



Three Gothic Novels: Ring of Fear, the Mark of Merlin, the Kilternan Legacy

Anne McCaffrey

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This is a three-in-one omnibus of Anne McCaffrey's early works.

Ring of Fear: Since Nialla Dunn's father has been murdered, someone has been trying to destroy Nialla and her thoroughbred horses, and she is now trapped between an unseen killer coming always nearer and a lover who fills her with ecstasy and dread.

The Mark of Merlin: Carla Murdoch had learned about being alone, growing up on various army posts. Her officer father met a mysterious death on a foreign battlefield, and Carla has been sent to live in her new guardian's New England mansion . . . a remote, snowbound place where she finds she isn't really wanted and the loneliness is terrible.

The Kilternan Legacy: Irene Teasey has left her husband and claimed her inheritance in Ireland from an aunt she never knew .. a legacy of land, a mansion, cottages with tenants, and even a horse. Together with her children, she will find more than escape from an abusive relationship. She will find a new life filled with loyal friends, her extended Irish family .. and a new love in this beautiful, ancient land.

Three Gothic Novels: Ring of Fear, the Mark of Merlin, the Kilternan Legacy Details

Date : Published October 1st 1990 by Underwood-Miller (first published 1990)

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Author : Anne McCaffrey

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From Reader Review Three Gothic Novels: Ring of Fear, the Mark of Merlin, the Kilternan Legacy for online ebook

? BookAddict ↗ La Crimson Femme says

I'm always expecting a fantasy story from Ms. McCaffrey. This was a pleasant change with three stories of romance. Nothing to memorable. I think Ms. McCaffrey is better with her fantasy books.

David A. Carey says

I have read many dozens of Anne McCaffrey's books over my lifetime and enjoyed most if not all of them, however this is the first non-science fiction offering.

This is a fantastic book. It is basically three books in one. Three, stories, three women, no connection at all from one story to another and each is basically a book in itself. (novella?)

I cannot wait to find some more of her non-science fiction offerings.

Deb says

Competent romances from the 1960s reissued in omnibus to take advantage of her later popularity.

Rhode says

Basically hokey chic lit that's terrifically dated ... And yet in some ways it's not because in all three cases the women are stronger and less dependent on men than their peers would have been. It's three novellas with no internal connections (different places and people).

My favorite is the one about the female jockey. I think in part because of the realism of her life, the old car, the peanut butter sandwiches, the snotty and silly horse society set, etc. and the male lead is a great example of a short sexy alpha. (It's so unusual to find short men as romantic leads in books, that this is notable!) that said, it's very dated - he pushes for sex on two occasions after she she vehemently says no. And after she disobeys his command to stay in the house during an emergency (she had a darn good reason to leave) he flares into anger and spanks her on the spot so hard that she can't sit comfortably for hours afterward. This is not sexy spanking, this is pissed off man. And her big revelation, get ready, he lost his temper and spanked me, so he must really, really love me! Yeah, another generation's foolishness, thank goodness not our own.

I have absolutely no idea why this story is such a favorite of mine...

Sun No says

A friend suggested this read. The author is well known for her fantasy books so I thought I'd try her attempt

at a different genre. I read through it as quickly as possible. The first story was hard to get through but the latter weren't any better. Second story had potential and I enjoyed the mystery but the last one had me bored to tears. Yawning tears. Not your typical romance novel but for fans of either the genre or author.

Janell says

I've always been a fan of Anne McCaffrey but these three stories were really dated, both in the storyline itself as well as the conclusions. Surprisingly, some authors can write stories from past decades and have them still feel fresh but that was not the case here. On the plus side, the mysteries were fairly intriguing and McCaffrey definitely knows how to develop her characters so I still found them fairly enjoyable.

Sharon says

This is some of McCaffrey's rare fiction - a collection of three stories published elsewhere. Three of her strongest themes appear here. The first story is set in the horse world, the second is a story set post WWII and features an intelligent German Shepherd, and the third features a divorced woman who moves to Ireland with her kids. I love to revisit these anytime I'm out of books.

Theresa says

comb ination of three historical novels of anne maccaffrey in the fictional genre

Mark of merlin:

a great story of mystery and learning personal secretes

Ring of Fear:

one of the contemporary novels of Anne Mccaffrey, showing the dynamic ability she had to write in any genre.

The Year of the Lucy:

a love story, from one of the best authors in the world, it was a fiction story in modern times, a total divergent from the science fiction that she was known for.

Kathy Davie says

A.k.a., *Three Women*.

They're not actually Gothic in the usual sense. Instead, they are three completely separate romances. One is during the 1960s on Long Island, another is set during World War II on the East Coast, and the third is in Dublin, Ireland.

