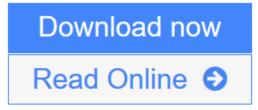


## The Cauldron Stirred (Guardians of Erin, #1)

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Ashling Donoghue never dreamed moving to Ireland would rock her perception of reality and plunge her into a mystery that brings legend to life.

At seventeen, she's never had a boyfriend, but she feels an immediate connection to Aengus Breasal, the son of the wealthy Irishman who's invited her family to stay at his Killarney estate. For the first time in her life, a guy she likes seems attracted to her.

But Aengus is secretive, with good reason. He and his family are the Tuatha Dé Danann, ageless, mythical guardians adept at shifting between this reality and the magical dimension known as the Otherworld. Evil forces from that world threaten the Breasals, the Donoghues, and all of Ireland. Ashling must open her heart, face her fears, and embrace a destiny greater than she could ever have imagined.

#### The Cauldron Stirred (Guardians of Erin, #1) Details

Date: Published July 21st 2017 by The Wild Rose Press, Inc.ISBN: 9781509215416Author: Judith SterlingFormat: Paperback 220 pagesGenre: Young Adult, Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance

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# From Reader Review The Cauldron Stirred (Guardians of Erin, #1) for online ebook

#### Wendy says

Review also on my blog: https://nextbookaroundthecorner.wordp...

You know the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover"? Well it certainly applies to The Cauldron Stirred. When I saw the cover on Netgalley, it didn't immediately appeal, it looked a bit boring. But since I had already read a book of Judith Sterling (Soul of the Wolf), I decided to request the arc.

And boy, was I glad to have had my hands on this one! Judith Sterling does an excellent job in creating a magical world with leprechauns, unicorns and mythical creatures. Ashling Donoghue always felt like she was destined to be something else. And when her mother and father are invited to study some old manuscripts in Ireland, she and her brothers and sister move to Ireland to the estate of the Breasals. The moment she arrives in Ireland, she feels like she is home. She really doesn't understand why she feels that way and she certainly doesn't understand why she is seeing Aengus in her dreams, even before she met him in real life.

Things get stranger, when Aengus seems to appear and disappear at different places. And Ashling can't shake the feeling of being watched. However, with parents involved in the investigations of ghost sightings, she is not easily spooked.

Judith takes us into a world within our world, the Otherworld. Where ghosts and other creatures live right beside us. We learn why Aengus is appearing and disappearing and why he tries to stay away from Ashling. The strange fact that Ashling is learning to shift between the different worlds with very little difficulty and the new powers she seems to develop keep you guessing until the very end of the book. I can't wait for the next part of this series!

Five out of five stars from me and a special thank you to Netgalley for providing the arc.

#### N.N. Light says

Being uprooted to a foreign country so your mother can study an ancient manuscript would be the end of the world for many teenagers but not Ashling. From the moment she lands in Ireland, Ashling has the feeling she's home, only she's never been to the Emerald Isle before. Strange dreams haunt her while one look at the handsome, yet mysterious Aengus has her heart racing. When she follows him to the forest in dark of night, a whole new world she never knew opens before her. Has she plunged down the rabbit hole or is this her destiny calling her home?

To say I loved this book is a huge understatement. First, I read it in two sittings. I was sucked into the story from the beginning and found Ashling to be a lot like me when I was a teenage girl. She's shy, smart as a whip and doesn't understand why boys don't ask her out. An absolutely charming character and one who I identified with most.

Second, the backdrop of Ireland and the mystical elements drew me further into the story. I love a good Irish story and you add fairies, leprechauns and guardians to the mix and I'm in heaven. Judith Sterling has developed a fascinating world and totally believable. That's the beauty of her storytelling ability; she's talking about Celtic myths, yet I was convinced it was 100% real.

Third, the relationship between Ashling and Aengus was slow building sweet romance which I adored. The mystery surrounding Aengus piqued my interest and when he revealed his secrets to Ashling, I swooned. No really, I did.

If you love paranormal fantasy peppered with clean romance, drop what you're doing and pick this up right now. You won't even notice it's young adult. I'm very excited to read the rest of the books in the series. Write faster, Judith Sterling!

My Rating: 5+ stars

This review first appeared: https://www.nnlightsbookheaven.com/si...

#### Jantine says

I received a free copy through Netgalley in return for an honest review.

'The Cauldron Stirred' is an enjoyable novella about a girl who comes to Ireland with her family, and who finds out she is more unusual than she thought she would be. I really liked the characters, they were portrayed so real that I felt like I knew them at the end of the book. The references to ghost hunting were kind of nice too (although I found them to be over the top at some points either, they were needed for the story). The romance-part was something I liked too, although it plummeted when some sort of love triangle appeared. Please. Don't. Do. That. Anymore!

While I was not held back by the writing-style in this book, I often found it a little too describing. If a book is this short, as a reader I want story, especially if it's a good story like this, not the colour of a sweater or several times described that the Americans say second floor to the first floor and third floor to the second floor. That's more of a minor pet peeve that could've made this book better than really disturbing though.

If you, like me, enjoy ghost stories and anything to do with Irish folk tales, you should definately read this book. And the next books yet to come.

#### **Tena Stetler says**

I loved this book. I don't synopsize the book, the book blurb does that for you. Check it out. What I liked about the book: Set in Ireland its characters are well rounded and believable. The story moves at a fast past. The descriptions make you feel like you were right there with the characters through their adventures. I love it when a book makes me feel a part of the story. You'll find mystery, romance, fantasy and twists you don't see coming inside the tale.

