



2006

### Twilight Child

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Warner, Sally. *Twilight Child*. Viking, 2006. ISBN 0670060763. \$17.99. 304 pp.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Fairies--Juvenile fiction; Finland--History--18th century--Juvenile fiction; Scotland--History--18th century--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Eleni was born at twilight on the longest day of the year, and, according to Finland's ancient lore, this means she can see other in-between things: spirits and fairies, who recognize her as honorary kin. They guide her through her life and its many challenges: her father's disappearance after the war resistance, his sudden reappearance and her mother's death, and Eleni's subsequent kidnapping. Her father is taking her to Spain when she escapes his ship to the Scottish town of Tobermory. There she is cared for by Mrs. Dundonald and the girls who stay at her home. But the unwelcome attention of Col Hardie and the sudden appearance of her childhood friend Mathias, prove that Eleni's troubles--and travels--are far from over.

While imaginative, Warner's story seems to have many small conflicts rather than one main plot arc. The ending is pleasantly dramatic, but abrupt, and feels unfinished. Warner gives more information with some background research and historical facts at the end of the story, along with a pronunciation guide for Swedish, Finnish, Scottish, and other words used in the book. Readers will certainly enjoy Warner's inventive writing style, the insight into multiple cultures (and the frequent use of many languages in the text), and the strange creatures Eleni meets, but may be frustrated with the sudden ending.