

# Literary Speaking

## The Seventh Tower

By Garth Nix

Book 1-The Fall; Book 2-Castle; Book 3-Aenir; Book 4-Above the Veil; Book 5-Into Battle; Book 6-The Violet Keystone

Reviewed by Cathy Battin, Circulation Assistant  
Yankton Community Library

Garth Nix as an author came to my attention while participating in an informational program for our Yankton library summer reading program. I was not familiar with Garth Nix's writing, but having devoured the Harry Potter series twice, I thought I would give them a try and was immediately engrossed. This six book fantasy series The Seventh Tower is written primarily for the young adult/teenage audience in a story about different cultures, environments, and the struggle to work to recognize good and evil, and in the end to make their worlds a safe place for everyone.

The series begins with a boy Tal "thirteen and three-quarters in two-months' time" as he begins a long struggle and journey to save his family. His father is missing and presumed dead. His mother is stricken with a mysterious illness, leaving a younger brother and sister in peril. Tal has lived a privileged life but now is left on his own to discover how little he knew about his world. Tal looks to his father to provide the strength of character he will need. Tal's journey soon takes him outside his world where he is confronted with a teenage girl Milla who is much stronger and braver than himself, having grown up in a very different and difficult environment. They are bound together in a journey to save the existence of both worlds. The reader is treated to the exploits and maturation of Tal and Milla.

Garth Nix has created a variety of types of characters and circumstances that keep readers on the edge of their seat. The Seventh Tower series, a fantasy, was well written, fast paced, awaking the reader's imagination with colorful characters, objects, clothing, and interactions. The characters were well developed detailing their strengths, weaknesses, and emotions while taking some of the burden off of the reader to wonder whether the story was realistic.

I thought it would have helped to have a

glossary to help the reader understand all the fantasy terms specific to this series. I found myself making my own list at first until I was familiar with the terms.

I recommend this book to young adults and adult readers alike because it was so exciting and sparked the imagination. The characters and relationships are well developed without adult graphic language and violence. This was a quick read and left me wanting to read more of the author's work.



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