



## Heart's Blood

*Gail Dayton*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Heart's Blood

*Gail Dayton*

## Heart's Blood Gail Dayton

Master conjurer Grey Carteret regains consciousness in a London gutter next to a concerned street urchin and not far from the body of a man murdered by magic. Some fool is hoping to use murder to raise a demon. Arrested for the crime, Grey must rely on the street urchin for help. But the lad turns out to be a comely lass, and she wants something in exchange.

Pearl Parkin, a gently reared lady struggling to survive in London's slums, sees magic as a way out of the life she finds herself trapped in. But blackmailing Grey into making her his apprentice has unexpected consequences. As they plunge into the hunt for the murderer, Pearl discovers that the things she once desperately wanted are not so important after all, and that she must risk her blood, her heart, and her very life to grasp the love she needs.

## Heart's Blood Details

Date : Published December 29th 2009 by Tor Books

ISBN : 9780765362513

Author : Gail Dayton

Format : Paperback 418 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Steampunk, Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Historical, Paranormal, Magic

 [Download Heart's Blood ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Heart's Blood ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Heart's Blood Gail Dayton**

---

## From Reader Review Heart's Blood for online ebook

### Paranormal Romance says

Sad as it is, waking up hung over, dirty and lying the gutter is not an unknown occurrence but after giving up drinking, the hero hoped to be past such behavior. But, yet here he is. Strangely he doesn't remember even getting drunk, though. But he's finds himself guarded by a dirty little creature, a homeless boy who followed him and stood vigil over him all night. This boy actually turns out to be a girl, a very dirty, small and unassuming girl, who requests him to take her on as his apprentice. He immediately declines. He's wants nothing at all to do with training a new magician and the worry and stress that comes along with it. But when he's arrested for murder and sitting in a dirty and cold jail cell, the heroine offers to deliver his message only if he'll accept her as his apprentice. He agrees under the blackmail and she runs off. The heroine was once a well to do young lady before illness took her mother and brothers and her father killed himself with drink not long after, but gambling away their money beforehand. She's refuses to accept that others can become magicians and free themselves from poverty because they are men and she, a woman, will forever be poor. She's not malicious or scheming but when opportunities present themselves, she's quick to capital on them. And as such, she's now taken the oath from the hero that binds them under contract and she cannot possibly be happier even if she got his agreement via blackmail. She now has the chance to make something of herself. To be one of only 2 women to be accepted into the magicians schooling and there are so many doors opening for her. Now she only has to get her magic-master out of prison. The hero is horrified by the conditions of the jail and the fact that it's taking so damn long to get him out of this mess. He's a magistrate and a LORD for god's sake! And the notion that it takes a visiting magistrate to finally see him released because his own people are working against him is outrageous. But, with that behind him he's finally free to track down the man responsible for using human sacrifice in an attempt to summon a demon. And the thought of an apprentice waiting for him, a woman who's cleaned up to be a beautiful creature indeed, makes him anticipate their partnership. Especially once he has time to truly see her talents. She is a very strong and intelligent woman. Eager to learn and to impress him and he remarks that her thirst for knowledge matches his own so from the start she has his admiration, But another group of strange feelings are also starting to creep in. He begins to become extremely protective of her. Maybe her small stature and fragile appearance could be held responsible for that but then why is he also possessive of her? Her easy smile and kindness to the other students sets his teeth on edge. And her reckless selflessness is a constant source of stress. She gives and gives until he fears for her health and safety. The heroine is the type of person to think of others above herself and she eagerly seeks to help whenever she can even at the cost of herself. But she too begins to feel deeper less 'teacher-student' desires for the larger than life man who seems as eager to teacher her as she is to learn. Yes he is stubborn and childish at times. Yes he is frustrating and too hansom for his own good but he treats her with respect. He defends her and her right to learn to his peers and he listens to all her many questions and asks her opinion. She's never been happier than she is when she's in his company. They seem unstoppable, exchanging ideas, theories and magic until she can't tell where she begins and he ends. It's only natural that this companionship, this sense of oneness will end up with them in be together. And despite the taboo scandal of their relationship, the hero eagerly seeks the heroine's hand in marriage. At first she declines, think he wants her only for her magic but she just can't say no to him. She loves too must even if he doesn't love her. For a time, they couldn't be happier. The hero couldn't be happier. He went from this playful magical master to a little boy who could barely contain himself in want to make her his. Then comes the fall. When he finds out, she's bonded him as her familiar (in his thinking, a slave) he is beyond enraged. He immediately tears up their contract, he breaks their engagement and basically severs all ties expecting whatever hold she has on him to disappear. Funny thing is... it doesn't. He misses her. He thinks of her and as much as he lies to himself, he loves her. But their partnership is not over, they must gather together to send the demon back to hell and they need to sort things out between them before they'll have the strength to do so. Pretty amazing book. I knew it was going to be good because I adored the first in the series and this author just has that certain spark that ignites the genre with fresh blood. The characters were amazing. I

