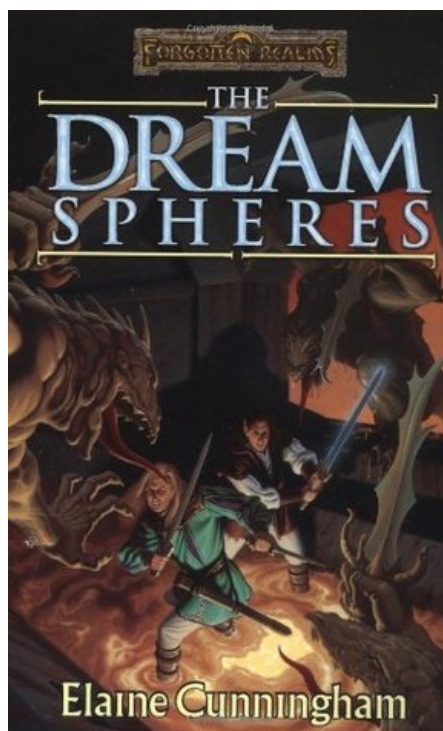




The Dream Spheres

Elaine Cunningham

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Welcome to Waterdeep

Here, everything imaginable is for sale. Even dreams can be purchased if one is willing to pay the price.

When the sale of dream spheres threatens the life of his newfound half sister, Danilo Thann joins forces with Arilyn Moonblade to uncover the source of this deadly trade. Their search leads them into the dark heart of Waterdeep, and to personal secrets that could destroy them both.

Elaine Cunningham returns to the City of Splendors and the characters that made her one of the most popular Forgotten Realms authors.

The Dream Spheres Details

Date : Published December 3rd 2005 by TSR (first published 1999)

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Author : Elaine Cunningham

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From Reader Review The Dream Spheres for online ebook

Cindi Smith says

I liked it, but it took to long before it got good. The ending was surprising and Elaith got more than I thought he would. It's a must read:)

Ronald Moore says

Very good story of the continued problems of Dan and Aralyn weaved into the lives of those in Waterdeep and is Dan,s faith-based of elffriend be kept by the elf that tried to kill him several times.

Very good story of the continued problems of Dan and Arilyn. Weaving the lives of those of Waterdeep,s noble family,s and the troublesome dream spheres. And can Dan,s faith-based of a rouge elf that named him elffriend be trusted.

Grzegorz Oleksa says

A big improvement over the previous book, I really enjoyed it. Smaller scale allowed for better descriptions and more character development. Thanks to this, the novel doesn't feel rushed. The book features well-known characters that the author had been able to polish along the years, the plot itself is less predictable and more involving and I simply enjoyed spending so much time in Waterdeep. What I have never encountered to such an extent in a Forgotten Realms' novel were all the racism related problems, which gave the book a slightly deeper and more serious feel. I would give it a 4+/5, but since there are no halves, I think that a slightly overrated 5 is in place.

Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says

I think that this book was somewhat hampered by its setting (tabletop gaming campaign). And possibly editorial guidelines. I don't know this for certain, but I got the feeling that violence is allowed, and bawdiness is allowed, but that romance is to be limited.

Something that just dawned on me: Danilo and Arilyn are Mulder and Scully. With swords.

Hacedores says

Muy bien, llegamos al quinto libro de esta saga. Aunque personalmente para mí es el cuarto, siendo el Bastión del Espino algo más parecido a un spin off que una parte de la saga propiamente dicha.

Una de las cosas que más me ha llamado la atención de este libro es lo bien colocado que está en el tiempo. Como está colocado bastante después de las aventuras sucedidas en el segundo y tercer libro, nos mantiene en la intriga de qué es lo que ha sucedido de lo que no nos hemos enterado.

Sigue leyendo...

Keith Craig says

An average fantasy novel. I can't say I would recommend it but I won't discourage you either. Good mindless entertainment.

Daniel Willis says

Disclaimer: I've never been enraptured by the Waterdeep setting nor have read any of the previous books about these characters, Danilo, Arilyn, and Elaith. So reading it as a standalone book I was lost. Most of the family politics and alluded to characters that a Waterdeep fan would know were not explained adequately enough. The backplot recouting of the 3 main characters had me feeling there was no cohesion in this series - e.g. "Oh yeh we were suppose to forever irrevocably hate each other from the last book but I didn't know there would be another book and now the plot demands we all work together so, wham, all is forgiven, kiss and make up."

As far as the plot, there was some mystery going on, but it was convoluted and confusing. Even when the characters explained it at the end it was rambling and incoherent, like the author never really developed it thoroughly. I figured out the villain early on. The blurb talked about a long lost half-sister as if it were the focus of the book, but she was a very minor character who died off really quickly (and yet the brother acted like it was a great lost because the plot demanded it) The final battle scene was short and unsatisfying, which sadly is far too common in Forgotten Realms novels. Even the titular "dream spheres", which were described nicely in the beginning and I really looked forward the author exploring further, ended up being just a faceless commodity the families were fighting over, might as well have called them baubles.

Overall not much to recommend unfortunately.

