



Guardians of the Keep

Carol Berg

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For ten years, the noblewoman Seriana lived in exile, believing her husband Karon was dead, executed for practicing sorcery. But now she learns his soul has been anchored to this world by magic. He has been restored to life-though his memories of Seri are gone. When Seri's nephew is kidnapped-and a dark family secret comes to light-the two strangers will have to join together to defeat the evil Lords of Zhev'Na, who want to destroy both this world and the parallel magic realm that lies beyond.

Guardians of the Keep Details

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From Reader Review Guardians of the Keep for online ebook

Kay says

I'm tempted to give this book two stars because I felt cheated at the end. For two books now, I've been waiting for the moment when Karon and Seri are reunited. Seri's held this ten year grudge against her husband for abandoning her and her child b/c he was unwilling to use sorcery to hurt people. Karon, now that he's also the heir of D'Narth (or however you spell it), has killed and understands how much his failure to save his family hurt his wife. When Karon gets his full memory back and he and Seri save Gerick at the end of the book, there should have been a HUGE scene where they get back together and make amends. Instead, we get Paolo telling them to go spend some time alone. WE DON'T GET A REUNION SCENE!!! I'm still ticked about that because, seriously, I read 1,000 pages anticipating it.

I still loved the story of this book, but I wish it would have been about 200 pages shorter. I skimmed A LOT of it, especially in the first half, and don't feel like I missed out on anything important. I was also a bit annoyed reading Gerick's POV. His chapters, especially in the beginning, were all telling and no showing. Huge infodumps that, IMO, really weren't necessary. I groaned every time I had to read about him b/c he allowed himself to be so easily manipulated by the bad guys. I didn't start liking him at all until he met Paolo.

Speaking of Paolo, I really liked him in this book. I didn't have an opinion of him one way or the other in book one, but he definitely added to my enjoyment.

Overall, I liked the book. It just needed to be shorter and have that reunion scene included. I'll eventually read the next book, though I'm a bit worried I'll be let down if the author skips another pivotal scene.

Kirsten Bailey says

[seriously, how many times can Karon come back from the dead? (hide spoiler)]

Jamie says

Once again I absolutely loved the next chronicle in the Bridge of D'Arnath series. Carole Berg has an incredible way with weaving a story that is fully developed and fully realized. Although a few of this novel's twists were not that unexpected, but a few were. I loved it. The only real downside for me was the more frequent shifting between characters as the main protagonist of any one section. (This is also one of the drawbacks to the GoT series, in my opinion, although Berg rotates between protagonists with much less frequency.). I was able to get into this book quicker than the first book, so that was a plus for me. Definitely requested "Soul Weaver," book 3, from the library to continue with this series.

Tom says

2nd book in the Avonar series.. or is it the D'Arnath series? Or the Dar'Nethi series? I'm not sure it really matters. You've got Good Magic people against Mundanes, and Black Magic people against both of them. Layers of complexity. Add to that the multiple character perspectives telling the story and it gets hard to keep your head if you hold on too tightly. But if you loosen up and go with the flow, there's fun to be had in this read.

I'm not a great fan of "epic romance" mixed in with my swords and sorcery. There's an element of that happening here. And there seemed to be quite a bit of story-wrangling to get a "more experienced" woman into a relationship with a young dude and keep it "respectable" (view spoiler) The characters for various reasons have to start over from square one a couple times (relationship-wise), but at least that kept the romance element of the plot tamped down.

Of course when this volume closes when you'd think our lovers/heroes would settle into stable-relationship-mode, of course they must part for the good of the kingdom... or some nonsense... Third book needed!

I don't know if I'll seek out the third volume. If I run across it, I'll pick it up for a read.

Mary Soon Lee says

This is the second book in the Bridge of D'Arnath fantasy quartet. The book cycles between several point-of-view characters. As a result, I spent part of my time looking forward to the sections with my favorite characters. This is a difficulty common to almost all (all?) books with similar structures, from "The Return of the King" to "A Game of Thrones." It isn't always the nicest characters that hook me best. In "A Game of Thrones," I eagerly anticipated Tyrion Lannister's sections. In this book, I found Gerick more more fascinating than Seri, though Seri is nicer. Perhaps as a result, I enjoyed this, but didn't love it.

Chris says

I was curious to see how things would continue after the first book, but I can't be bothered to read any further in the series.

