



The Hawk Eternal

David Gemmell

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While the warlike and merciless Aenir wreak havoc upon the territory outside the mountain stronghold of the clans, Sigarni, the Hawk Queen, arrives in a parallel version of her own universe through a gate in space and time. Taliesen, last of the gatekeepers, has no idea why she has come. But he knows that heroes are needed and grants her passage into the ravaged land.

Only Caswallon—loner, warrior, and thief—realizes the true extent of the danger and the mayhem that his people will come to face. As Taliesen tries to discover Sigarni's purpose, Caswallon must attempt to unite the clans to overcome their greatest peril.

The Hawk Eternal Details

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Author : David Gemmell

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From Reader Review The Hawk Eternal for online ebook

Michele says

Since this was a sequel, foolishly, I expected it to be about the characters in Ironhand's Daughter. Ha! It was about a character mentioned in passing. This could have been interesting.

This is certainly an interesting idea, but I felt like there were two books inbetween that I didn't read.

David has a great story in his head, but it didn't fully realized itself on the written page.

Angel ??? says

Belonging. Identity. Being part of a group. All of Gemmell's novels revolve around the same ideas, and "The Hawk Eternal" is no exception.

Gaelen is the lone survivor of the attack on his city by the Aenir, vicious killers and butchers that enjoy war for its own sake. Caswallon, a member of the clans, decides to save him for no clear reason but his respect for the youth's desire to keep on living.

Gaelen comes to live with the clans. However, the threat of the Aenir is now on their lands. Gaelen, Caswallon and many others will have to fight to survive.

And all that follows is your typical Gemmell: small armies of rangers... I mean, clansmen, against a huge army of heartless soldiers, small vignettes that give life and sense to the characters of the novel, conversations that help the characters understand each other and themselves, and the search, the quest, to belong to a group. Gaelen is trying to fit in his new society. But Caswallon is too. And Taliesen. And even Drada, one could say. This is the same theme that is an undercurrent of all of Gemmell's books and even if he excels, he also falls on the same little pitfalls as always: the big enemy with a huge army, the half-human/half-beasts, the sometimes danger of falling on exceptionalism, and the love for nature and a romanticism of a life with it. Gemmell does again a masterpiece, but, at the same time, it seems he is still trying to perfect the same story, trying to find himself in those characters, trying to find what makes human tick and join with each other instead of against each other. His own personal quest, one would say.

If you like Gemmell, you will like "The Hawk Eternal". They are not his best characters, or plot, but they are enjoyable and interesting, and his desire to keep pushing for the 'reasons' behind humanity are laudable.

PS: Whoever decided to call this book a 'novel of the Hawk Queen' is a 'liar'. It makes absolutely no sense to have that on the cover.

7.5/10

(Original English Version)

Helena says

This one was even better than Ironhand's Daughter. David Gemmell should have written more books like these, I liked these two even better than his Drenai-novels.

Luna Ofthenight says

I first read this out of sync, as a stand alone tale. On a re-read I indulged in it after Iron Hands Daughter. To be honest I preferred my first read. As a tale I loved it, as a sequel it lacked cohesion with the first book.

Wonderkell says

I have adored David Gemmell from a young teenager when his magical & complex worlds helped me escape from an unhappy childhood. His heroic characters are always so incredibly well written - flawed human & incredibly courageous. I guess in a way they made me feel strong and brave enough to overcome anything too. The Hawk Queen especially, which is why this is a favorite.

KostasAt says

7/10

In the second book of the Hawk Queen series with the heroine Sigarni, Gemmell travels us this time into a parallel world where a great war is about to break out.

Even though this book is a "sequel" to the heroine Sigarni she has, actually, a very small role because the story here focuses mostly on two unexpected heroes, on Caswallon, a former clan thief, and on a young boy Gaelen, where fate has unite them and together they will have to face the barbaric race Aenir as the only thing they want is to conquer their lands.

In the meantime, Taliesen will have to find a way in time and space to try and save Sigarni from her ultimate fate.

The good thing about this book is that Gemmell, actually, handles much better the development of the story and of the characters but with all that I can't say that I liked it as much as the previous one.

And that is because sometimes I kept loosing my interest in the characters and especially in the middle of the book as Gemmell spends too much time with the Games and, perhaps, it could have been better if it was lesser that part.