Veronica says

Neither the mystery plot nor Danilo and Arilyn's relationship drama was really working for me in this book, unfortunately. Also the background characters weren't sketched out as well as they have been in previous books, so... that doesn't leave a whole lot to enjoy. I took a break in the middle of this book to read the most awful racist erotica book I have ever seen and I still didn't feel terribly compelled to put away the terrible erotica and pick this back up.

Doris says

It took over halfway through the book for it to get interesting. I almost tossed it in my discard pile, but kept reading mainly to fill time while traveling and during lunch breaks on those days when I had no errands and no lunch companion. Once it picked up, it was hard to put down.

Recommendation – if you read this, speed read through the first 100 pages or so, just enough to get a feel for

the characters. Once the action starts though it engages your interest!

Stuart Schneider says

More like 4 1/2 stars. A thrilling conclusion to this series, shaping up for sequel(s) that I do not know whether or not exist at this point (more research required (yes, even I need to do research once in a while of books that escaped my notice over the years). I was able to discern the likely ending of the mystery surrounding this plot line, but it did not detract from my enjoyment of following the 3 main characters involved as well as the bad girl in this one. I am hopeful that there is more to their written story that was published, but if not, I am satisfied with my imagination in filling in my own answers to their eventually story ending. I have made a decision to find and read every FR novel left that is not a part of my collection currently, but this will take time and a few more years of tracking down and reading. Onward!

Kagan Oztarakci says

"The best thing about old friends is that they know you well. Of course, that is also the worst thing about old friends."

"Intentions seldom matter. Impressions on the other hand, matter a great deal."

"...not even the most formidable power can last forever."

Sohvi says

When you and your friends start a nostalgic book club and you think it is a good idea to read the whole Swords and songs series. White wine wasn't enough. I recommend whiskey or vodka. Possibly both.

Jesse says

I liked it, but not as much as other books I've read by Cunningham.

The three characters that have been stars of 5(I think) of her books, have come back together one more time; the jaded half-elf, Arilyn, the psudo fop/mage, Danilo, and the evilish crime lord of Waterdeep, Elaith. In this story, they spend their time almost entirely within the city of Waterdeep. This was cool, and I like the way that Cunningham continues to flesh out the "Manhattan" of Forgotten Realms.

The reason I only gave this book 3 stars is because, in my mind, it was lacking in the fantasy arena. And as far as the Forgotten Realms world goes, Cunningham is not the first author to do this. I just need there to be MORE magic and MORE monsters. And there was some...there were some scary lizardmen and an important magic item, but I never felt like these were taking the foreground. It seemed like I was reading about fake politics and emontional issues. I believe that a fantasy novel should have some of this as well to

make the world and characters real, but I read fantasy for other reasons.

Anyways, it was a good story and Cunningham is still one of my favorite authors of the Realms. But for 4 or 5 stars, I need dragons and shit...

Adam Duclos says

Well, I finally finished the Songs and Swords series, chronicling the adventures of the Harper Bard/Mage Danilo Thann and the half elven secret princess moon blade wielding assassin/fighter Arylin. It took me a while to find the fourth book Thornhold, although that turned out to only be tangentially related because Danilo is in it as a side character, so it's been years since I started the series.

Maybe that was why the book didn't tickle my fancy... I was no longer caught up in the character's story, and the plot seemed really slow. I've been getting stuck in a lot of stories lately where I find out I'm in the "book where everyone loses their powers" too, so that didn't help. Danilo's spells go awry and Arylin's sword has its powers go wonky because of the stories macguffin, so there is a lot of angst over that, as well as some relationship stuff, and a lot of side characters whose stories go nowhere.

So yeah, there is a lot in the book that was rather boring...

Danilo must have taken more than a few levels in wizard if his melee fighting is that bad...

Arylyn lets a lot of bad guys get away...

Elaith, the centuries old super fighter/thief/underworld kingpin can't figure out how to go for the kill in his fights...

Here's what gets me the most though... Usually its that the MacGuffin doesn't play by the rules, but here its because none of the characters recognize it. So, the main magic thingy is an elven lore gem that has turned to evil. Evidently, every elf knows about it, the kiira that turned evil, as well as generally knowing what a kiira is, and how to recognize it. Well, Elaith knows, yet he is snookered into buying a fake one, and never realizes it until he is told at the end of the book. Uh, wouldn't he have tried to embed it in his forehead? That's what you do with kiira after all... why would he wait?

Also, the book starts out by introducing a new character, Danilo's unknown little sister, and kills her off partway through the book. Danilo is all sad, etc. Yet earlier, a mage gets killed and Danilo is like "Hey, we're in a DnD world, lets take the guys severed hand and get him raised from the dead... after all, his family is super rich!" The thing is, his own family is equally rich, and he never once thinks to get her raised... What a great brother! Ooh, since she was being stalked by bad guys and such, they could have had her 'reincarnated' into a new body, which would have been even less expensive, reset her age, and they wouldn't be able to recognize her!

Anyway, the book was really slow, and the main battle at the end was kinda lame. It's a sad way to end a series!
