



2005

Across the Wall

Gillian Streeter

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Nix, Garth. *Across the Wall*. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060747145. \$16.99. 320 pp.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Occult fiction; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Fantasy--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Nix is best known for his *Old Kingdom* books, namely *Sabriel*, *Lirael*, and *Abhorsen*. While readers of the short stories contained in *Across the Wall* will see Nix's signature gothic style, they will also be pleasantly surprised by the humorous "My Really Epic New Fantasy Series" and touched by the gentle sentimentality of "Three Roses." The *Old Kingdom* makes an appearance in "Nicholas Sayre and the Creature in the Case," but this novella-length short story reads more like a Hitchcock spy film than a fantasy piece. Each story in the collection is preceded by a short introduction, written by Nix, which gives the story's background. This book is recommended for high school aged readers only, as some of the content would frighten and upset younger readers. A must-read for fantasy readers, and a thoughtful insight into Nix as an author.