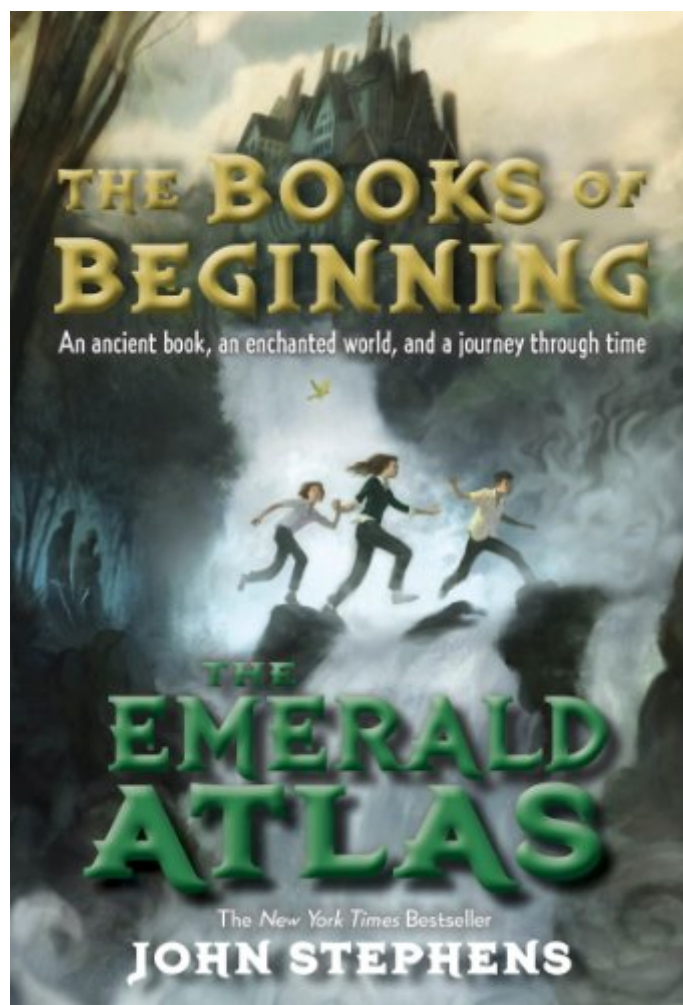


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The Emerald Atlas (Books Of Beginning Book 1)



Synopsis

"A strong . . . new trilogy, invoking just a little *Harry Potter* and *Series of Unfortunate Events* along the way." *Realms of Fantasy* Siblings Kate, Michael, and Emma have been in one orphanage after another for the last ten years, passed along like lost baggage. Yet these unwanted children are more remarkable than they could possibly imagine. Ripped from their parents as babies, they are being protected from a horrible evil of devastating power, an evil they know nothing about. Until now. Before long, Kate, Michael, and Emma are on a journey through time to dangerous and secret corners of the world . . . a journey of allies and enemies, of magic and mayhem. And if an ancient prophesy is true what they do can change history, and it's up to them to set things right." A new Narnia for the tween set. *The New York Times* "[A] fast-paced, fully imagined fantasy." *Publishers Weekly* "Echoes of other popular fantasy series, from *'Harry Potter'* to the *'Narnia'* books, are easily found, but debut author Stephens has created a new and appealing read . . ." *School Library Journal*, Starred Review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wanted to read *The Emerald Atlas* before I started to hear all the buzz about it, the buzz only moved it closer to the top of my list. Though the comparison to Harry Potter made by some reviewers is a little ostentatious, I found this to be a fabulous fantasy book for Middle Grade on up. While some young readers may be turned off by the filler after the prologue that establishes the characters and serves as plot exposition, if they know where this is headed, they will hang in there. I was reminded a little of C.S. Lewis, but I found John Stephens' writing style far more approachable and inviting. The world he's created is original and fascinating. It includes dwarves, elves, witches, wizards and a few creations of his own, like Screechers, which are deliciously scary. It combines a lot of my favorite themes magic and prophecies -and perhaps the best damned explanation of time travel I've ever read. John Stephens' characters, though slightly archetypal in nature, are warm and interesting. It is obvious the children are strongly bonded and self-reliant. It's heart breaking that Kate, the oldest sister, has become a mother figure to her siblings. You can just feel the girls' frustration with their dwarf obsessed brother, Michael, and the stress caused by Emma's thirst to prove, to herself and everyone else, that she can take care of herself, even if she is the youngest. Though there may occasionally be some dissention in the ranks they marshal around her and keep close. They may not have had an easy life, being bounced from orphanage to orphanage, but it seems to have prepared them for what lies ahead. I love the way these characters are written. It is obvious that Mr. Stephens writes for television; his story plays out in scenes and the reader often doesn't get to connect deeply with the character, especially when points of view shift. However, connections are forged anyway because the characters are so strong -you know them. As the series progresses, it would be wonderful to see him develop a relationship with his characters. John Stephens' *The Emerald Atlas* doesn't disappoint. Though sufficient closure was reached, there are still many questions left unanswered and I can't wait to read the rest of this series to find out more. I bought and read this as an e-book and have already ordered my hard cover copy because this one is a definite keeper.[...]