knew that beneath the easy going exterior the hero would have a dark side underneath and it came out when he felt doped by the heroine. He became an irrational beast screamed foul and treated the woman he once respected in such a deplorable manner. But it's in this that the heroine's virtue really shines through and I grew to love her more than ever. She was always that type of character that I love, strong but sensible with a heart of gold but it was rational and gracious forgiveness of the hero's behavior that solidified my love for her. Maybe the plot was a bit thick and maybe the book was a tad long but I was well and truly swept up within it and I didn't come up for air until it was finished. Realistically I'd rate this a 4.5 star but what the hell, 5 star is something it's deserving off and it was a lovely novel but a very talented author.

---

### **Laura Morrigan says**

This gets about a 4.9, rounded up to a 5. I loved the characters, the setting, the intuitive understanding she had of the way they dressed and human nature. I was just a little unsure if I liked the final battle, and a little disappointed that it ended up in the air with no future book date for the third novel. I want to know what happens next!

Despite what others have said, I think this works well if you haven't read the original, although I have now read that one as well. It's not so punky, not too much technology, but it is a steamy romance, and the descriptions of the magic and guilds is fascinating. I loved the Victorian setting, and the author really understood aspects of Victorian life such as getting through doors in hoop skirts, that made it feel more real.

The romance was very enjoyable, Grey Carteret was just my type. This book works well as a steampunk-ish novel, a story about magic, and as a romance, and for that, it deserves real credit! I can't wait to see what will happen when the third one comes out! I hope it will have more about Elinor, who is a fascinating character, and a strong independent woman!

---

### **Alicia says**

Victorian England setting except with wizards, sorceresses, alchemists and conjurers. I thought the world building and magical elements were really interesting and the mystery held my attention. The romance portion of the book was a bit weak however. I liked the characters quite a bit but just felt like too much happened in too short of a time period. I will, however, definitely pick up her next book.

---

### **Wendy Hines says**

What you think you want more than anything may not be what your heart really needs.

Master conjurer Grey Carteret stumbles around drunk one evening and finds himself awakening the next morning face down in a muddy alley. He knows he didn't drink the night before so he is really confused.

Even more confusing is the lad beside him whom watched over him all evening. The lad wants to be Grey's apprentice, but Grey doesn't take on apprentices. When the dirty urchin reveals himself to be a young woman, Grey is adamant about not taking her on.

Pearl Parkin didn't used to be poor, but circumstances have changed her life and now she is. She wants to rise above it all and be whom she was meant to be, and she sees magic as her way out. She has a gift for sorcery but she needs Grey to teach her.

A murder has transpired right around the corner from where Grey passed out. The murder was deeply laced in magic, and Grey is instantly arrested since he was in the area of the occurrence. Pearl blackmails Grey into taking her on as his apprentice if she is to find someone to post his bail. He agrees, and before long he is out of the jail and the two of them are investigating the murder to clear his name. Even though Pearl is learning what she has always desired, Grey and Pearl find their attraction hard to deny.

Set against the backdrop of London, HEART'S BLOOD shines. The London slang lends credence to the setting and character dialogue, and I often times found myself smiling. Ghosts, murder, magic and romance are blend wonderfully together for this fascinating paranormal historical romance. Great plot, strong character development, and superb world building set the tone for this wonderful novel. Paranormal and romance lovers alike will enjoy this one!

---

### **Cid Tyer says**

The second book in the Blood Magic series, Heart's Blood in my eyes had a hard road to follow. I loved New Blood. To date I've reread it twice – and I don't reread a whole lot of books. I found myself loving Heart's Blood for many of the same reasons I loved New Blood.

