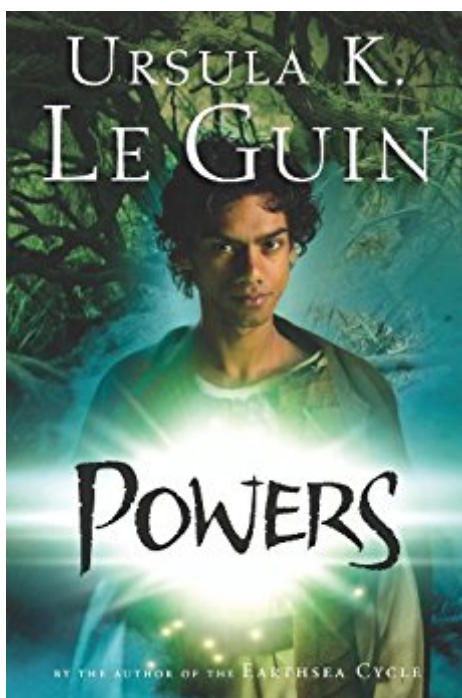


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Powers (Annals Of The Western Shore Book 3)



Synopsis

Winner of the Nebula Award for Best Novel: A young man tries to come to grips with his strange gifts as he sets out on a dangerous journey. Brought up in comfort as a house slave for a great family, young Gavir can recall the page of a book after seeing it once. Sometimes he even “remembers” things that are going to happen in the future—a power Gav cannot explain or control, and one that his beloved older sister wisely advises him to keep secret. But when tragedy destroys his trust in all he has ever known, he flees in blind grief, setting off on a treacherous journey towards a goal he does not understand. Is Gav seeking freedom? Or his own people? Then there is the greatest mystery of all: the true use of his powers. This follow-up to Gifts and Voices may be the series’ best installment, raved Booklist, while the Toronto Star praised Le Guin for “her facility in world-making and her interest in human nature” in “a good, long trek of a fantasy.” Shortlisted for a Locus Award, the third book of the Annals of the Western Shore is an epic story of survival and self-discovery that brings its hero home at last to a place where he has never been before.

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Customer Reviews

Great story of self discovery. Really wraps up the entire series quite well.

I am reading the Nebula Award winning novels in chronological order. This is the winner for 2009. No one loves Ursula K. Le Guin more than I do. She has written some truly amazing books.

Unfortunately, this is not one of them. The beautifully described civilizations, the well-developed characters, and the vivid landscapes are all there. What is missing is a story. Or a purpose for this story. It is an interesting tale of one man's life, his journey from slavery to various incarnations of freedom. That's all fine but it does get a little old as he travels from one situation to another, leaving his past behind, and giving the reader little to hang onto from one situation to another. The reappearance of an old enemy at the end of the novel seems without foundation, more of a contrivance on the part of the author, and one that isn't even needed. The book's ending is not the least bit satisfying or conclusive. At the beginning of the book, the main character says something to the effect that he is telling his life story to his wife. The wife is never heard of again.

A nice story, but rather Fantasy, without Science Fiction elements. Ursula K Le Guin has a real talent to create credible different worlds, with alternative societies, without losing the fundamental human values: love, compassion, understanding and their opposites: hatred, ambition, lust, hunger for power etc. The end is a little easy to guess, but the road of the principal character which is in fact the road of his life and becoming a grown-up man from a little boy is well written and pleasant to read. A little boring sometime or hard to believe.

This trilogy by LeGuin covers familiar territory. It's a coming of age story, magic, learned and a protagonist who prefers books to weapons. Interesting are the three angles we see of the same character as he crosses and intermingles with the lives of others in different lands at different ages of his life.

I have been a fan of Ursula K. LeGuin for 40 plus years; however had read this trilogy until now. I am so glad to have read it. Her writing is not only entertaining but also insightful. I highly recommend them.

I liked this book. For me the most enjoyable aspect was the storyteller nature of the story itself: you

get the feeling that Gavir and LeGuin is telling this story. It made the story very believable. What I didn't like was how the bad guy was shoehorned in at the end. It felt forced and not foretold early enough. Had it been said partway through the book that the bad guy was after Gavir I would have liked the book a lot better.

Read this before. Buying a replacement copy. A beautiful story.

The book is wonderful: picturesque details spiced either with a simile or a metaphor and the narrative about Gavir Aytana flows telling us how he was born a free child, how he became a slave and then how he earned his liberty. The style couldn't have been better and the original story makes the book unputdownable. But I was expecting a science fiction story and it is a fantastic one.

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