

Children's Literature Reviews

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The Dark Is Rising: The Seeker*Susan Cooper*

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$8.99. 2007

Reviews:**Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

To Conquer the Dark, you must first let it in. For readers who know Susan Cooper's "Dark Is Rising Series," *The Seeker* will be a challenge. Like taking apart a house and rebuilding it as a boat, the pieces of the original are all there but reconfigured. Will Stanton is the seventh son of a seventh son, and the Last of the Old Ones, the only one who can hold back The Dark. And make no mistake, The Dark is rising. Just look around you. Read the newspaper, listen to the news, watch the reports. It promises to take us all in, to fulfill our wishes (as it does for the Maggie character in the movie). But its price is steep. This book is the Movie Tie-In Edition. Will Stanton, in the movie, is American (not British as in the book) but his courage in the face of evil, his willingness to lay down his life for the good of all, makes him an enduring hero. His task as the Seeker is to find the six signs that are required to hold back The Dark. In his time-slip quests, he battles evil in its many forms and, like all good heroes from Luke Skywalker to Frodo, he fears that he is not equal to the task. Like all of us, he just wants to go home and pull the covers up over his head and turn up his Ipod. But destiny has a way of ripping you out of your comfort zone, takes you away from watching *Jeopardy* or whatever it was you were doing when the call to adventure was in your face. This movie, *The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising* is magnificently beautiful, as well as bottomlessly frightening because it calls us all to the task at hand: to do battle with The Dark and not let it overtake us. 2007, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$8.99. Ages 12 up.

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