



Fallowblade

Cecilia Dart-Thornton

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Weapons glitter, men's voices are raised in battle-song and bright banners crack and flap in a sharp breeze; armies of steel and bronze are marching to war as the ruthless king of the southern realm executes his plan to seize dominion over the Four Kingdoms. With Tir's most powerful protectors slain by treachery and the defenders scattered, it appears nothing can stand in the tyrant's way.

Asr?thiel, summoner of storms, called 'Weatherwitch' by her wayward, eldritch companion, aids the defenders as best she can, but the invading armies are pushing further north and it seems that all is lost . . . Until a new peril unexpectedly looms; a far more dangerous and deadly menace that threatens not merely the balance of power, but the entire human race . . .

'Dart-Thornton conjures up her world of Tir in the luminous yet hard-edged manner of Jack Vance and Mary Gentle' Washington Post

Fallowblade Details

Date : Published by Tor Books (first published October 2007)

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Author : Cecilia Dart-Thornton

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From Reader Review Fallowblade for online ebook

Deborah says

This was, in my opinion, undoubtedly the best book written by Cecilia Dart-Thornton and an utterly beautiful and grand finale to the Crowthistle Chronicles. Though the previous books were marvels individually, I thought Fallowblade tied each story together superbly. I could not easily find loose threads in the plot; and when one reads the chronicle for the second time, more subtle sections can be completely understood, which is a joy!

I found the characters to be both likeable and admirable. The bond between Zaravaz and Asrathiel was the type of romance I love, and I found their conversations a delight to read over and over again. The urisk Crowthistle was a loveable character despite his sometimes arrogant personality, and Asrathiel was the beautiful, powerful and perfect heroine. Together, they created a couple which has certainly been my most favourite a long time.

I love Fallowblade entirely and asolutely, and would recommend it to any lover of romantic fantasy! I hope you all enjoy it as much as I did.

Sapphirewine says

I actually read every single one of these books. By the final one the "recap" at the beginning is ridiculously long - but actually a better and more enjoyable than the books it recaps. I recommend getting this, the final book in the series and skipping the previous books - that is, if you absolutely have to. I just couldn't warm to this series. Each book felt like a retelling of the book preceding it in the series with little variation.

Ceres Barros says

This was the worst of the four books, in my opinion. Like in the previous ones the author seems to confuse descriptiveness (such as Tolkien's way of providing all details about the environment and so on) with repetition. Characters' ideals and characteristics are repeated over and over and over again. It also seemed to much of a clear reflection of the authors' own convictions, turning some bits of the story into almost-propaganda sounding text. The plot is wonderful, the sceneries very well described, but the series lost their magic with all its ecological lecturing (and I'm an ecologist!)

Iain Kaslar says

the best of the four books in the series. im glad I finally stuck it out and finished the series.

Michelle says

Unlike the previous books I got quite hooked into this one. It tied up all the loose ends well and I liked that

previous events from the other books were finally explained (there are some tedious descriptions in the previous books that up until now I thought were a waste of time reading).

I wouldn't read this series again, and I probably wouldn't recommend it to friends as a first choice fantasy series, but I am glad I have read it.

Talitha says

This was a beautiful finish to a lovely series of books. It was full of romance and adventure.

Magdalena says

Just lousy! Throatshowing of the author's own opinions.

Eleanor says

Throughout this series I've found myself getting a little exasperated by what I found to be irrelevant and overly long details present in every book written by this author. I loved the beautiful tragedy that was the end of *The Iron Tree*, but I really felt like *The Well of Tears* dragged a bit (I mean, did it really have to be so long?) and *Weatherwitch* was just plain filler. However, every time I would get annoyed at this, Cecilia Dart-Thornton would reel me in with some beautiful concept or passage of writing. I loved this book though. Unlike the others, it got me in right away, and blew me away.

Fallowblade continues the story of Asrathiel, who is a powerful weathermage, and searching for her lost aunts and uncles (murdered in *Weatherwitch* by an evil king), and then a battle between kingdoms for control.

This goes on for about half of the book, then a new foe in the form of a goblin army amasses (having found a way to release themselves from their prison), and attacks the four kingdoms, forcing them to unite.

The twist? Goblins are not ugly little beings, but cold, vicious and incredibly handsome men. Also, they are strict vegetarians and loathe humans for the way they use and eat animals. Now we see why Asrathiel and her views on the matter are relevant! (A little over the author's prejudices in this area coming through all the time - WE GET IT).

The dreaded Goblin King mysteriously returns to lead his army, and Asrathiel is immediately smitten. He shows some uncharacteristic generosity, taking 3 prisoners and allowing the decimated human army to live. Asrathiel is of course one of the prisoners, and her time in captivity was so engaging, intense and passionate. Aside from the beauty of the characters (when Astrathiel is constantly musing about the Goblin King taking her breath away I got a little annoyed - what kind of future can you have with someone who you can't breathe around?), I found the writing so powerful particularly in this section.

Unlike her previous series which ended disappointingly, this one is tied up perfectly, with plenty of happy endings to go around.

I wouldn't re-read the other books in this series for the sheer difficulty of finding the key parts, but this one I could read over and over again!

Teddy Curle says

I really love Dart-Thorntons familiarity and use of folklore, however in this series she used it to pull the wool over my eyes so she could deliver what is essentially a vegan manifesto. Seriously, the plot is based on faeries being angry with humans for eating animals. This is only revealed in the final book however, the first three books are actually just a really long backstory for her mary-sue character, explaining how she is immortal, the best witch ever, and really really ridiculously good looking. For some reason her eyelids are permanently blue, the colour "of a butterflies wing", which indicates a severe vitamin deficiency - probably anemia from being a vegan. It's essentially really bad fanfiction for a book of celtic folk tales.

Jaz says

this is my favouirte book.

James Hislop says

The whole series was thoroughly confused and not within cooe of the high standard of CDT's previous books. Book one was little better than a Mills and Boon romance. Book two was a repeat of book one. Book three read like it came from a different series and bore no resemblance to the direction set in the first book. Book four was different again and pointlessly changed direction a few times. It would appear that the author had no idea where she wanted to go, so she just wandered around anywhere, allowing her political views on animal welfare to dominate the story line far too strongly.

Caro says

Fallowblade was my favourite of the series, it had an interesting and different love story to the other books. One criticism was the constant repeating of animal rights and veganism by the author. I am sympathetic to this view but she did repeat herself a lot. Overall I do really enjoy Dart-Thornton's writing and she incorporates old celtic words and Australian flora and fauna.
