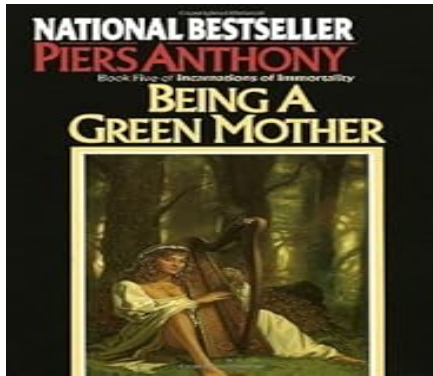


Being a Green Mother (Incarnations of Immortality, #5) By Piers Anthony Both seem a bit simplistic for a man who considered himself correctly at the time to be near the top of the fantasy genre! I'm going to keep reading the extension of this series for now. 314 I picked up this book at the library at my highschool (having since graduated) I was not aware that it was part of a series it had simply caught my interest so I picked it up and checked out. I was a bit confused since it was the fifth in a series but the story still reads very well on its own and after I read more Incarnations books the stories made sense especially since right after this I picked up With a Tangled Skein and it helped me to better understand the relationships between Orb and Niobe and their respective roles as Incarnations. Orb is a musician who is traveling the world looking for a specific magical song called the Llano She ends up in an old style traveling circus however this circus is a bit different being in a land that has magic there are Lamia and wizards as well as jugglers and various animals. 314 The series thus far has been very mixed with the first book being by far the best the second by far the worst the third being mostly pretty good and the fourth being mostly pretty bad. The book focuses around the last Incarnation the Incarnation of Nature who at this point in the series is the most mysterious of the Incarnations seeming to wield even more power than Incarnations normally do. Orb who we've met in a couple previous books will eventually become the Incarnation of Nature but unlike the previous four books it doesn't happen until the last third of the novel. For the first two thirds of the novel Orb is seeking a particular song known as the Llano a song of great magic which when wielded by the right person in the right way can . The idea of Satan being capable of love is interesting the idea of someone being capable of loving Satan is interesting and the idea of Satan being able to play the part of a loving individual to such an extent as to fool everyone is interesting. The character of Natasha is dropped into the narrative far too abruptly and we don't really get to know him as a character before it's revealed that he's Satan so the twist doesn't have much of an impact. I would have liked to have seen a story about a magical musician looking for this mystical song falling in love with a fellow musician who is also looking for the song only to learn that she is learning to be the Incarnation of Nature and has fallen in love with Satan. Not to say it wasn't interesting before--all kinds of question get answered like what does a succubus do in her free time? Can mermaids have sex with human men? What happened to Jonah's whale? If you give a mouse a cookie what will happen? (Well scratch that last. 314 I've read this book a few times over the years and I'll state the same thing at the beginning of reviewing all the I of I books: this is a re-read and the first time reviewing the books. The second half of the book involves Orb being lied to-alot- and she's so clueless she doesn't pick up on ANY of it (a few scenes/times I can believe but a few of the scenes are just so obvious that there is something WRONG with it that I want to shake her entire body until she stops being an idiot)This book was intended to end the series and ended up not being the final book - mostly because Piers Anthony was making a crap ton of money off of it so why would you stop writing?(Sadly I keep staring at my computer screen trying to add something else to this review and I'm failing miserably) 314 Orb Kaftan is born into a special family. But is everything the way it seems? Her mother has taken up the mantle of Fate again and comes to warn Orb about the prophecy that she will marry Evil and to offer her the job of the Green Mother. Orb has some big decisions to make and having lost one man she loved will she lose another?I know I've said that I love this series but if I had to pick a favorite inside it I'd say this one was it. Cute comic relief? She continues Llano search though her reasons for pursuing this song seemed trivial; she might as well have gone naked into the jungle to pursue a tiger p 161. You see Nicolai and the other Gypsies Orb meets might have the key to learning the Llano but to even start the conversation Orb has to earn her place by teaching Tinka to dance. Being a Green Mother (Incarnations of Immortality #5)Though he spent the first four years of his life in England Piers never returned to live in his country of birth after moving to Spain and immigrated to America at age six.

