



## Spells of Old

*Benjamin Medrano*

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Having successfully driven off an assault and freed captives of Kelvanis, Sistina begins fortifying to defend those she cares about from further attacks. Yet with all her power within her halls, she cannot grant those under her protection true freedom. To truly bring hope to her love, Sistina must delve into who she once was, and bring forth every scrap of magic she has to become a shining beacon of hope.

Sadly, Kelvanis' plans are only mildly impeded by her efforts up until now, and they will stop at nothing to bring their ends about. The only question is, whose side is time on?

## Spells of Old Details

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Author : Benjamin Medrano

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## From Reader Review Spells of Old for online ebook

### Robert A. says

The annoying moments a over and the series picks up momentum. We get a better look at the bigger picture with this book (lets be honest, the first book hinted that we only see pieces of a bigger game) but far more important: THE book is interesting - many second books suck (its a fact) but this keeps us occupied so read on and enjoy lads!

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### Douglas Debner says

I can see why people give this book better reviews than me- it is creative and, on a page by page basis well written. It is with the big picture story where the author fails. In short, THIS ISN'T A BOOK. IT IS THE MIDDLE OF A BOOK SOLD SEPARATELY. In book 1 the author had one stupid thing happen after another so he could create the desired scenario, which was extremely irritating because perfectly intelligent ways to the same ends not only existed but were obvious. In this book the author is just moving that scenario forward, which he does well and no truly stupid things happen in this book. However, the author essentially replaces stupidity with an unfocused story. Do we really need to know about each individual date the women of the "dungeon" go on? Do we really need to know every last detail of how a captured elven queen is being perverted?

The author has some talent and some good ideas for a book but doesn't understand that a book consists of a beginning, middle and end. And the author's handling of ley lines deserves special criticism since a couple of the most stupid things to happen in book 1 involve ley lines which aren't explained until book 2. Apparently ley lines, for no reason, allow teleportation in one direction only. That might be deduced from certain happenings in book 1 but, GIVEN HOW IMPORTANT SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS WOULD BE TO THE STORY IF IT EXISTED, I personally assumed a different set of circumstances since the author failed to communicate on this point. Further, even in book 2, the author fails to give any basis for this state of affairs like "ley lines can only be traveled toward sunrise" (yes, I know that's lame and yet it is more thought than the author apparently put into it.)

Also, I'm not certain the author thought out his story in advance at all. I'd point to the many stupid story choices in book 1 and the unnecessary inclusion of dungeon dating life in book 2 in support of this but what I'm actually thinking of is the main character's (Sistina's) soul crystal. Sistina was trapped in a soul crystal for 10,000 years at the start of book 1 and that crystal sucked away her memories. The author makes a point of telling the reader that Sistina gathered up every last piece of her shattered soul crystal (still in book 1) but that is the last we hear of it. Sistina, who spent months studying architecture and correcting a 6 volume seminal work on magic theory never even looks into her former prison. In this book Sistina has a big jog to her memory and I immediately thought that, after years of book time, she is finally going to look into her old prison, maybe pull some of her memories back out of it. No. I can only believe that the author had something like this planned but forgot about it.

Bottom line: Don't waste your time.

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## **Austin Turner says**

### **Unique and interesting**

This book is in a style that I have never sampled before. The setting distinctly reminds me of an mmo but is written from the perspective of a dungeon rather than an adventurer.

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## **Paul says**

### **Better than the First Book**

The first book in this series started rather average for me, but finished strong, which compelled me to the next book. Ancient Dreams, book two, started better and finished better. I'm still not completely sold on the whole dungeon storyline; however, the main character, Sistine and the supporting characters carry the story. The story is well told, I will eventually swing around for book three to complete the trilogy. Enjoy.

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## **Vikarti says**

### **Great book**

Great if rather nonstanard fantasy book. Author continue to impress me. I'm looking forward for book 3. Author try to keep intrigue : Sistina's plans, real reasons of Wenris's actions, Sistina's history. It's interesting what disruptor actually is...

