

The background features a network diagram with white nodes and lines on a purple-to-pink gradient. The nodes are connected by thin white lines, forming a complex web. Some nodes are larger than others, and the overall structure is somewhat irregular. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom.

# The Dark Ground

Written by Gillian Cross

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# The Dark Ground

By Gillian Cross

## The Dark Ground Trilogy

Robert wakes up naked and alone in a thick jungle. The last thing he remembers is being in a plane with his family, but there is no sign of a crash or survivors. Then he discovers the shocking truth--he is in the park near his house, but his familiar world has been transformed into an alien landscape. When he finds others in the same position, he enlists their help in getting back home. But the journey is more perilous than Robert could ever imagine.

This is one of the most unique Fantasy books I think I've ever read. Which isn't to say that the rest are all cookie cutter books, but I do read a lot about magic, and as different as the books are, the stories share similar genes. Dark Ground enters a new realm of real versus the unimaginable.

On a flight with his family, Robert Doherty takes a trip to the restroom, where he happens to look at himself in the mirror, and feels he sees someone looking back out at him. That's the last thing he remembers. This is one of the most unique Fantasy books I think I've ever read. Which isn't to say that the rest are all cookie cutter books, but I do read a lot about magic, and as different as the books are, the stories share similar genes. Dark Ground enters a new realm of real versus the unimaginable.

On a flight with his family, Robert Doherty takes a trip to the restroom, where he happens to look at himself in the mirror, and feels he sees someone looking back out at him. That's the last thing he remembers. When he wakes up in the woods, bruised and alone, he's sure the plane must have crashed, and that if he searches long enough, he'll find other survivors.

After some time passes, Robert realizes he needs food, water, clothes. While searching for these, day after day, he comes to realize he has even bigger issues--he could die, easily. The woods are huge, the creatures are gigantic, and no one is to be found.

But there are others. And unbeknownst to him, one of them has taken a liking to him. After a few surprise gifts, he catches on, and sets a trap to find out who else is out there with him. To his surprise, he catches a frail girl. But she moves like lightning.

Eventually, he gets her to let him tail her back to where she's come from. Only at the end of the journey he loses her, and ends up being taken by an ogre bird.

Dizzy with pain, Robert manages to climb up and out of his prison, only to arrive on a large branch, from which he can see his own home. So close. And yet so far.

Eventually he makes it back down to the ground, and a party of the others finds and rescues him. Little

The Dark Ground

does he know that the journey is just beginning.

Anyone who appreciates fantasy, sci-fi, or serious challenges to consciousness, should be taken in by this story. I'll be eagerly awaiting the second installment. ...more

## The Dark Ground Of Spirit

I liked it although I didn't always understand what was going on. I think it could have been explained a bit better. I liked the idea of the book and the storyline was good. The main character wakes up in the jungle and the only thing he remembers is being on a plane. As he struggles to survive he notices someone watching him.

Very unique book about the little people that live amongst us. So interesting. Robert gets pulled to the small world (lost and not knowing that he is small!), Lorn ends up showing him the way to where the rest of the kids live. He goes on a quest with Cam and Zak to find his family. Will he be the one to save them all?

## The Dark Ground Gillian Cross

A kind of survivor story, Robert goes from returning from a holiday, to being attacked by a monster, with no knowledge of how it happened. But, Robert is determined to find out, and on the way, finds himself.

recommended for people of all ages.

I read this for school, and it's one of the most frustrating, confusing books I have ever read. I initially gave this book 1 star, but I remember that we had a nice Skype session with the author so I will be generous here and give 2 stars.

## The Dark Ground By Gillian Cross Summary

The Dark Ground is a truly unique fantasy book filled with magic and mystery.

This book was very confusing at the beginning. I was grasping at straws trying to piece together a puzzle where more than half of the pieces were missing. I, like Robert in the story, had no clue what was going on or why it was happening. For this reason I had a hard time getting into the book. It took about 50 or 60 pages before the story really started to flow and I felt like I was able to put a few pieces in place.

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We follow Robert on a journey of discovery as he is forced to see the world from a different perspective. Everything that he has ever known has been challenged. He is lost in a strange and foreign land. Robert faces daunting challenges; danger lurks in every shadow, and yet, he presses on, determined to find the answers he seeks.

The book ended without answering any of the questions that I had. Being the first book of a trilogy I realize that there is more to the story, but the book ended feeling very unresolved. Now, having read the book I am still so confused.

What exactly happened? Why did it happen? How did it happen? Who was responsible? There were just no answers! We went on this epic journey, but what was the point?

I want to read the other books in the series, if only to get some answers and feel some closure. This was not my favorite book, there is entertainment value in it, but I don't feel like I have gained anything from reading it.

The writing was well done, and there was good imagery throughout. This book is clean and acceptable for all ages.

...more

Interest level: 5th +

Reading level: medium

Genre: adventure, fantasy, survival

Series: Lost

## The Dark Ground

What would you do if, one day, something strange happens and you shrink so much that you are no taller than a blade of grass? What would the world look like and how would you survive?

