



## The Gathering

*Isobelle Carmody*

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## **The Gathering** Isobelle Carmody

When Nat moves to Cheshunt, he hopes for a better life. However there is something wrong with the town, someone is controlling the population. Nat and his new friends feel compelled to oppose the strange power that dominates the place.

## **The Gathering Details**

Date : Published 2001 by Barn Owl Books (first published 1993)

ISBN : 9781903015094

Author : Isobelle Carmody

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## From Reader Review The Gathering for online ebook

### Elizabeth Newton says

*The Gathering* is the first book by Isobelle Carmody that I have read. I read it because I was teaching a year 11 English class who were studying it at the time. I had to finish it quickly so that I could be of assistance to the students in their analysis tasks and as it is a full length, small-text novel, I thought this would be a struggle. But it *wasn't*! I found it a real page turning book. Not only because of the nice short chapters, but also because of the way Carmody writes. There are some lines in there that I just ache over because I find myself wishing I had written that. I'm talking in terms of metaphors, mood and imagery. She really knows how to get you to see or smell or hear something vividly. The plot has been threaded together very well and the course of events is very interesting, opening up new mysteries for the reader in just about every chapter. There is a whisper of mysteries yet unanswered by the end and I'm not sure whether this is unsatisfying or just brilliant. I would now like to read more of Isobelle Carmody's novels. Yet another author for me, as a new author, to learn from.

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### Renee says

I want to like Isobelle Carmody, I do. I've read quite a few of her books. I and loved Obernywton. But then not the rest of the series so much. So I read this book, thinking it was a fairly short stand alone novel. But I still didn't like it that much. I mean it was OKAY, but not great or even good. And I'm a bit disappointed. I found the story very disjointed, as if things needed to be explained more, or there needed to be more background story. The thing with fantasy is to make a story believable, even though its fantasy. And I just didn't feel it. I'm sorry, I really really wanted to like it. Just the whole concept of the chain, the evil darkness and the objects of good or whatever, it was all very meh.

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### Emmie says

This book. There was something about that other books didn't have. It was strange very strange, I guess that was the something about it. I absolutely adore the character development and all their flaws. It made them relatable. I also really love the end of the book where Nate almost gave into the Kraken, but bounded back to save Seth and do the healing. In that moment when he said, "Nissa, we're the Chain," that moment you could just tell he had won. That was the moment when the darkness started to lose. I also loved how he had those dreams about the previous Chain. Those dreams were what ultimately lead to his victory.

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### Nicky says

I took this book on holiday with me one year (possibly 1996). As you can probably appreciate I could only take a limited number of books away with me, so it was especially galling when this one turned out to be completely shit. I could've packed two Sweet Valley High books for the suitcase room taken up by this thing.

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### **Emmajayne says**

No.

That's all I can say about this book.

No.

I'll make it quite clear I did not choose to read this book. My school did.

To me, Isobelle Carmody's 'The Gathering' was like that episode of NCIS that inspired a double murder. Literally, *that* bad.

All I can say is there was only one character I liked in this novel, he had four legs and a tail. And he died.

R.I.P. the Tod.

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### **Changjun Kim says**

A lot of people say they don't like this book but personally I thought it was a pretty good book because that all these things happened and it kept keeping me thinking the whole time. It was really sad at the end when the Tod was burned to death it made me hate the Buddha. I think the author put Tod as a guardian of Nathaniel but also the thing that would make him truly want to fight the Kraken.

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### **Lauren says**

Such a disappointment. Nathaniel is an annoying character. He's supposedly smart but he misses really obvious stuff. And the concept is stupid, slow moving and boring. It's like an idea for a short story that has been forcibly lengthened into a book.

And the most annoying thing about it was that because it's Isobelle Carmody and I know she's so clever it made me hang on all the way to the end. Waste. Of. Time.

Maybe... I would have enjoyed it more if I was a teenager, but I wouldn't really want a teenager reading it anyway. It tackles massive issues such as evil without ever really dealing with them. It kind of plays with horrible depressing themes for entertainment.

Really didn't like this one.

