

Into the Wildewood

Gillian Summers

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After squelching an evil plot by a rotten fairy, Keelie Heartwood is ready for fun at the upcoming Wildewood Renaissance Faire. Getting to know her elf dad has been great, but camping out in his homemade RV while acting out the 16th century isn't so fab. Keelie prefers hot showers and wearing a watch, thankyouverymuch. And a cool new cell phone would be nice, too. But with fairies turning up in the oddest places, an unfortunate misunderstanding about a credit card bill, and that nasty, stuck-up elf-girl, Elia, Keelie's plans to have a good time are all but ruined. So far, life as an elf isn't all that enchanting. And then the unicorn shows up.

Into the Wildewood Details


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Lana says

Still keelie is pissing me off with her stupid attitude, but I think she is improving a bit with of course help from raven and her mother and the very nice dwarf who is trying hard to teach her earth magic, I am not impressed by the way her dad treats her as he is being very unfair keeping her in the dark about so many things which are new to her. trying to protect her I think he is endangering her more as she is ill prepared. Her friend laurie takes to the faire in a better way than she did, but then the faire has not been very kind to her, the jobs she is landing are truly awful!! but the ending of this book really picked up nicely. Have hope for the big finale now!

Braxton Church says

FANTASY

In the second book of Summers trilogy, Keelie travels with her father to another faire, where she's forced to get a job doing just about anything needed in the faire, and at each job something terrible happens to her. And let's not forget that her really attractive, elf, not-boyfriend is hundreds of miles away, and her best friend is visiting her, even though Keelie doesn't have any free time. Of course a dying unicorn had to appear and ask for Keelie's help to heal the forest.

My biggest problem with this book is I felt like Keelie was whining a lot during the first half. Though I do understand that she was a rich girl in California only two months before, but it seemed just a little over the top to me at times. But I did love how at the end of the novel, her father's out of commission due to the forest's disease, and Keelie has to rely on herself and her two best friends in order to save the forest. I'm really excited to see where the third book goes.

Laura says

Despite the fact that the protagonist actually was a lot less whiny than in the first book, I think I enjoyed that one better than this sequel. It was still a wonderful read. I really enjoy the world of the fairs that Keelie lives in and was glad to get back into it. However, there were some things that were just a bit off. Some things were too far-fetched, others too repetitive.

It is clear that the author intends for her readers to finish the entire trilogy. There is a bit of a polished ending, but there were also a lot of things mentioned that hinted about the next book. Which I already bought and look forward to reading!

Kristen says

The second book in the series and it still had a great element of plot and characterization. The ending did seem a little too tied up nice and neat, but then again, there is hopefully another book coming. I like the new characters, Robin Hood and his merry men, the Pickle Man, Lulu the Witch, and of course, Lord Einhorn, the unicorn. It's a great mix of angsty teen life melded with the world of the faire and the elves and other creatures that exist in it.

LeeLee says

Again this author chose to use curse words rather than intelligent descriptions of feelings/situations/expression. We are not impressed at all by the appearance of ""ass," "bullshit," "badass," "holy shit," "bitchy," and the mention of "the 'F' word." We got these books in the youth section (not the children's section, more like the tween section) and did not expect to see vulgar language or topics. We would not recommend this book to youth. So far on top of the language there has been mention of sex appeal and suicide. Not friendly to tween readers at all. Worst of all is the fact that if not for the profanity, the story is pretty good.

Sarah says

Up until recently, Keelie lived in L.A. with her mother where her life consisted of nothing more than school, friends, and shopping. This life changed drastically when Keelie's mother died in an airplane accident, leaving Keelie to live at a Colorado Renaissance Faire with a father she hardly knew. Soon after arriving, she learned that her tree allergy wasn't really an allergy, but part of a magical power related to the fact that she is part-human/part-elf...the daughter of a tree shepherd.

All of this has been accepted by Keelie by the beginning of book two, though both she and her father still aren't sure of how powerful her magic is yet.

When they arrive at the Wildewood Faire, they can tell something is very wrong with the trees but are unsure of what is causing their displeasure. Then one night Keelie sees a real unicorn in the forest, but of course she is warned to stay away from it. In addition to having to worry about the trees and the unicorn, Keelie is stressed out about the job her father made her get at the faire and her best friend Laurie's visit from L.A. Luckily, Raven comes back early from her internship. But just when Keelie thinks it can't get any worse, all of the elves at the faire fall ill—including her father—leaving her to deal with the angry trees and the secretive unicorn with her friends.

I couldn't wait to read book two of this trilogy...and Gillian Summers did not disappoint! *_Into the Wildewood_* begins right where *_The Tree Shepherd's Daughter_* leaves off; the only part the readers miss is the long drive Keelie and her dad make from Colorado to New York. Because of this, the site of the new faire is just as new to us as it is to Keelie, so one does not need to have read the first book in order to understand this one.

I can't wait to read book three and I'm sad that it won't come out until summer 2009.

Tamora Pierce says

Great fun! Keelie is forced to deal with deeper levels of her magic than she has learned--or her father thinks she is ready for--when they reach a Renaissance Faire in a forest that is dying despite the efforts of its caretaker unicorn. The trees and the unicorn will do anything to draw on Keelie's power, no matter what it does to Keelie, or to anyone else! Add in her relationship with the cross-grained cat who is her guardian, the stick-like wood fairies, and the critical full-blood elves, and anyone who knows me can see why I liked this

book and the first one in the trilogy!

