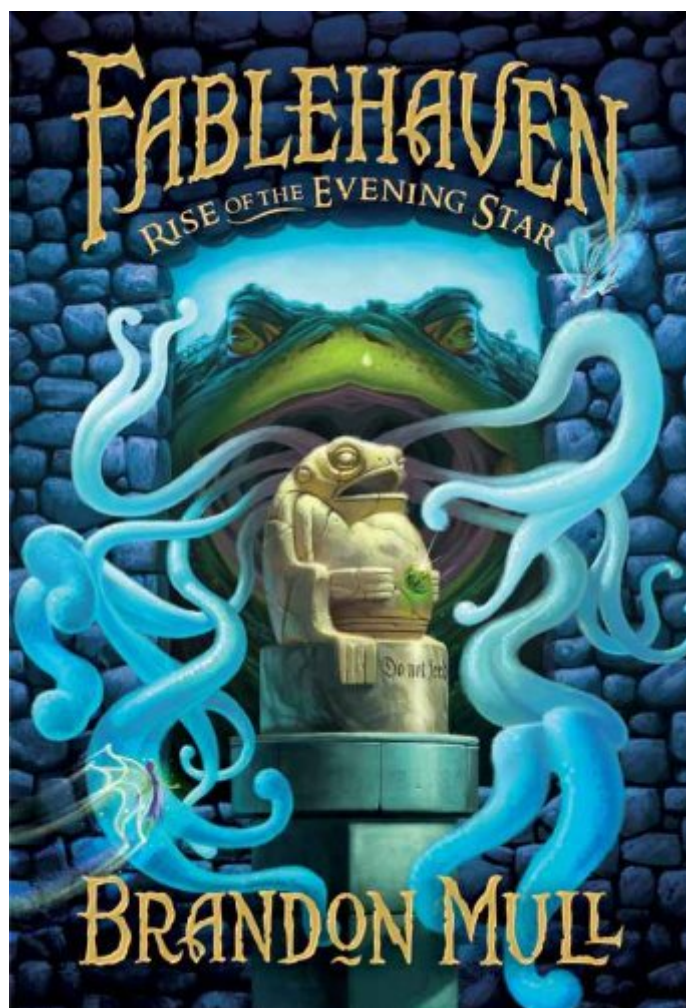


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Fablehaven, Vol. 2: Rise Of The Evening Star



Synopsis

At the end of the school year, Kendra and her brother, Seth, find themselves racing back to Fablehaven, a refuge for mythical and magical creatures. Grandpa Sorenson, the caretaker, invites three specialists — a potion master, a magical relics collector, and a mystical creature trapper — to help protect the property from the Society of the Evening Star, an ancient organization determined to infiltrate the preserve and steal a hidden artifact of great power. Time is running out. The Evening Star is storming the gates. If the artifact falls into the wrong hands, it could mean the downfall of other preserves and possibly the world. Will Kendra learn to use her fairy gifts in time? Will Seth stay out of trouble? Can they overcome paralyzing fear? Find out in book 2 of this bestselling series.

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Customer Reviews

Admittedly, I did not "read" the book rather listened to it on my long travels to my military weekend duties. I wasn't able to finish during one drill weekend and found myself thinking about the book and almost hoping that drill weekend would return so that I could finish the great book. As was the case with his first book, Brandon Mull use of adjectives and imagery words was superb. I was engrossed

in a fantasy world were I felt looking outside my car window with a little magical milk that I too have seen the wondrous creatures. The book even had a turn that I just didn't see coming....lets just say that the second I finished the book I ordered the next book for my next military weekend. Great read for the young but even the older (I'm 32) can find great enjoyment from the book.

An imaginative and fresh view of a magical world around us. Written for a younger audience, it uses young heroes which seems unrealistic to an older "kid" like me, but I'm used to getting that in books and it still keeps the kids as kids with just a little stretch to be heroes. They are sufficiently believable and sufficiently interesting to read about. The best part, as I said above, is the author's take on how magic and magical creatures could be.

