

Stardust

Neil Gaiman

Reviewed by: Anika 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Tristan Thorn grew up in Wall, a town named after the barrier that separates his home from the land of faerie. The town's local beauty Victoria Forrester has caught Tristan's attention, and now he's deeply in love with her. Tristan attempts to persuade her to give her hand in marriage, or at least a kiss. Victoria makes a bargain with him instead: If Tristan can retrieve the fallen star beyond the wall, Victoria will give him what he desires in return. Tristan jumps at the opportunity and sets off on his search for a fallen star. His journey will take him through the magical land of faerie, where he'll encounter many dangers along the way and strangers who are after the fallen star for their own ill intentions. But Tristan is willing to brave through it all to win the heart of the woman he loves so dearly.

Stardust is a beautiful and whimsical fairytale. Gaiman's simple yet rich characteristic writing just shines and transported me to a distant place. He conjures up magical worlds that people of all ages can discover, so I applaud Gaiman for his excellent worldbuilding. The narrative in Stardust is very well written with the story progresses at a comfortable pace, further building upon a world full of excitement and adventure. Gaiman presents the reader with an interesting cast of characters with their own dark pasts and futures. Royals, witches, and unicorns all make an appearance, which will certainly draw many readers to Stardust. I enjoyed following Tristan on his adventure to find a fallen star and learning more about his unexplained past. In the end, Gaiman ties the actions and fates of all his characters in what makes for a bittersweet ending. I would highly recommend Stardust to anyone who hopes to be transported to a whole new world when they read.

On the other hand, readers will have to watch out for graphic sex scenes/references, alcohol, bad language, and graphic violence. Readers may find it difficult to connect with the story as Stardust is considered to be an adult fairytale, but it was enjoyable to read, nonetheless. For these reasons, I would suggest this book to anyone 15 years or older. Stardust would make an amazing gift for fans of fantasy and the Stardust movie.

Recommended Titles:

The Graveyard book by Neil Gaiman

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

Anansi Boys by Neil Gaiman

The Sandman by Neil Gaiman

The Sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman