



Dreamspinner

Lynn Kurland

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New York Times bestselling author Lynn Kurland's enthralling Nine Kingdoms saga brings together a weaver's apprentice and the son of a mage, both fighting to save the Nine Kingdoms from peril.

Aisling of Bruadair has lived a provincial life, heedless of the evil creeping over her land. That ordinary existence changes forever, though, when she is sent to the opposite end of the world to find a master swordsman. If she fails, her life--and her country's safety--will be forfeit. She just never expected that swordsman to be a wounded elven prince masquerading as a simple soldier.

Powerless and scarred from a long-ago conflict, Rùnach of Ceangail has spent years in obscurity, ignoring battles he can no longer fight. And although he has been drawn back into the world, he fully intends to live an unremarkable life far away from events he knows he cannot change...

Until Rùnach meets Aisling and realizes that she is far more than what she seems, that their alliance has attracted unwelcome notice, and that some battles must be fought.

Dreamspinner Details

Date : Published December 31st 2012 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425262191

Author : Lynn Kurland

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Fantasy Romance, Magic, Adult

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From Reader Review Dreamspinner for online ebook

Ashley Daviau says

After reading the first six books in this series and being quite sick of it since the fourth, I've elected to not continue with this series. Why put myself through the pain when there's so many other great books waiting for me?

Erin says

Another good one. I like that we've met, and know a bit more, about our Hero as the story starts in this one.

Sheryl says

Love Lynn Kurland books. They are clean and adventurous. The heroine thinks she is ordinary but obviously has a gift that she learns along the journey. Our hero has his own obstacles to overcome and doesn't want to get involved but continues to be drawn to her. Good story line. I am looking forward to the next book

Sarah Grass says

I'm a loyal Lynn Kurland fan and I enjoyed reading her latest 9 Kingdoms installment about Runach. I was warned not to expect an original plot and I admit the repetitiveness was tedious at times. However, I still enjoyed the revisiting the characters and places. Lynn has such a wry sense of humor and her writing is always clean and heroes chivalrous. No one can ever top Miach, though. :)

Megan says

Formula seriously getting old now. All lead male & female characters interchangeable. I would think some effort would be made so that all males:

1. Didn't tuck her hair behind her ear or brush/braid her hair
2. Call her "Love"
3. Hide his identity/power
4. Sleep next to her holding her hand near fire
5. Embrace her on horse/dragon

And all females:

1. Didn't have some mystery birth/genealogy/power
 2. Hate/disbelieve magic
 3. Request everyone not to discuss magic or reveal identity or truths
 4. Get angry when they finally allow people to reveal, then get ticked at what was not revealed earlier
 5. Both parents dead
 6. Refuse to fall in love with amazingly handsome wonderful man
 7. Have quests that morph & sometimes seem to dissolve altogether
-

Ok yeah, I'm tired of the series. I kind of want to know what Aisling can do or who she is but, is it worth 2 more books??? Lynn can write in an engaging manner for sure but all characters should not be basically the same person.

Angélica says

Reading this book after *The Alchemist of Souls* and *The Merchant of Dreams*, both by Anne Lyle, was not one of my best ideas. It's not that those books were particularly exceptional, but they're a much much better read than this book. I found this horribly dull and vague, even duller than *Shadowspell*, which was mostly about walking. At least in *Shadowspell* the world was interesting, there's a double agent, and there's a promise of character growth in the MC for the next book. The main reason I got interested in this book was because I was reminded of Sandry from *The Circle of Magic*, whose magic was tied to weaving. I thought this would be somewhat like that.

Anyway, I saw that the author has also written romance books. Now, I knew why it was so dull. A lot of historical romances I've tried have been so...light on the historical detail. Actually, any subgenre of romance is bound to have hoards of lightly researched titles. While I know that this is fantasy, this book is set in your run-of-the-mill medieval Europe fantasy counterpart. I expected more research, dammit. The Irish-sounding names may be attempts at uniqueness but they just annoyed the hell out of me.

Hafiza says

Book 7- with a new couple.

The formula is getting stale..

We rehash the events at the well, where Gair unleashed his magic killing Sarait, and injuring his children.

So far we have read about two his progeny- Morgahin and Ruath.

Now we get the story of their older brother Ruanach.

Just like with the last two series, the hero hides his true identity from the heroine.

Heroine is naive (really almost dumb and stupid naive), and has a hidden magical power.

