



Mistress of Masks

C. Greenwood

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An ancient evil has awakened in Earth Realm. The dead are rising, the oracles have fallen silent, and foul creatures are devastating the baselands. When the dark sorcerer, Rathnakar, escapes his tomb, the First Mother chooses three champions to become the saviors of their time.

The hopeful adherent, Eydis, wants nothing more than to lead a life of solitary devotion within the sheltered walls of a seclusionary. But when her pilgrimage to a sacred grove ends in a vision of the end of the world, she realizes the Mother requires a more dangerous service from her. Seeking the catalysts prophecy says can overcome chaos, she aligns herself with a notorious traitor, Orrick of Kroad, and Geveral, a dryad mage who has yet to tame his powers. Together, can the three unlikely heroes thwart Rathnakar and the wave of darkness threatening to devour their world?

Mistress of Masks Details

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Author : C. Greenwood

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From Reader Review Mistress of Masks for online ebook

Pauline Haney Hughes says

Excellent Read!?

This is a well written, easy read! Wonderful if unlikely heroes. I am not much for book reviews but this is worth reading. I put this series in my top 10 list of favorite reads. Two thumbs way way up.

Stephen says

This started out with me hating the book at the start but by the 3rd or 4th chapter, the story grabbed a hold of me, making it so I couldn't put it down. I believe this will also happen to you. Great story and characters will keep you reading it and then going and getting the next book. Great Reading Everyone!!!!!!

Salvatore says

I really didnt enjoy this book, it was weak and meandering. The characters were very flat, without depth and not very consistent.

Judi Easley says

My Disclaimer:

I was provided a complimentary copy of this book. I am voluntarily providing an honest review in which all opinions are fully my own. I am not being compensated in any way.

~ Judi E. Easley for Blue Cat Review

What it's about...

Rathnakar, the dark sorcerer, has escaped his tomb.

The First Mother chooses three champions. Eydis wants to live a contemplative life quietly tucked away in a convent. Orrick of Kroad is known as the traitor of his people. Geveral is a dryad mage who has little control of his seemingly small powers and no training.

This is Eydis' story.

Technical Tidbits...

The cover is done by Michael Gauss and is wonderful artwork, as the author chose for her Legends of

Dimmingwood series.

The storyline is a bit weak with the characters playing through it like puppets controlled by a puppetmaster rather than characters in a story.

The characters strings are all too visible. They are too obviously being controlled by the hand of a greater power.

The pace is pretty fast. As usual, Ms. Greenwood's characters go swiftly from crisis to crisis.

The tension is the type you feel when someone just keeps pulling on the connection to keep things going and keeping things tight. You know you are rushing towards something significant, so you can't help but be caught up in the strain of it.

And this is where you STOP if you don't want to see any SPOILERS...

The good, the bad, and the ugly...and how much it lit up my life... ★★★★

There is such a difference between The Legends of Dimmingwood series and this one, that I immediately classified this as a YA book. It was just written in simpler language. There is an innocence about it. But such a contradiction, it is longer than most of the other books in either series!

Even though this is Eydis' story, we actually get to know very little about her. Well, she had planned on a life almost like that of a nun. A quiet life, withdrawn from society, a disciplined life. Now, she has the gift of life and creates masks on peoples faces. Once out of the box, can you really go back? I think not. And neither does Eydis. She has this gift, the gift of life, that she feels she should use. But she wants to learn about it and there just isn't a whole lot of time to do that. How will she know how to use it or when to use it if no one tells her or trains her? Why do they always say, "You'll know when the time comes"?

And this ability to mask people is fun and really cool. She can mask herself. Or she can mask someone else. And leaves decorative lines all over their faces to show that the masks have been there. They're very subtle so not just anyone can see them.

And, it seemed that at one point, Eydis could see someone's death. When she created the mask for Fenric at their parting, she saw his death by stabbing. She had never had such a vision before. It was the only such vision she had in the book. It was not explained, nor was it really discussed with anyone who could explain it. I'm hoping that at some point Eydis runs into someone who can answer some of her questions. And mine. Or that the First Mother continues to communicate with her.

The best part of the whole book was when we first meet Eydis. She has come to the Pool of Tears to receive guidance from the First Mother. Eydis steps into the pool with a clear mind and open heart and is first transported to speak with the Head Hearer of the seclusionary that she wanted to join. Then she is witness to a conversation between the Raven King and his functionary. Next, she is drowning. But she isn't. She is listening to a voice. A voice she hears in her head that is telling her the secrets of life and death and the whole universe. The voice of the First Mother. Suddenly the Guardians of the pool are grasping her and breathing into her because she really is drowning. But Eydis needs to share what she has been told by the voice of the First Mother with the Oracle because the First Mother told her about the end of the world. And Eydis had to stop it. This takes two chapters to cover and it is the primo part of the book. The writing in these two chapters is fabulous and you feel everything along with Eydis.

The fact that this is Eydis' story doesn't mean that she is the only one we meet. We actually meet all three of the catalysts here. But we delve into her magic more and see more of her journey in this book. She is the one that gathers the other two and starts them all on their great task. And we see more through her eyes.

But who is this puppetmaster? Who is the one guiding them and what is it he is ultimately after? The treasury of stones Eydis carries from the defeated seclusionary. What is their significance? What will they really lead the sorcerer to?

