



Stardust

by Neil Gaiman

Published 1999
235 pages
Mythopoeic
Award

Plot Summary

First Line: "There once was a young man who wished to gain his Heart's Desire."

Stardust covers the journeyings of one Tristran Thorn. Born of a short liaison between his father, a citizen of Wall, England, and his mother, a citizen of Faerie, Tristran has never really fit in. In love with Victoria Forester, he promises to fetch her a fallen star in return for his heart's desire. Tristran crosses the wall into Faerie and becomes part of a race to find the fallen star. Other star-seekers include the Lilim, a witch coven that needs a star's heart to become young again, and the Stormhold family, which must find the star to retrieve their birthright, the Power of Stormhold. Along the way, Tristran has many adventures and comes to find his heart's desire.

Characters

Tristran Thorn
Dunstan Thorn & Daisy Hempstock
Victoria Forester
Yvaine
The Stormhold Family
The Lilim
Captain Johannes Alberic

Setting

Wall, England
Faerie

Point of View

Third person

Author Info

Neil Gaiman is the author of numerous works in a variety of mediums including short stories, novels, graphic novels, comics, song lyrics, and films. His most notable works include *The Sandman* comic series, *Stardust*, *Coraline*, and *American Gods*. Born and raised in England, he now lives with his wife and three children in Minnesota.

Related Websites

[Neil Gaiman](http://www.neilgaiman.com) www.neilgaiman.com
[Neil Gaiman's Journal](http://www.journal.neilgaiman.com) www.journal.neilgaiman.com
[Stardust](http://www.neilgaiman.com/works/Books/Stardust) www.neilgaiman.com/works/Books/Stardust
[Stardust the Movie](http://www.stardustmovie.com) www.stardustmovie.com

Discussion Questions

- What traditional fairy tales and nursery rhymes does *Stardust* reference, and how do they affect the story?
- Have the fairy tales and nursery rhymes been given a new twist? How does this story underscore the underlying darkness in many such tales?
- *Stardust* has been described as a fairy tale for adults. Do you think that is an accurate statement?