I think I am giving up on this series.

Miranda says

DreamSpinner, written by Lynn Kurland; is the first installment of the third trilogy of the Nine Kingdoms series. It is the long awaited beginning of Runach of Ceingail's story. The oldest of only three survivors of a long ago tragedy, that had been thought to wipe out an entire family. Runach is the only one who crawled away from this terrifying day, with more than emotional scars....

Horribly crippled with the use of his hands, and rendered ungifted due to the thievery of his very own father, Runach has spent the years of his adult life; walking the library of the most prestigious magic academy in all of the Nine Kingdoms. He spent his time sticking to the shadows, hidden within the hood of his cloak, avoiding those that would do him harm if they learned he was alive—and soaking up all the information he could read. Until one day, a chance meeting with the archmage of Tor Neroche, and a Shieldmaiden from Melksham turned Runach's entire world upside down...for the second time in his life.

Miraculously, his beloved little sister, the youngest of 6 original children, was not killed at the Dark well with his mother, father and the rest of his siblings as he had feared. It was this unexpected happenstance that also led Runach to the discovery of the survival of his youngest brother. After much mystery surrounding Runach in the first trilogy, he truly comes to life in the second trilogy of the Nine Kingdoms. Since he first stepped onto the page; readers have waited, and wondered if this solitary soul would discover a purpose to his altered life, as well as happiness.

DreamSpinner opens just after Runach has spent weeks with his newly rediscovered siblings, and witnessed the weddings of his sister and brother. He feels an unsettledness stirring within his soul, being surrounded by loving, well meaning family who has repeatedly taxed themselves and their magical gifts by healing his hands. He lacks the vanity to allow them to attempt to heal his face. Runach may have been born an eleven prince of one of the most polished, and well known bloodlines—but that part of himself died forever; on the day he witnessed the true power of his father’s evil as a youth.

Now a man lacking the magic of his birthright, the civility, and polish expected of a Prince of his status...Runach feels the only choices left to him upon the restoration of his hands (although they still pain him greatly) is either to remain with his family, living off from their hard work, and hospitality—or once again taking up the swordplay of which he was once so skilled. Feeling as if the first in no choice at all, he makes preparations to travel to a place few would ever venture, for there is no better to help him relearn this skill; than the most notorious Sword Master in the Nine Kingdoms. Scrimgeyour Weger. Runach is at peace with the simple life of obscurity he will lead with this choice. After all, there are worst fates than living the life of a soldier...and surely destiny would have nothing more grand in store for a library hermit...right?

It is at this point the book shifts POV, and we meet our heroine, Aisling. A woman of no consequence, from a place as insignificant as nowhere...or so is the readers first perception. Aisling has lived out her life in a village quite unknown to outsiders, and of which is believed by its citizens; to cast a horrible curse upon its inhabitants. Keep your mouth shut, and stay—you live, cross the border, or speak of this place to anyone—and you die by this curse. Life is not grand at Brudair, and Aisling knows this better than some. Having been sold into slavery by her very own parents, in exchange for money for them, and her siblings to live an expensive lifestyle.

Since the age of 8; Aisling has spent her life at the Guild; weaving fabric, day after day. During one of her rare moments she gets to herself, she receives the shock of seeing her parents across a crowded travel way. Have they come to pay off their debt? Will she finally receive her freedom? Her heart sinks however, when they disappear once more into the carriage...and she knows that they must have negotiated a renewal of her contract. Desperation and hopelessness sets in, knowing she does not reach the age of 28—when her parents can no longer “rent” her labor—for several more months.

This is the point in the story where we see a previous character known for his visions of the future, break all rules and interfere in the destiny of another. A man so rigidly bound by the duty his gift demands—he would not even allow himself to try and prevent the death of the woman he loved. Readers are left wondering what importance this man could have seen, that he would tweak the strands of fate. It is here the adventure begins. With our hero and heroine both traveling towards a place rarely sought. One driven by choice...one driven by desperation...both driven by destiny. Upon this unlikely meeting of souls, our hero and heroine begin a fight for physical, and emotional survival. Locked in an inner and outer struggle to keep their secrets from coming to light. All while feeling the fragile bloom of friendship and trust; morphing into the bombardment of an attraction neither can afford.

