graphic and violent nature spares it from complete mediocrity. Perhaps I am being too harsh, but what it comes down to is that if not for writing a short review of this book, I would easily forget that I had read it at all.

Jade Aspinall says

This book is beautifully written, with love towards nature and animals, and highlights the certain cruelty that animals receive from humans (e.g, fox hunting etc.)

However, certain parts of the book did remind me of Watership Down (which I haven't even read) and Lord of the Rings (again, something I found difficult to read, but loved the films). The majority of the novel

consisted of the main band of characters just walking across the country side, without running into much danger.

The whole idea of the 'Quest for the Faradawn' wasn't explained properly, and was only introduced in the second third of the story.

But, despite these flaws that I've mention, it is a great read, especially for someone just starting out reading fantasy with a love for wildlife and the idea of going on an adventure to save them

Anya Rostov says

You might like it if Lord of the Rings had never been written...

I had mixed feelings while I was reading this book. The first couple of chapters into the story introduces a boy named Nab whose progressing story initially follows a "Jungle Book" theme. He's raised by animals, first viewed as their enemy and later regarded as the "the one from the prophecy who would save them all." Rather typical, but I could buy into it for the sake of the story. The first third of the book resembles Watership Down in style and the relationship the animals share with mankind (except Nab...).

Then things get worse. Half way through the story, you are involved in this modern-day England-like world where almost all the humans despise animals and commit random acts of cruelty just because they feel like it. After a particularly violent scene with the animals being hunted, BAM! Here comes the elves!

This "quest for the faradawn" (which you don't even learn of until the middle of the story) begins at a random point. Nab and his ragtag band of misfit animals visit the first of three elflords to hear him dump out the entire history of the world which VERY closely mirrors Tolkien's Silmarillion (without even stopping for breath).

Which brings me to my main point: the similarities between Tolkien's history of Middle Earth and the Quest for the Faradawn are too close to be considered a coincidence! Take the "Eldron," or humans who are friends to the animals...I was explaining this to my sister and she said, "What about Elrond?" And there is another term in the book called the "Elrondin" which I don't need to point out is awfully close to Elrond, one of the chief elf characters in The Lord of the Rings.

Then there's Saurelon, which sounds a lot like Saruman and Sauron. Not to mention, that the "urkku" (or evil humans constantly chasing Nab and co.) sound like the evil "uruk-hai" of Middle Earth. What really had me in stitches was Nab's confrontation with the "Dark Lord" inside the mountain where he relied on a trusty companion named Sam to help him battle the darkness. Hmm...why does that sound so familiar? Where have I heard the name Sam before?

There are countless other examples that I have recorded while reading, but I don't have the time to post them all here. Now, when it comes to the characters, they leave much to be desired. Not only is Nab flawlessly beautiful, but he never does anything wrong or acts out of those "sudden rages" that overcome him when he witnesses an injustice.

And Beth, his "girlfriend" who was filled with love at first sight, is a very shallow companion. It is boring to read about characters with no flaws or difficulties except suppressing their outrage at some wrongdoing and never doing anything about it. Beth is called a "pretty, studious, diligent, polite, cheerful little girl." Isn't that overdoing it a bit? Not to mention completely narrative. The whole story lacks of present action, besides

some brutal slaughters that occur all-too-frequently.

Yes...and returning to the Tolkien-issue. Why does Nab give Beth a "precious golden ring?" I can't exactly put my finger on it, but I know I've heard that line somewhere.

Now for the literal problems. Beth is wearing five or so coats when they travel in the snow and is still freezing. And Nab walks along beside her, completely comfortable in his birch-bark loincloth and his bare toes. And he conveniently locates sufficient stashes of berries and mushrooms in the dead of winter. I thought this was meant to be a realistic, naturalistic story where at least the environmental factors are accurate. The animals, which appear to be very natural in the beginning, follow illogical behavior. Example: Mr. Fox or whatever he was named would eat the rabbit. The dog would eat the rabbit and attack the badger. The owl would eat the rabbit....and so on.

