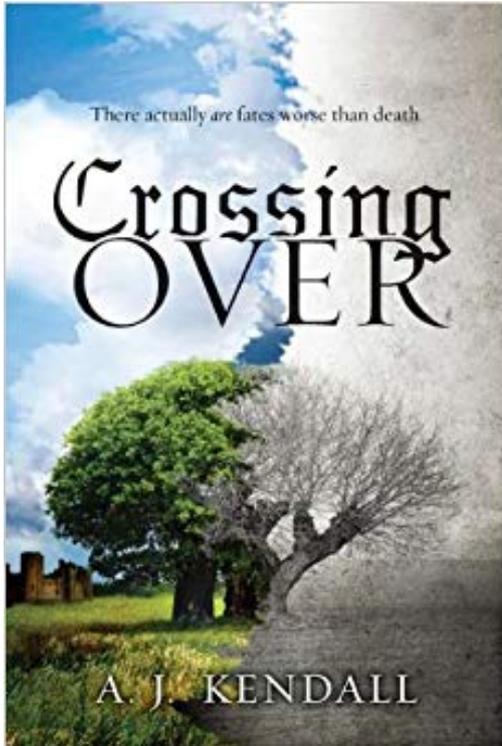


Crossing Over *by* Anna Kendall



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Author: Anna Kendall

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"A debut that is ingenious, exciting, enthralling, and impossible to put down! A true original!"*Roger Kilbourne has the ability to "cross over" into the land of the dead and speak with its residents. It is a startling gift, and not a pleasant one. Roger manages to escape his brutal uncle, and thinks his new job at the palace laundry will keep him safe; instead, there are worse dangers. First, Roger is infatuated with bewitching, willful Lady Cecilia; next, he is pulled into the midst of dangerous court intrigue. Soon Roger is using his gift as a way to get the life he dreams of - even if it involves deeds so unthinkable that both the living and the dead shrink from them."An imaginative dark fantasy . . . The premise is fascinating, and the depiction of the afterlife and its oblivious denizens both creepy and eerily serene." - *Kirkus Reviews*"Splendidly developed." - *BCCB** Connie Willis, New York Times bestselling author



Reviews of the *Crossing Over* *by* Anna Kendall

Mr_Tr0l0l0

I first saw the book in a DTB store and went straight home and ordered in on the Kindle. I thought the premise of crossing over to the land of the dead was a great idea - I would have liked to see more

development in this area though.

The story was easy to read and had some great characters who I found I genuinely cared about.

My big bugbear with this book is the extremely poor formatting on the Kindle version. There were large spaces between every paragraph and speech line which was extremely distracting and took me out of the moment. The author's name is even spelt incorrectly in the Amazon listing which is very unprofessional.

In saying that I am certain I would have rated this book 4 stars had the formatting been squared away, in all it was an enjoyable read,

Ylal

(Audiobook review): I loved this story, particularly as read by Simon Vance. I found Roger to be a very compelling character with nuanced emotional conflict, and Kendall writes him as "alien in a strange land" perfectly. He negotiates the worlds the best he can, though nothing of his previous experience prepares him for what he encounters. He is very innocent and gullible in the beginning, but as the story builds, he grows in understanding.

Roger is simply trying to survive his fate using the only gift he has, but he seems to become more and more entangled in the problems of others. He has a lot to learn. Naturally, he is drawn to the sweet, young and fragile Cecilia, as most young men would be, rather than the tough, smart and less pretty, though capable kitchen maid. (that seemed rather predictable, but well within character.) And his quest to save Cecilia forms the crux of the story.

I look forward to more from Anna Kendall, and hope to read another book about this character and his worlds.

lets go baby

I enjoyed the world that was built in this story but as for the story itself I thought it was just ok. I never came to like Roger. I know that he was raised in an abusive environment and that probably stunted his social growth but I found him to be irritating and dislikable. As is typical of most YA books these days there is the love interest. After he escapes life with his abusive uncle he fixates on Lady Cecilia and falls in "love" with her. I imagine it's because she's the first beautiful and lively female he meets as a part of his new life. But it irks me despite all the evidence that she is nothing but an empty headed twit that he fixates on her and is totally clueless about the other girl who is in love with him. He's like a child who sees a shiny toy and decides that is the one he must have despite anything else that comes across his path.

****Spoiler start-highlight the next line to read the spoiler****

Even though he does end up realizing what he had in front of him all the way it made me mad that he only gives up on Cecilia after she is gone for good. It's almost as if he is just settling for the consolation prize.

****End spoiler****

I was also hoping he was going to be one of those characters that overcomes the obstacles in his life to grow into someone who is heroic. I felt we do not really see that. He remains whiny, self absorbed and selfish other than his devotion to Cecilia. I do not understand why he inspires people like Maggie and Mother Chilton to help him when he's rude and ungrateful. When he does finally do something heroic it seems out of the blue.

The world this story takes place in was fascinating. It's basically a kingdom ruled by women and

everyone sees it as the right of women to rule because they are the ones who give life. The idea of men ruling is totally foreign to them when they meet people from another land who are ruled by men. It mixes a bit of medieval flavor, with fantasy and a bit of modern day with guns, a foreign weapon, in their world. I found it funny that the Queen's brother is married off to the Queen of another country in order to seal an alliance. It's like the polar opposite of the stereotypical male dominated world.

I felt like there were still unanswered questions about this whole world that Roger is able to cross over into, how he is able to do so and the history of the people at Soulvine Manor. I don't know if it's set up for a future book or not but it would have been nice to have more answers to make it feel like a complete story.

Overall it's not a bad book and I think others may enjoy it but it just wasn't a book for me.

Bil

Although an attractive book in layout, typeset and lineament, I would have picked it up sooner (to read) if the cover more strongly presented pseudomedieval characteristics. Fourteen year-old Roger has a 'talent' of crossing over to the Land of the Dead, but to do so he must will it and have enough pain inflicted upon himself to pass out. The time period as well as location are nebulous: many folk live near the castle of the Queendom, outlying villagers are dirt poor, northern people are led by a chieftan, whose warriors have guns. I enjoyed reading this although the characters don't grow in depth and some plot issues don't get resolved to complete satisfaction. All in all, it gives the reader some thoughts to ponder. Although the protagonist is a male youth, I don't feel this is a strong 'boy book.'

Welen

I found this book in the discount bin at our bookstore. Having read the back of the book, nothing gave way to a story set in Medieval times other than the name, Lady Cecilia, which could be placed in other eras as well. The almost sick obsession Roger has with her drives the reader to long for a permanent end of his life and the book. He is not what one would consider a highly sought after character to follow and before I had even finished, I knew I would never buy or even read the second book as a freebie. There were so many directions that could have made this book truly great and the author failed on all counts.

Cordanius

This is a dark tale, full of pain and disappointments for Roger, and by extension, the reader. The characters - pretty much all of them - are flawed, constantly making mistakes (of judgement and otherwise), to the point where you want to shout at them to stop being so thick and get with the program.

And yet...it pulls you in, compels you to read on and find out what, exactly, is going on. (I'm still not entirely sure - I hope I'll find out in the next book of the series!!)

A good book, certainly, but don't expect a light fantasy tale from this one.

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