For me, DreamSpinner was the most enjoyable novel of the Nine Kingdoms to date. Although I have adored every single novel in this series, book 7 offers long time fans, and newly arriving readers so much. Around every corner, there are unexpected dangers threatening the world, and people of the Nine Kingdom’s. There are many reunion’s between a whole cast of previous main, and side characters. Some heartwarming, and

humorous—while others are shocking, and intense. I found myself laughing out loud with DreamSpinner more than with any other previous installment. And yet, in the next instant, I could feel the palpable tension building for the action to come.

As always, I felt completely transported by Lynn Kurland's lyrical writing, brilliant mental imagery, richly descriptive magic, and larger than life characterization. Although DreamSpinner did not end with as large of a cliff hanger as some of the other novels, this coming year will be no less painful of a wait. Runach grabbed ahold of my heart within the first ten pages, and I anxiously anticipate the next chapter of he and Aisling's journey. Well done Ms. Kurland, and may you write within the world of the Nine Kingdom's for many years to come.

Please. :)

Review also available at www.thereadingcafe.com

Coral says

There's a certain formula that goes into each trilogy of the Nine Kingdom series. Some might get bored with it. Others might find it comforting. My main gripe is the fact that the story is split into three which means I would have to wait two years for the ending. Aside from that Runach and Aisling is fast becoming my favourite couple of the series. Their story is much better than that of Ruith and Sarah.

Caitlin says

This book was so so frustrating. After researching the author and seeing that she has written romance books in the past this makes more sense to me, as when I expected an action packed fantasy/adventure novel I received a book where almost nothing is resolved or really happens, other than a slight and slow progression of a relationship. I read the first chapter and that was what hooked me in, Aisling's escape and everything seemed very promising, everything was set up and I was really looking forward to reading more, but after that initial excitement it was just almost nothing. What frustrated me most was that as the reader we all knew a lot more than Aisling, and I have never met anyone as wilfully ignorant as her. Her continual denial of magic amongst other topics, combined with her occasional promising thought processes where she almost figures something out then decides "what would she know? She's just a simple spinner" before she gets there is so annoying. Then on top of this we have Runach determined not to tell her anything at all for no real reason at all, and a heap of other characters deciding to be mysterious and difficult, which altogether are a combination of characters who could easily figure stuff out for the plot to finally progress but don't because no one communicates in any way or wants to listen to the truth? Like seriously? Who could really be content not knowing any of this stuff that was relevant to them? I kept reading because I was sure at some point that some issues would be resolved, but I got close to the end and thought "wow the last few pages must be action packed to fit all of this in", then discovered that no, there was nothing more there was just a sequel coming out sometime. So while the writing style was good, I was seriously unimpressed by the plot of this book, and I do not think I will be looking for the sequel anytime soon.

The UHQ Nasanta says

3 stars

I've caught on. I know now not to expect originality from this author. I know to expect the same characters and the same plot in the Nine Kingdoms books. As much as this grieves me, I still love this world and the characters, and I will keep reading.

If you've read the other six books starring Morgan/Miach and Sarah/Ruith, you've pretty much read this story. The main characters remain indistinguishable from each other, especially the men, as they share the same traits and mannerisms. The women sound pretty similar across the board as well, but I didn't have as much difficulty remembering that I was reading about Aisling and Runach as I had when I was reading about Sarah and Ruith. Having had to adjust my expectations in Sarah's and Ruith's books, I knew what not to expect in this one so I wasn't as disappointed and irritated when it slowly was revealed what Aisling was, especially since I guessed it since the beginning of the book.

There are many similarities with this book as with the previous Nine Kingdoms books, but at least the characters remain sweet and courtly, the witty banter is still there, and the world is still familiar - even if the rules seemed to have slightly changed for the famed Angestand steeds.

Given that it's the same story with different names, I wonder why I have to wait a year for the next one? Well, I'll be ready anyway.

Terry (Ter05 TwiMoms/ MundieMoms) says

Dreamspinner is the seventh book of the Nine Kingdoms series and the first of the third trilogy. I loved it. I am totally into this fantasy world and the characters who inhabit it. This is definitely romantic fantasy with lots and lots of magic. Wonderful elves and mages (good and evil mages) sprinkled with some mortals in minor roles. The Nine Kingdoms are described so they are easy to "see" from the forests and mountains to the barren deserts. Most of the characters are related in some distant way, but as you progress through the books they center on the surviving children of the evil mage, Gair of Ceangail who released terrible evil from a well long ago. That magic destroyed him and his family and for years all were thought to be dead. The first trilogy is the story of his daughter who was a child and grew up not knowing who she was and the High Mage of Neroch, Miach. I have added Miach to my fairly small list of very favorite book heroes. The second trilogy is about Gair's son Ruith and Sarah who has a gift of sight. Which brings us to this book, Dreamspinner.

