



## The Realms of the Gods

*Tamora Pierce*

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**During a dire battle** against the fearsome Skinners, Daine and her mage teacher Numair are swept into the Divine Realms. Though happy to be alive, they are not where they want to be. They are desperately needed back home, where their old enemy, Ozorne, and his army of strange creatures are waging war against Tortall.

Trapped in the mystical realms Daine discovers her mysterious parentage. And as these secrets of her past are revealed so is the treacherous way back to Tortall. So they embark on an extraordinary journey home, where the fate of all Tortall rests with Daine and her wild magic.

## The Realms of the Gods Details

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Author : Tamora Pierce

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## From Reader Review The Realms of the Gods for online ebook

### Beth says

First, I don't like the idea of taking two people key to the war *away from the war entirely* for most of the book. Where of course they learn vital information blah blah blah. Second, the pacing of this book is wacky, and they jump between places acquiring allies and enemies like it's necessary for the plot (which it is) instead of coherent, organic storytelling. Third, and much more importantly: Daine is SIXTEEN. Numair is THIRTY ONE. I do not care, the slightest bit, about the age of consent in a nonexistent fantasy land. I DO NOT LIKE (green eggs and ham)

I DO NOT LIKE THEM

NOT HERE OR THERE OR ANYWHERE

Basically: this series is too scattered, and I only appreciate it the little I do because it fills holes in the Kel series. Otherwise: NOPE. NOT IN A TRAIN OR IN A TREE. Etc.

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### Pili says

Daine was such a wonderful character and I adored her connection with the animals and how all her friends became important one way or the other throughout the series! The world building was immersive and I was so fascinated by the Realms of the Gods! Clearly, I need more Tamora Pierce!!

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### Catie says

3 ½ stars

I've been sitting on this one for a while. It's a perfectly lovely ending for a great fantasy series; it's just that I don't have too many strong feelings about it. Whereas the ending of the Alanna series felt so *relevant* to my own life, this one doesn't resonate as much. Daine's lessons are important ones: embracing adulthood and independence and saying goodbye to the past. They're just not lessons that I've had to deal with recently. I feel like I am too old for this book. But luckily I have two miniaturized versions of myself at home who I'm sure will love this series when they get a bit older.

As this last book opens, Daine, Numair, and Kitten are exhausted. The people of Tortall have been dealing with one battle after another ever since the Carthaki Emperor Ozorne was *transformed*. And of course now everyone's starting to realize that turning a crazed power hungry man into a powerful immortal being with razor sharp steel wings was probably a bad idea. Hindsight.

Things get complicated when Daine and Numair are transported to the immortal realms and trapped there. Their only hope of escape might lay with Kitten's relatives, the dragons.

I had a similar lack of connection in this book as I had in Wolf Speaker. Daine is removed from the friends that I had grown to love and placed in a brand new setting with brand new characters. The Badger and Numair are still around, but Alanna, Jonathan, Kitten, Cloud, Onua, and even Prince Kaddar are all missing

until the final battle. Even then, the author spends so much time with brand new villains and characters only briefly introduced that I had a hard time focusing or caring. Whenever one of the familiar names came up, I would feel a rush of interest in the story again, but they were few and far between. However, Daine's final battle is very satisfying and epic.

One disagreement (I guess you could say) that I have with this series in general is this notion that humans and animals are so very different. Daine can mind speak with "the people" (animals of every type) and with immortal beings, but never with humans. Humans are set apart, completely alien to every other organism on Earth apparently. I'm pretty sure that Tamora Pierce doesn't have any ulterior motives with this rule (except to perhaps prevent the complication of Daine being able to read the minds of her human friends), but it nettles me a bit. I think that this belief that some humans have of superiority and separation from animals has encouraged a lot of cruelty and apathy in our time. But maybe I am reading way too much into it.

There is quite a bit more progression with the romance in this installment, even though, once again, it is just about the least important facet of this story. And I know that in my other reviews for this series I've been all, "Daine + Numair 4ever!" but truthfully I had a lot of worries. Numair, while possibly one of the greatest male love interests ever written in fantasy, is also thirty years old. And throughout this series, he's been more of a teacher/father figure for Daine than anything else. At sixteen years old, Daine isn't even making it past the "half your age plus seven" barrier. My ickiness flags were definitely raised.

