



## Journey to Landaran

*Judy Goodwin*

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## **Journey to Landaran** Judy Goodwin

Warnings for mature themes including child molestation.

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Aidah and her twin brother Tavish have always had a knack for getting into trouble. From pie stealing and pranks to hunting for magical creatures, they have always escaped notice in their tiny mountain village.

Until now.

Aidah begins seeing visions through her brother's eyes. He's a Firestarter, gifted with the Talent to control light and heat, destined to become a Sun Mage in the great city of Landaran. But he doesn't want to leave without his sister. As storm clouds gather, Aidah dreams of a beautiful man, a frightening man, calling to her.

She fears the truth. That she may developing a Talent of her own, one that will change their lives forever.

The power to read minds. To possess bodies. To travel inside dreams. In the world of Ernid, Spirit is the ultimate power.

Nations will go to war over them.

## **Journey to Landaran Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2014 by Diamond Print Press (first published February 25th 2014)

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Author : Judy Goodwin

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# From Reader Review Journey to Landaran for online ebook

**Bee says**

**2.5 stars**

This book falls somewhere between "meh" and "I liked it, but I didn't love it". To be honest, the only things that did work for me, were the powers and the two main characters. Tavish and Aidah. But mostly the powers, of course.

Tavish and Aidah are twins. Tavish is a Firestarter, he has the ability to control light and heat, destined to become a Sun Mage. Everybody thinks that he is the only one of the two with powers, but then they find out that Aidah has the power Spirit. A power nations will go to war over.

Like I said, this book is somewhat in between. It was okay. I liked the world Judy created and the powers and I liked the two main characters, but that was about it. I never really got into the story completely and... I don't know. I can't put my finger on it. I could make stuff up and ramble on to have a long review, but I don't do that. I just don't know what it is that I don't like. Maybe it's just not for me. Although I really wish I loved it, I didn't. I'm sorry!

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**Kel Crist says**

I was provided a free copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review.

Journey to Landaran by Judy Goodwin: Young twins, Aidah and Tavish do everything together. They get in trouble, climb mountains and now they are running for their lives together. This young adult fantasy will bring you into another world where you will experience magic, mystery and action. Judy Goodwin has created a whole other world that just sucks you in and you never want to leave.

Tavish and Aidah Dernholt are twins, and they are so very special. Tavish' talent shows up early and he finds that he is a Fire Mage, meaning that he has the ability to control fires as well as heat waves. Aidah's talent takes a bit to come through, but when it does, stand back because it's a doozy! She is a Spirit Mage. That means that she has the ability to control life and energy among other things. With her new talent comes new experience, loss of family, and also a very real evil into their seemingly perfect lives.

Enter Rangwar, also a Sprit Mage, but boy is he evil. His words alone make you hate him. His actions made me actually put the book down and walk away for a breather. You will love to hate him.

Along with other characters, Aidah and Tavish travel from their home to the main capitol in search of Aidah's trainer and mentor. A band of gypsies, her uncle and faithful lupas (like a smart dog) all travel with her and a few others to find help. But will they make it in time? Who will the twins lose next?

It takes a lot for me to get absorbed into a fantasy book like this. Normally any reality that is different than the Earth we know now, and the author usually loses me. Miss Judy has created this world that is so full of

life and colour, and just captured my attention and didn't let go once. I was not only absorbed into this fantasy world, I thoroughly enjoyed every second. I know it's supposed to be a YA novel, but it does deal with some subjects that are a little mature and I applaud Miss Judy for broaching the subjects. Definitely deserves 4 stars! Perhaps even 4.5. In the end, it was a very good book. I completely endorse it!

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### **Alanna Savage says**

I was lucky enough to received an advance copy from the author...

I fell in love with this book and ended up not being able to put it down. I was highly impressed with the world building. Aidah and Tavish are twins who upon Aidah realizing her powers, are forced to leave home and journey to Landaran lest they get captured by the big bad, Rangwar. He is the kind of bad guy who you are going to love to hate. He is completely insane and utterly despicable. In the end, this book was awesome and I can't wait for the next installment.

