



Gift of the Phoenix

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A nation's fate rests in the hands of three strangers, thrust together by their common destiny to protect the Phoenix, and their world, from destruction. The Three must learn to unite in spite of what separates them, and unlock the magic of three stones that seem to harm as much as they help.

Their journey leads through unexpected doors. Along the way they encounter a cursed people, a haunting vision, a woman on the run.

It all begins and ends with the gift of the Phoenix.

Winner:

North American Book Awards 1st Place in Fantasy in 2014

Kindle Book Review Book of the Year Awards Semifinalist in Fantasy 2013.

Gift of the Phoenix Details

Date : Published March 27th 2015 by Penrose House Press, LLC (first published September 19th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Donna Cook

Format : Paperback 574 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Epic

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From Reader Review Gift of the Phoenix for online ebook

Will Wortner says

Check out my Interview with Donna Cook

Interview with Donna Cook

The short:

This book belongs in the “epic” genre. Gift of the Phoenix is an exhilarating read. Fans of Eragon and The Lord of the Rings will want to add Gift of the Phoenix to their bookshelves. Donna Cook writes an epic fantasy with an extensively layered story line.

I was amazed at the intricacy on the intertwined plots. It was very hard to predict the course of events from start to finish. Gift of the Phoenix surprised me at every turn and kept me on the edge of my seat.

The Long:

Gift of the Phoenix reminds me of a mix of Paolin’s Eragon and Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings, but stands on its own as a unique fantasy-adventure. Cook creates a magic system that is intricate and unique, which can be hard to do in a genre littered with magic.

The story is as much a mystery as it is an adventure. The story is very complex, and yet very easy to follow. I am truly amazed at the seamless-ness of the novel, no stone was left unturned in this storyline. The story is layers upon layers of intertwined plots that all culminate to a fantastic ending. It could well be a stand alone novel, yet at the end cook tells us there is a sequel coming!

Cook’s characters all have great depth and uniqueness. They have their own feelings and ideologies and are expressed naturally throughout the course of the novel. All of the characters are well rounded and none of them feel over the top or unbelievable. I felt like I could really describe each of the characters as a person, rather than a fictional character.

I love the magical structure Cook created for this realm. The magical inhabitants of the realm have great knowledge of what magic exists, but as a whole much of magic is still a big mystery. There is an order set up by the wizards, but at the same time there are those not in the order as well. The magical structure and laws set in this realm is creative and original, but has familiarity to what a fiction reader would perceive as in the realm of possibility.

Pros:

Epic new Series

Intricate, complex, yet easy to follow storyline.

Characters have great depth and individuality.

Cons:

The length might be a little daunting for young readers.

The Story:

(won't give much story away here other than the very base idea, no spoilers!)

Gift of the Phoenix is a very large, 3 part book. Part one is long enough to be it's own story, and parts two and three could have been made into a sequel to part one. The fact that this much story was fit into one novel makes me very excited for the sequel to Gift of the Phoenix.

Part I: The Gathering, takes up nearly half of this 575 page novel. We are introduced to Corren, Nicolai, and Marcellus; three men from different walks of life who find themselves linked by 3 stones given to them by a very old wizard. This starts their journey together to stop "The Cunning One" from essentially stealing all the magic in the real.

Part II felt like sitting in a roller coaster going up the chains to the first drop; your excitement builds as you prepare for an exciting plunge. You don't know how fast or how long the drop will be, but you know it is coming. The reader will see more and more of the story lines tie together, but still not be able to see how the story will end.

Part III is that plunge down the first drop of the roller coaster. I really felt as if I was falling while reading. After that you just hold on as best you can and try not to get woozy as the story excitingly whips you left and right. Part III is pure action and adventure as all the characters come together for the final magical clash to save or end their realm.

The Writing:

(As I have already said a few times...) Cook layers her story like a seasoned pro. The mystery of the cunning one kept me guessing through the entirety of Part I. Cook wrote so many open ended characters and story lines that I could not begin to guess the direction her writing was going in. Other than the three main characters, it could have been any number of people or groups that could be "the cunning one." Every characters relationships and sub plots are engaging and add depth and value to the main plot.