BUT, without giving too much away, I am here to say that I did not have one single moment of icky repulsion. The scenes between Daine and Numair are sweet and gut-wrenching and they surprised me in every way. Which leads me to...

### Perfect Musical Pairing

The Cranberries – Sunday

This is the song that I had picked out for Daine, when I arrogantly assumed that she would fall for Numair and not know how to deal with it and be all young and confused and angsty. Well, I should have known better. Tamora Pierce, I salute you! This song isn't for Daine at all. It's for Numair.

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## **kris says**

[Also read: 29 December 2007, 18 July 2011]

Daine and Numair get sucked out of Tortall and into the Divine Realms where they star in, in turn, a travelogue, a romance novel, and the quickest war novel ever.

1. SERIOUSLY.

2. All the main stuff happened off page. The war, Daine's other suitors, sicknesses, etc. Instead, we get 75% of a book about traveling across the Divine Realm and 25% about finishing a war too big for one book.

It's just: sloppy, and uninteresting, and--to use the phrase that I think most succinctly summarizes this series--*simple*. There is nothing truly at stake in any of these books: no deep relationships develop, no begrudging respect, no awkward rivalries. The antagonistic relationships that do exist (Ozorne, Rikash) are glossed over, and we are given the shells and asked to believe it's a full meal.

3. That romance, though. Here's the thing: A young, more confused me shipped the hell out of this. But even that nostalgic yearning wasn't enough to disguise the unevenness of the romance, nor the laughable attempts to rebalance the power dynamics. It's all shoddy craftsmanship to attempt to shore up a relationship that was neither well-planned nor characterized.

The age difference still didn't bother me, but that's because Numair doesn't really strike me as a 30 year old man but more of a really studious 22 year old. (Old enough for the good stuff but young enough to not know any better.)

4. I'm honestly just glad to be done with it?? Which is, perhaps, the most telling point of them all.

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### **Abi (The Knights Who Say Book) says**

Well, this wraps up my reread of the Immortals quartet. I'd only read this series once before (compared to my many rereads of Protector of the Small and Song of the Lioness), so I am glad I revisited. But my opinions on this book were not swayed. While fun things happen and the Darkings are adorable, I'm still skeptical of the worldbuilding of the Realms of the Gods, and I cannot rate a book with this romance any higher. Seriously, Numair? You're a grown man and she's sixteen. Gross.

I would say that my reread has revealed to me that my ratings of these books generally decline across the series, with me really enjoying the first two, not so much the third, and being more than a little annoyed by this one.

My reviews of the others: Wild Magic, Wolf-Speaker, Emperor Mage

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### **Robert says**

Daine is an overpowered character, we all know that. The daughter of a God with the power to speak and change(to a lesser extent) into animals. Being overpowered, her tales only remain interesting based upon the cast of characters(usually animals) that she befriends and her enemies.

Here is where The Realms of the Gods nearly makes a fatal mistake. It ejects her animal friends for gods and beings with near omniscience. Nothing is left to guess work because her friends seem to know everything(except Numair, which is my next big issue) that is going on.

The sudden loss of honor by the noble Numair is inexplicable. For three volumes he been trumped up as the sort of man who would never lower himself to for a relationship with his apprentice/student/magelet. I get it that he has feelings for her but all that honor is swept so quickly under the rug it's as if you never had to hear about it for three books.

Speaking of quick. Don't try to get comfortable with any scene of location. This book uses locales like Kleenex. For that matter most of the conversation/mind talk, are just as disposable.

It's regrettable that Daine and Numair's odyssey is relegated to a draw by the numbers affair. A strictly sophomoric tale, instead of the epic story it should have been. Overpowered she may be, unfortunately for us, this is the weakest tale of Tortall. So far.

