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Posted on 03 December 2017 By Joan Aiken

`Download Pdf Midnight is a Place ? PDF eBook or Kindle ePUB free

One of my favourite childhood authors. Although this entertaining Victorian melodrama shares no characters with any of the books in Aiken s Wolves Chronicles, it is set in the

same fictional Britain as the series *Opening in Blastburn*, the dreary industrial city last seen in *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, the novel follows the adventures of Lucas and Anna Marie, two well to do children who find themselves unexpectedly orphaned and penniless. As Lucas and Anna Marie struggle to survive in a cold and hostile world, they also find themselves involved in many of the convoluted plot lines for which Aiken is well known. This well constructed novel has always been one of the author's best known works, but I have never found it as satisfying a read as some of her others. The characters simply don't interest me enough to arouse a strong emotional reaction. Fair or not, Anna Marie is no Dido Twite. I am on a major Joan Aiken kick. I am amazed by much of what she does: strong willed smart young protagonists, dizzying plots, a delight in language including excellent cockney slang, a fine historical sense for detail, and the occasional odd metaphysical touch such as telepathy or Arthurian legends come to life. What a genius! I have enjoyed everything I've read by her, and am pleased she was so prolific because there's so much left to explore. This book finds her in a restrained Dickensian mode: no sea captains obsessed with pink whales. Young Lucas and Anna Marie must fend for themselves in industrializing Blastburn, and Aiken's portrayal of the industrial revolution in England is spot on. While the book succeeds as an adventure story, it would be particularly good for young readers working their way towards difficult questions about work, wealth, and progress. Joan Aiken is one of my all time favourite children's writers. Her books were out of print for a while and I haunted second hand bookshops in the hopes of building up my collection. My copy of this wonderful book was bought from the Glebe Library years ago, and still has its yellow cardboard filing card in an envelope glued inside the front cover. Happily, her books have all recently been re-issued with fabulous new covers and so are easy to get hold of now. It's difficult to exactly categorise Joan Aiken's work. It's historical fiction, with a Dickensian feel thanks to its brilliantly drawn characters both comic and villainous, unusual names, and dark atmospheric settings. Her stories are fabulously inventive, and often have surprising elements in them like pink whales. Some of the books have an alternative historical setting, with Good King James III on the throne of England, and the wicked Hanoverians trying to blow up Parliament House. *MIDNIGHT IS A PLACE* is the most realist of her novels, and quite possibly her darkest. It tells the story of a lonely boy named Lucas, who lives at Midnight Court, next to a smoggy industrial town called Blastburn. His guardian is a foul tempered, brandy drinking eccentric who won the great house in a card game many years before. One day the orphaned daughter of the previous owner comes to live at Midnight Court. Soon Lucas and Anna Marie are left destitute, and must fend for themselves in the tough streets of Blackburn. There is one particular scene set in the carpet making factory that I shall never forget as a child, it burnt itself deep into my imagination. It is also striking for its refusal to restore the children's lost wealth: instead they find happiness by making their own way in the world. Joan Aiken is one of the great children's writers, and deserves to be much widely celebrated. 90 years after I read it, the image of

