

Title: *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*

Author: Garth Nix

Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Allie H., 7th Grade

Date Reviewed: September 25, 2021

The Left-Handed Booksellers of London by Garth Nix takes place in London, 1983, but if you were alive at the time, it may be very different from what you remember. In this fantastical version of London, the Old World (which is full of inimical creatures) overlaps with the New World (the world known to you and me). It is the left and right-handed booksellers' job to keep the sinister creatures of the Old World from wreaking havoc. The booksellers have different talents depending on if they are left or right-handed. The left-handed are agile, good at physical things and gifted in fighting. The right-handed are very intelligent, gifted in solving puzzles and piecing together clues. Susan Arkshaw, with the help of Merlin, a left-handed bookseller, set out on an adventure to find Susan's father. Susan has never met her father, and her mother has never said more than a few words about him. Susan doesn't even know his name. The two characters face goblins, shucks, and even cauldron-born; all malicious creatures of the Old World, along with things from the New World, like police officers. Merlin's right-handed sister, Vivian, helps along the way, too. She clouds the minds of civilians who are nearby while Susan and Merlin are fighting monsters from the Old World. Susan is brave and resilient. Even after facing all of these challenges, she never loses sight of her goal of finding her father. Her resilience seems to attract Merlin's attention in a romantic way. Throughout their endeavor, Merlin keeps implying that he wants to take Susan out on a date, though Susan repeatedly refuses. She does not allow herself to be quickly won over by his charm. However, towards the end of the book, their relationship changes. They also discover that for better or worse, there is much more to Susan's father than they could have ever imagined.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot was very exciting.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was very fast, which helped keep me interested. I definitely could not put it down!

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This is a good book for seventh or eighth graders.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend *The Left-Handed Booksellers of London* for people who like adventure and fantasy books. If you like *The Lord of the Rings*, you might like this book, too.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

This book contains a lot of foul language. If that bothers you, you may not want to read this book.

Rating:

4 stars: I enjoyed this book, and found it worthwhile reading. This was a great read, and I am glad I read it, although there are many books that are better, in my opinion. I liked this book, but I enjoyed *Harry Potter*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hunger Games*, and *The Inheritance Cycle* More.