



# The Dragon Revenant

*Katharine Kerr*

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## **The Dragon Revenant** Katharine Kerr

For years the provinces of Deverry have been in turmoil; now the conflict escalates with the kidnapping of Rhodry Maelwaedd, heir to the throne of Aberwyn. Intent on rescuing him, his beloved Jill and the elven wizard Salamander infiltrate the distant land of Bardex, where Rhodry is held captive. Tied to Deverry by obligation and circumstance, the immortal wizard Nevyn begins to see that all the kingdom's problems can be traced to a single source: a master of dark magics, backed by a network of evil that stretches across the sea. Now Nevyn understands that he too is being lured away to Bardek--and into a subtle, deadly trap designed especially for him.

Katharine Kerr's novels of the Kingdom of Deverry unfold in a world of stunning richness and depth. Her vivid portrayal of characters caught in a complex web of fate and magic captures the imagination with a realism that few can match. Now she returns to this enchanted kingdom, where the wheels of destiny are turning anew.

## **The Dragon Revenant Details**

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Author : Katharine Kerr

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# From Reader Review The Dragon Revenant for online ebook

## Nerine Dorman says

Finally, I can now say I've read the first four books in the Deverry Cycle – in their chronological order. These four books form act one, which Katharine Kerr subheads as “Deverry”. And now, looking back to when I first read these during my mid-teens and now, 20 or so very odd years later, I realise exactly what a huge influence they were on me, for wanting to be an author of epic fantasy. (I admit to love the idea of exploring past life relationships for characters, and this is a story seed for my Those Who Return series.)

Also, what struck me about Kerr's Deverry Cycle is her envisioning of a magic system, which as far as fantasy magic systems go, is extremely well thought out, even if the dualistic light vs. dark, good vs. evil split is evident. Contemporary fantasy has, to a large degree, moved on from this sort of worldview, but in this regard I think it's fine if you look at when the novels were first published.

Dragonspell is a culmination of all the events of the preceding books, but without the flashbacks to past lives. Rhodry has been kidnapped and whisked across the ocean to Bardek, where he has had his memories wiped. He spends a fair portion of the book a clueless slave owned by a rich widow (and you can well imagine that his good looks will appeal to her). Jill, with Rhodry's half-brother Salamander, have made the perilous crossing across the ocean and are actively hunting Rhodry, because the death of Rhodry's other half-brother back home means that his time in exile is over. Rhodry's return means his taking on responsibilities that will prevent the outbreak of war, so it's a bit of a race against time to see him returned.

Of course there are bigger problems at play. Rhodry is but a pawn in the longstanding struggle between the dweomers of light and dark, with Nevyn finally coming up against the rather sinister Old One. All the while, Jill is slowly discovering that she has a real knack for the dweomer herself, and by the time she reaches the end of her journey, she has a terrible decision to make. Will she marry Rhodry and live happily ever after as his wife, or will she pursue her magical studies and fulfil Nevyn's centuries'-old vow to bring her to the dweomer?

That she can't have both becomes apparent from quite early on, and it's terrific watching her grow as a character in a milieu where women traditionally do not possess much freedom. Jill is a prime example of an empowered female character.

Kerr, in my mind, is possibly one of the greatest and unsung masters of fantasy, and if you've fallen in love with names such as Kate Elliot, Karen Miller and Robin Hobb, and have yet to discover Kerr, then do yourself a favour and begin with the first four books in the 15-book Deverry Cycle.

Here you'll discover a world steeped in Celtic lore, with elves, dwarves and magic. Great battles and loves are interwoven and we are privy to the growth of characters through their many lives as they come to terms with their collective wyrd. Though there is a linear plot, there are diversions to events in the past, which all inform the primary narrative arc, and make this one of my firm favourites in the fantasy genre that absolutely deserves a permanent and prominent place in any serious fantasy collection.

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## Kathi says

[for not forcing a "happily ever after" ending, but instead giving us the bittersweet decisions

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## **Mark says**

It has been 16 years since I first picked up the first Deverry novel, DaggerSpell, and here I am, 16 years later, about to finish the fifteenth and final one.

Has the journey been worth it? Yes. Was the wait too long? Yes.

I would not recommend anyone starts reading the Deverry cycle unless they intend to read them all, as the macroscopic story is at least as important as the microscopic ones, and as such I am reviewing the books as a set.

I almost give them 4 stars (excellent) but in the end I am not enjoying them quite as much as I did in my early 20's and so I settled on 3 stars (good). As fantasy novels go the concepts and the writing are really excellent but for me the last couple of books haven't been as enjoyable as the early ones and it's a lot to expect people to read fifteen novels. That said I don't regret a single minute of the time I spent in Deverry. I even used to own a 'deverry' domain and use the handle of 'Rhodry' when t'internet was young.

