



Lady Friday

Garth Nix

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The fifth book in Garth Nix's New York Times bestselling series!

Four of the seven Trustees have been defeated and their Keys taken, but for Arthur, the week is still getting worse. Suzy Blue and Fred Gold Numbers have been captured by the Piper, and his New Nithling army still controls most of the Great Maze. Superior Saturday is causing trouble wherever she can, including turning off all the elevators in the House and blocking the Front Door.

Amidst all this trouble, Arthur must weigh an offer from Lady Friday that is either a cunning trap for the Rightful Heir or a golden opportunity he must seize - before he's beaten to it!

Lady Friday Details

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Author : Garth Nix

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Teresa says

Nice continuation of the story but it also was pretty heavily "more of the same" as far as the series goes. There isn't anything in particular that made this one stand out for me.

Kaylee says

We're at Lust, for those playing along at home. I was wondering how Nix was going to use this sin in a children's book -- very sly indeed.

Not the most compelling storyline of them all, and the ending was much more abrupt than previous ones. Arthur is finally much more mature than his twelve (earth) years, and his friends play even more integral roles.

One of my favorite things about these books (and Nix's writing in general) is the way he cleverly uses puns and double entendres (rather similar to a Disney movie, now that I think about it...). It's probably the key to why I can enjoy these books but am disinterested in Harry Potter -- there's plenty for adults in the writing itself, and it's not all on the surface.

Three stars, perhaps simply because I didn't feel like Lady Friday was involved quite enough. There was just a small something missing from this installment...

James Beck says

This book was a great addition in the series. It picked up immediately after Sir Thursday with Arthur in the Great Maze. He gets a strange letter that literally whisks him into his next adventure to take the 5th key. Lady Friday is like the other Trustees, hiding under a calm behavior but with sinister plans to keep her key. Arthur also finds out his mom is missing. Did Friday take her away as leverage? I guess you will have to read the book to find out.

Nikki says

I loved how much time in this book was spent with Leaf. I think the focus on her is the first time the point of view has spent so much time with a character other than Arthur -- we don't see the adventures of Suzy Turquoise Blue in quite the same way, for example. The more inhuman Arthur becomes, the more time is spent with Leaf...

Each new book seems less and less resolved than the others, partly because the first two books make you begin to expect Arthur to go home at the end, and partly because the pace is ratcheting up.

Surprisingly enough, I liked the Fifth part of the Will, and am slightly less worried about the Will. Still. We'll see. I was entertained by Arthur simply grabbing back the keys when he needed them, even if it was

unintentional. Yay Arthur!

Josie says

I really thought I'd like this book more than the others, but the plot wasn't as interesting as the blurb made it sound. For someone whose deadly sin was lust, Lady Friday was quite dull. I'm looking forward to reading Superior Saturday, since she sounds pretty bitching.

... I just wanted to use the word "bitching" in a review. :(

Michael Culbertson says

It's encouraging to see Arthur start to take responsibility for the role he was thrust into.

Nix handles vice of "lust" very tastefully for a children's book. The vice isn't named explicitly. As denizens, Lady Friday (and those in the Middle House) lack many of the rich experiences of mortal life--joy, happiness, regret, melancholy, and the like. Desiring to share in these experiences, Friday gathers old mortals (mainly humans from earth) and sucks their experiences from them, leaving them a living but somewhat empty shell. The experiences that dribble down Friday's chin get fixed to bits of parchment and sent back to the Middle House, where denizens can vicariously experience by sticking the papers to their foreheads--yielding a reverie that can last weeks or months. Like Tuesday's thirst for material wealth and Wednesday's hunger for food, Friday is never satisfied with the experiences she drinks, always wanting to gather more.

Susan says

The series is interesting enough that even one of the weaker installments is still pretty decent, but I would definitely rate this as one of the weaker ones. Quite a bit of the momentum that was built in the first three books stalls a bit in *Sir Thursday* and *Lady Friday* with the main characters stumping through less scenic parts of the House to confront less dynamic Trustees. Also, due to Arthur's growing maturity and strength as the Rightful Heir, his trusty sidekicks (Leaf, Suzy, and now Fred) begin to seem a little superfluous. There is every hope, however, that more (and more satisfying) adventures and conflicts await with Arthur's big confrontation with Superior Saturday, and that will keep many readers going.

