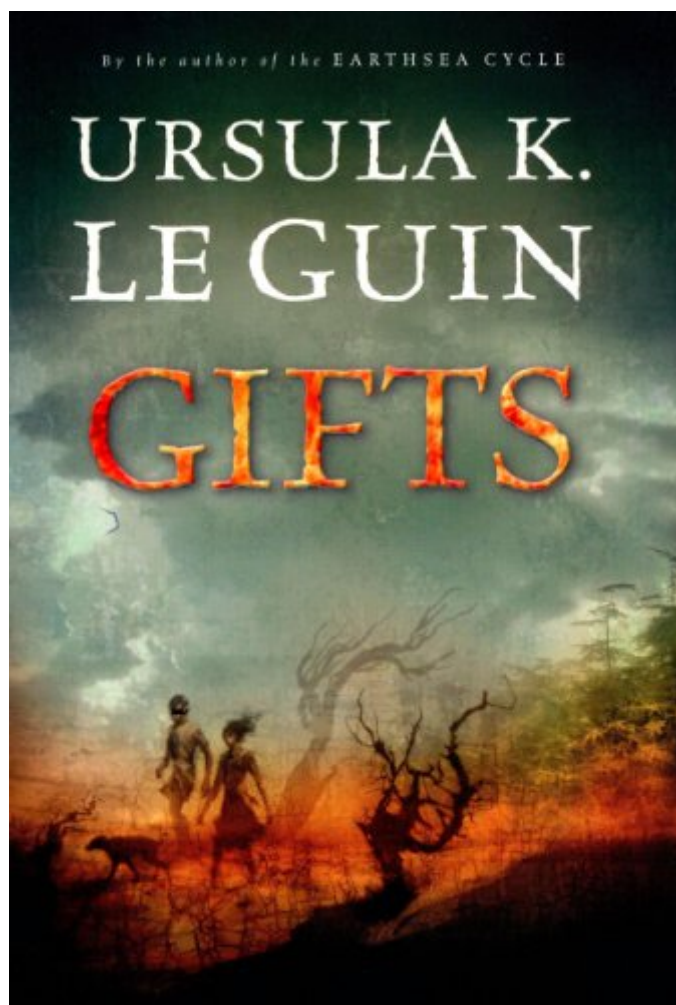


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Gifts (Annals Of The Western Shore Book 1)



Synopsis

Scattered among poor, desolate farms, the clans of the Uplands possess gifts. Wondrous gifts: the ability--with a glance, a gesture, a word--to summon animals, bring forth fire, move the land. Fearsome gifts: They can twist a limb, chain a mind, inflict a wasting illness. The Uplanders live in constant fear that one family might unleash its gift against another. Two young people, friends since childhood, decide not to use their gifts. One, a girl, refuses to bring animals to their death in the hunt. The other, a boy, wears a blindfold lest his eyes and his anger kill. In this beautifully crafted story, Ursula K. Le Guin writes of the proud cruelty of power, of how hard it is to grow up, and of how much harder still it is to find, in the world's darkness, gifts of light. Includes a reader's guide and a sample chapter from the companion title *Voices*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My wife purchased the third book in this series and I loved it so I purchased book 1 and 2. Book 1 is good and definitely worth your time if you like character driven fantasy (something like LeGuin's Earthsea series if you've read those). This is standard LeGuin in that it takes time to develop the

action and focuses on the characters and environment, so if you want high speed adventure look elsewhere. Otherwise this is good stuff. However, if you can only buy one of the books in the series to try it out get #3 (these are set in the same world, but aren't dependent on one another to understand what's happening).

This review is for the whole trilogy (Gifts, Voices, Powers). I'm not sure why these books are considered "young adult fantasy;" they seem like pretty adult books to me. Maybe I'm just immature? Ha. The writing and some concepts I would think would be beyond the experience of most middle-schoolers. Be that as it may, they are wonderful books, but I love almost all of Le Guin's books. Gifts was probably my favorite but was disappointing in how short it was; I felt like she could have easily expanded it into a much longer book. The concept of the gifts was so enticing but it just wasn't developed. I know Le Guin is more interested in the characters' development, but I still craved hearing more about the other families' gifts. Voices is sort of a bridge between Gifts and Powers, like many middle books in a trilogy, but it's quite good. And then Powers, I think the longest one, is the culmination, bringing all the trilogy's characters together. It starts out a little slowly, but by the end it got quite exciting and reminded me of David Copperfield; it's a very Dickensian story (and I'm also a huge Dickens fan), so it was a very satisfying. Buy all 3 and read them in sequence. Enjoy!

In the tradition of the Earthsea cycle, this is an excellent book. It is an extraordinarily well written coming of age story that makes you really care about the characters. The fantasy elements here are carefully modulated and do not dominate the story. If you are looking for epic battles or hardcore fantasy, you'll be disappointed. If you like Le Guin's reserved style and well crafted characters you will love this book.

The first book in this series. It has a lot of magic to it, as well as self discovery on what are an individuals true gifts.

There's not much Ursula Le Guin I don't love. She builds worlds, and peoples them with characters believable and intriguing. This is another of her books that can be read by a wide age range (say sophisticated 12 yo and up), with multiple levels of understanding and interpretation. If you like fiction set in alternative worlds and cultures, give this a try. It's the first in a series of two or three. Like many Le Guin books, the core is the challenge of being an outsider to the dominant culture. If

you've ever felt like you didn't belong, I think you'll find much of her work a comfort. It's a bonus that she writes beautifully.

Excellent as usual! Fascinating people facing a major issue: What would you do if you had the power to destroy at a glance?

Excellent characters set in a society that seems familiar and alien at the same time. The way each clan has a gift that defines that clan makes for intriguing politics and relations. Though this is the first in a series, it stands well on its own.

While I really enjoyed the book, this Kindle edition has many punctuation errors, misspellings, and even word omissions. Sometimes it was hard to read.

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