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### **Emma Jaye says**

This books follows the journey of 'talented' twins Tavish and Aidah to Landaran to be trained as the protectors of their land from and evil mage. Like many classic examples of its genre there is a physical, emotional and mental journey from innocent childhood towards responsible adulthood, which involving loss and learning about their abilities. Well written with excellent characterisation, the only aspect where it fell down was the age of the main characters. in the story they are 14, but the children on the cover appear younger. The 'dream rape' scenes are by no means graphically explicit, but it clashes with the feel of the rest of the book, especially as the young girl seems to get pleasure form the attentions of her many times great grandfather on occasions. This aspect would make it unsuitable for younger children, whereas without that aspect the story would be perfect for readers from of a younger age to adult fans of classic fantasy.

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### **Steve Justice says**

Fantasy is a difficult genre to write in these days without falling on old tried and tested ideas, most usually Tolkien in nature or basis. In Journey to Landaran, Judy Goodwin has succeeded in creating something different to the usual high fantasy tale.

Much of the plot is familiar. A child, a girl called Aidah, discovers she has magic powers, known as Spirit Talent in this case, upon coming of age (well, at 14 years old) and, after her home is attacked by an evil Emperor set on taking the girl and her powers for himself, sets out on a dangerous journey to the capital city where she can receive training and protection.

It is in the details, however, that Goodwin has created a rich, new world, vast and deep. Some parts have an obvious inspiration - the Gedar being gypsies in all but name - while others such as the Lupas race are completely original, to my knowledge.

The story moves at a good pace, the action evenly spread out between passages of exposition. The point of

view switches between Aidah and her brother, Tavish, a technique that works well to show the difficulties Aidah has in controlling her new powers from both inside her head and outside. It is particularly suitable as the two are twins, Tavish also the wielder of different magic powers, and their connection is maintained well throughout.

Reading some of the other reviews of this book, there has been a lot of criticism levelled at it, in particular the repeated mental rape of Aidah by the enemy. I must admit, while I admire Goodwin for being willing to broach such a subject and try to incorporate it as the means the Emperor dominates the girls he seeks to control, it seems unnecessary (physical torture or other nightmares would have been equally effective) and it definitely out of place in a novel that describes itself as Young Adult or Children's Fiction. As an adult reader, I found the scenes a little disturbing but I'm sure a young reader would find them to be worse.

If these scenes were removed then the story would certainly be suitable for young readers. As for adults, the scenes will still be unsettling but are not enough to detract from the quality of the rest of the writing. If you enjoy fantasy novels and are looking for something different from the usual elves and dwarves, a fantasy novel a little less high than High Fantasy usually is, and you can deal with the controversy, then I'd recommend giving *Journey to Landaran* a try. I will be curious to see how the story of Aidah and Tavish continues in the next instalment.

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### **Judy Goodwin says**

Blog tour by <http://readingaddictionvbt.blogspot.com/> will be taking place March 2-14! Stop by to win a \$30 Amazon gift card or free copies!

You can find out more details and read character bios and previews on my blog here:  
<http://judygoodwin.wordpress.com> .

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### **Elizabeth Rose says**

*Journey to Landaran* is the story of Aidah and Tavish, magically gifted twins on their way to be schooled in the magical arts in the capital of their fictional country of residence. Aidah's safe arrival at Landaran is especially important because she is a rare Life Talent. She has the ability to control Life Energy (strength, alertness, emotion, etc.), but she is not fully in control of her gift. Tavish is a Fire Talent, with power over heat and light. Their travels are fraught with the usual perils, including (but not limited to), a psychotic villain, colorful supporting characters who may or may not be trustworthy, and internal conflict over right and wrong in both protagonists.

It sounds pretty boilerplate for YA fantasy, but it isn't. Throughout the book, I was constantly unsure of how this installment of Tavish and Aidah's story would end. I honestly didn't know which characters would betray them or if they were making the right decisions. Since predicting the outcomes of books/TV shows/movies is something that I'm annoyingly good at, I appreciated not knowing what would happen next.

A word of warning (and spoiler alert): I do not recommend this book for younger kids (11 & under) or especially sensitive readers of any age. *Journey to Landaran* contains explicitly violent sexual content. I commend Goodwin for neither trivializing nor oversimplifying the subject of child abuse, but dealing with it in a nuanced way that respects both her characters' humanity and her readers' intelligence. I could see a parent or counselor using this book to teach kids about the danger of sexual abuse and dealing with the

confusing aftermath of an assault. That being said, it's graphic and not for everyone. I encourage parents of interested young readers to look this book over yourself to make an informed decision about its appropriateness for your family.

