



Childe Morgan

Katherine Kurtz

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Alaric Morgan has been pledged to the king's service, for his Dernyi blood makes him ideal to safeguard the Haldane kings and ensure that Prince Brion shall have protection of his hereditary magic. But the Deryni are feared by the populace of Gwynedd and are viewed with deep suspicion by the Church. And the Camberian Council, which secretly oversees the activities of Deryni, scorns Alaric for his half-breed ancestry. Alaric has the king's protection, and a future mapped out for him that in time should ensure his survival as well as that of the king's heir. But Alaric is only four years old-and first he must survive to reach manhood.

Childe Morgan Details

Date : Published (first published 2006)

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Author : Katherine Kurtz

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From Reader Review Childe Morgan for online ebook

Kerry says

This is a solid read, with maybe a few too many names thrown around for the reader with an average memory (such as myself) to keep up with.

It was a bit disappointing as I was wanting to read about Alaric (and Duncan) and while they both featured in this book, they were both toddlers with very little to do.

This book is really about Alaric's parents, Kenneth and Alyce, with a touch of information about the Haldane kings before Kelson thrown in. That's fine in and of itself, but I feel a bit cheated as I was hoping for more about the children.

There's an awful lot of their lives to fit in in the third book if that goes up to the events of Deryni Rising as it says on Kurtz's website. I'm afraid there won't be enough pages to do it all justice, and that's what I've been wanting to read for years, ever since there were first rumours there would be a book about Alaric's youth.

It was nice to get to know Duke Richard though, as I've finally figured out that he's Araxie's father (or at least, I think he is as I don't have my other books with me to check the genealogy and it is all pretty convoluted).

A good book, but it wasn't actually the one I was hoping it would be. It's positively kittens and fluffy bunnies for Kurtz too, with only a small number of people dying and none in horribly grim and nasty ways.

[Copied across from Library Thing; 9 February 2013]

Tanya says

I am a huge fan of Katherine Kurtz's deryni novels. Although this is not one to start with, I am completely satisfied with the book as a whole. Although the series claims to be about Alaric Morgan, this book is really about his mother and to a small degree his father. If you want light reading you will not find it with the deryni novels for the most part. Although not difficult to read, her topics are deep, and rich. The characters are well developed, with flaws and strengths to make them believable and I often walk away feeling as if they actually lived.

Many of the more avid fans are disappointed in the later books, but I am more willing to let the characters develop as she sees fit.

Richard Radgoski says

A bit slower in the first half than some might prefer , Childe Morgan was a wonderful trip back to Gwynedd for this reader who originally found K Kurtz and her Deryni in the 80s. this book sets into motion moving the key players inexorably toward the events in her original trilogy. The true action begins with the unfortunate

death of a minor if beloved character and this triggers a series of events like dominoes falling one after another. I look forward to reading the latest book in the series due out in Dec 2014 and have no intention of holding off reading that book last like I did for this one. Thank you Ms Kurtz for your wonderful world and bringing us full circle back to where we started.

I bring you this benediction found at the end of the novel....

"In the name of Holy Camber, be king for all thy people of Gwynedd, human and Deryni, and reign in wisdom for all thy days.".

Julia says

[And cried over some of the deaths. (hide spoiler)]

Virginia says

A worthy entry in the world of the Deryni and the Haldane Kings

Katherine Kurtz continues the story of Alaric Morgan's childhood, his parents Alyce De Corwyn and Kenneth Morgan. We say farewell to some old friends and greet new characters as they move become more important to the story. Overall an excellent read!

Sverre says

==== Bland beginning, stirring conclusion ===

Katherine Kurtz may not be the most prolific fantasy writer. That distinction may belong to S M Stirling although his works straddle a number of genres. But I think the Deryni books by Kurtz may hold the record for the most fantasy books, at sixteen (as well as three additional ancillary works), that follow a timeline of more than two hundred years (903 to 1128) chronicling the adventures and travails of succeeding Gwynedd monarchs, the Deryni magic-empowered race, adversarial bishops and sinister clergy, and the neighboring Torennhi usurpers and pretenders to the throne.