NOTE MY REVIEWS OFTEN CONTAIN SPOILERSIt's been a year since Kendra and the fairies saved Fablehaven from Muriel and her demon. While Kendra and Seth still think of returning, they never expected the creatures of Fablehaven to come to them. That's just what happens when a kobold posing as an attractive classmate enrolls in Kendra's class at school. With the school year almost over and no way to reach Grandpa the children must figure out how to deal with the creature on their own. Unfortunately not all those offering help are really on their side and in their quest to rid the school of the kobold Seth unknowingly unleashes a demon determined to devour him. The children are soon whisked away to Fablehaven but will the reserve's protections be enough to save Seth from his pending doom? And are all the dangers really outside the gates?You know I debated a while on the rating for this. I initially intended not to give this book anything higher than three stars simply because even though the action begins soon I had a heck of a time getting into this novel. It took me four sittings to read this book and while that may not sound like much for me it really is. If I'm reading alone which I am most of the time if a book grabs me the only way I wouldn't finish it in one sitting is if I was so exhausted I was falling asleep standing up. For example I never picked up a Harry Potter book until the fifth novel was already released. I borrowed the first five from a cousin and didn't sleep for two days while devouring all five in that time period. I read Kelley Armstrong's Darkest Powers Trilogy in one sitting and the first three novels in Julie Kagawa's Iron Fey series in one sitting. Actually, with that it was the first four if you count Winter's Passage. The reason I'm able to do this blog is that most of the time I can read the book in a couple hours, write the review in about 20 to 30 minutes send it to Ed to post and go on about my day. Of course that speed only comes if a book grips me. Most nonfiction novels will take me weeks to read because I have trouble making it through chapters without falling asleep. For it to have taken four sitting for me to finish this

book tells you I really did have a difficult time getting into the book. What saved this novel from receiving a lower rating than its predecessor is its spectacular ending. Fablehaven-Rise of the Evening Star has the kind of ending that makes you sit back and go wow, I wasn't expecting that. And when you reach those scenes toward the end you can't turn the pages fast enough to discover what will happen next. While the ending of the finale of the first novel was excellent before it slowly wound down and lets you walk away calmly, with this second installment it was phenomenal and then over. There is no quiet drive away from the preserve, there's just shock factor then lights out. Obviously that's one of my favorite parts of the novel but to really describe what happened to you in that scene and explain why the ending was enough to bump my rating up to four stars it would ruin the effect of said ending. This is one of those you'll know what I mean if you read the book moments. Before I go into the portions of the novel I make an effort to comment on I want to make a comment on something I normally wouldn't mention. I'm not one who pays a ton of attention to illustrations, I'd rather rely on my own mental picture of things. The illustrations in this book however I found distracting and not in a good way. What particularly bothered me was the drawing of Kendra who is supposed to be almost fifteen. In the drawing I would peg her at maybe eight years old. If the novel is going to be illustrated the drawings should at least portray the characters somewhere near the age stated in the novel. It's distracting to see drawings of teenagers in which they appear to be small children. I'll give you that this is a middle grade novel and kids enjoy pictures but I would think this portrayal of Kendra was probably distracting to even those that enjoy pictures in their novels. I know this doesn't have anything to do with Mull's writing, but if a publisher is going to add illustrations to a book said illustrations should portray the characters as described in the novel. It left me wondering if the illustrator even read the novel. While the plot was well written, interesting and proceeded in a logical order, something about the opening that I can't quite put my finger on didn't grip me in the way it was meant to. This novel basically gives you action from page one so it should have been extremely fast paced, but to me the pacing came across as quite slow. I really can't explain the why of it, but if someone else knows what I mean and could clarify for me it would be greatly appreciated. Like the first novel it does cater to the younger reader and while adults may enjoy a onetime read, I don't see them reading it over and over the way a child would. However since the novel is a middle grade novel that's probably a positive attribute of the work. This is the kind of book you give to your 8-12 year old that likes to read. I personally plan to pass the series to my soon to be eleven year old daughter, the only one of my children who shares my love of reading. I think what made this novel harder to get into than the first novel is that in the first novel Mull sort of slowly led us into the world of Fablehaven through Kendra's eyes. With his mostly slow paced style

