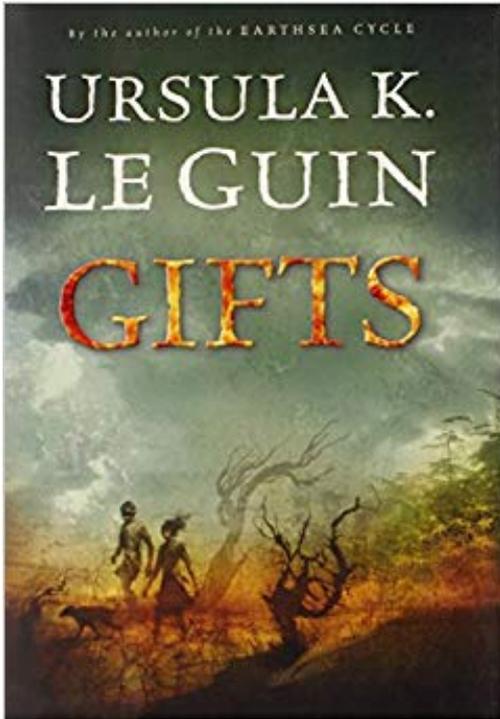


Gifts *by* Ursula K. Le Guin



DOWNLOAD LINKS (Clickable)



ISBN: 0152051236

ISBN13: 978-0152051235

Author: Ursula K. Le Guin

Book title: Gifts

Pages: 274

Publisher: Harcourt Inc.; 1 edition (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

Category: Growing Up & Facts of Life

Size PDF version: 1342 kb

Size ePUB version: 1551 kb

Size FB2 version: 1670 kb

Other formats: doc lrf txt mbr

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.



Reviews of the *Gifts* *by* Ursula K. Le Guin

Vojar

The story itself is 4 stars. A great tale by leGuin, if not as magnificent as Wizard of Earthsea. But like so many ebooks, it's full of typos, and even completely wrong words as the result of electronic scanning and sloppy proofreading. As one example, the plural form (fathers) is often used where the

possessive form (father's) should have been used. LeGuin is a careful craftswoman and she writes just so...so it's even more jarring to run across these errors over and over again.

I wish Amazon would let us share our notes with publishers, to help them correct these!

Tujar

So now naturally I am going to read a number of Le Guin books that I have somehow never gotten around to before, and I'm starting here. This will not be a Le Guin surfeiting; I will read one at a time, even this trilogy, the "Annals of the Western Shore."

Gifts is the title, and gifts is what it is largely about. Orrec is the only son of Canoc, the Brantor (headman) of the Caspro bloodline, protectors of Caspromant in the Uplands. Each bloodline in the Uplands has a singular gift that runs through it. Caspro's gift is the unmaking, the ability to destroy things and people with a glance, a gesture, and a word.

Orrec is slow to develop this gift, and is ready to decide he doesn't have it at all, when a series of events suggests to him that he has it in devastating power - and doesn't have the ability to control it. He chooses to blindfold himself for as many years as it takes to gain control, so as not to accidentally kill someone he loves.

His beloved friend Gry is a scion of Barre, and has its gift of communicating with animals. Though she will happily use it to communicate with songbirds, and train (not "break") horses, she refuses to use it to call animals to be hunted.

Orrec's mother, Melle Aulita, is from the Lowlands, and does not understand the gifts or the customs about them - not deep inside the way an Uplander does. Canoc claimed her in a raid on a Lowland town, and they seem to love each other deeply. Her gift to Orrec and Gry is teaching them to read. She is terribly hurt that Orrec cannot, _will_ not, look at her.

That Orrec and Gry will not use their gifts puts them at odds with their families and with Upland society as a whole. And there is a feud on with the powerful Drum clan...

Gifts is a beauty, full of love of place and animal and person, and full of gifts and losses. Le Guin has conjured a place as real and rich to my mind's eye as Earthsea and the land of the Kesh. I do look forward to reading the other two books in the trilogy...

...but for now, to the only Sturgeon novel I've never read.

Akir

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!

breakingthesystem

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).

Felhann

An interesting somewhat melancholy story. The world and characters seemed very real, and I felt for the main character's plight. Ursula Le Guin is so good at creating an atmosphere in her stories. This one is a bit chilly and foggy, on the dark side, but very effective. I've read the companion novel to this one, "Voices" and it is even better.

Knights from Bernin

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.

Agrainel

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.

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.

Related PDF to [Gifts by Ursula K. Le Guin](#)

1. [Big Gifts: How to Maximize Gifts from Individuals, With or Without a Capital Campaign by M. Jane Williams](#)
2. [Spiritual Gifts: A Fresh Look by David Lim](#)
3. [Indelible Gifts: The Story of a Twentieth Century American Family by Rob Woutat](#)
4. [Special Gifts: In Search of Love and Honor by Dennis L. Olson](#)
5. [Gifts and Heirlooms In Cross and Need by Melinda Cross](#)
6. [Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts: A Personal Inventory Method by Kenneth C. Kinghorn](#)
7. [Story Gifts for Children by Kathleen M. Fry-Miller](#)
8. [What Are Spiritual Gifts?: Rethinking the Conventional View by Kenneth Berding](#)
9. [Gifts from the Heart by Marie Kinnard](#)
10. [Gifts in good taste by Helen Hecht](#)