



# The Pool of Two Moons

*Kate Forsyth*

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## **The Pool of Two Moons** Kate Forsyth

It has been sixteen years since the Day of Reckoning, when magic and witchcraft were outlawed throughout all of Eileanan. And though rumors say that she is dead, the Arch-Sorceress Meghan o' the Beasts still lives. Traveling with her are the true heir to the throne, and the red-haired warrior Iseult. Their fates are woven together in a quest to bring magic back to the land

## **The Pool of Two Moons Details**

Date : Published March 1st 1999 by Roc (first published 1998)

ISBN : 9780451456908

Author : Kate Forsyth

Format : Paperback 557 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy



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# From Reader Review The Pool of Two Moons for online ebook

## Tracey says

This book carried on the story brilliantly well. I actually think it was better than the first book, which bodes well for the rest of the series.

I've decided to do a proper review after I've read all 6 books , hopefully by the end of the year. :)

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## Sam says

I've read the first book in this series, The Witches of Eileanan, and now this one. My main issue with the story so far isn't that there are too many characters (that's pretty much a given for a plot like this), but that the way their storylines are brought together feels a bit chaotic and choppy. And that's not because of the nature of the story, but more due to the writing — in my opinion, it just didn't flow well in this second installment.

That being said, the story's quite interesting, and I'll definitely read on to find out what happens to the characters. I just probably won't marathon the books as I would with a series I find truly gripping.

Hoping to write a review of the full series when I'm done.

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## Christina Rothfusz says

I really like the story ... I really dislike all of the main characters.

The meeting of the twins should've been better. In this book Isabeau is just nowhere. Her magic is gone, doubt plagues her and seriously - can this girl just think about things before plunging onward! Massive roll of eyes at almost everything she does. Her twin sister is just painful. Lachlan - really! As a future leader he is just pathetic, had me cheering for the bad guys more often than not.

That said, I really enjoyed some of the minor characters. Thomas the little healer was beautifully written and Finn won you over almost immediately.

Will I stick it out to book 6? Probably not. Once you've decided the creepy fish people are probably a better bet as champions, it possibly time to give up! Will try book three though.

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## Morgan says

I can't believe i never discovered this series before now.. one of the best series i have read!!

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## **Phrynnne says**

The second in the series and just as good as the first. The story moves at a good pace and there are some delightful characters introduced along the way. The author trusts that the reader has the common sense to read the first book before starting this one and does not waste time with boring explanations of what has gone on before. She also ties up the story nicely at the end of this book and yet still leaves the way open for plenty of adventures in the next one. I will definitely continue on.

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## **Chani says**

I felt Isabeau (which is way to weird of a name. Isa-boo? Just call her Elizabeth jeez) lost all of her spark. Her spirit was weak, her hand chopped up, her magic non-existence... Granted the magic rituals performed by Meghan and the celestines were nice inserts, I disliked the lack of magic and the over-abundance of politics. Hate politics, hate um. Nasty bits in books I try to skip over. I will make space for them when evenly placed between magic scenes but this was pushing my desires/patience. Also, I could not get a feel for Lachlan. He's a broodying youth hunchback. Oh, now he's a bedazzling winged man. (I was very much ok with this transformation) but then he changed right back into the idiotic, headstrong fool. There was no character developement and I found myself repeatedly asking if I would want him to rule the kingdom for he seemed to have no common sense, only thoughts of revenge. I would like a wise ruler thank you very much. I also did not understand the thinking behind having Isabeau befriend Maya. Were we suppose to see a good side of her? Or is she just tricky? Again, another character that I felt was written too schizophrenically/bi-polar-ism. I also could not see where the author is going with this baby ruler thing. Is she bad is she good? This is not a story I really want to drag on but seeing that there are 5/6 books in the series, probably will. I don't know if I'll be in this for the long haul.

I'm finding that there may be some smarts behind why books in a series other than not being able to write them all at the same time, are not released all at once. Reading these books back to back, 800+ pages, really worn me out. I probably would have been better able to deal with all the politics if I had a year spacing them apart. So, now I'm left with the decision. Read the next book or pick up another one as a palate cleanser?

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## **Kelley Ceccato says**

The books I love most in the world to read are epic/historical fantasy novels that feature cool heroines doing cool stuff. This book is just what I ordered.