## Kathleen says

The Realms of the Gods is one of my favorite books of all time to be sure. However, I must say that one of the main reasons it holds its precarious position on my ever-changing list is because it's the conclusion to a superb quartet of books. If you are reading this book before reading the 3 stories that come before it, shame on you! The magic of this story is that you already know the characters. Pierce weaves a bond in between story and reader that is so strong by the 4th book that you look on the characters as good friends (I haven't yet decided if this is unhealthy...) Numair and Diane's finally, FINALLY, budding romance is all the sweeter because you've been a part of their relationship since the beginning, and you have watched as they've grown closer together. Not many authors can boast of this kind of love story, and I believe that is why the Realms of the Gods has kept its position on the Favorite's List. With the Immortals Series, Tamora Pierce has accomplished something special, and that's why I highly, highly, HIGHLY, recommend this whole series. Go team, read books.

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## Kogiopsis says

This wasn't supposed to be the next book I finished. I was planning to get through Eulalia! first, but I woke up one morning and rolled over and grabbed this one for no good reason except it's easier to read paperbacks than hardbacks when you're lying on your side because you don't want to get up, and also because your cat is sitting on your hip.

Anyhow. That was yesterday. I think I read five chapters or so before breakfast. And then I had to face the truth: **I'm addicted to these books.** I crave them when I am not reading them. When I am, I need more more all the time. If there was a way to inject them straight into my brain every now and again I would probably do it. Reading them is the closest I'll ever get to being well and truly high.

This is not my favorite installment, but it has some of my favorite moments. Shipping moments, naturally. Seriously, every time Daine and Numair start kissing a part of me goes "OKAY STOP THE PLOT AND JUST KEEP MAKING OUT FOR THE REST OF THE BOOK KTHX". (And they exchange a lot of saliva, so this happens fairly often.) This is the book in which Tamora Pierce proves that romance is better when it's drawn out slowly over an entire quartet, because by the time you get here every tense moment between the two of them sends shivers down your spine and it's far, far, far more electric than any one-book instance.

One of my favorite bits:

"Of all the times for him to go protective on me. Maybe he ate something that was bad for him." She closed her eyes.

"Maybe he loves you," Broad Foot said.

She didn't hear. She was already asleep.

(Daine is so clueless about the whole thing that it's kind of hilarious. Also, you have to feel sorry for Numair.)

'Falling' is probably my favorite chapter of the whole quartet.

Okay, but moving on. There are other things to recommend this book. For one thing, Pierce is really, really, really good at humanizing the gods. For another, there are dragons! And perhaps most importantly, this is where we get the origin story of the Stormwings. I'm not going to give you any more detail about those things, though, because that could be spoilers. What I will say is that I love how the Stormwings are made more sympathetic over the course of the book, to the point that by the end of this one you feel like you understand them and, in some cases, even like them. (Now what I really want to know is what sick person dreamed up spidrens.)

The climactic battle is not nearly as good as that of Emperor Mage, but there are enough other delicious scenes that it's all worth it.

Also, I'm fairly convinced that Gainel, the god of dreams, is a combination of Neil Gaiman and his character Morpheus.

For those familiar with the Lioness Quartet and the Beka Cooper books, there's a brief cameo by someone present in both series, if you're watching carefully. (I eagerly await the day when we find out what the heck he is and why he adopts humans the way he does. If we ever do, which I suppose we may not. Damn cat.)

Anyhow, this quartet. If you haven't read it, you should really make it a priority. They don't make YA like this any more.

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### **Andrea says**

I'm so happy with the ending of this book!! I can't wait to read the next series :O

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### **Julie says**

This is the last of the series of four with Daine as central character. I enjoyed this series in as much as it was a departure from the "apprentice training" quartets which I read out of order and back to back ( and which was a bit of overkill on the same theme after 8 in a row!)

Of the entire series I enjoyed this book the best. It took place almost entirely in the Realm of the Gods and so it was quite different than the others. There were a lot of dreams and a war - neither of which I am a huge fan of reading about.

#### **SPOILER:**

I did already know who Daine was married to because as I said earlier I read later series before I read this one. In this book however, the relationship between Daine and her master develops into a physical one and I just have to say I was VERY disturbed by it - simply because of the age difference and because I have read the three previous books almost back to back so I can easily recall the way the relationship started.

