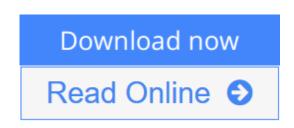


The Dickens Mirror: Book Two of The Dark Passages

By Ilsa J. Bick



The Dickens Mirror: Book Two of The Dark Passages By Ilsa J. Bick

Critically acclaimed author of The Ashes Trilogy, Ilsa J. Bick takes her new Dark Passages series to an alternative Victorian London where Emma Lindsay continues to wade through blurred realities now that she has lost everything: her way, her reality, her friends. In this London, Emma will find alternative versions of her friends from the White Space and even Arthur Conan Doyle.

Emma Lindsay finds herself with nowhere to go, no place to call home. Her friends are dead. Eric, the perfect boy she wrote into being, and his brother, Casey, are lost to the Dark Passages. With no way of knowing where she belongs, she commands the cynosure, a beacon and lens that allows for safe passage between the Many Worlds, to put her where she might find her friends-find Eric--again. What she never anticipated was waking up in the body of Little Lizzie, all grown up--or that, in this alternative London, Elizabeth McDermott is mad.

In this London, Tony and Rima are "rats," teens who gather the dead to be used for fuel. Their friend, Bode, is an attendant at Bedlam, where Elizabeth has been committed after being rescued by Arthur Conan Doyle, a drug-addicted constable.

Tormented by the voices of all the many characters based on her, all Elizabeth wants is to get rid of the pieces under her skin once and for all. While professing to treat Elizabeth, her physician, Dr. Kramer, has actually drugged her to allow Emma--who's blinked to this London before--to emerge as the dominant personality . . . because Kramer has plans. Elizabeth is the key to finding and accessing the Dickens Mirror.

But Elizabeth is dying, and if Emma can't find a way out, everyone as they exist in this London, as well as the twelve-year-old version of herself and the shadows--what remains of Eric, Casey, and Rima that she pulled with her from the Dark Passages--will die with her.

Releases simlutaneously in electronic book format (978-1-60684-422-9)

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—This follow-up to Bick's chilly, multilayered psychological horror novel White Space (Egmont USA, 2014) moves most of the action to a fog-bound and filthy Victorian London insane asylum. With food scarce and time running out, reality is chancy and remade all the time, accidentally and on purpose. The fabric of time and personhood seem to be slowly crumbling, as characters face multiple versions of themselves and their memories, desperately trying to align a multiverse of malevolent fears, dangers, and manipulators. A bold and exciting premise, but in execution this work doesn't hold up, despite a welcome infiltration by none other than a version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, complete with a talking Black Dog tattooed his right bicep. It's difficult to sustain much engagement or sympathy with the characters, especially when many of them are just facets of one another. There are some satisfactory resolutions, but where White Space used frustration and tedium to maintain tension, here the plot is so convoluted that most of the tension drains out.—Katya Schapiro, Brooklyn Public Library

About the Author

Ilsa J. Bick is a child psychiatrist, film scholar, former Air Force major, and now a full-time author. Her critically acclaimed, award-winning YA novels include The Ashes Trilogy, *Draw the Dark, Drowning Instinct*, and *The Sin-Eater's Confession*. Ilsa currently lives in rural Wisconsin, near a Hebrew cemetery. One thing she loves about the neighbors: they're very quiet and only come around for sugar once in a blue moon.

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Lawrence Weatherby:

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