One of the things I enjoy most about this series (so far, of course) is the rich diversity among the female characters. They range from the good (Isabeau) to the evil (Maya, Margrit), from the aged (Meghan) to the very young (the delightful Finn, who, while everyone else is preparing to charge to her rescue, calmly frees herself from danger), and from the human to the nonhuman (Lilanthé, Cloudshadow). I have my favorites among them. I've noticed that some reviewers don't care much for Isabeau, and it's true she doesn't get many opportunities to be her most powerful self, but I value her kind heart, which goes out to baby Bronwen even though she's the child of her bitterest enemy. I also love fierce, fearless Meghan; the marvelous Judi Dench is always in my mind's eye when I read about her. I want to see Iseult do some real fighting, but I have hope

that will come later. I didn't care much at all for the male lead, Lachlan, but then I don't think I'm supposed to. It's rather interesting to me that despite being the rightful heir to the throne, ostensibly the "hero," and despite his supposed romantic devotion to Iseult (though he shows precious little tenderness even to her), Lachlan isn't that much more sympathetic than his evil rival Maya. Our "hero" even threatens the life of an innocent infant! This moves the book out of a simple "good vs. evil" struggle and into more complex territory.

I do have a couple of nits to pick.

First, it troubles me that the vicious, bigoted Tirsolleir will accept women among their soldiery, while to our good guys, the people of Eileanan, female soldiers are unknown and barely conceivable, and Iseult has to put forth quite an effort to be taken seriously as a warrior. This "only villains accept women as soldiers" element has been a sticking point for me in both Brandon Sanderson's Stormlight Archive (which I otherwise adored) and John Gwynne's Malice. If women soldiers are only accepted/allowed in the ranks of Evil, are we meant to view the idea of women soldiers as somehow inherently bad? It seems an odd impression to get from this book, in which so many other forms of female power are clearly embraced.

Second, in a sub-subplot, the son of one of the main villains is about to be forced into marriage, and he's terrified that his bride will be a "big, strapping girl" who can out-ride and out-wrestle him. When she turns out to be a petite damsel, mild and soft-spoken, he's so relieved that he falls in love immediately. When I read this, I couldn't help thinking, "Please, please, let the dainty, delicate maiden turn out to be a shrew," just so the young man could learn that a big, strapping bride isn't necessarily the Worst Thing Ever. Alas, no; the dainty bride is as nice as she seems, and thus the tiresome (for me) "No Guy Wants an Amazon" trope goes unchallenged here. Sigh. Maybe this small detail would bother me less if I got the impression that Lachlan does value Iseult, so at least one guy actually does want an Amazon...

All the same, I'm enjoying this series immensely and look forward to the next books.

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## **Alkira says**

Originally posted on Under The Rafters on the 25th August 2012.

The second installment to one of my all time favourite series, The Witches Of Eileanan, is The Pool Of Two Moons.

Not yet having won back the land from the evil Banrigh, the witches and the rebels continue gathering numbers and strength so that they can eventually gain what was theirs. Rumours of a prophecy predicting the emerging of a winged man who is the rightful Righ (King) and who will raise the magical lodestar are spreading through the countryside. Can this unknown man gain the power he deserves by blood rights or will they all fail in their endeavour to win back the land from the Banrigh?

You finally understand the resolution to the cliffhanger of Dragonclaw in The Pool Of Two Moons which continues the adventures of all the characters introduced to you in its predecessor as well as some new faces. Yes, even more characters (I don't know how Kate keeps track of them all).

Again, the language is a drawback for some who find it difficult to comprehend or just find it different to the language and dialect we are used to. But, if you read Dragonclaw then you have to be used to it by now. I

myself, love the Scottish brogue.

The beginning half of this book is more focused on a romance budding between this mysterious young winged man and a half-breed who has grown up in the snows on the Spine of the World. But, don't fret action lovers. The second half of the book is dedicated to winning back the throne from the Banrigh so there is plenty of fighting and sneaky tactics to gain advantages on their enemy.

Isabeau, the central character in Dragonclaw doesn't get as much page time in the second volume. I like the fact that now other characters that you didn't get a full understanding of in the first volume now get more page time and you get to see a different perspective as to what's going on in the land of Eileanan.

Again filled to the brim with magic, war and adventure, I find it hard to believe that once you have read the last sentence, "Only the lame could love and only the maimed could mourn," that you will not be either reaching to your bookshelf for the third book or reaching for your wallet and keys to go and buy it.

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### **Tammy says**

Megan, Iseult, and Bacaiche the Winged journey to unite the resistance and retrieve the remaining pieces of the key, broken and hidden, pivotal in the battle to come. Meanwhile, Isabeau hides in plain sight, waiting for Megan's return.

At the end of 'The Witches of Eileanan', I was disappointed it ended without a definitive resolution. Happily, 'The Pool of Two Moons' provides the awaited and thrilling conclusion. I feel the two books are better thought of as a single unit. The plot is a creative, exciting, wild trip, and the great character foundation only gets richer (Isabeau and Megan are still my favorite.). Ironically, my only concern after finishing the book was where does the series go from here!