**CREEPY!!!!**

I do think this relationship played a major role in my overall feeling of dislike towards this book.

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## **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

Gah! This series had to end on a bad note. I had the same problem with this book as I did with *Wolf Speaker*. Too much interactions with Daine's animals and the gods, and not enough human interactions, furthermore bogged down by the weakest part of Book 1, the war. Tamora Pierce has many strengths in her writing; writing battle scenes and war scenes are not one of them. I find them slow, bogged down, and I easily get confused and lost in the action...and not lost in a good way. Very disappointed in the conclusion.

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## **Crystal Starr Light says**

Showdown between Mortals and the Immortals

Daine and Numair have been doing their best, fighting against the forces of the now Immortal, Ozorne. In a battle at the cusp of death, they are spirited away to the Realms of the Gods by Daine's mother, Sarra, and her father, both of whom are gods. But Daine can think of only one thing: fighting in the battle in Tortall and saving her friends. Numair and Daine must then journey to the Land of the Dragons to return to Tortall and hopefully save their people.

The journey is complete! I must admit, I do find myself a little sad at the conclusion to this series. It has been a fun ride, even with the hiccups I've seen.

In the last entry of *The Immortals Quartet*, we have a lot of changes and a lot of developments. One of the biggest is the relationship between Daine and Numair. Even from the beginning, *Wild Magic*, we could sorta tell there was a spark between these two. Now, this spark officially becomes love. The weird thing is, I thought it was squicky. I really hate to say that--I've adored many romance between two people of wildly different ages (the Erlking/Dana from *Glimmerglass* and Jane Eyre/Mr. Rochester as two examples). \*EMBARRASSING ADMISSION TIME\* Frak, I've even written some fanfic about teacher/student romantic pairings!\*END\* But for whatever reason, maybe because Daine is SO young (13) when she first meets Numair, maybe because Numair has been Daine's teacher for so long, maybe because Daine is only 16 in this book while Numair is in his early 30's, I just was totally squicked out when they revealed their love for each other.

However, that said, the romance WAS done well (I know, sounds hypocritical--I know I don't make sense!). Numair and Daine NEVER fell insta-love. Their affections grew over the years, over KNOWING and caring for the other person. Also, Daine NEVER ONCE backed down from doing something dangerous because of her love for Numair. She continued to battle, even knowing that either she or Numair could die. And the romance NEVER halts the story and completely careens it off into "Googly Eyes" territory. With all the hokey romantic stories in young adult novels today, this was VERY refreshing.

Another big development is we get to see the Realms of the Gods and find out more about Daine's mother. It was nice to see how the gods lived, what happened to Daine's mom, and to have a mini-journey before the final battle (though, I was wondering for a moment there if Pierce would be able to pull it off--she almost didn't leave herself enough time for a good Final Battle!). I also really liked the Showdown between Daine and Ozorne. It was intense and kept me listening to the very end. I also thought it was well-thought out and, for the most part (considering I listened to this on audiobook), I could see how the scene happened.

As with all these books, I found some stuff that I didn't like (besides, of course, the relationship). I thought an awful lot of time was spent with Daine and Numair returning to Tortall. I missed a lot of the characters in earlier books--Onua, who barely gets a line in, Alanna, the King and Queen, and more. Daine is straddling

the Mary Sue line; she has become almost omnipotent at this point (thank goddess she doesn't end up getting BOTH options the gods give her at the very end), not to mention with her bias towards Stormwings gone, she virtually has no flaws or weaknesses. However, I will also say, she is one of the most tolerable Mary Sue's I've ever read. Through this series, I've also discovered I am NOT a big animal person, thus a lot of the book was rather blah for me (to those that do like animals, this is your book!). I can only take so much talking, cute animals.

But there was also a lot of stuff I did like. We get new creatures, the Darkings, which I imagined to be SO CUTE and ADORABLE and AW SO SPESHUL! (Sounds like I contradicted myself again!) Daine doesn't jump headlong into marrying a guy at 16 and decides to wait it out--and he respects her decision and never forces her to be someone she is not. We get a journey AND a final battle. And our villain, Ozorne, maintains his evil scariness withOUT resorting to being a cliché.