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### **Deb says**

This is the first book by Isobelle Carmody that I have read.

And I was not impressed.

I found the characters irritating, the story line too far strung out and much too dark for a young audience.

The darkness of the story was probably my biggest issue with The Gathering considering it's intended audience. There was a particular scene which was far too graphic and unnecessary, those of you who have read it will know to which one I am referring.

As a librarian I like to read wide and varied and books for all ages and audiences, but in my opinion, this one is definitely not one that I will be recommending to my young readers.

I will try another Isobelle Carmody book though - perhaps I just started with the exception. Every author has one!

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### **Lauren says**

THIS BOOK IS TERRIBLE. IT WAS A WASTE OF MY TIME. I wasn't expecting much since I had to read this for school. That's all I have to say.

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### **Julie says**

#### **SPOILER ALERT!**

This was a very good mid grade novel, filled with suspense, interesting and well-rounded characters, and a classic light-vs-dark plot. I was surprised by the violent demise of one of the main characters, but I have not read enough books in this genre to know whether this would be the norm/shocking to young readers.

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### **Rebecca says**

The idea of being an outsider in school has been done to death and done more skillfully than in this book. The idea of school being evil and some kind of gateway to hell has also been done and done better than in this book. The characters are all awkward young adults with a few twists to their personalities thrown in in order to create some facade of character depth. Not a fan.

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### **Jill Smith says**

Nathanial has moved yet again with his mother to a new town. Only this time he has a feeling of dread as they draw closer to Chestnut. It is a model town with crime almost eliminated from its streets but there is a sinister undercurrent in the town. The school Three North, looks like a concentration camp. The building is cold and the stench from the nearby slaughterhouse almost unbearable, although none of his fellow students or teachers seems to notice. Three North hides a terrible past where a teacher is burned to death and the Library destroyed. Nathanial decides to investigate this strange event as part of a history project. His mother has taken a job at the nearby towns nursing home and is always busy leaving him to fend for himself.

Nathanial likes comic books and his dog The Tod. Strangely three nights in a row he finds himself taking The Tod for a walk to the schoolyard, even though he finds on the first night he has broken 'curfew' by being out in the evening. They are drawn into a group fighting a terrible evil that pervades the town and is

growing stronger. His group of teenage friends find themselves opposing a supernatural enemy who resides in the body Mr Karle the School Principal.

The book is divided into segments as the chapters relate to the events that occur in Natania's life. One – The Choosing, Two – The Gathering, Three – The Forging and Four – The Binding, all revolve around the group chosen by Lallie a gaunt fragile girl who uttered their instructions as to how to fight the enemy. Nissa her friend that lived in the attic of the school library, Danny the school bully, Indian a big lad who rebelled against the school system and Seth Paul who was the local Police Chiefs son.

The evil is palpable sending shivers up your spine as you turn the pages wondering what could happen next. This group of teenagers seem to have to fight a darkness that threatens to take over Chestnut then the surrounding towns. Natania finds himself the eye of the group seeing how they can overcome the evil and triumph. The conclusion is very satisfactory as he also learns the reason his mother has moved from town to town since his fathers death and begins to understand the trauma of a life in constant fear, and be able to help recover from it.

The Gathering is a joint winner of 'The Children's Book Council of Australia' 1994 Book of the Year Award winner for older readers as well as joint winner of the thirtieth Children's Peace Literature Prize in 1993.

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### **Tulsi says**

An incredibly dark tale about young adults in, I'm assuming, and Australian town. It verges on the supernatural, and to me at least, seem to talk about personal strength and individual power against the majority. Multi-layered and complex, this is a story for a very mature teenager.

I read this as a kid, and was spell bound.

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### **Dar says**

I remember reading this book back in High School so many years ago & really loving it. Don't most of us feel like the 'outsider' in High School? I think a lot of teens could relate to it.

After seeing it pop up again on a friend's list I think I'll give it a re-read! I really like Isobelle Carmody's writing style, but have not thought to read any of her books since school, I think it's time to track some down.

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### **Vanshi says**

PSA: Do not read this book. Never. Ever.

Burn this book like The Tod was burnt

