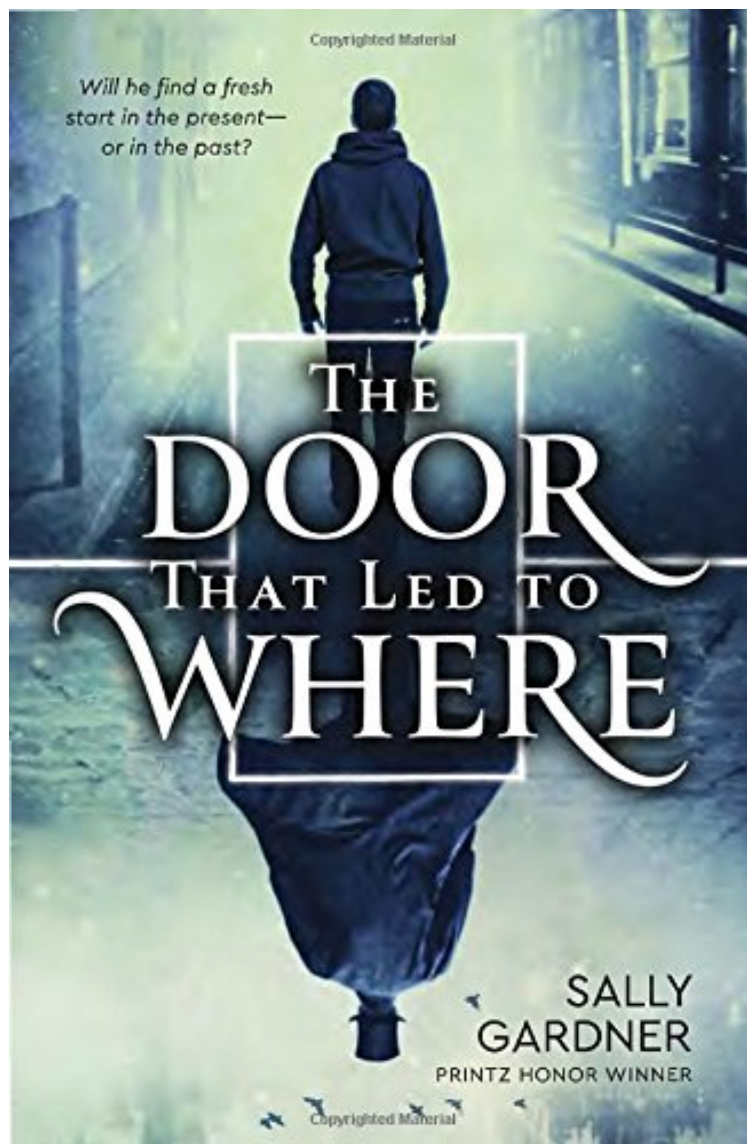


(Ebook pdf) The Door That Led to Where

The Door That Led to Where

Sally Gardner

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#152616 in Books Gardner Sally 2016-11-08 2016-11-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .93 x 5.751, .93 #File Name: 0399549978288 pagesThe Door That Led to Where | File size: 32.Mb

Sally Gardner : The Door That Led to Where before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Door That Led to Where:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "On Which Side Do You Belong ...In the Past or In the Future ..."By delicateflower152Imagine your confusion were you to time-travel from current day London to the London of the early 19th century. Imagine the disoriented state in which you would find yourself were you taken from that era to the present. Now imagine "The Door That Led to Where" and the confusion you might feel as Sally Gardner's