It was exciting to see the plot lines come together in Part II, and reach the final climax in Part III. Every time I expected something to happen-it didn't; making this story unpredictable and exciting.

Cook writes tense conversations really well. There were a couple of argument/discussions between two or more characters where I felt like I was hearing them rather than reading them. This type of skill in writing excites me as a reader.

The Characters:

Corren- A wizard who is given a red stone by Nashua. He is part of the Wysard branch of the Order of Ceinoth. He is curious and somewhat of a wizard prodigy. He is very intelligent, curious, and has slight desire for power.

Nicolai- A farmer from Knobby Tree who has a yellow stone like Corren's red stone. It was given to him by Nashua. He is very level headed and calm, and stays strong to his humble roots as a farmer.

Prince Marcellus- Prince of Caedmonia; Called Marcellus the Protector. He is a Brave, strong, and well loved son of King Clement. He has a blue stone given to him by Nasua. He is a very respected warrior and often called upon to govern the kingdom. He is confident in his abilities, but not arrogant.

King Clement- King of Caedmonia; Called Clement the Beloved. He is a weary king who loves and takes care of his people.

Princes Praea- Princess of Sakkara. She comes to Caedmonia to ask for aid in fighting Norrland, who she believes assassinated her brother. She seeks vengeance, and wants a full war with Norrland. She is intertwined in the destiny of the Corren, Nicolai, And Marcellus.

Conclusion:

This is a book that I will want in Hardcover on a prominent shelf. The Gift of the Phoenix is an epic story with an impending sequel. I would recommend this book to anyone of any age. If you enjoy C.S. Lewis, Rowling, Tolkien, Paolini (or all of them) then do not miss out on reading Donna Cook.

Emely Charlotte says

For my honest review, i liked the length of the book. When i find a book that i want to read so badly im always like "oh no its gonna end so soon" but with this one that didnt happen. I really enjoyed this book. The characters are very interesting and the plot is amazing!

Thank yoy so much

Amy says

I loved this book. It reminded me of orson scott card but with a more developed plotline. I didn't mind the size of the book at all, just made the journey last that much longer. I was a little worried that the ending would feel rushed, but was surprised at being left feeling satisfied and excited for the sequel.

Maggie Thom says

Gift of the Phoenix is so good, I don't know where to even start. It's excellent. It's one of those books that you read that you don't want to end because it's so good but then you can't wait to find out where it's going to go, so can't wait to finish it. This novel puts you on an intricately woven path as you meet many characters but who's good and who isn't? The story, the characters, the setting, all of it is so well written, so vivid – could see the characters, I knew the characters, I felt like I was there, walking through the forest, swimming with the dolphins, being carried by a Taluga... It has all of the elements of a great story – mystery, magic, suspense, a touch of romance, intrigue... It's well paced, had heart stopping moments, it grabbed me on page one and kept my interest all the way through.

Well done Ms. Cook. I am so looking forward to the sequel in the Gift of Phoenix series. I absolutely loved this fantasy, to me it ranked right up there with two of my favorite series, Thomas Covenant White Gold Wielder and Lord of the Rings.

Ayesha says

For Gift of the Phoenix-Blog Tour and Giveaway!!

go to my blog:

desirablereads.blogspot.com

My review:

Gift of the phoenix is an excellent book written by Donna Crook. It is a story about three brothers that were separated at birth so that they can grow up unharmed. These three brothers, the Wizard, the Prince and the Framer are destined to save the Pheonix that blesses their world with magic. They each have a stone that will help them on this strenuous journey.

I loved the characters, the story line and the Magic! Reading about Corran, Nicolai and Marcellus was like reading about my siblings and I. They are different but so alike as siblings are supposed to be. I could empathize with all the characters and thats what makes it such an enjoyable read. And then there is magic which makes this tale so much more special. I was halfway through the book and I stopped, realising the end was near and I wanted it to go on forever!