The Setting – is a magical, slightly steampunk Victorian England. The world embraces three of the four branches of magic – and the fourth has just resurfaced after a few hundred years. There are also mysterious areas sprouting up across the known world called dead-zones; areas that suck the life out of people and eat magic like your morning bowl of cereal. All in all, the world is vivid, well done and resonates strongly with established history.

The Characters – were about half recasts from the first book, and half new additions. Predominantly, this book focuses on Master Conjuror Grey Carteret, who was in the first book. I was excited that this book was about him; he made me laugh in the first and I was looking forward to reading his story. Pearl Parkin is new; because women were not held in quite the same manner as men, when her family dies and leaves her to fend for herself, she turns to her magic even though she can't get an education. The play between the two characters was a expected; Pearl blackmails Grey and of course they must fall in love – it's a romance after all! But what I wasn't expecting was the depth of character, the different things they both must overcome to grow as people and claim their love. I will say that there's a part at the end where I thought Pearl should have held out for an apology from Grey – but love forgives everything, so I'll let it slide.

The Plot – I really wanted to know more about the 'dead zones' introduced in book one. I was hoping that solving that mystery might play more in the plot than it did, but I can't complain too much. Heart's Blood features a murder mystery as well as the romance. I'll admit, I got so focused on the romance that I completely ceased all second guessing on the murders, so it was very exciting. Inside of Heart's Blood is the story of love, women fighting for their rightful place in a society that wants to push them off to the kitchen, a murder mystery, and a magical mystery. There's a lot going on, and a lot to keep you turning those pages.

Man, I can't wait for book three... Um, I hope there is a book three!

---

### **Katie(babs) says**

Grey Carteret is the most powerful conjurer in all of England. This well respected magician finds himself face down in a gutter one day. He has no idea how he got there and feels as if he's suffering from a bad hangover. When he comes to, a young lad interrupts him. The boy, who goes by the name of Parkin, has been keeping watch over a very grumpy Grey. He finds out to his surprise that this boy is actually a miss who can work magic. She is Pearl Parkin and is disguised as a boy because she is all alone and practically living on the street. She longs to be an apprentice, but can't because she's a female. Women who work magic are not acknowledged in the most elite of magical circles. Around the time Grey gains consciousness, a man is found dead from dark magic. The crowd accuses Grey of being the murderer, and is arrested and brought to jail. Pearl follows him and promises to send word to a few of his high ranking friends as long as he makes her his apprentice. Grey doesn't want one, but since he is stuck in a very bad situation, he has no choice. Through a blood oath, where he and Pearl share their blood, he makes a pack and Pearl gets her deepest desire.

Pearl goes for help and meets a few trusted magician friends of Grey, such as Harry Tomlinson and his own female apprentice Elinor Tavis. Both are thrilled with Pearl and welcome her into the fold. Grey's father, the Duke of Brandon, is able to release Grey from jail even though father and son are not necessarily on speaking terms. Now that Grey has been exonerated, he takes Pearl in and will build up her magical skills. But there are surprises in store for both of them because Pearl is a sorceress and one of very few in the world.

As Grey and Pearl learn to work with one another, they also search for the one responsible for the murder Grey was first accused of. Through the sharing of Pearl's blood, Grey draws out her magic to help him. This blood sharing, where Grey sucks on Pearl's bleeding finger at any certain time, makes their bond stronger. Grey begins to see Pearl in a different light. They now must stop a deranged individual who uses black magic to raise demons to kill. Only Grey, Pearl and their close knit group of skilled wizards can stop this fiend before it is too late for not only the supernatural community, but all of England as well.

Heart's Blood (Blood Magic #2) has a great Victorian historical feel with a nice blend of magic and mystery. The descriptions of British society surrounded by a multitude of mysticism and sorcery really works well here. This semi-underground world of alchemy is very rich in its telling and explained so well where you won't become lost.

Grey is a dashing and stoic gentleman who needs his hair ruffled. The woman who is able to accomplish this is the naive and innocent Pearl that he is drawn to. Their relationship changes from teacher to student so suddenly to an all-consuming love affair that really jolted me out of the action. Whereas Grey walks on egg shells with Pearl at first, because he is uncomfortable around her, he changes his mind out of the blue. Unfortunately the second half of the story is Grey and Pearl bed hopping all over the place. Now I'm all for intimacies shared between the two many characters, but in all honesty, I felt this abundance of passion shared between Grey and Pearl really wasn't needed. If Gail had kept to the overall tone of the story and alluded to the love shared between Grey and Pearl, or perhaps written it in a more subtle way, then Heart's Blood would have really hit the mark for me. Because of this, I had to lower my grade.