narrative jumps in a disjointed fashion between those periods. While I found some of Ms Flynn's phrasing vividly picturesque, the story was not nearly as engaging. AJ Flynn is a near-do-well teen, living in a three-bedroom London flat with his mother, half-sister, and stepfather. When his mother hands him a letter, from the law firm of Baldwin Groat, his adventure begins. Hired as a baby clerk, AJ learns his name is really Aiden Jobey. An assignment to sort out files in the Museum – the firm's archives – leads to some startling discoveries about Aiden's father and some significant changes in his life and in those of his two closest friends, Slim and Leon. Throughout "The Door That Led to Where", the descriptive phrasing remained its strongest feature. Aiden imagined his mother "...as the monster from the depths ...a red reptile with a poison tongue ..." His stepfather was "...a huge, blancmange slug ...who left a slimy trail of beer cans ..." Watching businessmen arrive for work, AJ thinks of them as "...fancy-pants ants with umbrellas and suits ..." His astute assessment of Mr. Baldwin, who kept a photo of himself on his desk, was classic. "...it was to remind him who he was ...a man who took himself very seriously ..." Characters, with the exception of Elsie Tapper and Slim were not especially appealing or relatable. The unexpected development of these two individuals was pleasant and deserved greater attention. The opportunity for involving social and economic issues - Aiden's abusive stepfather, the gang-related problems encountered by Aiden and his two friends, and the nefarious dealings of the lawyers at Baldwin Groat - were not exploited as fully as they could have been. The third person narrative did little to strengthen the story; a first person narrative might have made the novel more engaging. "The Door That Led to Where" is a confusing, less than appealing novel. Targeted at readers age 12-years and older, I do not believe the book will engage them any more than it did me. At best, an average book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a cool book - that got a little odd and predictable about 3/4 of the way through... By Jill-Elizabeth (Jill Franclemont) What a cool book - that got a little odd and predictable about 3/4 of the way through... I am vastly intrigued by the major ideas of this book: time travel and doors to other worlds. Combining the two was a delight for me - and the addition of richly described characters and a London setting meant that the book would have had to work pretty hard to turn me off. I raced through the vast majority of the book, thoroughly engrossed in AJ's tale - then suddenly it felt like I was missing something and I found myself flipping back and forth to see what happened. It felt like the book rather abruptly took a turn into end-mode - like a deadline had hit and everything had to be tidied up for delivery, with no more time for the meandering story development that I had been enjoying so much up to that point... It wasn't bad, just abrupt. And rather tidily tied together in the end. Honestly, for a while it seemed like there'd HAVE to be a sequel; then it felt like the decision was made to keep it a stand alone, and so all the loose bits were bobbed together with undue haste. It's still a very enjoyable book; had the ending kept pace with the beginning/middle, it would have been a FANTASTIC one... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantasy Mystery With a Side of Social Commentary By Kevin L. Nenstiel Young AJ Flynn has flunked almost all his GCSE exams. In a British meritocracy that values official credentials, that renders him functionally unemployable—before he's even turned 17. Post-industrial Britain doesn't value his love of solitude and contemplation, his fondness for Victorian literature and pre-modern history. But a fluke job interview leads AJ to his long-denied inheritance, including a mysterious door into pre-Victorian London. He also finally discovers his name. On first face, award-winning British YA novelist Sally Gardner's latest novel pinches elements of Harry Potter, Doctor Who, and Sherlock Holmes into a fantasy thriller for older youth and young adults. But themes slowly emerge subtly criticising Britain's meritocracy, and "skills drillz"-based education everywhere. Young AJ occupies a Britain where he's unqualified for adulthood, but childhood diversions are costly when you're poor in one of Earth's most expensive cities. Britain's exam system pigeonholes students into career paths and avocational opportunities at an absurdly young age. The demand that AJ know his desires and calling at age 16 is anachronistically quaint. Maybe that's why AJ stumbles accidentally into smoggy, cobblestoned historic London, because it's important he views an era where he's already considered a man. AJ flits between eras, seeking a time and place where he feels a sense of belonging. In that pre-modern time, AJ witnesses a culture where science is rudimentary, technology is unreliable, and "madness" is a cultural disease more feared than cholera. He meets a winsome lass as dissatisfied with her own time as he is with his. But the vagaries of pre-Victorian inheritance law, and a long history of conveniently mysterious deaths, threatens Miss Esme's sanity and freedom. AJ brings modern skills to defend his anachronistic love. But in his present, AJ also struggles with 21st Century problems: London's pervasive poverty, and his mates' mutual lack of skills, lead to Trainspotting-like struggles with nihilism and identity. AJ's friends Slim and Leon have run-ins with rotten, disreputable characters, and both need to hide. Regency London seems convenient, but that world proves even better than useful. The low-tech city gives two boys with simple manual trade skills a world where they can flourish. Seriously. Slim quickly ingratiates himself with lucrative trading partners because he has a skill both rare and valuable: he can boil tea. The social criticism is blatant. Modern London de-values simple skills, giving unaccountable wealth to bankers, barristers, and other brainpower workers. Young adults who simply make stuff belong to another time. One simple fluke, politely unexplained because "why" doesn't matter, shows them a world where their lives mean something. Is this therefore an innate criticism of Britain's education system? And by extension a rote memorization school system, regardless of nation? Gardner tacitly rejects Common Core and STEM movements, just in how the characters relate to their work and skills. Simply knowing how to filter water makes unemployable teens suddenly valuable. In a time when simple mechanical skills matter, being