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## **Sofia Li says**

This is a blog tour stop with a giveaway, so stop by Loving the Language of Literacy to find out how you can enter.

\*I received this book as a digital ARC for a blog tour which does not in the slightest affect my honest review of this book\*

I loved the concept of Journey to Landaran so much. The three different talents, Life, Fire, and Storm, which translate into Spirit, Sun, and I'm not 100% certain what a Storm mage is called. Without a fancy definition, a mage is basically a talent that has been fully trained in the city of Landaran. Now Landaran is a huge city and center of all things magic. Every talent must go there in order to train from a Master. In English speak, it means that Landaran is a city version of Hogwarts, and the 'Masters' are like professors.

My absolute favorite part of the book was the prologue. It was the scene where Korva, the biggest Spirit Mage and Talent of them all in Landaran, goes in spirit to help Aidah's and Tavish's mother give birth to them. The catch was that their mom was only expecting one of them. Tavish was the first, and Korva immediately noticed that he had an immensely strong aura around him, and that he would be a Sun Mage. Korva had to give their mother some of her strength in order to help birth Aidah who had a weak aura, and only the slight possibility of magic.

Fast-forward 14 years.

Tavish has been training to become a Sun Mage, and make the journey to Landaran since his power first appeared when he was 8 or 9. Aidah has always been the meek-and-mild little sister with no Talent. But she was content with that. When the two of them are 14, Aidah gets the first feelings of her Talent when she and Tavish are getting into trouble. She is able to give him a surge or strength -that's mistaken for adrenaline- and he is able to pull her over the ledge (long story), and she feels faint with a headache the entire day.

Soon after, she gets visited by Rangwar, the most evil Mage of all and emperor of Innis.

A very bad guy.

He is an extremely powerful mage, and has the ability to travel into people's dreams. In her dreams, Rangwar sexually molests Aidah numerous times in the process of trying to convince her to side with him, and not make the journey to Landaran. As a result -as anybody in their sane mind would be- she becomes terrified of men touching her. Rangwar brutally took her innocence, and she can't trust anymore. Aidah tells everyone around her that it's just bad dreams from something else that Rangwar is responsible for, but they don't believe her, especially because of the wounds that show up after she gets abused by him.

While it kept my interest, a good portion of Journey to Landaran was spent; on a journey, to Landaran. It was interesting and everything, but when it got to be over 40% of the book sent on the journey, it got a little

tedious.

I personally love the cover of this book because it gives you this somewhat eerie feeling, and an air of mystery that the story deserves. What I really love is the city/castle in the background that's shrouded by clouds. The title, however, could have been a little more creative. I'm not sure what I wanted it to be, I just wanted something different and a little more creative.

Conclusion: Overall, this book had an interesting, and completely original plot that teenagers that want to get out of their comfort zone will love.

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## **Jennifer says**

Young twins, Aidah and Tavish Dernholt are not only siblings but best friends -- they do everything together -- including getting into lots of trouble. Their bond is strong and Judy does a good job of describing and getting the read to understand their relationship. We follow Aidah and Tavish in their world -- a world where "talents" exist. There are three different talents, Life (Spirit), Fire (Sun), and Storm. Not everyone has a talent: --some have varying degrees of potential and some have none. Once your talent emerges you go to the city of Landaran to become trained to become a "Mage" of that talent. I enjoyed the premise of the talents and Judy descriptions were wonderful. She is able to paint the picture with words.

So for the Twins:

Tavish' talent shows up early and he finds that he has the Fire Talent, meaning that he has the ability to control light/fire/heat. At first it seems that Aidah doesn't really have a talent but wow....when it starts to come through its powerful and everything in their world changes as a result. She is a Life Talent -- she has the ability to control life and energy.

The bad guy:

Rangwar -- Life/ Sprit Mage. He is clearly using his powers for evil and he wants Aidah and will stop at nothing to get her. He honestly was a little too bad for me.