Lindsey says

There's certainly one thing to be said about everything Nix writes, and that is that it's rife with original creativity and completely new fantasy stories. However, sometimes the books themselves, although phenomenally imaginative, are hit or miss depending on how much Nix is able to flesh out the story. The Seventh Tower series, for instance, is deftly imagined, a two worlds drawn together through light and shadow, and the ability to use colored gemstones to create light beams that can do all sorts of interesting things. Unfortunately for whatever reason, Nix doesn't explore the world and the story enough. It's much more like eating watery soup than it is like consuming a good meal.

The Abhorsen Trilogy, on the other hand, is a great work, and although it's not a classic literature sort of story, the world itself is fleshed out well, so that the reader can really imagine the world and lose themselves in it. I feel like the Keys to the Kingdom series is a mixture of both, and I'd love to see the world more fully explored. The first book, especially, seems to move toward that path, but as the books progress, they seem to become more and more formulaic and lacking in substance. Ultimately, Nix's imagination seems to know no bounds, but if he would slow down and put more life into these books, I think they would be much better. Not to say that the books aren't fun to read, but I believe they could be fun to read and rich. Hopefully his next fantasy series will be more like The Abhorsen Trilogy.

-Lindsey Miller, www.lindseyslibrary.com

Baal Of says

A bit of a stall compared to the previous couple volumes, with a bit less action and creativity, but then there is some progression in Arthur's character, as he matures and becomes less whiny. I'm still annoyed that he keeps handing over keys to Dame Primus, but at least now we know he can reclaim them at will. Also, there is some good progress on building up Leaf and Suzy.

Andrea says

[it was pretty ingenio

Joey Woolfardis says

[Quick review from memory until I re-read and re-review at a later date:

Mmm yes I enjoyed this series a lot more than his others. A fair few scenes jump out at me, though whether they're from this exact book or not. Definite re-read sooner rather than later.]

Andy says

Die Handlung verdichtet sich immer mehr. Jeder Treuhändler ist auf seine Art untreu zu sein bzw hat seine speziellen Eigenheiten oder Schwächen, die dann für gravierende Probleme sorgen. Lady Freitag hält sich für klug. Doch ist sie das?

Parallel musste ich immer wieder über einen Passanten in dem Spiel "The Witcher 3" lachen. Jedes mal, wenn man auch an ihm vorbei lief, kam ein "je mehr ich trinke, desto klüger werde ich". Diese fehlerhafte Selbsteinschätzung trifft wohl auf Alkohol wie auch auf Drogen zu.

Wealththeow says

Eons ago, the Architect of the worlds left, willing her power to whosoever was the Rightful Heir. She left

behind seven of her most trusted children behind as Trustees of her Will. But the Trustees did not see any need to relinquish their power, and so they hid the Will away and kept the Keys to the Kingdom for themselves. The Trustees, also known as the Morrow Days because each controlled a single day of the week, were slowly twisted by the Keys, and their foibles and weaknesses became magnified. The House that the Architect built was slowly destroyed by their greed, sloth, and single-mindedness.

Eventually, the first part of the Will tore itself free from its binding place and forced itself upon young Arthur Penhaligan, a mortal boy from a slightly futuristic Earth. With its power and guidance, Arthur has been able to gain the keys from four of the seven Trustees. But in using the Keys, Arthur has become closer and closer to becoming a Denizen.

Having just vanquished Sir Thursday, Arthur receives a letter from Lady Friday: she's abdicating, and her Key goes to whoever can find it first. (view spoiler) Meanwhile, she retreats to a far off planet to devote herself to her favorite hobby: sucking out the life experiences of mortals. While Leaf tries to stop her, Arthur tries to find Friday's portion of the Will. Friday's realm is a lot of fun: it's where all the paperwork happens in the House, with rivers made of parchment and a printing press so massive that Denizens take their tea time on it.

Arthur is a fantastic main character. He starts out as a very ordinary little boy, constantly asking questions and wishing he could just go home. With every book, he loses more of his naivete and innocence. After years of chronically, nearly fatally, poor health, Arthur has incredible strength of will and determination. And his parents' influence and his own empathy make him polite and fair-minded, always treating his defeated enemies well. His determination to save everyone puts him in a great deal of danger and trouble, but it makes him a joy to read. I really like the morality system underpinning this series.