Even with the sudden relationship change between Grey and Pearl becoming too much of a focus, including a very low move on Grey's part concerning Pearl, I would say that Heart's Blood has some great moments with an ending that delivers great fireworks and explosions, especially in regards to the murderer, who came as a complete surprise for me.

Gail Dayton's storytelling skills are excellent as she combines paranormal mystery and romance in such a way most readers will enjoy. Heart's Blood was a refreshing and unique historical fictional read.

## Ahrcadia the Duck Tamer says

Really good book! Especially at the end. Similar descriptions of demons to her One Rose trilogy, but horrific and terrifying all the same, and that's how demons are supposed to be, isn't it.

This book is a bit darker than the first, but, seeing as I'm a big fan of Lilith Saintcrow, the darker the better. If you're looking for a light, fluffy romance, maybe you should stick with your Julia Quinn.

Since my internet's down, I don't have much time to write this, so that's all I'll say for now. Maybe I'll add more later, maybe not. Don't count on it; I *am* quite lazy.

---

## Rainbowjay says

A Bodice ripper. That is the best description I can think of for this book. Gail Dayton's never leaves ANYTHING to the imagination in that department. I had never heard the term steampunk before I read the first book in this series. That means Magick in turn of the century England. Throw in murder, intrigue, angels and demons for the makings of a great book. I could not put my nook down.(except to charge the battery) Unfortunately, it seems that it has sequel written all over it. I give it a 5 out of 5.

---

## Holly Lau says

I don't know if I would classify this as a love story primarily. There is a love story but it's woven within a great world of magic,rivalry and a murder investigation..... but it isn't the only thing going on. The rules and background of this universe are interesting and complex, a different way to look at magical systems. This is the second book in this world and if you haven't read the first one, don't worry, it is a story that stands on its' own. I really enjoyed Pearl and the other characters. I can only hope that there is another coming.

---

## K. Lincoln says

I love Gail Dayton's world of sorcerypunk. It's like steampunk without the steam. Her women are strong characters, yet vulnerable, and her men struggle with giving up their "authority" to the women along with their love.

If you liked "New Blood", the first in the series, you'll also enjoy this one. While it's true that the romantic relationship at the middle of the story is very similiar in that the lady is finding her powers and the man is struggling against being in a relationship that doesn't set them up as the dominator, and that the big bad at the end is conquered by the melding of the four different magics (alchemy, sorcery, wizardry and conjuring) as in the first book, the development of the other worlds of magicians, as well as ancillary characters kept me hooked.

Pearl Parkin blackmails conjurer Grey Carteret into accepting her as his apprentice. Little do they know their first exchange of blood on the apprentice oath will lead them to a murderer, a demon, and a change that will rock all the different magicians.

Dayton's writing is transparent in a good way, you read without the words getting in the way, with clear understanding of the emotions of the characters themselves.

Can't wait for more, as this book ends with the dead zones still a problem.

---

## Rea says

First read:

I grabbed this book not realising that it was book 2 in a series but decided that I couldn't be bothered to wait another 5 - 10 days for the first book to be delivered. In hindsight, it might have been a better idea to wait and read the first book first as I suspect that I now know things about certain characters from that book that may put me off reading it. This book manages to pretty much stand on its own without knowledge from the previous book, though. Or, at least, I wasn't completely lost and was able to read and enjoy it.

The first half of the book bugged me slightly with the constant references to the physical attraction between the two main characters. Each feels a very strong attraction to the other more or less against their will. I get the point. I do not need to read about his "angel wing eyebrows" or her whatever every other page, just get on with the story.

The second half was much better and I was able to slip into the narration much more comfortably.

On a side note, I find the cover art very misleading: the male looks much closer to 22 than the 32 that he's supposed to be!

---

After second read (one year later):

Full review can be found [here](#).

In the first book, Amanusa's talents are explored but the other three schools of magic go ignored. In this second book, sorcery is re-examined from a different stand point (Amanusa had Jax - and through Jax, Yvaine - whereas Pearl has to learn from books and her own intuition) but conjury is also explored. The inner workings of this school of magic were very interesting and I liked the ghosts' personalities - especially Davy, it's a shame that the various ghosts weren't expanded on more.