This review is for the Kindle edition ebook. Three children, ten years, too many orphanages to count. What wonders will they discover? Why did their parents abandon them? Will they ever see mom and dad again? This book is written in a manner that young readers will understand. The language and words will be easily understood. The story has enough twists and turns to hold the readers

attention and keep them reading. There were times when the story seemed to wander, as Kate thought about things. John Stephens always wanted to write books for children. In this book, he has succeeded. He has not only written a book for children, but he has written a book that could become a children's classic. I can easily recommend this book to children and teens. It may be the book that gets them hooked on reading. I will be reading more of this author's books.

I loved this book. I wish it had been around when I was a kid. Yes, it is reminiscent of other great children's classics (to me those include Narnia, The Hobbit, the Oz adventures) but I enjoyed all of those and I enjoyed "The Emerald Atlas." I thought the three siblings - Kate, Michael and Emma - were done well and acted like real siblings do, squabbling all the time with each other but ready to defend each other to the death against others. The secondary characters were especially well done. I didn't like all of them but I could surely visualize them and hear their voices in my head.

Hmmm...voices in my head - maybe I should be worried. I especially liked Dr. Pym, Gabriel, and the dwarves were great. There was plenty of action, scary monsters (might make this a little intense for readers under the age of 8 years old), scary people, adventure, magic, bravery, daring rescues. The book is well made with a beautifully illustrated dust cover. Quality paper with beveled edges for the book itself. Small black ink pictures at the beginning of each chapter. It is a book I will be keeping for my library (and future grandchildren) and I'm looking forward to the next books in the adventure.

I was browsing for books at a local library when I picked this up to read. I started it that evening and could NOT put it down! I had to get it for my kindle. The prologue was mysterious and chilling, the children's characters instantly likeable, and the whole story suspenseful. For his first attempt, John Stevens did a phenomenal job. His writing style is perfectly balanced and he thought through his plot and its mechanics very well. I'm not sure what the age recommendation is on this book...it doesn't really need one. I'm 18, but I still check the children's section for decent (if sometimes light) reading. This was much better than the stuff they publish as YA literature. The best way I can describe The Emerald Atlas is to compare it to the Narnia series and The Lord of the Rings - but not that Stevens is merely rehashing what has been done before...Atlas is completely original, while having the same elements that make Narnia and LOTR so popular. If you are a fan of good fantasy books, Atlas is perfect for you. Atlas is full of humor, donuts, adventure, time travel, friendship, and horror (although not too much, just enough to give you chills every once in a while). The beginning may start a little slowly for some readers, but once you are past the first five chapters - and arrive at Prof. Pym's "orphanage" - you are completely with the story. By the time Gabriel enters, you can't

put the book down, not that you would want to. By the end, you have no idea what will happen, and the last chapter is probably the best of all...Hurray for Kate, Michael, and Emma! Hurray for Professor Pym and the dwarves! And, of course, hurray for donuts!

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