



Destiny of the Light

Louise Cusack

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DESTINY OF THE LIGHT is the first novel of my “Shadow Through Time” fantasy trilogy published by Simon & Schuster Australia. It contains elements of romance, magic and horror, taking a woman from our world into the earthworld of Ennae; a sepia world joined to ours by the Sacred Pool. Talis, her appointed Guardian helps her through the dangerous terrain of Ennae, sacrificing everything to love, ensuring her safety in a land where magic prevails and nothing is as it seems. To fulfill her destiny as The Light – the woman whose child will join the four elemental worlds – Khatrene must overcome her amnesia and regain her childhood memories of Ennae while thwarting the plans of an erotic Shadow Woman, a mysterious tattooed man, a warrior Plainswoman, Ennae’s best swordsman and ultimately her own beloved brother.

Her journey takes her to the royal Volcastle atop an active volcano, through the Forest of Desire where every sexual fantasy is fulfilled, the labyrinth of the Altar Caves, soul-destroying Rue Marsh and the haze enshrouded Plains where danger lies in every shadow. Murder and betrayal follows Khatrene, and as the horrifying secrets of the past are revealed, she must struggle to stay alive and protect the powerful child growing within her from its own father, a man who she discovers has systematically destroyed her whole family.

Destiny of The Light combines heroic courage and sacrifice with believable human frailties, and the purest of love with the most despicable betrayals of trust.

Destiny of the Light Details

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Author : Louise Cusack

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From Reader Review Destiny of the Light for online ebook

Twinsie Talk Angie J says

Check out this review and others at www.twinsietalk.blogspot.com, www.facebook.com/twinsietalk or @twinsietalk

I received this book from the author for a truthful and honest review.

I have to say that in picking this book for review I was really stepping outside of my "box" so to speak. I am an erotica, BDSM , and paranormal reader so this was alllll new to me. I had a bit of trouble getting into the book initially because the world building was soooo daunting. There were so many characters and such unusual names, I even got a bit confused. BUT don't give up is what I gotta say. When I finally "relaxed" into the novel I was glad I stuck it out. Basically Catherine/Princess Khatrene or the White Princess was sent to our world to keep her safe as a child. Time here and in the world of Ennae is different so when she returns everyone expects a child but is shocked to see a woman. Khatrene's brother everyone was told committed suicide but actually was teleported back to rule as the King of Annae.

There are good guys and there are bad guys in the novel and you can kind of tell who is who actually. I have to say I love me some Tallis. He is the Guardian of the twins. He also accidentally wiped Khatrene's memories when he sent her to exile as a child. I love that the two of them fall in love with each other but Khatrene is bound to marry the Dark so she can "heal" the 4 worlds.

This book is amazing with the layers and depth of characters. If you wanna try something new...this book is it. This is a trilogy and I will be sneaking in the other 2 books in my reading schedule because I feel it is a worth while read.

Helen Lacey says

I adored this book. I read it when it was first released several years ago and was delighted when I was able to download it onto my Kindle and once again get swept away to the sepia world of Ennae, and fall in love with the hero, Talis. If you like fantasy romance this book is a must read. Louise Cusack weaves a seductive story of adventure, betrayal, honour and love and created characters who come alive on the pages. I'm so looking forward to returning to Ennae in book two and three of The Shadow Through Time trilogy. Destiny Of The Light is a captivating story from start to finish.

Nicole Luiken says

What I liked: Very original world (no animals including insects, brown sky), and the romance between the two main characters.

I'll definitely be on the lookout for book two.

Quibbles: lots of POV shifts

Yanna says

Hard to even rate it 1 star..

Tien says

Fantasy is a staple for me, especially when it contains strong female character (preferably one who kicks ass either by sword or magic) in an alternate world. Add a sprinkle of romance and I'm a happy camper. It's easy to see that this book is soooo for me. I was so absorbed in this book world that I finished it within 24 hours, fitting in reads between errands.

