



Edge Chronicles 1: Beyond the Deepwoods (The Edge Chronicles)

By Paul Stewart

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Edge Chronicles 1: Beyond the Deepwoods (The Edge Chronicles) By Paul Stewart

Young Twig lives in the Deepwoods, among the Woodtrolls, but he isn't one of them. In a brave attempt to find out where he belongs, Twig wanders into the mysterious, dangerous world beyond the Deepwoods. He meets a collection of odd companions, such as his wise guardian, the Caterbird; the Slaughterers, a peaceful race who butcher animals for their livelihood; and the vicious, bile-swilling Rotsucker. Always watching out for the horrible Gloamglozer, whose presence haunts the thoughts of all the inhabitants of The Edge, Twig steadfastly pursues his quest until he discovers his roots, not among the trees, but in the skies. . . .

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Edge Chronicles 1: Beyond the Deepwoods (The Edge Chronicles) By Paul Stewart Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #106020 in Books
- Brand: David Fickling Books
- Published on: 2004-06-22
- Released on: 2004-06-22
- Format: Deckle Edge
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.81" h x .93" w x 5.19" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The U.S. gets a tremendous treat with the introduction of the *Edge Chronicles*, a fantastic boy-meets-world saga from British author-illustrator team Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell.

An un-traditional coming-of-age story, the *Edge Chronicles* begins with *Beyond the Deepwoods*, in which our put-upon protagonist, Twig (a misplaced human boy who's being raised by woodtrolls) gets a hint of his true heritage, sheds his Deepwoods upbringing, and does the unthinkable: He strays from the path. Alone for the first time and surviving by his wits, Twig must surmount all manner of perils to pursue a destiny that is whisperingly, mysteriously promised to him "beyond the Deepwoods." From one frying pan to the next (but never quite into the fire) Twig either bests or befriends a ferocious, Carroll-esque menagerie of Deepwoods denizens--from foul-mouthed halitoads and red-faced slaughterers to galumphing banderbears and piranha-Tibble wig-wigs.

Paul Stewart lays the foundation for some pretty terrific storytelling in this first book--only hinting at what lies ahead in this world where rocks float and sky pirates ride the sky above--but the contribution of illustrator Chris Riddell can't be overstated. Whether in the jowly cheeks of the gyle goblins' Grossmother or the menacing gaze of the supra-evil Gloazgomer, Riddell (an accomplished political cartoonist) manages to match Stewart's descriptions blow-for-blow in evocative pen-and-ink. Grownups and kids alike will rush to the store to pick up the second adventure, the tantalizingly titled *Stormchaser*. (Ages 9 to 12) --Paul Hughes

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-6. The first volume in the Edge Chronicles series, which is set in a well-articulated world called the Edge, tells the story of a boy named Twig, from his childhood through his first adventures as a sky pirate. Twig, who learns that the woodtrolls who raised him are his foster parents and that he was abandoned as an infant, leaves the only home he knows and sets off through the Deepwoods to find his destiny. Along the way he makes a few friends, encounters many strange and dangerous creatures, and endures a long series of trials, triumphs, and misfortunes before locating his birth father, the captain of a sky pirate ship. Some children may eventually tire of Twig's ongoing encounters with strange creatures, such as the spindlebugs and the terrible gloamglozen, but those with hearty appetites for adventure (and strong stomachs) will find this a tremendously exciting fantasy. Riddell's wonderfully detailed ink drawings, on nearly every page, create a strong sense of the believable, well-imagined otherworld and bring its strange creatures to life. An inventive, promising start to a series originally published in Britain. Carolyn Phelan

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Review

PRAISE FOR THE EDGE CHRONICLES:

"Sure to please the Potter fans."

—Detroit Free Press

"The narrative will cast a spell over readers from the beginning with its utterly odd, off-kilter sense of logic and a vocabulary that is equal parts Dr. Seuss and Lewis Carroll."

—Publishers Weekly

"Good fun." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Stunningly original."—*The Guardian* (UK)

"A richly inventive fantasy . . . one of the most exciting collaborations between a writer and illustrator for a long time."—*The Literary Review* (UK)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Margert Lewis:

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Bethany Zuniga:

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