This is what happened to Robert who wakes up after a plane crash only to find himself all alone in a thick jungle. Although in shock, Robert quickly realizes that he needs to find food and shelter in order to survive, and as he

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This is what happened to Robert who wakes up after a plane crash only to find himself all alone in a thick jungle. Although in shock, Robert quickly realizes that he needs to find food and shelter in order to survive, and as he discovers his new surroundings he comes into contact with other children who seem as lost (and as small) as he is.

And so begins Robert's adventure in this unreal world. The Dark Ground is the first book in the Lost series, followed by The Black Room and The Nightmare Game.

Take a look at [ <http://www.gillian-cross.co.uk/main.html> ]Gillian Cross' official website for her biography and information about other books she has written. ...more

## The Dark Ground Series

I remembered reading and enjoying 'The Demon Headmaster' books when I was at school so I thought I would read something else by Gillian Cross.

Robert wakes up in a jungle. The last thing he remembers is being on a plane with his family. Where is he? How did he get here? As the story unfolds it becomes clear that the world Robert thought he knew is very far away from him. He meets up with a community of other children who have made the jungle their home and sets out with three of them to try and find some answers. I remembered reading and enjoying 'The Demon Headmaster' books when I was at school so I thought I would read something else by Gillian Cross.

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This is an interesting story deftly told, with some really nice descriptive writing that makes the reader think about the way they see the world around them. Although this book ends leaving more questions than answers it is only the first of a trilogy and a good read for children 11+ ...more

This book is having a lot of enrich mystery which is really hard to work out and all of it is connected to a boy's struggle towards his hometown.

The whole story contains characters that are having almost the same problem as Robert, the boy; they all need to get home but as they don't know where they are so that's why they can not make their move. As they know that any wrong step might cost their life.

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But as Robert has seen something, he is determined to get there and find out the truth about how he got in the jungle like place while he was on a plane.....

But for some reason he is questioned to be stopped.....

Why?....

Don't everyone wants to get home??

And if one of them does not then what can be the reason for him/her to stay??

Are they scared?//????

And if yes then why now when they are so close to get to their homes?????? ...more

## The Cold Dark Ground

I'm not quite sure what to make of this read. It isn't the thriller, it is described as being on its cover, but then I hadn't realised it was part of a trilogy, so maybe the next books make it so. I'd describe it more as a dark 'borrowers' for older readers. Much less of the jolly making furniture out of cotton reels and much much more of the hardship and struggle that the characters experience. How the characters ended up small in the first place, will I think become more significant in the later books. It is an unusual read exploring the theme of perception as much as anything. As with all Gillian Cross books I've read, good characterisation and a tight plot, with quite sinister undertones. ...more

The book jacket describes The Dark Ground by Gillian Cross as "unputdownable." Not an elegant description, but accurate, as I read nearly all of it in one sitting.

Robert is in strange and dire circumstances, no doubt. But he tries his best to survive with only his wits and bare hands. Luckily, someone takes pity on him and gives him a helping hand; which leads him to discover a whole group of other people in strange and dire circumstances. He is not satisfied that there is no way out of the situation, and resolves to get to the bottom of it all, with a little help from his new friends. (First volume of a trilogy). ...more

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## Dark Playground

It's Lost meets the Littles in this unique fantasy. Robert doesn't remember what happened before he woke up naked in the woods. His last memory was being in an airplane bathroom. Did his plane crash? If so, where is the wreckage, and why don't there seem to be other survivors? As Robert tries to survive in the wilderness, he becomes aware of others around him, helping him. But when he realizes the truth about where he is and what has happened to him, he must undertake a difficult journey to reach his home. A bit confusing at times (especially the beginning), but ultimately a fast-paced and exciting adventure. Keep the second in the series handy for reading soon after finishing the first. ...more

this book was alright, but nothing more. the only reason to keep reading at the beginning was to try and clear up your thoughts as to what in the world was going on. i didn't get the situation until about halfway through the book. after that, it just carried you, but it was hard to follow the author's train of thought. although the cover makes it seem daer and depressing, it really isn't, (don't go judging books by their covers) but just odd. i guess if you like that sort of thing... i don't think i'll be reading the rest of the trilogy. ...more

## Dark Underground

A tense adventure for super small humans who keep getting smaller. Problem is you don't really get to know the characters and have no idea who they are, why they are small, why Robert changes at the end, etc. Maybe the author wants to save all this for #2 and #3, but you need something to help you stay connected to the characters and the story. I may go on to the second of this trilogy; I haven't decided yet.

May contain Spoilers!!!!!!

This is the weirdest book I have ever read. I don't even know what to think after reading it. I feel like my brain isn't functioning. I don't quite get what the hell just happened. It didn't explain anything. How did they get small? Why? Who did this to them? Why them? After reading this book I was left confused and frustrated. Nothing makes sense and the book was pointless. No adventure, no passion, no romance, no thrills. Just confusion and irritation.

## The Dark And Bloody Ground

This book was really good and kept me interested and made me want to keep reading. I actually couldn't stop reading. I read it all in about one week. The book consists of a boy Robert who ends up shrinking and finds some friends who help him survive and together they go on a journey to get Robert back to his normal self battling huge monsters and eating a snail in order to survive.

This was a good story, although it was a little gritty for a kid's book. There was no humor to offset the survivalist theme. The ending was good, wrapping up one portion of the story while leaving possibilities for the next book.