Kathrene took the plunge, literally, into Ennae. In Ennae, everything is in shades of brown (think Sepia) and there are no animals (which means no insects, *bonus!* but you'd have to walk everywhere L). My first thought was, why would you create a world where everything is brown? How freaking boring! This led me, of course, to be thankful for our colourful world. After I got over my first thought, I truly began to invest my interest in Kathrene's adventures in Ennae plus noting that the worlds are based on elements and Ennae's Earth, it makes sense from everything to be in shades of brown. The hardest thing was to ~~imagine (in my head)~~ remember that everything is brown in Ennae. I keep finding myself being jarred by reminders (in the book) of the world I'm currently immersed in – whispers: it's in sepia. Usually, I'd find this annoying because it's kind of repetitive and at times, condescending, but I'd really needed them this time; the reminders were paced just at the right moments.

Talis is a Guardian and he was the one to help Kathrene through between worlds. When he saw her though, she has changed significantly but she looked very much like the Queen that there is no doubt of who she really is. Unfortunately, Kathrene has no memories of Ennae or of her childhood in Ennae but Talis felt safe to her and she placed her trust in him. Together, they will traverse the dangerous world of Ennae where trees will prickle you when your emotions are too strong, where water is kind of thick (*think: melted jelly or, if you're not Aussie, melted jell-o*), and where political intrigue's so rife, nobody really knows who the true enemy is.

Kathrene is a resourceful woman – that is her most admirable trait for me. She is beautiful, brave, and kind. My only complaint is that she doesn't wield a sword! See the cover? Yeah, I thought she wields a sword... :(Don't worry, this is will not spoil your reading at all. In fact, if you know this point, you'd probably enjoy better than I did. I kept waiting for the moment that she'd take up the sword although I gradually had to accept the fact that her destiny is all that matters in this book.

Even though Ennae is a world in sepia, this is a very dark world filled with ‘magical’ creatures (that even now, I’m not sure whether they’re evil or not!), evil men (cannibals), some perverted desires... but, there is also love, kindness, faith, loyalty, etc. It’s definitely not a world without hope. The plot took me to unexpected places which I absolutely adored in a book and I bet you do too! I loved being pulled up short of my expectations and taken to a different place. It wasn’t just the once either! That’s one of the reason I just kept reading through my son’s swimming lesson, my dog begging for food, my husband asking if I wanted dessert after dinner... If you’re a strictly romance lover, this may not be the book for you but if you’re just like me (see above), then this could be the perfect book for you.

De Roedere says

Full disclosure here. I’m not in love with the way publishers suddenly decided fantasy was selling well, so started promoting fantasy with a little of another genre added. Particularly if the genre were romance. Romance has had a long and illustrious history in fantasy novels. It is not, however, romance such as a writer of romance would recognise.

And yes, I do resent the way people representing the romance genre refuse to believe there’s more than one way to fall in love.

Many cross over novels I’ve read and enjoyed. Romance can go well with a thriller, for example.

This book seemed to be a poke in the direction of fantasy from a romance base.

It’s certainly not what I would consider fantasy. There’s a total lack of consideration to the rules of the story world.

That’s often the case, and it’s not necessarily the authors’ fault (the Publishers should know better), particularly if they’re not critical readers of fantasy. I would hope they aren’t.

If they were they wouldn’t have applied attributes to some objects that could not be extended to all items in the same class.

For example, the human body is primarily water, yet *water in the wild* (lakes and streams) becomes another substance without consideration as to how that would affect the human body at the core of the story. Fair enough, if the body isn’t going to mix with humans. But if it is, then somebody is going to die slowly and painfully of thirst.

Just because you’re going to call the story fantasy, doesn’t mean anything goes.

Readers of real fantasy should stay away from this one.

J.L. Addicoat says

Even though I found it hard to get into this book, and it is in the genre I read, the story pulled me into it, and I had to keep reading, although I had no idea why.

Voices in the head I can understand, although I’d love to know who the voice belongs to. Her Father? Louise has a strong voice and eventually I got into the book.