I loved Corran, he is someone I could relate to. He is a bit scholarly and his powers were pretty cool. There was this scene where goes in to a labyrinth to find out his destiny and his emotions and reaction to it was so human. As for Marcellus I completely understood why he was unwilling to trust Corran initially as Corran was a threat to everything he wanted to be, everything he had done to really deserve the throne. Corrans conflict of knowing Marcellus was the right person to be the King and wanting his own birth right as he already had to give up many had me in knots along with him. Nicolai reminded me so much of my younger brother I couldn't help but love him as well. Prea and Janus were not really the protagonists but they had their own important parts to play. Janus was what I would have been if I belonged to such a world. Atleast that is what I tell myself.

Anyway I recommend Gift of the phoenix to all those that love a fantasy tale and a story about torn family coming together despite their differences.

Dawn says

I received a free ecopy of this book for an honest review.

Gift of the Phoenix is an epic fantasy about three strangers who must band together to save their world. Although this novel is very long, it's worth it. So much happens it's like three books in one.

Donna Cook's writing is easy to follow even though some of her ideas are rather complex. This book has unexpected twists, lots of action and magic, and a little romance.

The characters are well developed and interesting. My favorite of the Three is Corren although I liked all of them. The conflict between Corren and Marcellus is understandable and I could empathize with both of them.

I definitely recommend this book for anyone who enjoys the fantasy genre, especially epics.

Rae Ann Norell says

Excellent book that holds your attention throughout. ADventure, mystery, intrigue. This book is sure to capture the interest of all readers who enjoy the fantasy genre.

Stephanie Dagg says

The Gift of the Phoenix by Donna Cook is an incredibly impressive book that grips you from the very start, where we meet Nashua who is taking part in the ceremony to receive the gift of the phoenix. However, it goes terribly wrong but Nashua manages to salvage something from the ashes. It's not until twelve hundred years later that she is able to pass on these items to three men, strangers to begin with, whose job it now becomes to protect the phoenix and their land from great evil. There is plenty of action in the story, some wonderful characters and magical, atmospheric settings. Donna has created a fascinating realm in this story which, even if you don't consider yourself a fantasy fan, you'll definitely enjoy.

Lauren says

This is by a local author! She signed my copy when I bought it at the farmer's market! :)
I didn't really know what to expect when I started this book, but I LOVED it! It was so good! I never got bored with it and the writing was wonderful!
I'd recommend this book to my friends. In fact, I already lent it to one friend and she loved it too!
Thank you for signing my copy Donna! I hope you write more! I'll be sure to read all your books! :)

Marianne says

I enjoyed this. Something was a bit off in the characterisation - it felt like everyone had motivation that was black or white rather than shades of grey. Similarly the plot followed fairly predictable lines and I spotted the 'twist' a mile off. There's nothing really wrong with that, but I couldn't shake off the feeling that it was all a bit simplistic.

Donna Cook says

This is for the new cover of Gift of the Phoenix. This updated look includes mention of some of the awards the book has won, including the North American Book Award 1st Place Fantasy 2014, and the Kindle Book Review Book of the Year Award Semifinalist Fantasy 2013. The award count is up to seven now.

Kaitlin says

This was one of the books I had to read for #SPFBO and I am super happy I got the chance to read this one. It's a very classic style of fantasy, with magic being a major part of the story, and three young men having a coming-of-age adventure. However, with that said, it's also a brilliant fun book which (although slow to start) kept me fully entertained for quite some time.

This follows Nicolai, Corran and Marcellus. Three young men who do not know one another at first, but they soon end up meeting when they realise they each possess a rather magical item. The three of them must come together and find ways to work with one another (and not against as they may be tempted to) in order to save their realm from a cataclysmic evil if the Phoenix's magic is not allowed to return. Someone else is working against the three, and time is running out for them to find out who and how to stop them...

What I really enjoyed about this was the classic fun feeling and also the magic itself. I often read fantasy which has a complex system of magic or which feels new and different, but this one had the feeling of returning to the fantasy I love. We have a magician, a knight and a prince, all in training and all hoping to be the best they can be and prove themselves in the world. Then this magic item is thrust upon each of them and they are thrown into chaos beyond their wildest dreams.

