



The Dark Secret of Weatherend

John Bellairs , Edward Gorey (Illustrator)

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When Anthony Monday stumbles upon the diary of J.K. Borkman, he thinks he's unearthed a worthless piece of junk. But Borkman's mysterious writings turn out to be much more--plans to turn the world into an icy wasteland. By the time ghastly weather sets in and Anthony realizes it's Borkman's fanatical son who is bent on carrying out his father's horrific work, it may be too late to stop him.

The Dark Secret of Weatherend Details

Date : Published June 18th 1984 by Dial (first published 1984)

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Author : John Bellairs , Edward Gorey (Illustrator)

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy, Horror, Childrens, Middle Grade

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From Reader Review The Dark Secret of Weatherend for online ebook

Debbie says

It's great having Grandkids who are as into reading as I am! Recently our 9 year old granddaughter suggested I read this book and I am so GLAD that I did. It's a mystery that will keep you reading as you want to find out what happens next in each chapter. As she says, "it's so descriptive"!

I found it along the lines of Indiana Jones and his adventures. The unlikely pair of a 14 year old boy named Anthony and Miss Eells, described as an elderly librarian (but I think she is only in her 60's and right now I don't consider that elderly!) trying to solve a mystery happening in their town which could destroy it and all that they know.

A thriller for sure and definitely worth a read! I will be looking for his other books as well.

Owen says

A satisfying sequel to the first book in the Anthony Monday series, The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn. I like this one a bit better. At first, I was unsure because it had supernatural elements and the first one didn't. I was hoping it wasn't because the first book wasn't successful so John Bellairs had to change his strategy, but he was pretty well-known for writing supernatural Gothic horror, so I think he knew what he was doing. And he did pull off the magical bits well. It wasn't too overbearing and it gave the story a creepy, dark tone which I liked.

I'm starting to like Anthony and Miss Eells more. My only problem with this book was the ending. It is anticlimactic and I didn't like how everything was explained at the end. Miss Eells' brother explained everything, they were all happy, etc. It felt too juvenile. Speaking of juvenile, the name Weatherend. Weather end: the end of the world brought about by apocalyptic weather. Really? Overall, this was a quick read (I read it in about two hours). There are still two more books left in the series, and since I bought the last one for a dollar I might as well finish reading them.

Jen says

John Bellairs beats the pants off of the Da Vinci Code as far as the "collect the clues and figure out what the hell is going on" genre is concerned. Dan Brown should be ashamed of himself. He should also probably read this book to see how it should be done.

I remember re-reading this probably once a year when I was younger, and still got creeped out each time I read it. With relics hidden in statues and seemingly out-of-control weather that seems to be signifying the end of the world... the story still holds up.

I still recommend this to parents looking for a good creepy YA book for their kid(s) at the bookstore.

Sam says

I'm maybe not as big a fan of Anthony Monday as the other series, but a kooky old librarian is a fun companion.

Sem says

March 2011: Who knew that Duluth was such a hotbed of sorcerous skulduggery?

For reasons which I've never quite been able to put my finger on, Bellairs has always been my comfort reading of choice. This isn't one of his very best but since there are so few in the Anthony Monday series I thought I'd start my re-read with it.

December 2016: One of my snowy weather re-reads.

Melanie says

I think the Anthony Monday kept their intrigue for me because they were in many ways alien, and difficult for me to understand in elementary school--St. Cloud, Minnesota? Inheritances, saint's bones? The threat of the apocalypse?--yet still so chilling. I also really liked Ms. Ells.

D. says

Another strong entry in Bellair's canon. The second Anthony Monday book is a departure from the previous one, as it has the addition of very strong supernatural elements. The interactions between the characters are fun. There was a little too much "deus ex machina" at the end, but it fits with the mood of the book.

By now, the Bellairs books (This is the seventh in a row I've read!) have fallen into a bit of a routine, so I think I'll take a break for awhile -- I don't want to burn through them all too quickly!

Hawthorn says

Another childhood favorite that I enjoyed re-reading as an adult. I read lots of Bellairs as a young person but this one in particular stood out.

Justin K. Rivers says

This is the second Anthony Monday book by John Bellairs, and unlike the first, which contains no supernatural elements, The Dark Secret of Weatherend brings Monday into Bellairs' more typical world of wizards and midwestern gothic magic.

Like his other novels, this one is well written and charming. All of his books have an odd style - gothic supernatural elements set in the 1950's, set either in the Midwest (as with this book) or New England (the Johnny Dixon books). Compared to the others, Weatherend has a unique and interesting plot, although the climax is a bit rushed. As a whole, the Anthony Monday books were not as popular as his other series, and you can see why with this one. Anthony's partner in crime, the elderly Miss Eels, does not have the depth of character and background to make as compelling a story as, say, Johnny Dixon's Prof. Childermaass.

John Corey says

A fun book. I was auditioning it for my kids. The man who recommended it said it was "perfect for when you are done with the magic tree house, but not ready for Katniss". I would agree. Spooky, but not too scary.

Annette says

Never, never, never read books by Bellairs after dark. They scare me to shivers. Always finish them before it becomes dusk or you will stay up all night afraid.

Patrick Day says

The Anthony Monday books are refashioned in this edition to be more like the Johnny Dixon adventures, though these characters are not as cleverly conceived as Johnny and Professor Childermaass. Still, there are some nicely spooky moments here.

Sharon says

Anthony Monday and his librarian friend, Miss Ells find a evil man trying to destroy the world.

Robyn says

Gothic-style novel for young readers. Good, but resolves a little conveniently. I generally feel that if you need an additional chapter after the climax to explain to the protagonist (and the reader) what happened, how, and why, you've not done the job properly.

Jake says

Decent. Better than some of the Lewis Barnavelt ones.

Natlukens says

This book was much more spooky and fun than the previous volume in the Anthony Monday series. I enjoy the way Bellairs writes mystery and magic for young ages, very different from most other fantasy/horror I've read.

Jason says

Delightful! The characters make the story. I love the friendship between Anthony and Ms. Eells. And I love how Bellairs isn't afraid to portray real evil in his stories. "Horror" for kids has been watered down in the last 20 years or so. And it's a shame because kids like to be scared, and without good kidlit to scare them, they'll often find themselves drifting into teen and adult horror territory which they might not be ready for yet.

Marjanne says

The second in the Anthoy Monday series. I liked this one a lot better than the first one. It was a plesant surprise.

Richard Denney says

Re-read: January 2016

Just as fun, creepy, and awesome as I remember. :D

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

3 STARS

"Fourteen-year-old Anthony Monday of Hoosac, Minnesota, and his friend Miss Eells, the Hoosac librarian, try to stop an evil wizard from turning the world into an icy wasteland." (From Amazon)

A great mystery paranormal children's novel