The brother love feelings I felt a little icky though. All in all, I like it enough to get the next two books, if only to read what happens to them all.

Nas Dean says

DESTINY OF THE LIGHT by Australian author Louise Cusack is book one of a three book trilogy.

It's a fantasy romance weaved at the fantasy land of Ennae. Tallis is the champion to the twin prince and princess. When war broke out he transports them to another world which they know as an illusionary world, Magoria. Which in fact is our Earth.

When the time comes the prince returns and is made the King of Ennae. Now when his twin sister returns later, though twins she is older as time moves faster on our earth than on their world. Tallis falls for our princess, Khatrene. But as her destiny is to give birth to a child who will join the four worlds, she is married to the Dark. It is a saga of forbidden love. Betrayal, honor and family. Tallis is a noble hero. And Khatrene is a strong heroine who was brought up in our world but adapts to life on Ennae and all it's magical powers.

Louise Cusack's superb storytelling makes these characters stand out and the whole story is very visual. I'm looking forward to getting into the second book in this trilogy. As a reader what I love about these series is that though it depicts other fantasy worlds, you are not thrown out of the story by other world languages. The author explains this away by explaining that their mind adapts to our language for them to converse with an Earth being.

DESTINY OF THE LIGHT is an exciting, fantastic, tale which will grip you from the very first page and keep you flipping your ereader pages late into the night!

Anni (Tea in the Treetops) says

Ennae is a world poised for catastrophe – the northmen gather for war, the people of the plains have all but been wiped out by royal decree and the rest of the inhabitants wait for the coming of The Light – a prophecy foretelling the reunion of the four worlds and salvation from the creature of the Fire Realm. When Catherine (or Khatrene) falls into Ennae she unwittingly drops right into the centre of this coming storm and must make sense of this new world and its inhabitants.

I loved everything about *Destiny of the Light*. The sepia world of Ennae didn't seem like a very beautiful world to imagine, yet its inhabitants were amazingly detailed and diverse. Louise Cusack has told this story in a beautiful and compelling way - it had me hooked from the opening chapters and wouldn't let me put my kindle down!

The scale of the political intrigue and interwoven stories in this book reminded me a little of *A Game of Thrones* – there are plenty of characters to keep track of and it's never clear who is allied with whom. The point of view shifts around throughout the story so we do get an idea of the motivations of most of the characters. This was the only slight downside I found with *Destiny of the Light* – I'm not such a fan of constant POV-switching.

The main characters were brilliant and very easy to relate to – especially the leading ladies, Khatrene and Lae. I thought Khatrene was at times a little too trusting, especially since she'd just come from our modern world and had no memories of Ennae. I expected her to freak out a little more, especially after reuniting with her brother. The character of Lae was gorgeous – I loved her mischievous banter with Pagan.

The leading men are also really well-written - Talis was almost painfully honourable and I wished he would stop blaming himself for everything. The romance between him and Khatrene is delicious. Pagan is another gorgeous character and I'm sure plenty of readers love his roguish attitude. The Dark is one scary dude, and that's all I'll say about him.

The pacing is just right – I was drawn onwards after the end of each chapter and the story builds up towards an apocalyptic climax which makes me really want to pick up the next in the series, *Daughter of the Dark*, right away.

If you love your fantasy to be slightly gritty but with plenty of swoony romance, *Destiny of the Light* is for you!

Alana Donherr says

I truly enjoyed this story... it is the beginning of what is sure to be a memorable saga. The only spoiler I will offer is that there are some undertones of incest that some might find offensive (they are not heavily detailed but are designed to show the depths to which some of the characters will sink). In my opinion, they are handled as tastefully as the topic can be handled and do highlight the ruthlessness of the circumstances the characters find themselves in.

All in all, I thought it was a good read. I look forward to seeing where the author takes the next part of the story.

Kat at Book Thingo says

[Click here](#) to read my full review at Book Thingo.

