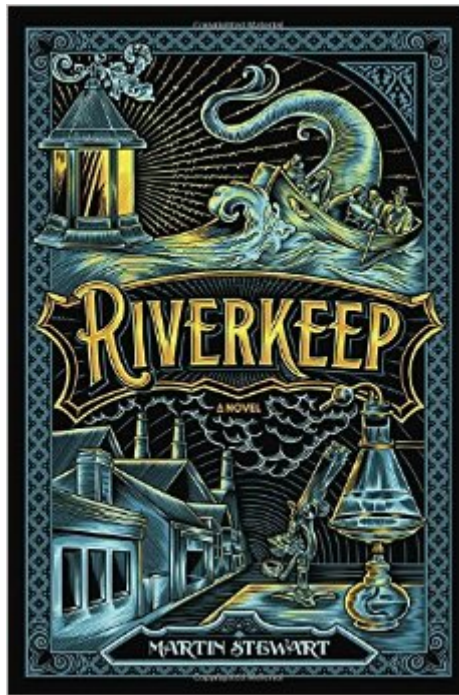


The book was found

# Riverkeep



## Synopsis

A stunning debut perfect for fans of Patrick Ness and Neil Gaiman! The DanŒk is a wild, treacherous river, and the Fobisher family has tended it for generationsŒ clearing it of ice and weed, making sure boats can get through, and fishing corpses from its bleak depths. WulliamŒs father, the current Riverkeep, is proud of this work. Wull dreads it. And in one week, when he comes of age, he will have to take over. Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Then the unthinkable happens. While recovering a drowned man, WullŒs father is pulled underŒ and when he emerges, he is no longer himself. A dark spirit possesses him, devouring him from the inside. In an instant, Wull is Riverkeep. And he must care for his father, too. Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ When he hears that a cure for his father lurks in the belly of a great sea-dwelling beast known as the mormorach, he embarks on an epic journey down the river that his family has so long protectedŒ but never explored. Along the way, he faces death in any number of ways, meets people and creatures touched by magic and madness and alchemy, and finds courage he never knew he possessed. Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ Œ

Martin StewartŒs debut novel is an astonishing blend of the literary, the comedic, and the emotionally resonant. In a sentence, itŒs The Wizard of Oz as told by Patrick Ness. It marks the beginning of a remarkable career.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 416 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers (July 26, 2016)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1101998298

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.3 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 starsŒ Œ See all reviewsŒ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #218,919 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 inŒ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Stepfamilies #60 inŒ Books > ChildrenŒs Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies #305 inŒ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Riverkeep looked like a unique epic fantasy: magic, monsters, a hero's journey which takes place on the water. While the book is loaded with the fantastical, it has its ups and downs. On the freezing waters of the Danek river, Wulliam and his papa, the Riverkeep, keep the river clear for travelers. When his father is overtaken by a parasitic creature, Wulliam, who's never left home and had no other human contact besides his father and the local mortician, decides to go on a quest to save him. The cure may lie in the body of a mythical sea beast. Crazy as it may sound, this idea had me, hook, line, and sinker. (Pun intended.) The world building is cinematic. From the ice-thick river to the grimy, dangerous towns in the world of Oracco, I couldn't help wondering what Riverkeep would look like as a movie. It's broad in scope, tackling several plots and weaving them into a truly epic story. Usually I shy away from comparisons to other authors, but I could feel the Neil Gaiman and Patrick Ness vibes from the book's blurb. Martin Stewart's writing is fluid and poetic. His take on how magic works in Riverkeep's world was fascinating; the details were well thought out. There's also an overall humor in the story in spite of its not-for-the-faint-of-heart imagery of gore and violence. We are even given glimpses of the sea beast's point of view. While on his quest, Wull reluctantly helps an eclectic cast of characters: a stowaway called Mix, a young woman named Remedie who has a strange baby, and the standout being a man called Tillinghast. He has a strange past, and he's strange himself, but he's bawdy and funny. Wull, while a sympathetic character, could get whiny, BUT when he had to fight, he was ready and capable of doing so.

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