



Daughters of an Emerald Dusk

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“Do I sense the writing of a third book in this wonderful series? I sure hope so!”—*She* magazine on *Daughters of an Amber Noon*

Late in the twenty-second century, 4,000 women escape the tyranny of a male-dominated Earth and colonize the planet of Maternas. Katherine V. Forrest’s influential 1984 novel, *Daughters of a Coral Dawn*, told the story of this exodus. Her 2000 novel, *Daughters of an Amber Noon*, told the story of the women left behind on Earth. Now she returns to Maternas at last. Fifty years have passed, and the first generation born on Maternas has reached maturity. But their vision of a perfect world is very different from the vision of the founders of the Maternas colony.

Katherine V. Forrest is the author of 15 novels, including the *Daughters* trilogy, the Kate Delafield mysteries and the romantic classic *Curious Wine*. She lives in San Francisco.

Daughters of an Emerald Dusk Details

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From Reader Review Daughters of an Emerald Dusk for online ebook

rr says

I read Forrest's last installment of her Daughters trilogy first. In retrospect, I wish I hadn't (even though the book recapitulates all the factual information you "need" from the two earlier volumes). I did go back and read the first and second installments after-the-fact, and all in all, this is an interesting trilogy. Forrest carries us through several feminist stances on contemporary society, and ultimately she calls into question the possibility of a women's utopia separated from men. It is interesting to see her take us through that utopia (in two different configurations) before showing us its limits. I was especially interested by her presentation of a group of sci-fi "Amazons" on Maternas, the planet settled by the separatist women. Forrest's Amazons follow in the footsteps of the Greek mythical Amazons but then transcend them in an interesting way: a "true" Amazon, like a "true" women-only utopia, is--in the final analysis--not human. The women of Maternas finally learn that they're more like men than they ever would have thought--and they return to Earth.

That said, the writing can be odd and inelegant. I read this book in a book group and most of the other readers found it campily bad. But there's something about the core trajectory of the trilogy that is very interesting to me and merits consideration as a meditation on current feminist thought and practice.

WLF says

This book was truly thought provoking and pushes the reader to recognize that we do not know as much as we think we do. The conclusion to this wonderful trilogy is quite surprising. It initially made me angry because these women seemed to be doing so well at incorporating themselves into their new world. Then it made me start thinking about the fact that even the best of intentions does not guarantee a successful outcome. I recommend this book and this trilogy to anyone who likes sci-fi, fantasy, and strong, sensual women.

Julie says

I think I liked this one least of the series. The next generation of women on this planet had evolved/mutated into something bizarre. Oh, and Gaia comes into things, which is both cliched and yet.. there was an interesting take on it once you got to the end.

But it also read like porn in places. They communicate by sex? Really? That was necessary? And it's not even consensual at first, not really, so that was troublesome. It might be harsh to call it gangrape, but when you try to explain why it's not, well.. that's really difficult to do. And just because they're all women (or evolved, mutated women) does not make it any better.

So I'm inclined to tell people to read the first book in this series and skip the others.

Ulla says

End of the trilogy!! I'd so love to read more of these great ladies!

Candice says

I just had to write a review, the sole reason I made an account on here. This book is good; however, there are moments I call 'wtf'. What one of the characters, Joss, does to another, Emerald, is the same thing the love of Joss' life did to her in book two of Daughters.

From the beginning of this book, there are foreshadows; an example is when Joss meets three of women from the younger generation. There she desires to be like Venus just like she did at the end of Book 2. She desired to be with numerous women, to all share pleasure. Yet she's attracted to Emerald because she reminds Joss of Africa.

So they go to this Amazonian area and this is where the 'wtf' begins. Joss pretty much allows Emerald to fall in love with her, even though each night she sleeps with these women so as to obtain messages vital for the sisterhood. Yes, that's important but also during this time Joss is discovering the joys of being in this area, this life. Similar to that of the Bonobonos; the primates who have sex with one another for pleasure and communication.

