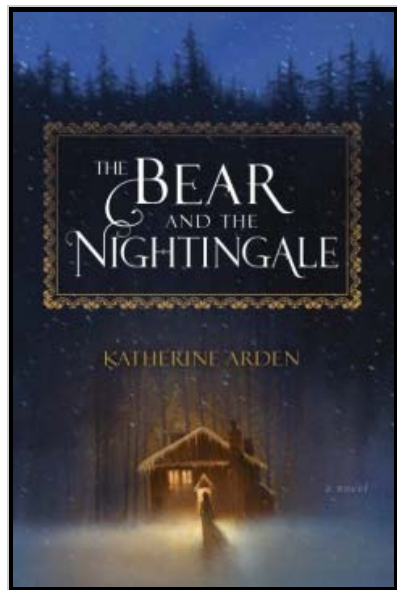


[Home](#) > [Top Picks: All Books](#) > [The Bear and the Nightingale](#)



The Bear and the Nightingale

by Katherine Arden

Price: **\$27.00**(Hardcover)

Published: January 10, 2017

☆☆☆☆☆

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: A magical debut novel for readers of Naomi Novik's *Uprooted*, Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*, and Neil Gaiman's myth-rich fantasies, *The Bear and the Nightingale* spins an irresistible spell as it announces the arrival of a singular talent with a gorgeous voice. At the edge of the Russian wilderness, winter lasts most of the year and the snowdrifts grow taller than houses. But Vasilisa doesn't mind—she spends the winter nights huddled around the embers of a fire with her beloved siblings, listening to her nurse's fairy tales. Above all, she loves the chilling story of Frost, the blue-eyed winter demon, who appears in the frigid night to claim unwary souls. Wise Russians fear him, her nurse says, and honor the spirits of house and yard and forest that protect their homes from evil. After Vasilisa's mother dies, her father...

[More](#) +

Rate This Book


☆☆☆☆☆ | [Rate/Review](#)

[Add To Wishlist](#)

[Add To Bookshelf](#)

Get This Book

Go to your preferred retailer, click to choose a format and you'll be taken directly to their site where you can get this book.

	<input type="button" value="BUY"/>		<input type="button" value="BUY"/>
	<input type="button" value="BUY"/>		<input type="button" value="BUY"/>
	<input type="button" value="BUY"/>		<input type="button" value="BUY"/>

[Personalize / Add More Choices](#) +

Share This Book

About The Author

Katherine Arden

Born in Austin, Texas, Katherine Arden spent a year of high school in Rennes, France. Following her acceptance to Middlebury College in Vermont, she deferred enrollment for a year in order to live and study in Moscow. At Middlebury, she specialized in French and Russian literature. After receiving...

[More](#) +

Release Info

List Price: \$27.00 (Hardcover)

Published: January 10, 2017

Publisher: Del Rey

Pages: 336

ISBN 10: 1101885939

ISBN 13: 9781101885932

What We Say

Sometimes, when you start a new book by a new author and it begins really well, you hold in the excitement. Often a good idea can be quickly spoiled by an author rushing too fast or going too slow or getting lost in the woods of a complicated plot. A good idea is hard -- bringing it to fruition is much harder. But you keep reading and it gets even better and yet you still rein in the excitement. A new talent can be like a skittish colt and you don't want to startle it away with some sudden movement. Then you get to the end and exhale with relief: she did it. That's my reaction to "The Bear And The Nightingale," a marvelous tale by Katherine Arden. Comparisons to Naomi Novik's instant classic "Uprooted" are natural. That

book was inspired by Polish folk tales while this one is immersed in similar Russian myths and legends. They both feature young heroines of bold spirit. But where "Uprooted" was a full-on fantasy from the start, "The Bear And The Nightingale" is anchored firmly in the Russia of long ago, real and solid and earthy. Slowly the shadows come in, from the usually friendly spirits who guard homes to the more mercurial creatures found in rivers and woods. Vasya is a child born of her mother's will. Her grandmother was whispered about as a strange person (never a safe designation in villages of old) but her mother did not have the gift to the same degree. That second sight is bestowed on Vasya, who does indeed see the creatures that hide amidst the warmth of the stove or huddle in the stables and befriend the horses. She treats them with respect as of old and they honor her back, teaching Vasya to swim like a fish and ride on a horse like they are one. The more she comes into her own as a child and young woman, the more the villagers begin to fear her. It's a simple story, involving a step-mother who also sees "demons" but fears them to the point of madness and a monk who can paint brilliant icons but is drawn to Vasya and the vanity that lets him hear voices in the shadows and pretend it's the voice of God. Threats arise from deep in the woods with hard winter coming on hard winter while villagers abandon the old ways and pay the price. Arden's story is deeply engaging, with no real villains in sight -- characters sometimes do dreadful things but they are flawed people who make mistakes or creatures simply following their own cruel nature. Legends come to life, bravery amidst fear, hard-won victories that feel like defeat -- "The Bear And The Nightingale" has it all. It's only January but there is no doubt this one will be remembered at the end of the year and for a long time to come. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

Advance praise for *The Bear and the Nightingale*

"Stunning . . . will enchant readers from the first page. . . . with an irresistible heroine who wants only to be free of the bonds placed on her gender and claim her own fate."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Utterly bewitching . . . a lush narrative . . . an immersive, earthy story of folk magic, faith, and hubris, peopled with vivid, dynamic characters, particularly clever, brave Vasya, who outsmarts men and demons alike to save her family."—*Booklist* (starred review)

"Arden's supple, sumptuous first novel transports the reader to a version of medieval Russia where history and myth coexist."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Radiant . . . a darkly magical fairy tale for adults, [but] not just for those who love magic."—*Library Journal*

"An extraordinary retelling of a very old tale . . . A Russian setting adds unfamiliar spice to the story of a young woman who does not rebel against the limits of her role in her culture so much as transcend them. *The Bear and the Nightingale* is a wonderfully layered novel of family...

[More](#) 

What You Say

Filter by

No Reviews Found