the carpet making machine and the child labor used to pick blobs of yarn off the carpets still haunts me. 3.5 stars Aiken is a unique writer it's generally alternative action historical fiction. Some stories have some paranormal elements in them I've decided to label her books historical fantasy I made up that genre name, but I like it. This one is a stand alone novel. It takes place in the town of Blastburn with Yorkshire-ish accents, a setting in *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, but this is the only connection to that book or series. The review quoted on the back of the book gives away a lot of the plot, so don't read that. The writing is very good the details shine with creativity. Part 1 and Part 2 of the book are quite different. In Part 3, we see all those threads tie together, and that was great fun. I've never wholly clicked with Joan Aiken I think, sometimes, some of it stems from my preferences. I like stories with a particular taste and style and frame. I like being able to handle them and know what I'm going to get and then being delighted in how my expectations are subverted. Outfox me, please, I long for it. But I think with Joan Aiken, I'm always struggling to understand, trying to figure out what's going on and where it is, and how I should feel about that. This is no criticism it's a testament to her wild imagination and fiercely convincing world building. Everything feels right and then, suddenly, off. A mirror, cracked. A world remade and reshaped by somebody who is undoubtedly brilliant. I am a little cowed by that, I think, and it's hard for me to find my place in the text. And yet *Midnight Is A Place* is outstanding fierce, rich, full of detail, but it's a detail that I chase after and never quite get hold of. There's so much packed in this novel: family history, dramatic personal change, hogs in sewers that I ache for time to explore it, to discover about this and that before being pulled away to study the other. And again this is a testament to how good she is there's so much here, whether it's the nuanced, subtle details of character, or the barely managed wilderness of the landscape, or it's simply those hogs that roam the sewers that thread like an artery underneath the world. But here's the thing sometimes it doesn't matter how I feel about a book. I can not be wholly comfortable with something, but I can recognise how great it is. I can recognise the mark of an author who is fine, fine, fine with her craft and I can understand how important this might be to somebody just discovering what language is and what it can be shaped to be. I would recommend this without batting an eyelid because it is good, powerful, bold fiction. *et aussi j'aime Anna Marie. THIS is the book I read in Grade 7 that I've been searching for for years. I owe a huge thank you to GoodReads member Oolookitty who steered me this way after I posted a review of *A Chance Child*. She recognized the carpet scene I'd remembered from my childhood. It was as nailbiting to read as it was when I was younger, from the winding sewer passages to the factory floor. *Midnight Place* is really a delight to read, with Dickensian themes of orphans and industrial England, showcasing hardships and triumphs. The ending is perhaps a little TOO tidy, but as a youth novel that explored many dark themes around hardship and bullying and fear and responsibility, it seems fair to end it on a positive note. All of the characters ultimately got what they deserved in as civilized a manner as they could hope for. As an added*

bonus, I found it a delight to read all the French sprinkled through the story. There are loose translations in the dense sections, but the story doesn't hold the reader's hand much like how the English characters would experience Anne Marie's conversation. The meanings are often clear through context. Also, it was nice to see such a strong young female who had moments of weakness, but ultimately took charge, stood up for herself, and innovated solutions to her problems. There wasn't even a whisper that she should take on some sort of matriarchal or family role, no suggestion of seeking marriage to be kept. She and Lucas both were written as equals in character and capability, both with open potential to be explored as they mature. It was refreshing.



Joan Aiken
*Mitternacht
ist ein Ort*

Roman · Diogenes

Joan Aiken is a master at creating atmosphere, and *Midnight Is a Place* is no exception the book could well be called a Gothic novel for children, with its orphaned hero and heroine , disagreeable guardian, mysterious events, and gloomy setting Lucas Bell, an orphan, lives with his guardian, Sir Randolph Grimsby, and his tutor, Julian Oakapple, in an old mansion called Midnight Court Soon after the arrival of Anna Marie, another orphan and the grandchild of the previous owner of Midnight Court, Lucas and Anna Marie are forced to fend for themselves on the streets of the dismal city of Blastburn There is never a dull moment the story speeds along, through the dangerous mill where the workers may be crushed by a press or drowned in glue, to the sewers where man eating hogs run in packs The force of Aiken s imagination is present on every page, in the suspenseful story, the memorable characters, and the ominous atmosphere. `Download Pdf ? *Midnight is a Place ? Von Seinem Fenster Im D Steren Schlo Mitternacht Beobachtet Lucas Bell, Ziekind Des Besitzers Sir Randolph, Wie Eine Reisekutsche Einen Geheimnisvollen Neuank Mmling Bringt Endlich Ein Freund F R Lucas Seine Hoffnungen Werden Mit Einem Schlag Vernichtet Der Neuling Ist Nicht Nur Unfreundlich Und V Llig Verzogen, Sondern Auch Noch Ein Franz Sisches M Dchen Was Soll Er Mit So Jemandem Schon Anfangen*

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