Another similarity to Richard Adams (author of Watership Down) is the rumor of a plague that the animals supposedly were responsible for. Hence, The Plague Dogs.

I could literally go on forever. Even if I were to ignore the examples I already listed and just "accept" the story for what it is in the name of fantasy, it was still unstructured. The "quest" began too late and shifted the whole theme of the book. The definition of "faradawn" is lengthy and lost in the long-winded information dump that the first elflord relays to Nab. Also, the characters were personality-less and contradictory.

For instance, Nab was kidnapped by the ururk-hai--I mean urkku! He was taken to their house and locked in a room, and four square walls totally freaked him out. But when Nab, Beth, and the animals come to a convenient cottage inhabited by friendly elderly people more than eager to give up their lives to assist a boy in underwear and his strange companions, Nab is not only excited to enter the house but completely entranced by everything that he previously could not tolerate.

And if anyone has read the author's note at the end of the story, they will find a very interesting anecdote relating how the author met up spontaneously with an old man who told him this story bit by bit over a stretch of time....

...and he thought it was true. He thought the world literally opened up, all the animals went inside, and the elves helped reshape everything and destroy all the urkku while Nab and the others were "frozen in time." Wow.

...and the old man told him that he himself was Nab....oh boy.

So, in conclusion, I found "Quest for the Faradawn" to be redundant and unoriginal. Any story where the fate of the universe is tied into the success of the mission is cliché, but many stories are still able to run with it. However, there is no balance to be found to smooth over the abrupt shift between reality and fantasy. I found the story to be difficult to read, even when I tried to receive it in spite of the flaws.

Someone who has never heard of Watership Down, The Plague Dogs, and anything to do with Tolkien would probably like it, but I would not recommend it to anyone.

Debbie says

I don't agree with the philosophy of this book (being a hunter), but I still liked the story.

Helen says

This is an unusual and memorable novel with an interesting juxtaposition between the violent world of the 'Urkku' (humans) and the peaceful, hidden world of the elves and animals. There are some beautiful descriptions of Nature and a powerful and timely warning that man's disregard and destruction of the natural world will end in disaster.

Mike Heyd says

Much of this book is beautifully written by an author whose love and respect for the natural world shines through again and again. Reading it I was reminded of the neighbor who told me how her husband gave up small game hunting after he went to retrieve a squirrel he had shot and found the animal trying to wipe the blood from its eyes with its paw. If the quest of the title had been as well told as the rest of the tale this would have been a very good book. Unfortunately, this was not the case. The heroes never did much more than walk. The whole plot seemed just a bit too obviously contrived. If only the quest itself had been as easy to believe in as the rescue of an abandoned baby and his adoption by a badger.

Adrian Rose says

I have read and reread this one more times than I can count, and it always seems fresh and new each time. Definitely one of my all-time favorites! Just make sure you read the author's note at the end for this one to be the truly great one that it is.

Angela Oliver says

I read this book a long time ago, so only have hazy recollections of what actually happened in the plot, but I do remember that there was one thing about it that really bothered me. The main character - the boy that was raised by animals, was journeying across the country being followed by some nasty monsters. And, if I recall correctly, everyone who helped the boy was murdered by the nasty beings. It was terribly distressing and that fact has haunted me over the years that it has been since I read it. Thus, when my own novel looked to be taking a similar turn, I controlled the murderous tendencies of my villains.

Marie Winger says

This is book sat on my shelf for decades. At one time I must have really liked it. What was I thinking! The first half is pretty good. A badger finds a baby abandoned in the winter woods and takes it home. Boy is raised by animals. Stuff about how animals are abused and hunted by man. The second half is a hot mess. The introduction of the eleven world and the quest to find the Faradawn that will free the animals from human tyranny is really poor. His message of animal cruelty is WAY heavy handed. The animals are seriously anthropomorphized and he never deals with animals preying on each other.

Kit Domino says

Read this years ago and again recently. One of my all time favourite books, and that of my daughter's. Enthralling to the end.