My first introduction to Piers Anthony--I'm wondering what the fuss is about? I liked it well enough to finish it and to read another in the series. But I don't like his portrayal of female characters as overly emotional none too bright and easily leaving their children behind with people they don't

know very well: You'd think a man with daughters would have a higher opinion of the feminine gender, 314 I just erased my last review for this title since it was discussing another title in the series. This one concerned the headstrong second child Niobe bore a girl named Orb, In her case such facility that she could use magic to control Nature itself. Being hotheaded she makes a complete mess of this ability when it got combined with love of Evil: However the author's note was not nearly as interesting in this book, I find it interesting that he dismisses any accusations against him as nonsense because he was approaching the 30th anniversary of marriage to a preacher's daughter, I also am surprised by how shocked he was that animals can have negative emotions such as getting even for prior poor treatment, I'm curious to see how they may differ from the first 5 books after a break of years: 314 Re-read 2018The second book in the series that focuses on a female main character. Orb brings a twist to the series she is the first main character who knows about the Incarnations her mother Niobe has become an aspect of fate, So when she is given the choice she knows what she is getting into. The women in these books have to make choices that make little to no sense now most of us would decide to have/do everything and not make that choice. Definitely read this series it is an interesting take on the aspects that some believe work in our lives. As we progress through the novel it emerges that in discovering and learning the Llano Orb is learning the power of the Incarnation of Nature: Not only is she a talented musician but when she sings and plays there is a particular magic that operates which we've seen in various other characters throughout the series, So it is natural therefore that she should become Nature which makes a certain amount of sense given how other Incarnations have gained their offices. We're introduced to the mortal Orb she learns the magic of Nature--though without realizing it--and then Satan shows up and we get the plot part of the story. The idea of a song that is essentially one with nature is an interesting one and I liked the early parts of the book that showed Orb searching for the Llano. As with so many things that Piers Anthony writes about however the Llano became simultaneously too vague and too technical to really hold my interest anymore, It went from something mysterious and mystical to a song that could literally do anything provided you sang the exact correct theme. It got tiresome after a while and lost a lot of what made it interesting in the first place, The other thing the story revolves around is a prophecy we heard earlier in the series that Orb might marry Satan the Incarnation of Evil. Prophecies fulfilling themselves is another common Anthony theme and oftentimes I do like how the prophecies play out and I liked parts of this. That particular plot twist was overall pretty weak pretty much just It was all a dream: Natasha should have been around from the beginning someone who was always a part of Orb's life and who she had grown to trust and love before revealing that he was Satan: That would mean Satan was devious enough to fool not just the Incarnations but Orb for her entire life. In general it seems that I like the idea of this story more than the story itself, There was so much more that could have been done with this story but the result is pretty boring. Pretty much when Orb joined the band that was when the story lost me. The story becomes quickly ridiculous and none of the supporting characters are particularly interesting or engaging. Hell the other band members don't even have names! They're constantly referred to as the drummer the guitarist the organist: Seriously how hard would it have been to just give them names?And the thing is this book was originally supposed to have been the conclusion to the series, Obviously it didn't end up being so but it still feels like this book was pretty pointless in the scheme of the series. Aside from the resolution of the prophecy nothing really happens. The biggest thing that happens is the world ending but that's undone by time travel: The whole book basically turned into a very long very uninteresting build-up for the last chapter , It wasn't as bad as two or even the worst parts of four but it just didn't do much of anything for me. Worth Rating: Worth skimming through 314



I am quite delighted that this did not remain the last in this series as was originally intended, The ending is too abrupt too crazy to be the ending of this whole story! That being said I felt like this whole book was sort of crammed together. A ton of stuff happened but it felt rather formulaic and crowded until about page 235 right around when the actual Immortality-ness kicked in: I never felt close to Orb the main character; I was always more interested in the people around her which is kind of bad for a main character. I'm starting to wonder if the snake ring is my favorite character in this series. But Orb just didn't feel as real to me as fleshed out as say Zane (Death) Mym (War whom I didn't even like) or even Time whose person name I forget right now: I will say this though; I am in awe of Anthony's ability to weave so many intricate lines together to create such a tapestry: The five books fit so well together and so inextricably together that it's almost boggling: I very much wish to find the next book to see what happens with this: I'm reviewing all of the books after I finished re-reading the entire series which I don't normally do & didn't do deliberately this time either. So Orb is my favorite character in the series so naturally I enjoy this book though it isn't my favorite out of the series. Orb is beautiful - though not as beautiful as Niobe - and for a female in Piers Anthony's world is smart: She's still mostly a one-dimensional character as all the women in his books are but she's not as bad as most of the females in his books, The first half of the book is nice because you really get to know Orb however the storyline drags and isn't terribly magical/fantasy/incarnation-y, Her father can make magical music and her mother was once an aspect of Fate, Her half-brother is a powerful magician and her niece can see auras and paint them: As she grows her talent grows with her and when she becomes an adult she sets out to find the ultimate music of all the Llano. Traveling all over Europe to various gypsy camps she seeks the elusive music: Continuing her quest in the United States has her meeting several new people who become important to her including Natasha a handsome man who teaches her more about the Llano: Of course it's been many years since I read books 6 & 7 so I'll need to reread those to be sure but for now this book is the one, Starting when Orb is four and following her into adulthood I love reading about all she has experienced, Though she is a tad obsessive about the Llano at least she's a decent person: I've cried each time I've read it and I can't remember what happens in the next book. So I'm really looking forward to reading For Love of Evil. Of course neither library system near me has it and I have no idea where I've stored my copy: First time through series heroes (men and women) seemed to stretch pre-ordained parameters of roles grow into best they could be, On re-read some decades later maybe dated maybe worst forgotten but cannot continue when soap-opera family tangles into too many knots. Satan knows marriage ceremony will destroy him so sacrifice proves his love. Bright light is redeemed souls being released from Hell p 301 so he saves all those in Hell too: Orb makes big mistake common to first love does not marry Mym. She gives up him up to prevent berserker bloodshed p 73; he never was hidden. To take job of Nature she tosses daughter to adopters without a single thought ever. Placeholders plunk into plot without regard to individual personalities. Drug addicts and Jezebel succubus cursed to copulate every hour of every night (exhausting) all feel relief inside, Orb and (second) cousin Luna call each other Eyeball and Moth: Obviously suitor Natasha is acronym for Ah Satan also on track of ultimate weapon: Nat claims I lied to you when I said I knew only fragments of the Llano; I know all of it but I can only use fragments p 239: Of course she wants other two themes Loss and Dissolution or Night and Chaos and plays them the End of the World invokes Fire to better