There are so many characters and subplots in this story that you need to be fully invested in the writing to keep track of it all, and I admit that it couldn't always sustain my attention. Although the publisher categorises the book as romance, it doesn't really fit comfortably into the genre, and I think it's fairer to say that it's a fantasy with romantic elements.

I have mixed feelings about the romance between Khatrene and Talis. It lacks the edginess that I prefer in my fantasy romance and, although their big conflict is quite dark, the way their love develops lacks complexity, particularly when compared to the subtle nuances in the political tensions that move the external plot.

What I like most about the world that Cusack creates is that there is plenty of room for strong, independent women. This is the story's greatest strength, even if I didn't always like every female character. And yes, sometimes their fates are decided by the men around them, but the women have their own skills and ways of subverting those plans.

In many ways, I feel the story works better if it had been aimed at teens. That said, readers who prefer their fantasy books to be heavy on the intrigue and light on the introspection would probably appreciate it more than I did.

Who might enjoy it: Readers who love knowing what each character is up to and why

Who might not enjoy it: Readers looking for a complicated love story

Sonia says

Not a bad read. Definitely imaginative. But did I like it enough to buy the second and third books in the trilogy? Maybe.....

Tsana Dolichva says

Originally reviewed here: <http://tsanasreads.tumblr.com/post/21...>

After her brother's apparent suicide ten years previously Catherine was left alone to care for her mother during her lingering death from cancer. When she starts hearing a voice in her head, she assumes she's crazy but the voice insists its her destiny to follow her brother to another world. Crazy or not, who can fight destiny?

And so the long lost White Princess finds her way back from an exile spent in our world to the brown, faunaless world of Ennae. Except while she was gone for three years in Ennae, she lived through fifteen years in our world. And to compound things, Khatrene, the Princess, has no memories of her childhood in Ennae. Luckily, her Guardian Champion was the one who facilitated her transition between worlds and he will do anything to protect her and get her to her brother, now the king.

However, destiny and the voice in her head don't leave her alone once she's back in the world she belongs in.

Destiny of the Light is full of interesting characters. There are a lot of them and it took me a few chapters to get them all sorted out in my head, with the exception of the main (-est) character, Khatrene, who stands out by being from our world. While there wasn't much moral ambiguity among who is on the side of good and who is on the side of evil, there was ambiguity in the sense of "oh, turns out that person is evil/good" as we learn more about them. A lot of what drives the action is characters making assumptions (or listening to lies) about other characters and acting accordingly while, as the reader, we are left shaking our fists at the page screaming, "No, don't listen to that person!" And it doesn't tend to be stupidity or silly miscommunications which lead to problems, which is nice. (Books where everything could be solved if the characters just had a proper conversation annoy me.)

Every time I thought the plot was slowing down, something new and unexpected would happen to keep me turning the page.

The supporting characters were integral to the story. I don't want to say too much about various enemies for spoilery reasons, but I will say the daughter of the spiritual leader and the young, brash apprentice Guardian were particularly entertaining, especially when they were in the same room. The daughter's growth as a character between start and end was well done and definitely added depth.

The ending isn't quite a cliff hanger, but many things are left in the air (eg almost everyone's fates). This is the sort of trilogy where one long story is divided into three parts, rather than three self-contained stories with an overarching theme.

There is a lot in this book, and I've found it difficult to review. Hopefully my review encourages you to give it a shot, especially if you like big fat fantasy.

Elisa says

I loved this book for the character have dept. They are funny and keep you captivated at every turn. I cant wait to see what will happen next.

Christy says

I really did enjoy this book. The characters were all likeable with a variety of 'good' and 'evil' characters. The story line was compelling enough for me to have many late nights as I often had trouble putting it down, always wanting to read what was happening in the next chapter. The fantasy land of Ennae was unique, unusual and nothing I could compare to any other fantasy book I have read. What I really do like about this book is that the love and romance scenes are not as corny or cringe provoking as other romance fantasy novels I have read. I will mention that there are quite a few typing errors though it does not affect the enjoyability of the book. I will be reading the second novel in this series.