But in the last 100 pages things start to improve and with the story getting more interesting as Gemmell plays a lot with the parallel worlds and Time itself, and with the future and the past, which by the way I believe that this is the best part of the book (that and the scene with the Beast).

Of course the greatest disadvantage of the book is that the main protagonist is missing too much from the story, in my opinion, and I believe that I would have liked much more if Gemmell had put her a little more, but on the other hand he has, surprisingly, made a good enough finale as he has combined the beginning of the story with the end and with the first book.

Overall though, I can't say it's a bad book, or that I was completely disappointed, just don't expect anything spectacular.

Ελληνικ? κριτικ?:
(view spoiler)

Mayim de Vries says

So. You kind of enjoyed the Ironhand's Daughter and now you wonder whether you should continue with the series.

The short answer is: **No, don't read it. This should have been a footnote to the Ironhand's Daughter not a novel on its own.**

The long answer is: This book is not worthy of your precious time for several reasons:

1. In Silmarillion the whole story of the Rings of Power and the Third Age is compacted into 20 pages. Tolkien's incomparable genius turned only a portion of these into a trilogy (and many of us wish this was a series at least as long as the Wheel of Time). Mr Gemmell tries to do something very similar: **He stretches something that should have been an appendix in the previous book into a separate novel. And fails. It's like a butter spread so thinly, there is no taste of butter left.**
2. There is not enough substance for a sequel/companion novel. Perhaps an addendum, a short novella, but not a separate book. There are **unnecessary scenes and sequences that last forever, buildup of redundant detail**, backstories of Caswallon, Caswallon's wife, and father-in-law, and Caswallon crofter and Caswallon's dog (well, he doesn't have a dog, so we were spared, but we did get the backstory of Caswallon adopted son's dog, yes, we did!). On the other hand, **the really important issues like time travel and multiple universes, or the Hawk Eternal itself, were just mentioned in passing as if Mr Gemmell couldn't provide any details because he himself was unsure what are those.**
3. This is because **the story itself was not good enough**. I am writing this in case you decided that **you want to read the book just for fun because of the fantastic world building and the character s and the plot. You will not get either of those**, except for the highland clan atmosphere. If you were eager to spend more time with the protagonists we were introduced to in Ironhand's Daughter, forget it. You will get a glimpse of Obrin and learn few things about Taliesen. **Sigarni's story is not propelled forward, it is propelled sideways**, so to speak and in the most infuriating manner (we are speaking mainly about two last chapters). This is because as the author plays with the idea of time paradoxes and gateways, **the world he built previously alters, and then again, and in the end you are just left there with a crude wrap up and a lousy happy ending.**

Don't repeat my mistake. **The Hawk Eternal is a waste of pages not worthy of your time.** If you want some quality Gemmell, read Legend instead.

Laura says

This one was a disappointment.

If you're expecting a sequel to Ironhand's Daughter you're not gonna get it here.

This feels like a separate novel (an overstretched novella to be more precise). It could have been finished in just a few chapters and isn't really worth the time. We get too less of Sigarni and nothing of other characters that made the first book a great read.

Not a real waste of time but one you can do without.

Freda Wang says

Sequel to Ironhand's Daughter although stands on its own as a complete novel. So pleased he wrote a sequel as loved the first one. Gemmell is one of the best living heroic fantasy writers out of Britain.

Rachel Toh says

(Spoilers)

As a book on it's own, an amazing and engaging experience. However, as a second book to Ironhand's Daughter, it feels a bit disjointed. Time travel books tend to be quite iffy and difficult to manage, and I think David Gemmell introduced an interesting theory and system for time travel that leaves the imagination running wild at the possibilities between the different universes. I had fun trying to piece together the chronology of Taliesen's story and how it all wove into the first book.

Some of my grips though: As the only other book in Sigarni's world, however, I do feel like too many pieces are left out. Oddly enough I found this book more rushed than Ironhand's Daughter, although both jumped over huge chunks of 'several years later...' that was done, unfortunately, rather inelegantly in my opinion. Where some may have liked the 'Jesus Christ' reference in the book, though, I felt it a rather slap in the face and marred the ending for me somewhat. Perhaps it was just my personal religious views, but somehow it felt like the entire book was just building up to that moment. Especially how the Hawk Eternal is mentioned by Taliesen almost like a revered being. The part about how his master, can't quite recall it at the moment, decided to shut down the gates also felt a little anti-climatic rather than revelatory.