This has been a really enjoyable series to read. Tamora Pierce has written some really enjoyable fantasy that has managed to avoid most of the pratfalls I've seen a lot of other young adult novels fall prey to--Mary Sues (depending on your view, Daine could be one or could not), insta-love, romance dominating the story, a lack of background research, no clear idea of surroundings. A good series for adults, but I definitely think that teenaged girls should check this out, as they will probably enjoy way more.

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### **Sakina (aforestofbooks) says**

OH. MY. GOD. When I read Immortals the first time around, I remember loving it, but not "LOVING" it the same way I did Protector of the Small. Reading it again almost 10 years later, all I can say is WOW. SO GOOD. I literally don't remember the last time I've obsessed over a book this much! I absolutely loved Song of the Lioness, but there's just something different about Immortals. The writing, the plot, the character development...it's just so much more detailed and well thought out and so realistic! I remember after reading Tamora Pierce for the first time, I sat down with my friend (who had also read the books) and we talked about how Tamora Pierce's characters feel so real - almost like you could bump into them in the street. These characters made me hurt and cry inside, and they made me smile, and laugh and squeal. These emotions are what I cherish when it comes to reading. It's what makes reading an adventure.

I literally cannot wait for Numair's book to be released!!! I NEED MORE NUMAIR IN MY LIFE NOW!

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### **Claire says**

I love Pierce, and even though none of her books will be better than the first series (Alana: The First Adventure) about a girl who disguises herself as a boy to become a squire (and eventually, a lady knight: the first such in many hundreds of years in her world of Tortall) I also really like this series. Well, I liked the first book in the series enough to give it, say, a 4. The second book wasn't that great. The third was a little better. This was a nice low-point to finish the series. Lame-o.

Also set in Tortall, the protagonist is a "Wild Mage" someone able to call up unusual powers: mostly talking to animals, controlling animals, and transforming into animals). They are intended for an adolescent audience, but popular with adults as well.

Pierce is a great author, though life is occasionally a bit too prancing-pony perfect in Tortall: everyone gets along, the Queen is the most beautiful woman in the land, every protagonist ends up with her favorite

friend/mentor as a husband in the final book of series. I don't recommend reading this book.

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### **Kayla Edwards says**

There's nothing I can say that will adequately express how I feel about these books and I'm not even going to try. Besides, the fact that I read them all repeatedly (I quit counting after the 10th time) is the highest form of praise I can give anyway. Daine, Numair, and the others are friends as dear to me as any in this world.

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### **Kirsty (Amethyst Bookwurm) says**

This and my other reviews can be found at <http://amethystbookwurm.blogspot.co.uk/>

Daine and Numair are transported to the realm of the gods during a dire battle, only for Daine to realise the secrets of her parentage. However, even though she is happy to find her family, Numair and Daine both realise that they have to return to their world to help their friends in their battle against Ozorne. Daine and Numair with help from friends take a dangerous journey to leave the realm. This is one of the best YA fantasy I have read and I really like the romance in this book as, even though it is a bit obvious, it is a really charming and captivating. I would recommend this to anyone who likes good fantasy whether it is YA or adult.

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### **Missy Ansell says**

A war is going on between Tortall, Carthak rebels, Scanran and the Copper Isles. Diane and Numair are charged with fighting many of the immortals. On one such occasion they are fighting some beings called The Skinner's, immortals that kill anything they touch. About to be killed by these creatures, Diane and Numair are pulled through into the Divine Realms. There Diane meets her parents. But both need to find a way back to the human realm to fight the rebels.

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### **Wench says**

So not only do we have some typical fantasy problems, like overpowered characters who can do no wrong and are filled with truth, love and virtue, there's misused words, terrible description, plot holes, and then SPOILER AND TRIGGER WARNING, a thirty-year-old teacher macking on and making out with his sixteen-year-old student. BY THE WAY THEY'VE BEEN IN LOOOOOVE SINCE SHE WAS THIRTEEN. There's about one page of desultory, pro forma "oh huh this might be fucked up" discussion, and then EVERYTHING IS APPARENTLY FINE.

