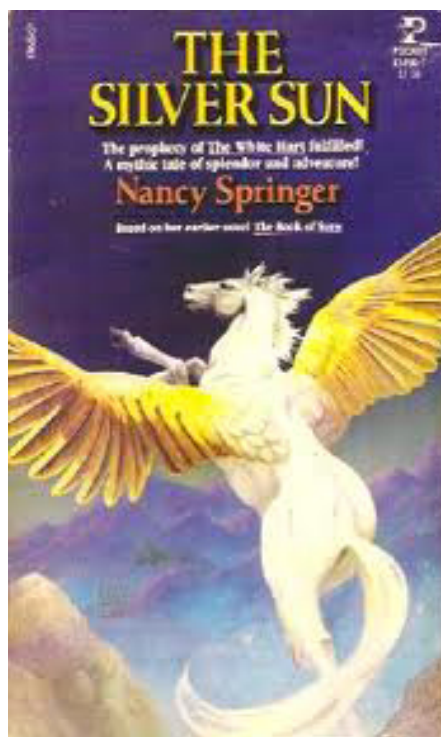




The Silver Sun

Nancy Springer

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In the Kingdom of Isle, where the Sun Kings reign with the power of the Book of the Suns, Hal and Alan are given a mission. They must use the ancient strength of wisdom to destroy the evil that plagues the kingdom. The two blood brothers venture throughout the land fighting the many forms that this evil takes so they can arrive at their destiny.

The Silver Sun Details

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Author : Nancy Springer

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From Reader Review The Silver Sun for online ebook

Cera says

Springer's second novel suffers from all the problems of the first in terms of genre development; what was pretty new & fresh in the late 70s/early 80s is very much cliched & dated now. There are nobles and elves, Tolkien-style songs & poetry, a lot of travelling across varied landscapes, battles, horses, the importance of heredity/bloodlines and so forth. This is not the place to go to find new fantasy tropes!

That being said, I really enjoyed this novel. Her story of two young men trying to avoid a tyrannical king while laying preparations for a better world to come is quite touching; unlike The White Hart she's loosened up her style, putting in more overt emotionality, especially between the male protagonists. There's nothing actually slashy there, but fanfic could certainly be written about their relationship to one another, especially given the amount of times one gets wounded or imprisoned and has to be rescued by the other! Definitely recommended for fantasy-loving teens; there's no overt sexuality or overly-graphic violence, and a younger reader might find more that's new in the setting.

Kiri says

This is not great literature, but it satisfies the dreamy teenage horse-loving girl in my soul. Really, for her, the only change I could wish would be that at least one main character was female (or that the females in the story were in less traditionally feminine roles). A simple tale of good vs. evil, our heroes Hal and Alan and their mighty steeds and their gold and silver shields defeat the evil bad guys and live happily with their beautiful young brides! Silly, yes, but god I still reread it once in a while and get real pleasure from it.

Sally Baquet says

I read this a very long time ago when I was a starry eyed girl. It was actually my first fantasy novel and started my long standing love of this genre. I love the story and the characters. It's a good book.. It's not 'epic' but its a really good story.

Lindsey Duncan says

This is the second volume of a series written some decades ago, when all the familiar tropes of fantasy were young ... and it reads as such, with poetic, formal language and a deep authenticity in subject that makes it obvious why these elements became cliché in the years that followed. It is still difficult, as a modern reader, to separate one's self from that familiarity, but it is still possible to recognize that freshness.

The tone of the language, combined with the casual use of floating omniscience - what modern writers would condemn as head-hopping - makes it difficult to connect with the characters. Whereas in the first book, it comes off as mythic and appropriate, this sequel doesn't convey the same feeling. Maybe it's because this is a longer book; maybe it is because many of the adventures are more personal; maybe it is because gods and destiny are less clearly written on Hal from the start.

Whatever the case, this is still an enjoyable book, but one that more clearly shows its age.

Mitchell says

I have a copy of this book with the title the book of suns. I planned on writing about this single obscure book that probably no one had heard of and as usual turns out I am the one who is uninformed. Turns out there is a whole series.

I liked this book and read it several times. It was a fun simple read. Maybe it was something about when I read it. I first read it in my early teens which was one of those pivotal times. It has adventure, romance and magic which was fun.

Arlene Allen says

Nancy Springer is one of those authors who only gets better.