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### **Anne says**

It rarely happens that I find the sequel better than the first part, but voilà: here's one of them! There's a lot more action going on in this book and it's fast paced as well. I could also really appreciate the lack of explanations referring to the first book. It seems as if the author just assumed you read it first...which was great! Especially compared to some series where it's just pages of repetitive scenes to make the new reader catch up with things.

There were only 3 things which slightly annoyed me:

1. Isabeau: My god, she's unbelievably ignorant and naive. No wonder she always messes up and gets caught. This became a lot more clear in this book than in the previous one, when I thought it was just one way of telling a story.
2. Lachlan: SUCH an egoistic and self centered bastard. He's supposed to save the day and all, but ugh, just when I think he's worth a tiny shred of sympathy, he totally ruins things again by being a douchebag. I hope he either becomes a nicer person or a total badass in the next book, but not the asshole hero he is now.

### 3. (view spoiler)

All in all it was pretty good book, recommended to lovers of the Fantasy genre who want to try something new and less familiar. You'll like it even better if you're into Scotland as well ;).

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## Dixy says

27%

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## Nicole Field says

This book reminded me of why I don't tend to like a lot of fantasy. WAY too many characters.

And yet, for all that, I kind of liked the way they all fell in together at the end. And also the way that more than one of them were the bad guy, giving the reader the idea that, if we do definitely beat down one bad guy, we're still going to have another one to deal with, giving time for the first bad guy to regroup. Ahh, fantasy series are never meant to be easy.

The main people this novel followed were Isabeau, of course. But then there was the trio of Meghan, Iseult and Lachlan. Later on, Anghus was reintroduced, with his sister Tabbithas in her wolf form. He also created a link towards the homeless kids such as Finn, Jay, Dillon and Timothy, being as how he is Finn's long lost father.

In hindsight, this many separate groups and viewpoints made sense. What I found a bit difficult was the way that Lilanthe and Dide and their ilk were kind of left behind, only tied very loosely to the fact that they knew Meghan and were therefore part of the story.

It almost doesn't make up for it that I trust Kate to bring them in here because they'll be relevant in future books. It was just too many characters.

The whole thrust of the novel was that Lachlan needed to get to the Lodestar that was kind of mentioned in the last book but is definitely on the cusp of dying in this book. There is Samhain and an eclipse during which the Lodestar can be reset and brought back into its power if it's reached in time. I couldn't put the book down as it came close to this resolution being reached, gasping at all the right moments, smiling at Isabeau and Iseult finally being brought together and seeing how similar they are, and also at the reunion between Anghus and Finn, but I just... it's a pretty thick book. And there are another four books in this series. And this one took me a really long time to get through.

I can't criticise the writing, though. It's expert the whole time, well written prose that flows and Irish/Scottish dialogue that is consistent all the way through without ever being alienating. Kate fixed the issue that I had with hating Isabeau in the last book. Apparently being maimed will make a brat grow up and become really interesting. I was convinced. Who knew?

The book left off with Maya kind of on the run? Which was much sooner than I thought was going to happen, but I like what that opens up. There was a short scene from Margrit of Arran towards the end to

remind us that things were not about to be too easy as Lachlan finally took his rightful birthright beside Iseult.

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### **Deirdre says**

Meghan of the beasts knows the time is near. By the pool of the Two Moons in the ancient city of Lucescere the future of the witches of Eileanan will be decided. Our heroes have to travel there to try to solve the issues and to make a future happen.

It's a long read, but I can see that it's going places and I want to know more. Honestly I prefer some of her newer stuff.

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### **Karissa says**

This is the second book in the Witches of Eileanan series. I read the first couple hundred pages of this book and then stopped. I just could not get into this book. There are so many characters and so much jumping around that I started to keep notes on who was who and who was involved with what.

The above coupled with the phonetically spelled out speech was driving me nuts. I loved the first book and the world it built, but this book just jumps around between too many characters. Additionally the phonetic spelling of the dialogue is hard to read.

I don't understand why authors have to ruin perfectly good books by phonetically spelling out speech patterns. It is just as effective to say "they talked with a Scottish accent" or "they spoke with rounded consonants" or something else that tells you how the speech sounds without making you struggle through reading it phonetically.

Overall I was disappointed in this book and will not be continuing the series.

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### **Lauren says**

Loved it! I can't wait to learn more about the League of the Healing Hand, and Iseult and Isabeau's adventures before the events on Rhiannon's Ride.

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