The dead zones have piqued my interest. Essentially they are areas where there's no magic left and as such living things (both animals and plants) cannot survive there... but weird little machines constructed of all manner of metal items scuttle about the zones. The concept of them, and the origin of the machines, is not really expanded on much in this book, which is a shame as I'd have liked to have learnt more about them. They came in second to the story about someone abusing magic. This is fair enough, but it would have been nice to have had at least some new information about them offered up.

Grey didn't really come across as the same character as he's portrayed in the first book. I mentioned in my review of that one that he didn't sit right with me; this could be because I'd already been inside his head by that point. There are mentions of him having wanted Amanusa but I never got that impression from the interactions in New Blood. But it was also a bit weird when he first realised that Pearl was a female. Despite the fact that she was coated in a couple of years' worth of East End grime (later it is mentioned that it took multiple baths to get all of this off her skin), he refers to her as a 'tasty morsel'. I feel it would have been

better to wait with that thought until he'd seen her all cleaned up.

I was right when I figured I'd missed things. This time around, more aware of what sorcery magic entails, I was able to pick up on things that would not have stood out to me before. This is interesting as it shows little clues that I would have missed out on, but then I can't be sure that I would have spotted them all had I not already been aware of just who the culprit turns out to be.

There is an awful lot of inner monologue in this book. Both characters spend a lot of their time questioning themselves and their motives. This goes perhaps beyond what I'm comfortable with and into the realm of me starting to get bored with them.

Added bonus: There's one character called Fahquaar... all I could think of was the tiny king in Shrek! (even though she's a female character.)

---

### **Talia says**

I'm going to confess that I purchased this book solely because I thought it had an interesting/eye-catching cover. Sometimes, you score really good books that way. That's how I found "Wizard's First Rule." Unfortunately, that wasn't the case this time.

The premise is interesting. Victorian London – magicians and sorceresses are part of the ruling class. They have an investigation guild ... they talk to spirits ... all good stuff. What made me roll my eyes was the addition of a romance storyline. I'm not against paranormal romance novels. Some are quite good – Jayne Castle writes interesting stories. But when the author uses words like pitty pat and thumpety thump to express the heroine's feelings ... I tend to gag a little.

This was an okay read, but I probably won't be searching out anymore of Dayton's books.

---

### **Kathy says**

Nice mix of romance and paranormal mystery. I liked that the heroine was willing to graciously let the hero go when he was freaking out. But the ending between the 2 was a bit forced

---

### **Liz B says**

I liked this second installment in the Blood Magic series better than the first.

I think Dayton is one of the best authors I've encountered at combining romance and non-romance plot. The romance between Grey and Pearl is at the heart of the story--but so is the magic/ murder mystery/ continuing saga of the "dead zones." I tend to prefer straight romance (when reading romance) because suspense, etc. plots are often done so poorly. And while I'm enjoying the heck out of the Mercy Thompson and Sookie Stackhouse series, romance is definitely a secondary concern there. Dayton somehow balances both parts of the story without allowing either to suffer.

---

The premise is somewhat complicated, since this is the second book, and a lot of world-building and establishment of magical rules was done in the first book. There's been a magical murder; Grey, an established (Victorian-ish era) London conjurer, is a suspect; and a ragamuffin boy (who turns out to be Pearl, an untrained sorceress) comes to his aid. There's lots of other stuff, too, including the internal politics of British magicworkers. I think Dayton would probably appeal to readers of Mercedes Lackey, especially her Elemental Masters series.

---

## **E. says**

A new sorceress, Pearl Parkin, searches for a teacher and finds a mentor named Grey Carteret who is the head of the conjurer's guild. Their association begins during a murder investigation and the rapport that they establish immediately only intensifies as they search for the being who has attempted to summon a demon. Pearl starts learning how to utilize her powers but the mysteries continue to mount and she will need help from Amanusa who is struggling to change many of the preconceptions about blood magic. Only coordination between the four branches, conjury, alchemy, sorcery and wizardry will allow them to solve the murder before widespread destruction occurs. Nice escalation of action and interesting characters combine to make an enthralling story. Looking forward to more in the series.

---