of writing easing into the world and wrapping it around a reader is an excellent method of gripping the reader. I don't feel jumping right into the action without that lead in works for him as a writer. One thing I can say about the plot is that nothing was really predictable. Every scene was unexpected from the very first shocker of a kobold walking into Kendra's classroom. I was just as surprised as Kendra when I learned who the villain of the tale was and of course as stated above I was shocked by the ending. Each surprise made sense as Mull explained it but it certainly wasn't how you expected the novel to progress. As I believe I mentioned in my previous review Kendra and Seth are memorable characters however they really needed more fleshing in the first novel. In this novel these leading characters got a little more flesh on their bones than in the first though we still didn't get a lot of insight into other characters. I don't think this matters as much to a child reader as it does to an adult so I still think this will work for him. I don't remember being presented with many intricate characters in the books I read as a kid and I still loved reading them, so I don't think this is so much a negative trait, more another feature marking the book as a novel meant for children. One thing I will mention though about the characters is that Mull himself seems to sometimes forget the ages of his characters when he brings us into their minds. Kendra comes across much younger than almost 15 at points, though I will say Seth seems to fit nicely with the average 12 year old boy. I think what needs to be remembered is that on average girls mentally mature faster than boys and at times my almost eleven year old seems vastly more mature than Kendra who is in her teens. No Kendra isn't an adult and shouldn't come across as one, but she's missing that 14 going on 40 mindset which is common in girls her age. For me this detracted from Kendra's believability as a character. I don't know if this would be the case for a child reader since it's been a while since I've been a child. But I think even Kennedy would notice that Kendra is a bit immature on how she thinks of things. However one thing I did like in terms of maturity was that Seth did actually complain about sharing a room with Kendra in this novel which made that whole arrangement a little more realistic. To get the entire feel for this novel I think the first novel in the series needs to be read before this one, only because you don't get that nice lead in to the world that you received in the original Fablehaven. I mean I guess it could work as a standalone, but you'd really be missing a lot if you didn't read the first book in the series. Overall it's a good novel with more action than the first, in fact even though it came across with slow pacing the book is almost nonstop action filled with surprise. However like I've previously stated an adult may enjoy this novel once, but for the most part its audience is the middle grade reader. If you don't have kids to pass the book on to I recommend checking it out of your local library so that you can experience the adventure without having purchased a book you're probably not going to read more than once. If you do have kids

who enjoy reading I will say it's money well spent, but not as much if you're just an adult reader of children's and young adult fiction.

Such a great author and series. We love anything written by Brandon Mull. I know that I can count on him to write books that I do not have to pre-read for content that I do not want my kids reading. His books are always clean. His characters always have strong morals, ethics, and values. This was such a fun roller coaster adventure to read. Just like the first book in the series there are so many cool creatures to learn about and some great lessons to learn.

This is a book that I was interested in, but I am not really a fan of fantasy. I enjoyed the concept but got lost in all the creatures etc. Other people who have read these books love them.

Great book! A little slow at the beginning, but amps up and finishes strong. Definitely ready to continue the saga with the 3rd book.

The first book in the Fablehaven series was good. I read it quickly and enjoyed the adventure. However, it seemed a little predictable up until Kendra's visit to the Fairy Queen's shrine. Not to give away spoilers, that was really the turning point. I still really connect to the first book. The second book is a bigger adventure. I really love how Mull seems to use the entire series to build a crescendo. If you thought you loved, liked, or vaguely enjoyed the first book, I would urge you to continue the series. Rise of the Evening Star introduces the primary adversary for the series. It gives you someone to root for, someone to be opposed to, and begins the ultimate journey that Seth and Kendra will have to venture. Each book shows Mull's growth as a writer and the emotional growth of the two teenagers fighting to save the world. Rise of the Evening Star was well worth the read. If you love adventure, stories of redemption and growth, or any kind of Fantasy novel, this is a pleasurable read.

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