



Six of Swords

Carole Nelson Douglas

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Six of Swords Details

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Author : Carole Nelson Douglas

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From Reader Review Six of Swords for online ebook

Dorian says

The two stars is slightly ungenerous, I have to admit, but with limited options to choose from I opted to round the score downward rather than up. This must have been one of the first fantasy novels I read, about 30 years ago. I enjoyed it then and enjoyed re-reading it now. It's no more than a pleasant generic fantasy of no great substance or originality. The characters are superficial but engaging, I enjoyed their sparring, and the cat is very well written, the best thing about the book. The prose is often elaborate, but sometimes convoluted, and overburdened with metaphors and similes. There are times when the language obscures the action and the meaning to the detriment of the story. Overall, though, I would recommend this to someone interested in a light and entertaining fantasy.

Andrea says

I read this series in High School and loved it. It is one I am planning on going back to again.

Susan Fehr says

This was written early in Carole Nelson Douglas' career, and it shows. She has some good ideas and I remember liking the series when I was younger, but now...the characters are archetypes and the plot is ticking the boxes. I gave up this time round, as life is too short (after all, I have read it already) and there are too many other good books out there.

Dawn says

I so enjoyed this book 30 years ago! Having lost it over the years, I'm planning on buying a new copy of it, and its companions, to introduce my children to this particular world. Lots of excitement and adventure, but also, if I remember correctly, a great deal of growing up, learning to get along with others different from oneself, and learning to play to your strengths and bolster your companions along the way. A very good book, worth buying all over again!

Daniel Sullivan says

I read this book back in 1982 when it came out. Back then, I was like fifteen, and simply enjoyed it as a good book. As a fifty one year old author, I read it through different eyes, and liked it more thirty-six years later.

In this age of strong female characters, this book's female protagonist, Irissa - the last of the Torlocs, truly shines. When her world is pulled out from under her, she adapts, grows, and takes her destiny in her own hands, carrying along the male protagonist, Kendric - former Wrathman and knight, whether he wants to or

not.

Both characters grow and develop, and are markedly different by the end of the book.

David Sarkies says

Just another fantasy book

18 January 2013

Once again this is one of those books that I read a very long time ago that I pretty much remember nothing about (with the exception of the cover) and upon finishing it pretty much got tossed back onto the bookshelf to be forgotten forever. A quick glance over the synopsis on Goodreads, and a commentary by somebody who basically uses the phrase 'this is what is wrong with 70% to 80% of fantasy today' and 'this is why critics of the genre hate it so much' pretty much goes to show how bad this book really is. More so, since it had no connection whatsoever with the Dungeons and Dragons roleplaying game meant that even in my teenage years, this book did not really have much of an effect upon me.

I notice that the synopsis mentions that there is a trolloc sorcerer, and I believe that I have seen that name before. In fact I have, though it is unlikely that the author stole that word because this book was written long before the Robert Jordan Wheel of Time series appeared. You know, the series that seemed to stretch on forever and of which I only managed to read seven and a half of the books before they pretty much slowed down to a crawl, and a third of the last book that I read of the series simply seemed to have three women talking about absolutely nothing. Mind you, even the Wheel of Time series actually started out really good with a lot of premise (and I can still remember a lot of the books, to an extent). With this book I can remember nothing.

Another thing that appears is this whole idea of magic dying. Why is it that one of the standard themes that seems to appear in all of these fantasy novels is that the magic in the world is dying? Does this have to do with the fact that in our modern world we are beginning to explain away all of the magical aspects of our world with science (and I have even heard scientists turn a discussion of romantic love into an explanation using genetics). Maybe it is that as science tries to explain everything in cold scientific terms, the more magical aspects of our world begin to disappear. Okay, while we do not see lightning as Zeus throwing his thunderbolt to the ground, or earthquakes as Posiedon stamping his feet, the more that science tries to explain things, and the more that God gets pushed into the background as some sort of spectator, the less magical our world becomes. Maybe that is why such things seem to become popular in fantasy, and maybe it is that the writers are trying to snap us out of our dream worlds to come more face to face with reality.

Karyn Silverman says

Forgot this book until Goodreads recommended it! I have a memory of having loved it. The cover certainly elicited a powerful surge of book nostalgia.