All three stories are most interesting for the attitudes of the times. If insta-love bothers you, you should probably skip this trio.

The Stories

"**Ring of Fear**" is a sweet if somewhat unbelievable story of a young lady fleeing her rapist after her father's murder and participating in horse events where she's rescued by a fellow rider from a series of unfortunate events.

It's an insta-love which takes awhile for me to grasp isn't so insta. It's set in the 1960s and there was an interesting disconnect for me. McCaffrey writes of the time period with its drug use and the clothing and yet it has a very contemporary feel even though she's using the language of the time. I'd read it again.

"**Mark of Merlin**" is another insta-love, although McCaffrey does provide a reason for it later on. This one takes place during World War II and James Carlyle Murdock has just been orphaned. The letter she receives from her guardian Major Regan Laird has her furious and she's determined to put him in his place.

I can see her side of it and, eventually, she comes to consider Regan's side as well. It begins with a blizzard and builds up to all sorts of storms from her confrontation with the major and their continuing clashes, the revealing of the details that contributed to her father's death, the colonel's suspicions, and on to all sorts of resolutions.

McCaffrey's description of Laird's house is a fascinating look back at yesterday's housekeeping---not really all that long ago!---and makes me very grateful for my central heating! Even if I would adore the major's house.

"**Kilternan Legacy**" is a lovely escape for a rather dim and meek woman. An Irish great-aunt dies, leaving her small estate to the newly divorced Irene Teasey. It provides an opportunity for Irene junior, Rene, to put some distance between her and her twins and her fruitcake of an ex. The greater legacy, however, is the circle of friends and certain members of the Irish side of the family who gather round Rene, Snow, and Simon, aiding and protecting her.

This one sounds like it takes place during the 1960s as well and there's a women's rights aspect to it as the disinherited family members try to symbolically whack Rene over the head with "what should be done" as well as the reasons for Great-Aunt Irene's choice of tenants in her cottages.

I did like this story very much and would have liked it even better if Rene hadn't been such a ditz; thank god for her determined fourteen-year-olds!

The Cover

The cover of the version I read is quite spare with its pale pink background and woodcut-looking sketch in black-and-pink of a the heads of a couple embracing. All tucked within an inset frame.

The title of the version I read must have been a last-minute grab. It's certainly not very catchy, nor is it accurate.

Jennie says

Ok, yes these are romances, but I still like them. Particularly The Kilternan Legacy, which takes place in Ireland. Anne McCaffrey will forever remain my favorite author for her ability to make characters come to life. Even her one-book characters feel very well created and indepth.

Ruth says

These are some of McCaffrey's rare contemporary fiction. (well, it WAS contemporary when she wrote it, back in the 1970's; it's pretty dated now.)

Laura says

I've always considered Anne McCaffrey a science-fiction/fantasy author. I had no idea, until this book was given to me, that she had also dabbled in romance. Her voice is quite clear, and overall I enjoyed them. I like how the "heros" are not classically handsome. For instance, Raf is short and the Colonol is badly scarred on one half of his face. I find so many romance today have the heroes as being outrageously gorgeous, washboard abs, an the like. This was quite the refresher.

The Ring of Fear - 3 stars

I found this book's plot (and villain) too simplistic, and Nialla too passive. I did like the tension throughout and Nialla and Raf's banter; however, it took me a long time to get through the story.

The Mark of Merlin - 4.5 stars

Loved it. I didn't see the plot twist coming, and I loved Laird and Carla together (and Merlin... best book dog ever!)

The Kilterman Legacy - 4.5 stars

The drama in this book is absolutely hilarious, although there are serious themes. It moved well and Snow and Simon were a riot.

Celina and Don says

Awesome

Deb Haas says

I love this omnibus. I have ever since I was a teenager addicted to romance novels. I don't actually know McCaffrey's dragon series - attempted to listen to the first one about 10 years ago and just couldn't get into it. I'm not a huge Sci-Fi fan to begin with.

I have very few physical books anymore for various reasons but this one I've actually re-purchased via eBay because the other got ripped up and ruined while in storage.

The three stories are not connected at all, other than the wonderful writing of the author. If you love prose that shows, rather than tells, is concisely descriptive and characters you wish you knew in real life, then you'll like these stories. Yes, they're dated - all set in the 40's and 60's. Yes, most people would probably

consider them sexist. I don't care. I still love them. The first two more than the third, honestly. When I have nothing new to read or I need a comfort read, I'm likely to read the first two stories in one sitting/evening.

Leslie B says

One of my favorite books! I usually don't care for short stories - I want more! - but these three are great. Wonderful stories, great characters, really an enjoyable read!
