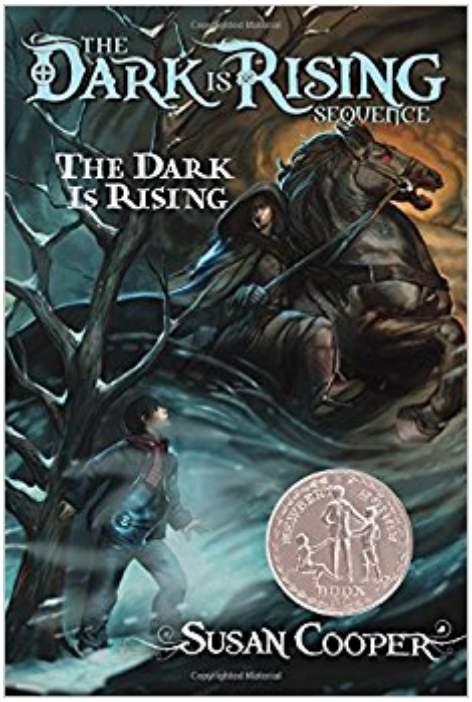
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The Dark Is Rising (The Dark Is Rising Sequence)



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Synopsis

On the Midwinter Day that is his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift -- that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. And for the twelve days of Christmas, while the Dark is rising, life for Will is full of wonder, terror, and delight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"When the Dark comes rising, six shall turn it back, Three from the circle, three from the track; Wood, bronze, iron; water, fire, stone; Five will return, and one go alone." With these mysterious words, Will Stanton discovers on his 11th birthday that he is no mere boy. He is the Sign-Seeker, last of the immortal Old Ones, destined to battle the powers of evil that trouble the land. His task is monumental: he must find and guard the six great Signs of the Light, which, when joined, will create a force strong enough to match and perhaps overcome that of the Dark. Embarking on this endeavor is dangerous as well as deeply rewarding; Will must work within a continuum of time and space much broader than he ever imagined. Susan Cooper, in her five-title Dark Is Rising sequence, creates a world where the conflict between good and evil reaches epic proportions. She ranks with C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien in her ability to deliver a moral vision in the context of breathtaking adventure. No one can stop at just one of her thrilling fantasy novels. Among many other prestigious awards, The Dark Is Rising is a Newbery Honor Book and a Carnegie Medal

Honor Book. (Ages 8 and older) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"Susan Cooper is one of the few contemporary writers who has the vivid imagination, the narrative power, and the moral vision that permit her to create the kind of sweeping conflict between good and evil that lies at the heart of all great fantasy. Tolkien had it. So did C. S. Lewis. And Cooper writes in the same tradition." -- "Psychology Today"

I'll skip any summary of this book or of the series; dozens of reviewers have done that quite well. I assume that you are familiar with these books, probably have read this volume, (likely more than once), but now wish to have the book available as an audio CD. Perhaps a long car trip is in the offing? Good for you.I am happy to report that, at least for me, this audio version gets high marks across the board.First, I can hear it and understand it. No mushy sound recording. No odd imbalance in volume that requires you to keep turning the volume up and then down. All of the spoken words are crisp and clear.Second, there are no sound effects or such folderol.Third, there is a single reader. This is not a play for voices and is not read by a number of different character actors.Fourth, Alex Jennings is a marvelously effective reader. His approach is dynamic but not overly dramatic. He is never coy or arch, and does not ham up any of the big scenes. In the first chapters he can be a bit tentative in distinguishing among the major characters and is inclined to give short shrift to minor characters, but after that he settles into the various roles and adds a distinct and recognizable identity to each character.Finally, the reading is very respectful. By that I mean the book is not read as though it were just some silly children's book. It is treated as the triumphant work that it is and this adds greatly to its weight and impact.Please note that there are 7 discs. Runtime is a bit under nine hours.

This series came to my attention after I read a poem about Winter Solstice by Susan Cooper. I was so delighted with the poem that I looked up her works. I bought these for my granddaughters, but indulged myself by reading them before I gave them to the kids. They are based on the Arthurian legend, and combine wonderful descriptions of the Cornish countryside with fantasy and with touchstones to the development of accountability, courage, and kindliness that every teen faces.

I agree with the reviewers who have called this sequence well-written and imaginative, and I defer to their analyses of Susan Cooper's excellent books. I just wanted to let other buyers know that, although the artwork on the cover is lovely and appropriate, the binding itself isn't the greatest. The

cover is crazy-thin cardstock, and the pages are quite delicate. I'm not sure that this copy is going to survive many readings, and you certainly don't want to try reading it in the bathtub. It's a shame, but on the other hand, it is nice to find such a reasonably priced collection of all of these stories together!

I read The Dark is Rising Sequence to my son when he was young and he loved it, so I gave it to my grandson hoping he would love it as well. Susan Cooper's writing is so good it's almost poetry. Anyone who loves J.R.R. Tolkien will love this series. I highly recommend it.

My daughter will soon be 9, and couldn't get into these books. She tried the first few chapters of the first two books, but was not compelled to continue. Maybe they don't really appeal to modern kids.

I started reading this series because my fiance had purchased the movie "The Seeker" from a discount bin. I thought the movie was ok with the potential to be interesting so I read the credits to find if it was based off a book, which it was. It lead me to this series. The movie is based off the second book however.This book reminded me of a cross between the Chronicles of Narnia, with a group of children being the main subjects solving the mystery. It also reminded me a little of the Goonies because they find a map and follow it's clues while being persued by the bad guys. I loved the idea that this is a children's quest for a grail, and that it involved Arthurian legend. I thought the simple twist of Merry's real name was something that would intrigue a child.The book starts out when Simon, Jane, and Barney Drew arrive in Cornwall with their family for a holiday. Great-Uncle Merry, or Gumerry, has rented the Grey House for them to stay in. They spot a beautiful white yacht in the harbor immediately and are intrigued by it. On a rainy day the children go exploring in the huge house and find a mysterious map in a corner of the attic. Simon, with his limited Latin, makes out "Mark and Arthur" on it. After debating which adult they should confide in they decide to include Great-Uncle Merry. Merry explains to them that fairy tales are based off of real things but muddled with time. With his help they decifer where to start looking. Off on the quest they go!

This has been, and always will be, one of my favorite novels. I read this for the first time when I was seven and I was immediately pulled into the world and characters. The Dark is Rising is actually even better than this novel, but this one is a great setup to the sequel. It has a 'Goonies' type feel to it as these children move to this new house that all sorts of secrets hidden within its walls. They find a treasure map and begin to hunt for what is marked in the map. It has some great clue hunting

scenes and run-ins with 'darkness' that keeps the suspense going throughout the entire novel. I feel like this series should be read by every young kid because it instilled a sense of wonder in me. If you are a fan of the Book of Three, you'll like this series.

I discovered these books when I was around 9, I think, in my local public library. (Support public libraries!!!!) I've read reviews claiming that the book doesn't let Will do enough. I think that these people are forgetting that most children of Will's age are in fact children. He is permitted to be a child in the books, and not just a short adult. That's actually a good thing, and people forget that these books were written long before certain other 11 year old heroes ever existed. Will is Will, not anyone else, and comparing him to anyone else is silly.The book shows a glimpse of an England I'm not sure still exists, and a family I'd like to join. There is magic and adventure, but also love and patience and faith.

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