Highly recommended IF you have the stomach for a lot of reading.

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## **Rhod Chang says**

My favorite of the books even though it doesn't have flashbacks, which are usually my main reason for coming back and re-reading the Deverry books. Because really, I just love the whole damn setup so much -- Rhodry in Bardek, Jill starting to learn dweomer but with SALAMANDER of all people, the wonderful bit where we find out what kind of bird Salamander turns into, and above all, Gwin, Gwin, Gwin, Gwin, oh God, GWIN.

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## **Aria Tatiana says**

Book 4 "The Dragon Revenant" (known as "Dragonspell" in the UK) marks the end of the first cycle of the Deverry Saga. More details about the saga, plot, style etc. on my comment here for Book 1: Daggerspell.

I found the end of this first cycle really satisfying. Book 3 had ended on an unbearable cliffhanger. You're taken into the suspense again right from the first pages of this 4th installment. Unlike the 3 previous novels, this one won't make us discover in flashbacks parts of our heroes past lives, for the simple reason that there is too much to say and show already about our present time story. I really love these flashbacks, but there's nothing to be disappointed about, with the pace of The Dragon Revenant, you won't get much time to long for them. The last pages of the book almost moved me to tears, in the way the characters grew and became better persons. A beautiful conclusion to this tale.

Note that Book 5 will portray some of our protagonists again, several years later, but with a new plot that will last 4 novels too.

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## Thomas says

We reach the final book in the first Act of Katharine Kerr's Deverry series. It picks up directly after the events of the Bristling Wood. Jill and Salamander set out to rescue Rhodry, who is now enslaved on the Bardek Archipelago, where their enemies lie in wait. Nevyn resides in Aberwyn with Lovyan and Cullynn, and begins to discover that Rhodry is just a pawn in his enemy's plans to destroy him.

I felt this was a really good book to end the first Act; Kerr manages to draw the storylines in Dragonspell to a satisfying conclusion, albeit not the happiest.

The story structure continues like the previous three books from multiple POV characters, chiefly Jill, Nevyn and Rhodry, and also with some of the antagonists. This worked well, but I do feel Kerr would have done better to divide the novel into more chapters to make it easier to read.

I had divided feelings about the absence of time jumps. Partly because I had enjoyed seeing into Nevyn's backstory, but at the same time I did find them quite disruptive. Book 4 doesn't have these and I found it flowed so much better.

Kerr had me quite attached to her characters. I have become really quite fond of the three main protagonists, but Nevyn has to be my favourite. I also found Salamander to be really quite entertaining at times, but infuriating at others.

The pace was relatively quick compared to previous novels. Perhaps this is due to the nature of this of part of the story, not so much in first third, but definitely in the last 150 pages, which I managed to read through in one day.

It felt so good to return to reading the Deverry series after nearly a year; I don't know why I waited so long as I enjoyed this one so much. Katharine Kerr is such an underrated fantasy author. In my opinion her writing is up there with the likes of George RR Martin, Robin Hobb, John Gwynne and Kate Elliott. I would give this a solid 4 stars out of 5, and I look forward to reading the next act of the Deverry Cycle.

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## Barry Mulvany says

I had thought to give this book 4 stars because of one part but thought that was unfair as I really enjoyed everything else and it seemed stingy to remove a whole star just because of one part even if that was a fairly major part. Unlike the previous books this all takes place in the 'current' timeline and mostly on the Bardek islands, with some cutbacks to Deverry. Plot I won't mention at all, being the fourth and last title in the series but let's just say that things moved well and I really liked that the author didn't try to drag things out. I had thought one particular part was probably going to last most of the novel but no, things got sorted out fairly quickly which was refreshing. The ending was long and might put some people off (similar to some complaints I've seen for LotR) but I thought it was very good and fitted the book well.

Now to the part that bothered me. (view spoiler) As already stated apart from this it was a great conclusion to

a very good series and I'm still surprised how fresh this seems even though it is relatively old in the modern fantasy genre.

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### **Sarah says**

I just cannot get over how much the ending sucks. I've loved this series so much but this book just made it crash and burn for me. I hate investing in characters relationships for so long to have them just say screw it in the end. Jill literally spends the entire book looking for Rhodry because she can't stand to be without him, just to throw him away like so much refuse. Isn't that the EXACT thing that Nevyn did that he's been regretting for over 400 flipping years!?! Ugh, just so much ugh. I hate when authors think happy endings are cliché. Life sucks, at least give me some happy in the fantasy world. It's like the Mistborn series all over again...

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### **Melanie says**

Another excellent read from Kerr. After reading Book 3 of the Deverry series, I saw myself stopping after the first 4. Now, having read *The Dragon Revenant*, I want to read the next set of 4! I love the characters, love the plot, and look forward to finding out more about Jill, Nevyn, Rhodry and the Wildfolk in Book 5.