One other son survived the horror at the well, and that was Runach who we have met in the previous books. He is the one who suffered the most from his father's evil as his hands were terribly crippled from his mother's attempt to close the well, and even worse, his father stole all of his magic in an attempt to gain more power. Runach has decided now that Miach has healed his hands to become a soldier and live a life away from the comfort of his family. When he encounters a waif of a girl pretending to be a boy he starts down a path that rather appears to have been laid out for him. Aisling comes from a small kingdom where the people are poor and oppressed, and she has spent her life as a weaver doing little but working and living in poverty. Her apparently wealthy parents sold her into this slavery as a young girl. She escapes the kingdom after being given a quest by a peddler and believing she has a curse on herself. As this story progressed I found myself again drawn into the lives of these mostly magical people, and I liked this story better so far than the second trilogy. Miach is in this one which added to it, and I love he and Morgan, who is now his wife, together. This author has created some characters I recognize and welcome as they come in and out of the story. There are some ties I did not pick up on until late in the story between Aisling and Sarah from the last book - or rather ties from the relatively unknown kingdom they came from.

I may not have mentioned in my previous reviews of these books, but there are magical horses that not only fly - and shapeshift - but they communicate in a basic way with some of their riders. There is quite a bit of shapeshifting throughout these books - as I said, lots of magic. Now I have to wait for the next book..... I've lived in this world for way over a month now so will have to go on withdrawal.

I also should mention that I don't know if these are considered YA but the romance is clean and could be read by any age.

Melissa says

If you are familiar with Lynn Kurland you will understand this review. If not don't read this book. This is a series that will make very little sense if you don't start with Star of Morning which in my opinion is the best 3 books of this series. Kurland is a master story teller and she is amazing at making the same story fun to read. Unfortunately she doesn't have too many different story lines. She adds different elements but the characters are all very similar and their stories are too: { I still love to read her books even tho it is the same story over and over. So this book reminded me a lot of the first three books and the second three books. And it didn't have a lot going on or much movement. But my gosh I enjoyed reading it and couldn't put it down: } Very clean. 16 and up.

Alisa Hedden says

What do a scared elven prince that has had his magic stripped from him and a mortal girl sold into a factory at a young age have in common? Nothing, until the threads of fate pull them together. She is looking for a skilled swordsman and he is looking for anonymity. This tale is told in a quiet voice that manages to insinuate itself into our dreams.

After being pulled from the factory where she has spent most of her life laboring over the looms, Aisling is disguised as a boy and sent to find a swordsman to free her people. Terrible prices are paid to give her this opportunity, most of which she doesn't know. Normally, just leaving the environs of the city would activate the death curse. So will talking about the city, or even telling the name of the city to any outsiders. Because of the life she led in the city, Aisling, most rationally, believes that elves, magic, dragons, dwarves and all manner of magic and wonder are just fantasies best left to small children.

While this is marketed as a romance, it is at such a low level that this would be safe to share with your teen reader. The romance aspect is handled with such a light hand that the story and characters stand on their own. Lynn has won awards (mostly romance) and has placed on the New York Times best sellers list with her previous work. I will have to check out some of her other work, but, if those measure up to this work, I will have a new go-to author for my reading pleasure. © Night Owl Reviews - <http://www.NightOwlReviews.com>

The Window Seat says

This is the first time that I have read the first book in a Nine Kingdoms trilogy and not had the second one to jump into. This is tough for me to handle! This means there are TWO years til this story concludes and that is going to be a long time... I am already dreading it...

Rùnach, the third child of Gair to get the spotlight in a Nine Kingdoms tale, has been hiding away at the wizarding school of Buidseachd under the protection of Soilléir, the powerful mage from Cothromaiche. After his siblings Ruithneadh and Mhorghain showed themselves to be alive and well to the world, Rùnach feels that he can no longer hide away. He sets off on a journey to Gobhann to earn from Weger the swordsman the infamous mark and to earn the right to serve an obscure lord for the rest of his very long life as a guardsman.

For the full review, please go to <http://www.thewindowseat13.com/2012/1...>