young isn't a disadvantage. How old is a 17-year-old boy? Is age based on anything internal, or does it derive from culture? At that age, teens seek their adult roles, and in a time defined by manual trades and other limitations, maybe 17 really is mature and grown. We're at our peak physical ability. But in an age defined by mental skills, when accumulated knowledge and skills matters more, 17 is too young to know ourselves, much less our place in the world. But there's a trade-off. Like many teens, AJ considers himself as a man out of time, but when he encounters the time with which he feels most comfortable, it doesn't value the mental skills he brings. The constant evolution of labor markets has trended away from manual trades: what Slim knows how to do, and revolutionizes London doing, is done today by machines. Slim can't survive in a brain economy. Notwithstanding his scores, AJ hypothetically can. The very exams that circumscribe AJ, and define his combative relationship with his very angry mother, supposedly channel people into brain jobs. But the attitudes reflect a pre-Victorian, mechanically skilled attitude of what it means to be adult. What constitutes "merit" is decided by bureaucrats structurally out of touch with modernity and its needs. Modern and pre-modern circumstances which metaphorically co-exist within the exam system, literally co-exist in AJ himself. This book was warmly received when first released in Britain nearly two years ago. Advance responses to its American release, however, have been merely lukewarm. Maybe AJ's culture clash is too inherently British to travel internationally. Maybe this book mainly attracts Anglophiles like me. But I think there's something universal happening here. I believe, with time, this book will find its audience, and its message will resonate, regardless of nationality.

In this fast-paced young adult mystery, Printz Honor winner Sally Gardner brings London to life as she explores crime, poverty, and ignorance over the span of almost two centuries, as a young man is given the opportunity to go back in time in order to make sense of the present. A fresh start is what he needs. Will he find it in the past or the present? AJ Flynn has just failed all but one of his major exams, and at almost seventeen years old, he sees a future that's far from rosy. So when he's offered a junior clerk position at a London law firm, he hopes his life is about to change—and it does, but he could never have imagined how much. While on the job, AJ finds an old key labeled with his birth date, and he's determined to find the door it will open. When he does just that, AJ and his group of scrappy friends begin a series of amazing journeys to the past—1830, to be exact. And they quickly realize that hardship, treachery, and love haven't changed too much in almost two hundred years. When they discover a crime that only they can solve, the boys go from wayward youths to intrepid young men with a purpose in life. But with enemies all around, can they unravel the mysteries of the past before the past unravels them?

From School Library Journal Gr 7 Up—AJ Flynn is a typical underachiever. He has failed all but one of his final exams, and now that he is 17, his future seems grim. Despite his less than stellar academic career, AJ lands an interview with a prestigious London law firm thanks to his mother's connections. Once he is hired, AJ finds a key that opens a door to the past—1830 London. During his journey between worlds, AJ has a decision to make. Should he stay in the present or start a new life in the past? Gardner creates a world where a door that connects the present to the past seems believable. She anchors each version of the city using the appropriate landmarks of London, past and present. The characters feel universal, and many teens will be able to connect to their hopes and dreams. The pacing and plot development are seamless, which adds to the story's easy readability. VERDICT Recommended for general purchase for YA collections.—Jeni Tahaney, Duncanville High School Library, TX "Skillfully blending time travel, intrigue, and social commentary, Gardner (*Maggot Moon*) delivers a thought-provoking page-turner."--Publishers Weekly "The characters feel universal, and many teens will . . . connect to their hopes and dreams."--SLJ "A genre-blending novel with elements of contemporary realism, fantasy, historical fiction, murder mystery, and romance. An original time-travel novel."--Booklist "Gardner's prose, peppered with colorful metaphors and period language, moves the plot along quickly, sketching out a pungent, vivid world in both present and past."--Horn Book Magazine "The . . . time-travel mystery has verve."--Kirkus s About the Author SALLY GARDNER is a multi-award-winning novelist whose *Maggot Moon* was a Michael L. Printz Honor Book and in the UK won both the Costa Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Medal. Gardner's genre-defying novel *The Double Shadow* received great critical acclaim and was long-listed for the Carnegie Medal. *The Red Necklace* (shortlisted for the Guardian Book Prize) and *The Silver Blade* are set during the French Revolution; the film rights for both have been purchased by Dominic West. Gardner also won the Nestlé Children's Book Prize for her debut novel, *I, Coriander*. She is the author of the popular middle grade detective series *Wings Co*. Visit her online at sallygardner.net and follow @TheSallyGardner on Twitter.