And while this book has almost 300 pages in it, the rest of the books all have less than 200 pages each. I'm not a fan of short stories. I like big books. Really. I'd rather sit and read 400-500 pages of riveting fantasy than four separate short books that to me are more like novellas. When I look at books in a store, I look for covers and size. Then I read the synopsis. After that, I open the book and read some of the dialogue anywhere in the book to see if it's intelligent. I need to get better about checking out those things when I buy e-books. My suggestion for this series is to sell it in a bundle. And I notice that Amazon has done just that.

Terry says

Although I have read and thoroughly enjoyed reading many of C. Greenwood's books, this one fails to capture my interest - - and I have tried a few times. Not sure why except it jumped around too much and was tedious to sort out.

Jay says

First off let me say awesome, awesome cover I love it.

I love the concept of the book an epic quest the story is good but the writers voice could use a bit of smoothing only because I still "felt" that I was reading and didn't get drawn into the world of the story.

Let's do characters Eydis the heroine I like her honest, with a sense of duty. Perenthia the oracles companion well written character although that didn't stop me from not liking her she's very seedy like a sneaky seeming with a sense of arrogance and self importance. The writer did a great job on this character even though her role in the story isn't a major one. Orrick I like his character although I don't this his personality was written as well as Perenthia's. He's barbaric and selfish. Then we have young General innocent, frustrated Mage in training, trusting and caring.

Eydis is on a quest to stop Rathanakar The Raven King who will destroy the world by fire and ash with an army of the dead and creatures from the lost lands he is nearly unstoppable.

Eydis and her band of misfits, a traitor wanted by the authorities and a failed Mage must defend a symposium.

One thing I can't figure out is why Eydis never used her power to mask Orrick's face it should have been a no brainer considering he's a wanted man but she never does and he's almost recognized. Walking through the forest tearing down wanted posters.

There's another force working here I'm wondering about this sorcerer and his interest in Eydis. Seems Orrick did not betray Eydis after all and I wonder what was the point of the additional visions they didn't seem to help their quest. The visions actually caused Eydis to distrust Orrick. I think the author could have used them differently or left them out because they seemed to have no real purpose in The story line. Also the way the story ended left the story feeling unfinished to me I didn't feel like the characters accomplished anything before the book ended even though it's part of a series it still seems that this book did not accomplish it's goal.

Aside from that the book was good I did not get as drawn into the story as I like to when I'm reading books the author may need to put more into her writing voice in order to draw the reader into the world of her books but the story was good and I would recommend it to a Sci fi fantasy lover.

Carla Ann Chadd says

I did not continue this series. I was annoyed at the end and did not want to go further.

Dixie Conley says

I received an electronic copy of this book as part of the EPIC: Fourteen Books Of Fantasy boxed set in exchange for an honest review.

This story underwhelmed me. The characters and plot barely sparked my interest. I liked the bit in the beginning where the heroine nearly drowns while having a vision, but that was one of the few interesting things she did. And the business with the scholar/janitor who clearly knows that taking the key is a bad idea and takes it and uses it anyway! Why oh why did he do that? Far better had he been written as someone greedy to see what the key unlocked, not both smart and stupid. There's more of this smart and stupid stuff going on throughout the whole book. The plot's made up of amazing coincidences and help coming out of nowhere. It's just... really poor fantasy. And it commits the cardinal sin of first books in a series -- it just ends. It isn't a proper book at all so much an introduction to the series.

I found this book easy to read, but not at all worth the time or trouble.

Arthur says

C Greenwood does it again

Awesome & delightful read though too short of a book. Then comes the series which sucks as you belong to Kindle unlimited access but only for the first book. This sucks when you are on a limited income.

Joe Slucher says

I thought I would read a more indy author and Greenwood's excellent book covers caused me to select this

book. If this was a 10 point rating system I would probably rate it a 7 out of 10 but it's not so I rounded up.

The plot is very straight forward and there's not much of any chaff that could be cut from the book. It's a book that you could read over a weekend and find it enjoyable. It very much reminds me of LitRPG series like Pathfinder Tales. The characters aren't explored too much in such a short book but it's enough to have me curious about Orrick's past and the powers of the others. It's actually a pretty complicated relationship between the three party members so it could grow to do interesting things in future books.

The first couple chapters are the best and what got me to read the whole book. So if there's a preview out there available I would give it a read to see if this is for you.

I believe the book was completely clean and involved no foul language or anything too graphic or sexual so you should be fine giving this to a young reader.

Julie Powell says

I became a fan of this author through the Dimmingwood series and this new one is just as compelling...so, of course, I have already bought the others.

The story is filled with action, great characters, magic and plot, with wonderful world building, so to evolve authenticity and sense of place.

The characters are an excellent mix of good and bad, and those that could be either.

I don't give spoilers but will stay that this well-written fantasy should hook you from the start.

Highly recommended.

Elizabeth says

There is very little that is original here, very much in the classic fantasy vein of D&D-in-book-form, complete with Evil Overlord who is Evil to be Evil....

And I liked it for that very reason, it was comforting fantasy brain candy.

Scott Vout says

I found this to be a good story, not a great story.

This was my first encounter with Ms Greenwood. I think i can safely say it wont be my last.

I found this tale to be good enough to move on to book two of the series.

the one thing i found lacking in a swords and sorcery tale was the minimal action.

I would have liked to see more swords and sorcery. Maybe book 2 will pick up the action.

The main characters are engaging with a good amount of mystery surrounding them.

All in all not a bad story and hopefully book two addresses my need for more action.

Magdalena says

This series reminds me of the lord of the rings books, but not as good. Although, also not as long winded, thankfully. I finished the entire series even though it got a bit boring towards the end.

Danny says

Rather generic fantasy quest stuff, but competently written.