Because of Rangwar's wrath on the city, Aidah and Tavish are forced to travel from their home to the main capitol, Landaran in search of safety and training for Aidah. They set out with their Uncle and Guardian Lupa (kinda like a wolf/dog). They end up running into a band of gypsies and some extended family who help them along their way. I really enjoyed the characters that they met along the way -- I think they made the book for me and would love to see more of them.

So the question is -- Will they make it to Landaran and what will it cost them?

The only issues I had with the book is that I thought the characters should of been older than 14 years old. The book as it clearly states does have some "distrurbing" scences/concepts that were made even more disturbing given the age that characters are supposed to be.

The other issue I had which was minor is the journey took entirely too long -- I was kinda hoping for more with some of the characters they met along the way and possibly more once they got to Landaran. Perhaps that is to come in the next installment?

Overall a good read for a 16+ years old audience.

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## Denise Bartram says

**\*\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

In the past few months I've read a good few books, mostly Paranormal Fiction/Fantasy/Romance. I have read a few YA books but they've mostly been romance/paranormal. Out of all the ones that weren't romance, only two have actually highly captivated me: 'Epic' by Justin Osborne and now 'Journey to Landaran'.

Man, this book delivers!! A whole other world is opened up, ready to pull the reader in as they travel with Aidah & Tavish - (I love those names) - on their danger filled journey to what they hope is safety. I have not long finished reading 'Journey to Landaran' and my head is still whirling from wondering what is next in store for these Talented twins.

The book does contain some "mature themes" so please bear that in mind as some of the scenes may be found distressing by some people.

What did I like? The descriptions. I could paint a picture in my head of the twins' surroundings in each chapter thanks to the excellent descriptions from the author.

All the characters: Good, bad, ugly or animal, each character had a definitive reason for being in the story. Not one character felt like he/she/it had been thrown in just for good measure.

The storyline: As the title suggests, the story is about a journey. One that is undertaken by Aidah and Tavish and their Uncle and their guardian from the Lupas species. It's a journey that is forced on them due to Aidah developing talents that no one thought she would ever develop.

The emotions: This book puts its two main characters through every emotion a person can feel. From loss to relief, from tears to smiles, it's all in this saga starter.

I loved this book. There's not one thing I didn't like.

Who would I recommend this book to? Anyone aged 16 + due to some of the more mature themes. These themes do not overshadow the whole tale, but they are there.

Would I read the rest of this series? Most definitely. The Spirit Mage Saga has had an absolutely epic start and if the rest of the series, however many books there may be, can measure up to 'Journey to Landaran' then this saga is going to be massively popular.

I'm going to give this a huge 5 Shamrock rating. Judy Goodwin has gained herself a new Spirit Mage fan :D

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## Angela Oliver says

I was fortunate enough to receive an advance "beta" copy of this from the author, and I am highly impressed. Her characterisation and prose are splendid, with the world and its occupants truly coming to life. She has also put a great deal of thought into the political and magical structure of the world, with some pleasing hints at its origins. The writing style is eloquent, with vivid and dramatic descriptions, and never a dull moment. It has some darker moments too, including a really despicable villain and a goodly amount of emotional upheaval. I whole-heartedly enjoyed entering the realms around Landaran and look forward to venturing there again.



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## Melissa says

Disclaimer: I received this book for free through the Goodreads First Readers program.

Aidah and Tavish are twins descended from the powerful magess Korva the Protector. At the time of their birth, Korva senses that Tavish will grow up to be a Fire mage; his sister, on the other hand, has very little potential. But that all changes when the two siblings decide to go climbing and Aidah slips. Tavish, losing his strength, suddenly finds himself flooded with energy -- given to him by Aidah. The sister who had no potential now is capable of becoming a rare Spirit, or Life, mage.

The emergence of Aidah's talent alerts not only their ancestress Korva in distant Landaran, but also her evil father, Rangwar, in the neighboring empire. The two siblings are forced to make a perilous journey from their mountain village to Landaran, where they hope to hide from Rangwar's interest in Aidah.

As mentioned by the author in the summary, there are several scenes of child rape that may be unsettling. Perhaps I've read too much *Game of Thrones* with far more graphic scenes, since these passages in the novel didn't upset me as they did others. However, Goodwin did manage to write Aidah's emotions and feelings regarding these violations very well.

In all, a great first novel. Looking forward to the sequel.

