

Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The)

By James A. Owen

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"The Imaginarium Geographica

"What is it?" John asked.

The little man blinked and arched an eyebrow.

"It is the world, my boy," he said. "All the world, in ink and blood, vellum and parchment, leather and hide. It is the world, and it is yours to save or lose."

An unusual murder brings together three strangers, John, Jack, and Charles, on a rainy night in London during the first World War. An eccentric little man called Bert tells them that they are now the caretakers of the Imaginarium Geographica -- an atlas of all the lands that have ever existed in myth and legend, fable and fairy tale. These lands, Bert claims, can be traveled to in his ship the "Indigo Dragon," one of only seven vessels that is able to cross the Frontier between worlds into the Archipelago of Dreams.

Pursued by strange and terrifying creatures, the companions flee London aboard the Dragonship. Traveling to the very realm of the imagination itself, they must learn to overcome their fears and trust in one another if they are to defeat the dark forces that threaten the destiny of two worlds. And in the process, they will share a great adventure filled with clues that lead readers to the surprise revelation of the legendary storytellers these men will one day become.

An extraordinary journey of myth, magic, and mystery, "Here, There Be Dragons" introduces James A. Owen as a formidable new talent.

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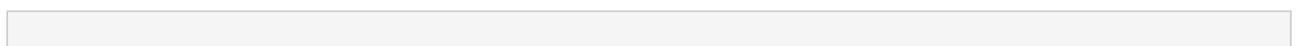
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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—Three Oxford men, brought in for questioning in a London professor's death in 1917, become companions on a voyage through the Archipelago of Dreams where they vanquish a usurper and restore the rightful king, proving themselves worthy to be Caretakers of the Imagination of the World. The three men are Jack (C. S. Lewis), John (J. R. R. Tolkien), and Charles (Williams—a lesser known writer of fantasy thrillers who belonged to the same Oxford literary discussion group, the Inklings). Their identities aren't revealed until the end, along with the premise that their journey became the wellspring for their subsequent fiction. This twist accounts for the extensive use of material from their various imaginations. Readers who have not begun with the publisher's blurb might find the bulk of the story tediously derivative, but those with extensive reading background in both fantasies and mythology may be keen to identify the allusions. The pen-and-ink illustrations, also allusive, include the playing-card royalty of Lewis Carroll and knights that might have been drawn by Howard Pyle. The story itself is unconvincing. The three strangers are quickly identified as friends, although they have shared nothing more than an after-interrogation drink and apparent abduction. Although John is Caretaker Principia and the apparent focus, only Jack's character is developed enough to change, and youth seems to be the only reason for his flirtation with the forces of evil. It is a series of lucky encounters that sets them on their quest and solves the problems that arise. Only for fans of fan fiction.—*Kathleen Isaacs, Towson University, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

The unusual murder of an Oxford professor brings together three strangers in World War I London: John, a soldier and the professor's correspondence student; Jack, a young Oxford student; and Charles, an editor at the Oxford University Press. One rainy night they meet a curious man called Bert who tells them that they are the caretakers of the *Imaginarium Geographica*, an atlas of imaginary lands. Forced to flee in Bert's ship, the group sails to the Archipelago of Dreams, where a battle over Arthur Pendragon's throne threatens to place the evil Winter King in charge. Owen brings together elements from well-known works of fantasy and legend: the lands and characters lean heavily toward Greek and Arthurian myth, while clues from the caretakers' works point to the legendary writers they will become. Although the episodic plot is overlong, and the period narration's formality occasionally slows things down, there's still plenty of action, and Owen's amazingly detailed pen-and-ink illustrations, dark and atmospheric, lend a real storybook flavor. This is the first volume in the Chronicles of Imaginarium Geographica series. *Krista Hutley*

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Review

"Is there anyone who wouldn't enjoy reading 'Here, There Be Dragons'? If there is such a person, I haven't met him, and I doubt that I would like him if I did. I am only disappointed that, because this book is so new, I'll have to wait too long to read the sequels."

-- Orson Scott Card, author of "Ender's Game"

""Here, There Be Dragons" begins in a WWI London that is both comfortable and familiar, but quickly moves into a fantastic world of myth and magic. There, talking animals drive steam-powered cars; the Green Knight watches over the remnants of a fallen kingdom; and a legendary mapmaker sits in a tower made of time itself.... In James Owen's Archipelago of Dreams, living Dragonships take the heroes -- and readers --

into places so filled with wonder that you never want the dreams to end."

-- Kai Meyer, author of "The Water Mirror"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ashley Taylor:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for all of us. The book Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The publication Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) is not only giving you more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship together with the book Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The). You never really feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Walter Crouse:

This Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) are usually reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason why of this Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) can be one of the great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed you with information that probably will shock your previous knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) forcing you to have an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Jose Suh:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful details for your better life in this particular era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Jack Jackson:

Don't be worry if you are afraid that this book will filled the space in your house, you can have it in e-book way, more simple and reachable. That Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The) can give you a lot of good friends because by you looking at this one book you have matter that they don't and make you more like an interesting person. This book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that might be your friend doesn't realize, by knowing more than additional make you to be great individuals. So , why hesitate? We should have Here, There Be Dragons (Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, The).

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