Kendra says

Generations later from the first, a prophesy fulfilled, yadda, yadda. Again, same feeling, simple plotline, odd book.

X says

Was this a good book? No, not technically, but I enjoyed it very much. Considering that it might be a bit on the dime novel side, it is quite well written. My biggest, and actually only, complaint is that it is Tolkien derived. Very Tolkien derived. It could almost be Fourth Age Middle-Earth fan fiction, except that it is written much better than the fan fic I've read. But, that is not entirely bad in this case. Unlike many Tolkien inspired books, this one does not seem like a role play campaign. There is no Fellowship copy and no magic ring or sword of importance. It borrows from Tolkien's mythology which actually is a nice change from the usual elf, dwarf, and man with a magic ring and/or sword going on a journey somewhere-type plot. Still, a more original back story would probably have made me rate this higher.

Complaints aside, the characters were good and the story exciting and often emotional, and I'm looking forward to the next book.

Sarah Maroney says

I read this book in the 80s and loved it. it is my favorite of the series. I think that it's very well written. Hal has a mysterious past that Allen eventually is told. The two become best friends shortly after meeting. As they travel around, they are faced with an enemy that threatens the lives of everyone. Many battles are fought along their journey. When they meet the elves, Allen falls in love with one them. Once the enemy is

defeated, both Hal and Allen become King. In the end, Hal travels by boat across the sea to a place that has been calling him.

For those who love fantasy books, I would definitely say you need to read this one. I actually read it several times as well as the others in the series. I plan on reading the series again.

Jennifer (bunnyreads) says

The Silver Sun was my first Nancy Springer book and even on the reread thirty years later I still found so much to enjoy about it.

This one is a little different than The White Hart in style, the language is a little looser and I think a bit easier to read because of that. Though there are still the underlying themes that were present in the first- deep friendships, love, and being true to yourself. It's a beautiful book and forever will be one of my favorites.

Julie says

Goodreads says this is #2, but it was published first. Fantastic Fiction says aka The Book of Suns, btw.

I thought I'd read this because it was on a glbt list, or a gender list.. but darned if I know why even after having read it. Brotherly love is a big part of it, but.. it doesn't even have a big slashy vibe to it for me.

So at first I was rolling my eyes at it. It seemed like a bad fantasy. But then I started getting into it. And it is a typical sort of.. muster the troops and the support of various lords and peoples and take back the kingdom thing.

The only.. and not even really a twist.. thing is the guy has the help of another lord's son along the way. And they're really close.

Except I believe the narrator was third person omniscient, so while they might be close, we're not very close to them. And it takes place over a good deal of time, which also seems to have a distancing effect.

Still, it was good.. somehow. I wouldn't mind reading the others in the series. I'd rather get my hands on Larque on the Wing though! It has been elusive.

Ohenrypacey says

I first read this book as a teenager (so 30 yrs ago or more) and it was a favorite. the story is still solid, even if the storytelling is juvenile and geared so much more to a YA audience. Still it remains a nice read and one that i will happily pass along to my kids.

John says

I enjoyed it very much. It had some interesting characters and a Dark Ages England re-told setting. Very nice work. Looking forward to the others in the Isle series.

Richard says

This is a good fantasy book set in its own world. Obviously a lot of thought and work has gone into the world-building (it includes a map). There's good mix of magic, male-bonding, questing, love interest, history, religion, legend... The setting generally reminded me of the late medieval period we most often associate with Robin Hood. I think it's intended for a YA/teen audience, but is a good read for adults as well. The prose style maintained by Ms Springer in this book is slightly archaizing so it gives us that "old time" feeling, but she maintains high readability for the modern audience, unlike a lot of medieval-period books written in the 19th century. So if you're looking for that kind of fantasy book, this is a good one to go for. It's the middle book of a trilogy, but stands on its own just fine. (I haven't yet read the others, but I didn't feel like I was dropped into the deep end of the pool.) I read the new e-book edition.

Alex says

Una de las peores novelas de fantasía que he leído. Una redacción deplorable, una historia carente de creatividad pues se roba imágenes completas de otros libros. Los personajes son empalagosos, falsos y llegan a fastidiar al lector. Las alusiones a los elfos son descaradas copias del mundo de Tolkien. La mala traducción y pésima edición no ayudan en nada.