If you like paranormal romance/ fantasy with a little mystery and mythology mixed in, this book is for you. The next book in the series The Stone Awakened is patiently waiting on my ipad to be read. I highly recommend A Cauldron Stirred.

#### Dee/ bookworm says

The Cauldron Stirred is a surreal fantasy full of adventure, a hint of romance, a lot of mystery. The book does end in a bit of a cliffhanger so naturally I want the next edition now... The main character was easy to identify with, however the situations she goes through are hard to imagine and sometimes follow. I am eager to see how the rest of the series unfolds. :)

I received an advance reader copy in exchange for a fair review.

#### **C.M.** Truxler says

Once you start, you'll not let go. Judith Sterling opens readers eyes to worlds with no boundries. The characters are alive and real while dealing with circumstances that swirl with experiences of other than.

The plot flows like the natural magic that exists in all beings. "The Cauldron Stirred", book one in the Guardians of Erin series will pull readers into worlds that envelope them in the tale surrounding Aengus and Ashling.

This book will hold readers' attention to the very end and have then clammoring for the next installment. Pick it up now. You won't regret it; I know I don't.

#### Donna Simonetta says

I read this book on vacation last week, and it was a great read! It has mystery, romance, and fantasy elements. The Irish setting allows for interesting and fun Irish myth and legend components. This is a YA book, but I'm an adult and enjoyed it thoroughly. It reminded me a little of Phyllis A. Whitney's YA books that I enjoyed in my younger days! The descriptive writing pulled me into the story, and the fantasy world Sterling created. I can't wait for book 2 in the series!

#### Mary says

As a lover of Ireland and Irish mythology, I was swept away to this country along with the Donoghue family. Though the story centers on Ashling Donoghue and Aengus Breasal, I enjoyed all the other characters. They added depth, especially when mysterious secrets are revealed. Even though this is a young adult novel, Ms. Sterling weaves a beautiful tale with her writing, and I was captured! I'm looking forward to the next book in this phenomenal series!

#### Dawn says

I received a copy of this book for free through a giveaway at Goodreads.com.

"The Cauldron Stirred" is one of those books that just feels good to read. Is it because of the writing? Partly. Is it the story? Somewhat. Is it down to the characters? Yes, they can take some of the credit! Judith Sterling's writing has a warmth to it that I really appreciated. The story is fairly simple in that it's easy to keep track of everything going on. The characters are... well, for the most part they felt a bit like family by the end of the book! I think this book would be perfect for reluctant readers of the age-range the book is aimed at - and anyone else who wants a quick, fun, enjoyable read.

#### **D.** MacMurray says

A wonderfully crafted tale with so much to recommend it. There's first love, Celtic myth, lush descriptions of Irish locations, fun characters, snappy dialogue, suspense, etc. I could go on and on. Just a great story!

#### **Gizelle Iworth says**

Ashling Donoghue and her family are destined to get mixed up in the fantastical world of Ireland when they go on an adventure filled with myths and mystery.

I love any mythology and Judith Sterling integrated ancient Irish Mythology brilliantly into her novel. Although I am not an expert with all the lore, I loved learning more about it. Leprechauns, Unicorns, Fairies, the Otherworld and even ghosts. The book was informative and magical, as we learned all about Irish Mythology alongside Ashling.

I adored Ashling's character. She is strong, stubborn and she relies on her instincts. She has a deep love for her family. Most characters who cross her path can see how strong, and curious she is. Aengus is mysterious, and slowly Ashling helps Aengus open up to her and the reader. The Breasal family is one of intrigue and mystery, and I thoroughly enjoyed going on this adventure with Ashling to discover the Breasal family secrets, as well as its history, so old it has passed into legend. The book is vividly detailed and with all the mythological creatures, castles and beautiful scenery of Ireland I was left with a great sense of

#### Wanderlust.

Sterling set the book up brilliantly as the first in a series. It was a great introduction to all the characters. Each character grows so much during this book, revealing a lot about their personality and their place in this fantasy world. Straight from the beginning of the novel the reader gets the feeling that destiny plays a major role in the characters lives. The series name "Guardians of Erin" becomes significant at the end of the novel, and the ending is left open for the sequel novel to start off right where The Cauldron Stirred ends. When I ended the novel I had post- book depression, because Stirling cleverly left us wanting more. This adventure is just beginning and I can't wait to read the sequel, which I'm sure will be packed with adventure and more exciting mythology.

#### **Barry Moraller says**

It's a quick, fun book that reminded me of nothing so much as a Disney family movie watched on a rainy Saturday with my family combined with a teenage coming of age story.

#### Christine Grabowski says

As a mother always on the lookout for appropriate books for my 14-year old daughter, this one is great. Although the main character, Ashling, is 17, there isn't anything I would be concerned with in the book. The author does a good job of blending present day with Irish myth and the descriptions of otherworld, middleworld and netherworld were just plain cool. Also the setting descriptions were one of the strongest parts of the writing and made me want to travel to Ireland. If I had to say anything slightly critical, it was only that Ashling's family was a little too perfect which may not be relatable for all teens. I only wish my kids got along so well and loved their parents so dearly at all times. I would definitely pick up book 2 when it is released.

#### W.L. Brooks says

A quick and enjoyable YA read! Set in beautiful Ireland, this story is packed with descriptive scenery, mystery, ghosts, budding romance, and "otherworld" magic. I'm looking forward to returning to these characters in the next Guardians of Erin novel.

#### Galina Sulaiman says

Ashling is a teenage girl that's never had a boyfriend. She and her family travel to Ireland and end up on a mythical adventure. Loved the mythology of this book coming to life. Well written, full of creative characters. Very good book.