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## **Kevin says**

[when the prisoners captured that healer and she started to tell of the library and other important things. Isn't the dungeon's brand suppose to stop them betraying the dungeon? I think giving out information about range and the library constitutes as betrayal. (hide spoiler)]

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## **Pogonophobia says**

### **Another great addition**

Well written entertaining continuation for the first book. So much intrigue you're not sure which plots and plans will succeed or fail. Can't wait for book 3.

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## **Mark A. Sunderman, Jr. says**

This is a good book with a well flushed out plot. Unfortunately if you went into the series because you were

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after a dungeon book you might be disappointed. The dungeon aspect wanes in this book but the plot gets better and our character growth keeps the story going. While I was really turned off by the slavery and rape aspect as the guilty slowly get their due I've become more accepting that the story will work out.

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### **Kristina K says**

3.5 stars

The second book was a little better than the first one. There was more action and I didn't feel bored as I did while reading the previous book in the series.

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### **TheLiar says**

A fantastic and enjoyable sequel, definitely worth a read. I was worried that the author would buckle under the pressure from the success of Ancient Ruins, however, he has not let me down in any way.

The author weaves an engaging and unorthodox fantasy tale about the adventures of the main characters, who inhabit a world that while at times cruel, it is also interesting and hopeful. I highly recommend this series to anyone who likes a good read. I read this in one go and enjoyed every minute of it, and I am looking forward to the final book in the trilogy.

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### **Tony Hisgett says**

I was very critical of this author when I read the first book in this series. This was because the book started so well my expectations were very high. Unfortunately the rest of the book didn't live up to the start and I suppose the contrast made it more disappointing.

I decided to read this book because I wanted to find out what was going to happen to Sistina. I hoped that starting the book with lower expectations I wouldn't be as disappointed.

This is a fairly run-of-the-mill fantasy, which has a few great characters, but the construction of the story is just ordinary. There are several sub-plots that seem to be mainly 'filler' and are just boring. Unfortunately, they get in the way of Sistina's story, which is still very interesting, but seems to be only about a quarter of the book.

However, I did enjoy the ending and if the rest of the book had been like this I would have given a higher rating.

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### **David Hunt says**

WOW! This story just keeps getting more complex! The character development is strong and moves forward at a good pace! The plot twists and turns with one single thread that keeps it straight! The dungeon continues to grow and develop at an ever increasing pace! Funny that the dungeon gets in a bit of its own trouble while

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delving!

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### **Gavin says**

Just like the first book in the series this was a mix of traditional old school fantasy and LitRPG fantasy. It had LitRPG style Dungeons mixed into an old school fantasy world of humans, dwarves, orcs, and elves. The story actually blended and balanced both aspects of the tale really well.

The story picked up from where it left off in the first book with the human kingdom of Kelvanis is continuing to grow in power and to strike at the two elven kingdoms surrounding it. The Arcon has ambitious plans to capture one of the elven queens and even to enslave a Goddess! Sistina also continues to grow in power and to increase the size of her own realm.

The story was engaging and fun but not super exciting. The best bits of this second book were learning a bit more of the second elven kingdom and of learning a bit more about Sistina's true nature.

All in all this was a decent enough story that had a few slow spots but was still a worthwhile read.

Rating: 3.5 stars.

Audio Note: I think Gabriella Cavallero did a good job with the audio.

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### **Pamela Seligman says**

I'm a very avid fantasy reader, and I liked Ancient Ruins. This book picks up where the last one left off, where Phynis is with Sistina. The book is huge. There are adjustments made by everyone with the multi-person situation (if you read the end of Ancient Ruins, you know what I'm talking about with the Jewels). It's very interesting and original.

I thought that the discussion of Sistina's magic-working skills and speed was very interesting. If you've read Originally Human by Eileen Wilks, you're familiar with the concept of ancient knowledge being written down in a book. Sistina's knowledge is vast.

(view spoiler)

I received a review copy and have voluntarily reviewed this book with my honest opinion.

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### **Det Cornforth says**

#### **Still don't know?**

I found myself turning pages without reading them as these and other parts of the book was becoming monotonous and boring. Not enough action, too much explanation. Towards the end it became more

interesting again. Still a good story, but too much meandering and explanation dulls it somewhat. Let's hope for better in the last book.

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