

Title: *A Door in the Dark*
Author: Scott Reintgen
Genre: Fantasy

Teen Reviewer Name and Grade: Allie H., 10th grade

Date Reviewed: August 14, 2024

A Door in the Dark by Scott Reintgen takes place in a world where magic is commonplace, and everyone receives a monthly allotment of magic they can use. However, this system does not treat everyone equally, as people can pay to receive higher amounts of magic. The main character, Ren, grew up with little money, and her father died when she was young. However, her intelligence landed her a scholarship at a prestigious school for magic. She must prove herself to one of the five wealthy houses in order to secure a bright future. Even with her magical prowess, she struggles with finding her place among the rich and powerful. She would accept a place in any of the houses except Brood, which was involved in her father's death. One day, Ren and five other students try to use a waxway portal to travel home from school, but the magic goes awry, and they end up lost deep in the wilderness. Timmons, Ren's best friend, has the ability to enhance others' magic, and despite also growing up without much money, her power allows her to enjoy some privilege. Cora and Any also come from the less wealthy part of the city. Cora is a medical student who can deftly heal injuries, and Avy has skills to help survive in the forest from hiking with his father when he was young. Theo comes from the house Brood, and because of his family's riches, has a powerful arsenal of magic to aid the group. However, Theo's friend, Clyde, mysteriously dies when they are all teleported into the forest. The remaining five students must return to civilization, but even with the expected difficulties of navigating the uncharted land, they encounter other challenges they never could have predicted. They must work together to reach home, or perish in the wild.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot of the book was interesting. There were several layers to the conflict that built up excitement throughout the story.

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

The pace of the book was a bit too fast. Although there was never a dull scene, sometimes it seemed like the scenes were flying by faster than necessary.

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

This book is appropriate for grades 7-10. It was not particularly challenging to read, and included violence, but no other graphic content.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes reading fantasy or adventure novels. If you enjoy reading stories involving magic or characters on a journey in the wilderness, this may be the book for you.

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

I think that teens should know that this book is the first in a series.

4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.

This book was surely captivating, and it never lacked excitement. There were parts where I couldn't put it down, and there was both suspense and excitement. However, the book was a little fast-paced. To an extent, I enjoy this, but I would have liked some more elaboration at times.