Ramón says

This read was pure candy for me. I read it years ago and couldn't remember if I liked it, so I read it again. Now I know why I couldn't remember. There's really not much of substance here. It seems like she tries to put together several fantasy cliches into a single narrative which doesn't hold together.

While I enjoy having to work to understand the internal logic of various magical worlds, I felt like there was no payoff for the questions I put to the characters and the plot. The characters seemed shallow, the danger far too nebulous, and the plot too twisty. There is a magical world in danger, and I don't learn enough about it to care.

However, I didn't know this was part of a series until I saw that on Goodreads, so maybe I'll try reading the following books and see if things make more sense. Nonetheless, this didn't strike me as a captivating opening volume for a series.

Kivrin says

This is one of my favorite fantasy books. First read it as a teenager, and many times since then. Maybe I'll do an in-depth review the next time I read it.

Erinn Gillespie says

Ok , so this book was not the book I thought it would be. I started reading it over a year ago as it was my "car" book (the book I leave in my car for those times that I am out and have to wait with nothing else to read) I think that did it a real disservice . This book is a heavily written book with lots of description and if you only have chances to read bits and pieces at a time it is really very hard to get into . To really grasp the intricacy of the world and character development you have to set aside blocks of time to read it . Once I brought it inside to read I found that I could not put it down . The author is so very detailed in everything that is said , that you feel as though you are that character . I felt immediately bonded to the characters and really cared about what happened to them. the growth that Irissa shows in all aspects of her character is stunning. As a cat lover my heart was wrenched out of my throat as I read about the poor cat "dieing" I was very near tears. And in the end when the two had a very real danger of never seeing each other again ? god horrible ! I still feel so horrid for the cat in the end though , left all alone .

Now on to the book itself. Mine says that it was the first time in print so I don't know if things have changed, but I must say the writing was very very small for me to read . The chapters felt a bit long but that may be because of the print , and I hate it when a new chapter starts halfway down the page , doesn't look very clean .

All in all a very surprising good read I think I am going to look for more of this Authors stuff.

Phylisha Stone says

Loved this series.

Donna Wilson says

I read this book when I was in middle school. I loved it then, and after rereading it, I still love it. I love the story and I love the fact that the characters go through struggles with themselves, just as you or I would if we were in their situations. This is a good read and if you like the fantasy genre, I highly recommend this book.

Jason says

I bought this book in the summer of '83 when I first moved to Cleveland. I didn't know anyone & high school was still 3 months away from starting. My mom felt bad that I was alone so she & my dad tried to find ways to keep me from moping. Along with the chores of moving into a new house, they took me to the local bookstores & let me buy what I wanted. Since I was heavily into sci-fi & fantasy at this time (Elric was still swinging his black blade in my world), I decided to find out what other fantasy was out there to take in.

Unfortunately, I picked up this novel.

It was horrible.

After reading Moorcock's dark tales of Elric, Corum & Hawkmoon, I just couldn't get into any fantasy that didn't try to have an original take on the genre. Douglas' novel, SIX OF SWORDS, possesses everything that is cliché within the genre: the lost waif of a tribe of magic users, the strong warrior who wields a special sword & then, to top it all off, the quest--the boring, boring quest. Spice it up with a trip through an enchanted forest filled with nasty creatures who'll jump out at the right time when the plot dictates &, viola!, you have your typical, snooze-fest of fantasy.

This novel is the prime example of what is completely wrong with fantasy. It is an example of why critics of fantasy hated it as a genre. It is an example of the genre being at its lowest point during the late '70s into the middle of the '80s. Seriously, I believe it was novels like this that made fantasy authors of today say: "We need to take this genre back from all the crappy hacks out there getting book deals, otherwise this genre will die!"

I've always said that 85-95% of all fantasy novels/series are truly works of shit. This novel is part of that percentage.

Move along, nothing to see here.

Ban says

I know time clouds memory and a bunch of the books I'm adding here were read long ago but I DO

remember liking this book and thinking, in my young mind, that it was quite 'different'. It's on my to be read again list.

Deanne says

Read this years ago, and my copy has been round the world with me. One of those books I reread every so often.