Joss lives the desire always wanted and shares a night with no two same woman; however, there is one woman she goes back to and one who goes to her. They make love and not sex unlike the other encounters and when it becomes really heated the other Amazonias come in to take part of the action and they do not reject.

Joss falls for this woman and chooses to stay with her pretty much leaving Emerald. This is pretty much what Africa does in Book 2. Africa goes off with Theo, the man, the only man she ever loved, so as to be with him forever. Africa loved Theo, why else go with him...and Joss loves this new life, why else be with it? But ironically, what I'm having a hard time with is, it was okay for Africa to go off with Theo and leave Joss. But it isn't okay for Joss to leave off with the 'voluptuous woman' and Amazonias.

*I rated this book 3 stars because I found myself skipping pages to get to the point. But I quite enjoyed the sex scenes, but they're not as explicit to be called 'porn'...maybe soft core porn.

Cheryll says

I've always daydreamed what a world would be like if there were inhabitants that lived with nature and tried not to control it. This book captivated me and took me to that world. Even though this book is sci-fi fiction, I find that there is a lot of truth behind it especially when it comes to Mother Earth and how, we, the human species treats her.

It's quite sad where we haven't taken planet Earth with all her natural abundant resources. It's as if we've stripped her dry, and slowly killing her while we pursue our selfish needs using up limited resources without taking into consideration where we're taking it from because, quite frankly, we're end-users/receivers.

It's also interesting to note how Forrest wove Greek mythology into her story. This series was all-in-all awe inspiring and imaginative with a lot of core truths behind it.

Barbara Williams says

I was ecstatic to see a new book in this series since I had such fond memories of Daughters of a Coral Dawn from reading it as a young woman. Unfortunately, this book did not live up to the promise of the earlier books in the series.

I found the "environmentalist" plot point pretty creepy, and although I'm not one to shy away from some sex in books, this one read a lot more like porn than like a novel. It didn't work for me at all, and although I finished it, I don't think it will be one that I'll reread.

Phil says

Points for originality and good use of language. Loses a star or two for jumping the shark, IMHO. Some things are just too fantastic.

Faith says

Eh, I liked the first two for the sexy, over-the-top plots and ridiculously beautiful, perfect characters, but this one totally lost me. I think that the author may be reversing her earlier opinions on feminist/lesbian separatism, which is all to the good (in this feminist's opinion), but this book slides into an odd aside on environmentalism that we're meant to see as utopian but ends up being *terrifying.* If it had been played straight as SF-horror, it would be similar to Solaris, but as it is, it just seems silly. Still, it was kind of a fun and quick read and it makes me want to revisit the guilty pleasures of "Coral Dawn."

Terry says

I read the whole series, so I had to read this one. I enjoyed following the series, but still was a little preachy overall.

Juliana says

Didn't finish. Prose was uninspiring, and there are books higher on my "to read" list as far as the separatist trope goes...

Marie Castle says

Scorchingly sexy, this the final book in The Daughters of the Coral Dawn Trilogy was masterfully written--beautiful and exciting. My only complaint is that it isn't longer. No spoilers, though I will say Forrest brings the Trilogy to a satisfying close with this novel. Of course, there's room for more should she decide to grace us with another story (as is my hope). Definitely worth the read. And as a bonus, the new publisher, Bella Books, has the entire trilogy available in an ebook bundle, so there's a good savings!

Linda says

This is the third and final book in the trilogy. Like the other two, it is a well-written story. And like the previous story, it is kind of sad. I don't have much else to say. I did disagree with some of the feminist politics in the series, but that is a personal opinion. I'm just not a fan of dystopian futures. The series won awards and I can see why. The fact that I managed to read all three books should be indicative of the fact that the writer kept me engrossed. I just find it difficult to say I really liked something that left me as unsettled as this series did.