only worsens. Finally between Death Chronos reversing time agreement of all the Incarnations p 291 Earth returns to safe state. Do her job skills improve in rest of series? 314 Piers Anthony's Being a Green Mother is the fifth book in his Incarnations of Immortality series: Orb Kaftan is on the search for the song behind the magic of the universe also called the Llano, Along the way she meets gypsies joins a circus and later fronts a headlining band, At the forefront of her mind is a prophecy told to her in childhood that she would one day marry Satan: And then Anthony has to ruin it with his usual "men are from Mars women are from Venus" sermon, By this point in the series I was already tired of it and Green Mother certainly didn't help things: My favorite character is the blind Gypsy girl Orb meets named Tinka. Actually take that back I met a real life Gypsy one who had been living in the States for several years but had only settled down in an apartment within the last two. True to the stereotype she was great at telling stories but I digress. Tinka already struggling with her lack of sight isn't all that great to look at either and her father Nicolai fears she'll never be married: Other notable characters were the members of Orb's band The Living Sludge, They're addicted to "Spelled H" which is an even more addicting drug than heroin thanks to magic. Jonah the whale who swallowed his namesake also proves to be unpredictable. My biggest pet peeve with this book is the end but I won't mention that here in case you still want to read it: Yes I know it sets up the remainder of the series but I felt cheated after seeing Orb's strong character come to such a situation, 314 Orb plays magic in her harp but seeks Llano the song that controls Life: Natasha is handsome charming teaches her more spell tunes but is he Satan? Her mother Niobe Fate warns of a prophecy she will marry Satan and offers her the job of Nature, from Goddard College he married one of his fellow students and and spent fifteen years in an assortment of professions before he began writing fiction full time, Piers is a self proclaimed environmentalist and lives on a tree farm in Florida with his wife. Orb has the family magic of incredible facility with music. This was extremely well done. The ending is surprising romantic and beautiful. Overall a great book. The book is very much a product of its time. So where does this one fall in the spectrum?. . meh. There are definitely aspects of this story that I like. . well pretty much do anything actually. Orb has a special aptitude for music. The story does then follow the usual format. The execution of these ideas however was lacking. I would have rather seen something more clever from Satan. I liked the beginning and the very end. . as well as a set-up for the next book in the series. But on its own this book was kind of a slog. It had a lot of promise but ultimately fell flat. THEN it got super interesting. That does not in fact get answered. I can tell you anyway--he wants a glass of milk.)So it is interesting stuff but not terribly engaging stuff. And as always his author's notes are well worth reading. So read them. Orb herself has an incredible amount of music magic. In India she falls in love but he's taken from her. My favorite part of the whole book is at the end. Gah! 314 Quest. World faces doom. World ends. Earth quakes tides tsunami winds hurricane everyone dies. Prophecy says Orb will marry Satan. She does. Life goes on. Death and War were seen in new surprising positive lights. No wonder poor Orlene suicides in #1. She is not nice. Her music tames whale Jonah houses band Sludge. She cannot control powers of Nature unleashed by a portion. Jezebel doesn't dream . didn't remember . warning p 244 ignored. Powers of Nature are put in hands of spoiled brat. It starts out well. Fictional Gypsies have always fascinated me. That's where Orb comes in. ~Author's Note 12-pg bio 1-pg. After graduating with a B.A. They have two grown daughters..