NO, TAMORA PIERCE. EVERYTHING IS NOT FINE.

Honestly, yay for having a girl as your main character in fantasy, but if the price for that is having this shit happen, I THINK I'M OKAY WITH SKIPPING THE LADY HEROINES. Jesus fucking Christ.

AND THIS IS YA. Because THAT'S a great example to emulate. At least when Eddings pulls this shit one,

he's writing for adults, two, the characters actually wrestle with it, and three, THEY'RE BOTH ADULTS AT THE TIME.

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## Andree says

Finally powered through this. 2.5 stars probably more accurately, but I'm going to be less harsh on this book than some of you have been. Mostly for old time's sake (except, kind of hilarious how little of this book I remembered, aka 0%). Although, parts of it kind of work for me.

True, it's a bit of a mess of a book.

True, a lot of things are glossed over.

Definitely true that Daine and Numair spend too high a percentage of this book in the Divine Realms.

But I think I can sort of see where it's going? I'm not saying I think it gets there particularly effectively, but I can kind of see it.

Look, I like set-ups. I like first books and first seasons of television. And sometimes, if I like the set-up enough, I forgive much in the later story, as long as the later story doesn't become incompatible with the story I wanted in my head when I started. This story doesn't. And I can fix the details in the back of my mind, and fill in the gaps (the first time I read these, I think I must have done a lot of mental back-filling).

Now we get to the part where I make suggestions for this entire series.

I think there are a few major narratives going on here:

1. Daine is half-immortal, though she doesn't know it to start, and will eventually have to choose between her mortal and immortal halves.
2. Daine is alone and is looking for a home of her own (plus some general coming of age stuff). (Parenthetically, this one would have been SO MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE if it had been better linked to 1.)
3. DAINE + NUMAIR = SOULMATES (I thought I'd pretend to be a super-shipper for a while)
4. The war between the mortals and the immortals (and to a certain extent, the gods)

I think none of them are done particularly well, but if things had been tweaked they could have been, except for maybe 4 – that was perhaps destined to always be at least a bit hand-wavy (conveniently it's the one I care about the least). But all of them would be helped by some context. And more Daine and Numair in Tortall and actually interacting with each other.

SO, now we begin Andrée's mental versions of these books. Spoilers for the whole series, and under a cut because it's long (really stupidly long).

(view spoiler)

Told you it was stupidly long. I had many thoughts though, okay?

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## **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Candace Cunard for TeensReadToo.com

It's been a year since wild mage Daine, now sixteen, helped topple Emperor Orzone of Carthak, but at that time his consciousness was trapped within the body of an immortal flesh-eating bird known as a stormwing, and therefore his presence is still integral to the story. In fact, Orzone has teamed up with Uusoae, the goddess of chaos, and together their power threatens to destroy everything Daine knows and loves.

Daine may be young, but she and those around her all accept that she has an important part to play in this fight, defending the kingdom of Tortall that became her home four years ago.

This final book in Tamora Pierce's THE IMMORTALS series is literally out of this world, with Daine and Numair spending the majority of the narrative in the titular realms of the gods. They are taken there by benevolent forces who seek their safety and remove them from their world when they are on the brink of death.

Although many of the mysteries of Daine's past begin to unravel due to the information she gathers, both she and Numair wish to return home to their own world to do their part in the battles that are raging between Tortall and the forces of chaos. To do this, they'll have to journey through the immortal realms to the land of the dragons, since Daine's friendship with the dragon Kitten makes them the only immortals who might be able to send Daine back to her world.

Though it isn't my favorite volume in the series (that would be EMPEROR MAGE, the third book), this book does a good job of concluding the quartet. Many of the major questions that have been left open by the earlier books are answered, and the development of Daine's character continues to present her as a solid human being with strengths and weaknesses, both of which she must learn to harness to her advantage.

In this series, Pierce introduces another strong young woman whose life and adventures will make for an exciting read and a real inspiration at any age.

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