Patrick Shechet says

This series is consistent and I enjoy it.

Crystal says

A satisfying read, as always. Garth Nix has been a favorite ever since I picked up *Shade's Children*; his ability to twist away from the expected plot cliché pitfalls (i.e. story climaxes with a swordfight, story climaxes with the clashing of ultimate magic powers, etc.) has been consistently refreshing.

Of course it helps that the villains, Trustees to the Houses of Monday through Sunday, in his *The Keys to the Kingdom* series are modeled after the seven deadly sins. The parallels so far have been mmm-mmm good and I've gleefully taken in Arthur's reluctant triumphs over Mister Monday (sloth), Grim Tuesday (greed), Drowned Wednesday (gluttony), Sir Thursday (wrath), and at last, Lady Friday (lust--for great rainbow gobs of Key-extracted mortal memories. Upon learning this, I secretly replaced all the "Lady Friday"s in the book to "Junkie").

Two left, and only once those final books are out can we more certainly assign the sins. Lady Friday could arguably be greed or envy; this could equivocably be rearranged for the other Trustees. The whole theme could be ignored, but I felt up for a little enriching symbolism. It hasn't taken on any pretentious religious or literary overtones and so it underscores Nix's fun and energetic pace.

I enjoyed following both Arthur's and Leaf's stories until they connected into one at the end. I was also glad for the return of the Mariner, as brief as it was. The Paper Pushers, Winged Servants of the Night versus The Artful Loungers (>.<), and the Gilded Youth were vivid and exciting. Aside from the 'main battle' of Arthur as The Rightful Heir against the remaining Trustees, there is Arthur's struggle to keep his mortality. Every time he uses a Key, I immediately hold my breath afterward as he does while checking his ring to see how close its golden line has gotten to official Denizen-hood.

Also to note, I **love** the American book covers for this series.

Bettie? says

mp3. We were introduced to Lady Friday at the end of the last book - Sir Thursday, which is a pretty neat carrot to urge me to carry on with this next book.

This series has been a wonderful, sturdy 3 star read and I would have to say that all series has it's weakest link and this is it for The Keys to the Kingdom. I have a theory that because Lady Friday represents lust, and this is a children's series, it was inevitable that it was going to be a little bland. Still a 3 star result but on the lowest level compared to the others.

Jack. S says

Recently I have read Garth Nix's Lady Friday. sadly it was not one of his best, so I'll focus on the good parts. Such as the scene setting being tremendous, I could almost feel myself watching them in my imagination, it also raises some interesting views like Denizens, being immortal and feeling less making one denizen (Lady Friday) do some nasty things. such as kidnap Arthur's mom, or is she really just framed? Find out more in this thrilling series! Arthur is even experiencing changes, such as temper flares. Is he turning into something, something much much greater than any denizen? Fantasy lovers will enjoy this book as the action takes it up a notch.

Carlee says

I don't know how Garth Nix does it. Again and again he turns about series with stunningly original plots and flawless characters. Lady Friday was original and left me **NEEDING** to know what happens in the next book.

Sam says

Great fifth installment to the series. Nix has thought out the whole series, and it's delightful to watch old elements rise up, and to see the evolution of some of the characters progressing through each book. Only two more 'Days' to go, and though i have some ideas about how the books might end, it's still very up in the air, and there are many questions yet to be answered. I have no doubt but that Nix will deliver.

Erik Fazekas says

Piaty diel bol o kúsoček slabší ako dve predchádzajúce - bolo tu menej akcie. Ale zasa nás čakajú dve finálne knihy a ja sa už teraz trasiem, že čo si Nix prichystal... poľul som, že Lord Sunday má byť EPIC!!!

Piatok bol dobrý, zaujímavý, rozdelená línia ma zaujala, a mal som dôvod neustále pokračovať v čítaní, a trochu ma to upokojilo, aby som sa pripravil na superské finále v dvojdieli: Sobota a Nedeľa:)

Ale keďže som to precítal za 24 hodín, musela to byť veľmi dobrá kniha:)