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## Imani says

I was provided a free copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review.

This book is about twins named Adriah and Tavish and how themselves and the rest of the world must deal with them growing into and eventually gaining their powers . Whether to use those powers for good or for evil is a choice that must be made by them or it will be made for them.

In their society there are three life potentials: Storm , Sun, and Spirit ; with the Tavish having Storm and Adriah having the rarest of the three with is the Spirit. The siblings are very different but not always polar opposites which allows them to have a great bond.

When I began the book, I thought it started it was slow and the book felt to be quite long. After finishing the book, I was able to look back on this section of the book and see that it was necessary to establish some foundation regarding their powers and the initial family.

I was actually pleasantly surprised with this book. The author of this book took the time necessary to not only develop the characters but to also set up the plot in a way that allowed the reader to become immersed in the book and not feel rushed. After the first couple of chapters, I really got into the swing of the book and was only really confused when the main characters were confused as opposed to being because of out of sequence events and events being placed in just to move the story along.

Something that surprised me about this book was the themes it covered. Even as a YA book, the author was

still able to incorporate some topics that people may not like to discuss such as abuse. But it was done in a way that wasn't forceful and allowed the characters to grow. Even at the young age of only 14, these siblings grow throughout this book and I was pulled in along their journey.

Overall I give this book 4 stars ! And I hope the next book in the series is just a great !

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### **T.S. O'Neil says**

Journey to Landaran tells the story of two magical twins born into a tribe of witch like people called "Mages" in a otherworldly mystical kingdom where the forces are divided between light and dark. The setting is a strange, alien world full of bizarre creatures, such as giant birds, talking dogs, and strangely named magical people. The girl discovers, during a rather labored narrative, that her powers are her ability to gift her strength to others or cause them to do things. The boy has the power of fire, sort of like a human flamethrower. They are selected to be trained in the city named in the title where they will be taught to better apply their powers. The book appears to be fairly well written, but the narrative has a few stylistic characteristic that I found to be somewhat ponderous. For my taste, the author spent too much time describing the different "Talents" rather than moving the narrative along. Additionally, the use of the powers are debilitating and the author describes the effect each time it happens. Complicating this is that she often will describe scenes from different viewpoints or perspective, which gives the narrative a repetitive feel. Even the dialog is repeated; a character will say something and another will say something almost exactly the same. I'm not sure what the aim is in doing so, as it slows the action and is tedious. There are also several narrative instances that undermine the verisimilitude of the story, such as how the evil Mage can find the girl during his out of body experience, but we are asked to believe that two teens, an old man, a donkey and a talking dog continuously elude capture from an armed gang of rugged warriors, as well as enduring the hostile elements without any debilitating effects. Surely, the Mage would get a bird's eye view during his out of body flight and alert his men to their quarry's whereabouts.

Overall, the book is a fairly descent read, especially if you are into the whole YA wizards and warlock genre, even if it's not as polished as it could be. I would describe it as "The Hunger Games meets Harry Potter," and it is likely to appeal to the same Young Adults that find such literature engaging.

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### **Veronica ?? says**

Fourteen year old twins Tavish and Aidah are very likeable characters. They are unassuming, Tavish even finds himself being bullied, polite and a little mischievous as they enjoy stealing pies from the town baker. Tavish is eager to learn his talent however Aidah's talent has only recently emerged and as she had resigned herself to a quiet life she is somewhat reticent to move forward.

*"I don't – I didn't want any of it. I didn't even want to be talented, except for the fact it would mean I could go to Landaran with Tavish. But this..." She closed her eyes, feeling unsteady for a moment. "I did not wish for this." Jordan took her hand, gripping it firmly, "In these times, I doubt that any person would. But as they say, the stars write our destinies. We must deal with what we are given."*

I enjoyed the world building, the danger and the explanations of the talents and the way they are used. There was good character growth with plenty of action and a well developed plot.

My only complaint is the rape scenes, with the villain overtaking Aidah's dreams and repeatedly raping her. I think this was unnecessary and I feel Goodwin could have expressed Rangwar's evilness in many other more acceptable ways.

Book one is solely about getting to know the characters, their world and the actual journey to Landaran. I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing what's in store for Tavish and Aidah in book two.

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