Shari S says

Loved the first two books.

When I went to download the 3rd onto my Kindle I learned this one is not available in an e-reader format. Why are books 1,2 and 4 available as an e-book but book 3 isn't?

I found a way to buy it as an iBook or a PDF. I sent the PDF to my Kindle email address and was able to load it on my Kindle that way but what a pain! Why isn't this one offered as an e-book but the rest of the series is?

Ok. Thanks for reading. I'm finished venting

BTW great series!

Emily says

A smoother read than the first though i feel like she changed her mind about seri and made her better this time (nicer, prettier?) though ms berg could never be accused of being too easy on her characters

Danella says

I had mixed feelings about Son of Avonar, but I was pleased to find book two fills in quite a few holes regarding magic and the plot in general. Book two also gives us new voices with the first person POVs of Karon and Garick joining Ceri's in this fine sequel. It was all fairly predictable, but that doesn't matter as much in a book so character driven. One truth becomes abundantly clear in these books; it does not pay to get mixed up in Dar'Nethi politics.

How much tragedy, intrigue and miracle can one family possibly endure? Carol Berg puts her characters through an emotional meat grinder and demands that they persevere. The story picks up right where it left off in book one. Seri proceeds to Comigor, just as she said she would, but things turn out very differently than she expected when she becomes entangled with her nephew Garick's affairs. She does have an amazing knack for finding herself in unbelievable situations. Karon/D'Natheil is still mentally challenged and enduring his memory treatments. His two personalities are at opposite ends of the passive/aggressive scale which causes no small amount of internal conflict for the good prince. I keep hoping the two will reach some sort of equilibrium and become one decent man, but I expect the conflict will get worse, rather than better.

After a fairly long intro the story progresses and we see how Karon/D'Nathiel and Garick are unwitting pawns, caught between the Preceptorate and the evil lords of Zhev'Na. Seri, Paulo, and Kellea, all fiercely brave and loyal, throw themselves headlong into a desperate attempt to save a boy and two worlds.

Book two definitely drew me further into the story, anxious to see what happens next. I still felt the pacing was a little off though. It meanders in places it could race. I thought Kellea was seriously shortchanged in this book. She was basically only along because of her gift for finding. Once the lost was further lost, and beyond her skill of finding, she got no further development and was just along for the ride.

Sylvia says

My favorite book in the series. I don't often "buy" into love stories in some books... But this one had me. And I found the rest of the book so engaging (the rescue and all that) I could not put it down. Finished it in one day.

Jenn says

Sadly, I had this book completely figured out by page 100 so then it was just a matter of watching the high school chemistry experiment come to its expected ending. Pretty typical of a Book Two in a series. Too bad the main characters ended up falling into very generic roles, because they seemed more interesting in the first book.

David Phipps says

Another solid entry in this series. It is close, but I think I liked it a little better than the first book. There were quite a few similarities to the first book. More amnesia, more betrayals, more hidden agendas, and more not knowing who to trust. Not as much focus on Seri this time since there were many point of view chapters from at least 2 other characters. Now moving on to the next book.

Lynne says

I started *The Soul Weaver* this morning, and it's all I can do to get other things done and not just immerse myself in the book all day.

I'm still annoyed by the names of the characters and places, as if nobody will take your work seriously if the names aren't as weird/exotic as possible, and when Berg's descriptions aren't wonderful, they're a little overwrought. The road to hell is paved with adverbs; the ninth circle is paved with the word "very."

But the plot is interesting and complex, her pacing superb, her characters well-developed, and I was completely blindsided by the twist she threw when Seri, Paulo and Karon are rescuing Gerick from the Lords of Zhev-Na or whatever. I told you the names are annoying.

Can't wait to get into *The Soul Weaver*.

Kathi says

9/10

Pretty close to perfect for me—lots of twisty surprises, a satisfying conclusion to this installment but it's obvious the story is not finished.

Anastasia says

Holy crap! It's 3:30am, I have to be at work in 4 hours, and all I can think about is this book I've just finished. The 1st book in the series, "Son of D'Avonar," was ok, but rather blah. I read it several years ago, and only picked up the sequel at a friend's urging. (Also after enjoying Berg's latest books.) This is epic fantasy at its best. I think no one is better than Carol Berg at getting inside the head of a person being filled with darkness, their struggle against it, and eventual loss (or victory).
