



The Ocean at the End of the Lane: A Novel

By Neil Gaiman

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A brilliantly imaginative and poignant fairy tale from the modern master of wonder and terror, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* is Neil Gaiman's first new novel for adults since his #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Anansi Boys*.

This bewitching and harrowing tale of mystery and survival, and memory and magic, makes the impossible all too real...

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The Ocean at the End of the Lane: A Novel By Neil Gaiman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, June 2013: Neil Gaiman's intent was simple: to write a short story. What he ended up with instead was *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*--his first adult novel since *Anansi Boys* came out in 2005, and a narrative so thoughtful and thrilling that it's as difficult to stop reading as it was for Gaiman to stop writing. Forty years ago, our narrator, who was then a seven-year-old boy, unwittingly discovered a neighboring family's supernatural secret. What happens next is an imaginative romp through otherworldly adventure that could only come from Gaiman's magical mind. Childhood innocence is tested and transcended as we see what getting between ancient, mystic forces can cost, as well as what can be gained from the power of true friendship. The result is a captivating tale that is equal parts sweet, sad, and spooky. --Robin A. Rothman

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review In Gaiman's first novel for adults since *Anansi Boys* (2005), the never-named fiftyish narrator is back in his childhood homeland, rural Sussex, England, where he's just delivered the eulogy at a funeral. With "an hour or so to kill" afterward, he drives about--aimlessly, he thinks--until he's at the crucible of his consciousness: a farmhouse with a duck pond. There, when he was seven, lived the Hempstocks, a crone, a housewife, and an 11-year-old girl, who said they were grandmother, mother, and daughter. Now, he finds the crone and, eventually, the housewife--the same ones, unchanged--while the girl is still gone, just as she was at the end of the childhood adventure he recalls in a reverie that lasts all afternoon. He remembers how he became the vector for a malign force attempting to invade and waste our world. The three Hempstocks are guardians, from time almost immemorial, situated to block such forces and, should that fail, fight them. Gaiman mines mythological typology--the three-fold goddess, the water of life (the pond, actually an ocean)--and his own childhood milieu to build the cosmology and the theater of a story he tells more gracefully than any he's told since *Stardust* (1999). And don't worry about that "for adults" designation: it's a matter of tone. This lovely yarn is good for anyone who can read it. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** That this is the popular author's first book for adults in eight years pretty much sums up why this will be in demand. --Ray Olson

Review

"Remarkable . . . wrenchingly, gorgeously elegiac. . . . [I]n *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, [Gaiman] summons up childhood magic and adventure while acknowledging their irrevocable loss, and he stitches the elegiac contradictions together so tightly that you won't see the seams." (Star Tribune (Minneapolis) on *THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE*)

"Gaiman has crafted an achingly beautiful memoir of an imagination and a spellbinding story that sets three women at the center of everything. . . . [I]t's a meditation on memory and mortality, a creative reflection on how the defining moments of childhood can inhabit the worlds we imagine." (Journal Sentinel (Milwaukee, WI))

"His prose is simple but poetic, his world strange but utterly believable--if he was South American we would call this magic realism rather than fantasy." (The Times (London) on *THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE*)

"[W]orthy of a sleepless night . . . a fairy tale for adults that explores both innocence lost and the enthusiasm

for seeing what's past one's proverbial fence . . . Gaiman is a master of creating worlds just a step to the left of our own." (USA Today on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

"Poignant and heartbreaking, eloquent and frightening, impeccably rendered, it's a fable that reminds us how our lives are shaped by childhood experiences, what we gain from them and the price we pay." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"[A] compelling tale for all ages . . . entirely absorbing and wholly moving." (New York Daily News on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

"[A] story concerning the bewildering gulf between the innocent and the authoritative, the powerless and the powerful, the child and the adult. . . . Ocean is a novel to approach without caution; the author is clearly operating at the height of his career." (The Atlantic Wire on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

"Ocean has that nearly invisible prose that keeps the focus firmly on the storytelling, and not on the writing. . . . This simple exterior hides something much more interesting; in the same way that what looks like a pond can really be an ocean." (io9)

"This slim novel, gorgeously written, keeps its talons in you long after you've finished." (New York Post on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

"In Gaiman's latest romp through otherworldly adventure, a young boy discovers a neighboring family's supernatural secret. Soon his innocence is tested by ancient, magical forces, and he learns the power of true friendship. The result is a captivating read, equal parts sweet, sad, and spooky." (Parade on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

"'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' is fun to read, filled with his trademarked blend of sinister whimsy. Gaiman's writing is like dangerous candy—you're certain there's ground glass somewhere, but it just tastes so good!" (Bookish (Houston Chronicle book blog))

"The impotence of childhood is often the first thing sentimental adults forget about it; Gaiman is able to resurrect, with brutal immediacy, the abject misery of being unable to control one's own life." (Laura Miller, Salon)

"[W]ry and freaky and finally sad. . . . This is how Gaiman works his charms. . . . He crafts his stories with one eye on the old world, on Irish folktales and Robin Hood and Camelot, and the other on particle physics and dark matter." (Chicago Tribune on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

"When I finally closed the last page of this slim volume it was with the realization that I'd just finished one of those uncommon perfect books that come along all too rarely in a reader's life." (Charles DeLint, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* on THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joshua Arwood:

Here thing why that The Ocean at the End of the Lane: A Novel are different and dependable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good but it really depends in the content from it which is the content is as

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