There are flying human-birds, Fey, magical stones, magical bridges, magical staffs and even magical councils in this story, and it all felt very epic and fun to me. I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing this world, and I look forward to going onto the second one in the series in due course too (as I bought it myself after reading this one!)

I would highly recommend this book and will no doubt be singing its praises in a video review soon. 4.25*s

Donna Cook says

Well I think it's fabulous, but I wrote it so there you go.

Shay says

What to say? I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's not quite what I thought it was going to be, I don't know why but I was thinking more like modern times and I don't know but either way it's pretty freakin awesome.

Dislikes -

-My main dislike is that it is nearly 600 pages long. The thing is it's broken into 3 parts and each part consists of basically a full book in it's own right, so that you feel like you are reading 3 books rather than 1. I honestly think it would have been better to be separated into three separate books or at least call it what it is an omnibus of THREE books, not one extremely long book. While I don't mind long books personally when the first book in a series or of a new debut author is that long it kinda turns me off because I'm thinking what if this sucks and I waste all this time to read this super long book and don't like it. That's not the case with this book I really enjoyed it but still.

- Corren - I didn't hate him but he was definitely one of my least favorite characters.

- It's long and detailed and sometimes I got bored. I would read one or two good interesting intoxicating chapters and then I would find myself skimming chapters. This also has to do with POVs I found myself enjoying some allot more than others, again I didn't like Corren very much and part of this was because his

chapters were boring for the most part even when mildly interesting things were going on.

- The stones - I'm sorry but I kept imagining big round cartoonish stones like from old video games and I don't know especially in the first part of the book I couldn't take it seriously.

- Insta love - Okay there is a slight case of insta love in this book but again I want to point out that if you dislike a book and it's characters you hate insta love but occasionally, in my opinion, when you love a book and the character the insta love doesn't bother you as much, you know?

- Weird magical words.

Likes -

- Nicolai and Marcellus- I can't choose between them! I loved them both equally and I really really loved them. They are just awesome characters and gah I just loved them.

- The world - There is definitely some great world building in this book even if at some points it's a little excessive. I loved the mid-evil feel, you know me I love knights and kings and sword fighting all that good stuff and magic so my favorite books always have both and this book does. Not to mention the whole Phoenix part, I love fantasy books that have the Phoenix they are so magical and awesome and I love that this book was kinda all about that. Also they're are faeries and imps and plenty of other magical creatures so it's definitely good in the fantasy aspect!

- All the fantasy - This has pretty much everything I look for in a fantasy book, seriously.

- The plot - Again I just loved the plot of this book and while it was long and dragged in places it was still good and interesting and I never considered stopping or quitting I always still wanting to continue with the story.

- The writing - While it is a bit slow and descriptive there are also gems of some really beautiful writing in their. I don't mean that the rest is bad it's perfectly fine I'm just saying some of it is really really good, okay?

Overall - It was really good, I feel like it could have been great it almost was but in my opinion the length of it kinda turned me off from the beginning. If you love fantasy and the myth of the phoenix it is definitely worth the read, in a way it's kinda everything I wanted Falling Kingdoms to be, you know?

Recommended for - Fans of fantasy. Fans of Falling Kingdoms and Cinda Williams Chima.

I took part in the blog tour here! - <http://www.the-story-goes.com/2014/04...>

Kld2003 says

Just finished and it didn't disappoint! Loved the story, the characters, the intrigue, the mystical creatures and the ending. If you like JR Tolkien or Robert Jordan's fantasy series you will like this book. Of course, there will always be some reviewers who nit-pick character development or editing but I am not one of those readers. If I like the story and have trouble putting the book down to get household chores done, then it's a five star to me. I am not a big fantasy fan but when a story is told this well, you go along for the sheer fun of the ride. Faeries, humans, wizards, and mystical creatures all come together to help save the world from evil. What's not to like about that?