Graham says

Instead of offering a straight sequel to Ironhand's Daughter, Gemmell delivers a bizarre semi-sequel set mostly in an alternate universe, utilising the same idea of Gateways between realities as in Dark Prince. It pays off, for this time Gemmell gets to introduce some new, enthralling heroes, and Signari's presence is kept to a minimum. That's great, because her story was already told in the first book.

For the new heroes, Caswallon is the introspective loner, Gaelen the scarred and powerful young boy with a huge destiny before him. Gemmell paints his characters in broad strokes and there are some brilliant supporting roles in the likes of strongman Lennox, Gaelen's rival Aswaigne and many others.

This novel is episodic but totally readable, one of those books I couldn't put down, eventually finishing after about a week. Clan life in the hills is beautifully portrayed and the woodland scenery is particularly well described, Gemmell making the reader feel like he or she is part of the events that transpire. Of course, there are some fantastic action sequences, including the life-or-death struggle of the Games, the many skirmishes, and the climatic battle which is tremendous.

Once again there are some supernatural foes to be faced, including werhounds and demons, and these are skilfully tied in with elements from the first in the series. Gemmell even has Jesus Christ as a supporting character, and it pays off admirably! Only Gemmell could be so bold.

Somehow this book seems even bloodier than usual for the author, whether it be in the blooddrenched fight scenes or in the unpleasant deaths for the enemies of the Aenier – something called the 'blood eagle', which is a mixture of crucifixion and having one's ribcage pulled apart, so that the ribs stick out like broken wings.

Unforgettable imagery, enthralling action and great heroes – Gemmell delivers all three in spades, and the result is a superb read.

Bill says

I feel like I need to read *Ironhand's Daughter* again just so I can make the 'times' fit better. A case where the sequel reads better than the original story.

Ian Banks says

Entertaining sequel to *Ironhand's Daughter* with more timey-wimey shenanigans. Sigarni features as a very minor character in this one as it is set several generations prior to that book, using characters and settings mentioned fleetingly there.

It tells a similar story, too: the Lowlanders are replaced by ersatz Vikings who are building an empire for themselves. They are portrayed in a way that doesn't generate much sympathy for them and their backstory is dealt with far too perfunctorily to make them feel like real characters.

That's really a problem across the whole book, to be honest: the main storyline and characters are portrayed in a way that makes you are about them and become invested in them, but the time travel and alt-universe subplots - which are really important to how the story is constructed - feel rushed and incomplete and I didn't understand why such crucial elements were being dealt with so abruptly.

But the adventure story, the growth of people over the several years of this story, as well as the sense of community you get from the characters, are vintage Gemmell.

Susan Tietjen says

Always love David Gemmell. Riveting stories, nail-biting perils, and challenges that just don't seem to be conquerable. Sometimes they aren't, and always, his characters who do survive learn important lessons and bear the scars to prove it. This book was not one of his very best, but it was really good.

Choko says

*** 3 ***

A buddy read with the Fantasy Buddy Reads Group.

I had a lot of high expectations for this novel and I have to say, I was let down.... No, nothing is really wrong with the writing or the story, but it just felt like the author had enough material and ideas for a novella or a short story and stretched it out forcefully into a full length novel. As a novel on its own it would have made much more sense than as a novel which followed the Hawk Queen. The time-travel and other dimensions elements could have been so much better clarified than they were, and there were some continuity issues because of that, although I appreciated the idea.

As always, the writing was very solid and the characters had enough personality and charm to make you root for them, but I did not see the need for them to overlap with some of the ones from the previous book and the tenuous connection they created with the books predecessor was not strong enough to justify this as a book Two, rather than a story of its own. I would even go as far as to say that the references to the them was what made the books suffer, because it brought with it certain expectations, which the author did not meet completely.

I did enjoy this book, but I could have loved it, and that just did not happen this time. Nevertheless, I am looking forward to reading other books by this author:):):)

Now I wish you all Happy Reading and many more wonderful books to come!!!