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### **Kes says**

I was a little dissatisfied with the ending.

In one sense, it is over: Rhodry ascends the governorship (and the scene where he pops up at the tourney was fun to read); Jill chooses to follow her path (I loved her dilemma - that she felt that she had to choose, and that she ultimately felt trapped that Rhodry didn't understand. The ending scene with Nevyn was a great resolution of the central conceit in the first book too); and the Salamandar and Alaena plotline was very neatly wrapped up too. I thought the Perryn plotline was sort-of wrapped up, though I would have appreciated more concrete answers to what he is. But then - not everything needs to be answered.

I keep coming back to Rhodry's speech:

"My apologies, Mother. There's somewhat you don't know." He turned with one of his unhuman sunny smiles. "On the Auddglyn coast there's a town called Slaith. Ever heard of it? Of course not - neither have most people. It's a pirate haven, and Ygwimyr's known of it for years and done naught about it. Why? Because he doesn't have a fleet. When he marries his sister to me, he'll get the use of mine, because in return I'll get the right to sail into his rhan and burn that stinking filthy hellhole to the ground."

The force of that hatred! I felt that was a good example of showing, not telling, of the kind of torture that Rhodry endured.

I also liked that Mael's books kept getting mentioned again - the past reverberating through to the present.

On the other hand: what was it with all the people turning from the dark side (Gwin and Sarcyn)? What was up with the Maryn plotline - we didn't see an end to that? I didn't understand how that affected the plot in general or the actions that were taken (I gather he unified the country, but what's the point of going into detail into that point in history? What's the broader thematic point? I might have missed that). What's the significance of the ring that Salamandar trotted all the way after Rhodry for?

With all the unanswered questions, how can this be the ending to a quartet? Well. I mean, ultimately - the main question/issue from the first book was Nevyn teaching Jill the dweomer, so that was answered, but I would have liked a nicer ending.

I add that I liked the dialogue, especially Perryn's "oh er well". I liked that the characters had different ways of speaking marked out. I liked the sense that names changed through the eras - that Gladion was considered old-fashioned at a later point (it's strange that "Nevyn / No one" hadn't changed that much through the four hundred years, but I'm not quibbling that).

I don't know if I'll recommend this series - it is light reading, the worldbuilding is detailed, but... it also feels forgettable. I'll keep reading because it's entertaining and fun, but it doesn't feel that it goes deeper than that. So I'll keep the series at 3 stars.

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### **kat says**

It's hard to overstate how disappointing this book was. Long. Dull. Uninspired. Anticlimactic. A pale, passionless shadow of the way the series started out.

I'm glad all the loose ends got tied up and the story all sorted itself out, but boy was it a slog to get here. Unlike the others, this book takes place in a single time period, which makes it even more obvious that Kerr has given up on the one truly original and interesting aspect of Daggerspell -- the reincarnation and Wyrd.

Minus the interesting echoes of past lives, we're down to your basic fantasy novel, and a mediocre one at that. The plot is repetitious and meandering, the characters are kind of dumb, the bad guys are a complete joke, and 300+ pages of tension and plotting lead up to a complete non-event of a final showdown.

For others who have read the first three and want to read this one just to see how it all pans out: (view spoiler) There, now I've spared you the hours of your life you would've wasted on this book.

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### **Noah says**

I finally felt a sense of closure at the end of this book, but of course, Katherine Kerr left it open for sequels as well. In some ways, especially in the last half of the book, it felt like it just went from tying up one loose end to the next. I was satisfied with the way the story ends, but it felt somewhat methodical without a whole lot of tension. I would like to go onto the next series, if only I could find them!

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## **Ruth Sims says**

### **I love this series like an old friend**

A wonderful story based on the idea of souls being reincarnated. Although the basis of each book is the choices the characters make in their current life, the interweaving of the past makes the story more captivating the further the series goes on.

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## **Sophie says**

I would give this more of a 3.5 than a 3 stars. I really enjoyed the first two books but was very disappointed in the third, so there was a year or so gap between finishing that and picking this up. Whilst I did enjoy this one much more than the third, I feel like the series got a bit weaker as it went on. For example, the concluding portion of this book felt rather anti-climactic, I was expecting more of a 'show down' to happen after a four book build up, but found it a little rushed instead. There are definitely aspects that I liked, one of which being Jill. I enjoyed where she ends up as a character but find my enjoyment of her spoiled slightly by some of the events of book 3 (which pissed me off no end). Whilst I am not entirely satisfied with the micro-story, I have other Kerr books to read so am looking forward to continuing on with the macro-story and seeing how it unfolds in other cycles!

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## **Megan says**

[That Rhodry and Jill don't end up together broke my h

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