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Randstostipher "talnlankyrn" Nguyen for TeensReadToo.com

After her mother passed away, Keelie Heartwood thought her life was completely over, especially when she had about having to live with her renaissance father. With her adventurous times there, from defeating evil fairies to finding out her magical abilities, Keelie started to adapt to her surroundings. She finally got to have that father-daughter bond that every girl should have, she made some really great friends like Ariel, and she found the perfect guy.

Of course, there are still some things that Keelie just can't get used to. Like having to stay in her father's camper; since her tent wasn't ready yet; while all the others got to stay in hotels with room service. And the fact that she has to make sure her wardrobe choices must fit with the renaissance theme.

Things are beginning to look up, though. Her best friend is coming into town to visit her (let's just hope she is fine with the whole Ren Faire thing), and Keelie is slowly advancing on her magic skills.

Like always, when good things happen, bad things seem to follow, like trying to figure out what boys are thinking, especially the ones who aren't really a part of this present time period. Like figuring out her dad, who doesn't seem like his old self that she just got to know. Other than that, Keelie just has to make sure that Elia doesn't ruin her life; unicorns, who have suddenly appeared, won't try to harm her in any way; and that the Wildewood is safe.

There really isn't much for Keelie to worry about... yeah, right!

Compelling and beautifully written, the story of a girl, a Ren Faire, and her magical world is continued in the second novel of the FAIRE FOLK TRILOGY. INTO THE WILDEWOOD delves deeper into the world that both Keelie and the reader were first introduced to. With a character like Keelie, the story is given a feel of reality, since she is just like any normal girl... who has magical powers and can communicate with trees, of course. A great follow-up to an already breathtaking first novel, fans of the series will be very satisfied.

Sarah Louise says

I keep telling myself that I will come back to this book and finish it since I don't have much left. But I can't seem to go back to it. Not because I didn't like it, I just feel indifferent. It just wasn't what I was expecting. I enjoyed the first one much more because I was expecting a fulfilling ending but it just kind of leveled out and I was left disappointed. And then this whole book hasn't built up a lot and I feel like I'm still reading the beginning of the book 75% in. So I'm reluctantly quitting.

Claire says

The plot was bad but not the worst ever, but the writing was too awful for me to finish the final third, and I'm

not very picky. It's been so long since I read such a clunkily-written book that the only thing I could compare it to was the Baby-Sitters' Club. (Which I loved back in the day, don't get me wrong! But it's not what I want in my YA fantasy now that I'm a more sophisticated reader than I was at 8 years old.)

Trina says

Into the Wildewood continues the adventures of Keelie Heartwood -- a teenage girl who has recently discovered that she was half-elf and could talk to trees. Her father -- the elf -- is a furniture builder at Ren Faires and Keelie is still getting used to living in that world.

Then, she sees a sick unicorn and realizes that the trees are angry and sick. Although her father tells her to keep out of the forest, she keeps going back to try to help the unicorn.

There is also some struggle with settling in with the Ren Faire and trying to work at the various jobs. I particularly like the minor characters -- like the band of Merry Men and the Pickle Man -- who don't add much to the plot, but add quite a bit of Rennie flavor.

And, fine for the middle school set. No naughtiness except a discussion of a character not being able to see unicorns anymore for obvious reasons.

Deborah says

"Into the Wildewood" continues the story of Keelie Heartwood. Getting to know her dad and more about herself and her elf powers after killing the red top, Keelie is ready for the Wildewood Renaissance Faire. After purchasing a pair of handtooled leather boots without letting her dad know Keelie finds she has to get a job to pay for them. From wearing a stinky dragon suit, being a pickle girl and trying to stop the trees from being so angry and throwing acorns everywhere, it seems that one disaster after another seems to follow Keelie. Throw in that she sees a unicorn that her dad warns her to stay away from and the elve all getting sick and Keelie has to handle more than she thought possible. Something is killing the trees and the unicorn and its up to Keelie to help them. While Keelie is trying to figure things out she misses wearing a watch, a cell phone, and a hot shower, Keelie finds out her friend Laurie from L.A. is coming to visit.

Laura says

I still like the premise and I think many of the characters are very intriguing. The plot is great, too. It moved along well. Good action. It did keep me up reading late into the night. I would recommend it to others. Summers is learning her craft. Kudos for improving. I like this second novel a lot better than the first in the series, but there is still a ways to go before I would give her a 5-star rating. This book has smoother text. It doesn't quite feel like it's a very long text message. Even the Stupid Protagonist Syndrome is lessened. It's still there--enough to make me want to slap Keelie and tell her to get a life. I think it's so unfortunate that some authors think it's realistic to have main characters who are petty and selfish because of grief or hardship. It doesn't work for me--not because people are not like that in real life, but because I think that acting that way is unconscionable and a supposedly sympathetic character who acts that way is terrible because it makes readers think that it's all right to be selfish and petty when they should just get over themselves. Maybe it's also because I would never have given the time of day to a girl like Keelie when I

was in high school. At the time I just thought girls like Keelie were stupid and I avoided them like the plague. Maybe it's also because I grew up experiencing very real hardship, illness and death in our family and my parents handled it with elegant grace. I just hope I can emulate them.

Valarie Kinney says

Love this second in the series and cannot wait to read the rest of the Faire Folk books. So enjoyable.

Amy says

I love this series created around the Renaissance Fairs. I love the simplicity of the writing and easy flow of the storyline and characters. Gillian Summers has created such a compelling world of fairies and their connection to nature that I thoroughly enjoyed. This is such an excellent story of a teenage girl going through life experiences that seem like such a fantasy but is told so realistically. Thank you Ms. Summers!