The first Deryni book was 'Deryni Rising,' published in 1970 and the most recent, and likely the last, 'The King's Deryni,' in 2014; that totals forty-four years it has taken to build a medieval fantasy saga, surely a monumental achievement by any measure. Some books are out of print. Perhaps one day the complete saga could be republished in chronological order.

If read chronologically, 'Childe Morgan' is the eighth book in the Deryni series of sixteen, the second volume of the Childe Morgan trilogy. In terms of publishing sequence it is the penultimate volume and one of the shortest. Continuing from the first book of the trilogy, 'In the King's Service,' its central character is Kenneth Kai Morgan, the most trusted aide to King Donal Haldane. His much younger wife Alyce de

Corwyn Morgan has birthed a son, Alaric Morgan, who is the 'childe' of this trilogy and the third book will tell of his adult experiences in support of the king and defense of the Kingdom of Gwynedd.

This book struck me as a being short of adversarial plots and dramatic encounters except towards its conclusion. Its first half consists mostly of placid dialog and descriptions of events that are inconsequential to the plot. As is Kurtz's style we are inundated with introductions and references to new characters and their genealogies. These come in lumps and clumps at the beginning of many of her books and challenge readers' recollective abilities. The 'Index of Characters' in the appendix is of some help but lack detail in order not to reveal pending events. However, by its middle this novel gains more substance and I found the book's ending had made it worth getting through its bland first half. The ending sets the stage very well for the next book 'The King's Deryni' which should be much more substantial at over five hundred pages in length.

Jennifer Urbanek says

If you enjoy the Deryni series and King Kelson, you will enjoy this preview of prior to Kelson's birth. This tracks Alaric from after his mother, Alyce's death, to Kelson's birth. It depicts the trials being a Deryni at court, the upheaval of Bishop Nore and Alaric and King Brion coming into their magical powers.

Alain says

The continues the story started in "In King's Service". Rounds out King Donal & Alyce de Corwyn Morgan's story and spends more time developing Sir Kenneth's character, and not much more.

For fans and completists only.

Steve says

Alaric Morgan has been pledged to the service of King Donal, still grieving following the death of his out-of-wedlock son, Kelson. Alaric brings peace of mind to Donal because he is Deryni, a race of people who employs powerful magic --- a magic that can be used to protect 14-year-old Prince Brion. Yet, as comforting as that thought may seem, Donal carries a great burden.

First of all, the Deryni are a feared group, watched by the Church with scrutinous eyes. And the Camberian Council secretly oversees their activities. Donal walks a precarious edge as the Church and its bishops would love nothing more than to excommunicate him, especially Bishop Oliver de Nore, whose brother was executed by Donal's order for involvement in the murder of Kelson.

Secondly, while Alaric will have the power to aid the Prince, the Deryni is currently only four years old. In order for the Prince to

have the protection he needs, Alaric must first be protected himself. Not only does the Church have interest in Alaric but so too do factions from neighboring Torenth. Prince Hogan and his mage, Zachris Pomeroy, want the throne and they know that the first step to success is eliminating Alaric.

So goes CHILDE MORGAN, a new novel in the world of the Deryni. Once again, Katherine Kurtz displays an incredible talent for inspired storytelling and a masterful gift for fantasy without resorting to the pitfall cliches of the genre. In many ways, CHILDE MORGAN, as well as Kurtz's other works, are historical artifacts --- the tomes of a far gone time that resembles our own past with just enough magic thrown in to make it seem otherworldly. Much like George R. R. Martin's realistic fantasy-world feel, Kurtz's land of Gwynedd ultimately feels genuine and honest, with strict rules and a sense of actually having existed. Her capacity as a writer of tremendous ability prevents the story from being a dry historical read, though you sense the weight of history and time on every page --- which only inspires the story and invigorates it.

While it does have its more kinetic moments, CHILDE MORGAN rests solely in the hands and mind of King Donal, and it is with him that the soul of this story exists. Donal is a tremendous character to get to know, and through Kurtz we are with him in his most introspective moments. We endure his tiresome but necessary struggle to ensure the safety of his son and young Alaric, withstand the betrayals by those around him, and fight the enemies from neighboring lands and from the Church.

Picking up this novel as a new reader may come as a confusing endeavor initially. Names fly fast and furious, and you are instantly caught up in events that reference the past. It is quite unfortunate that the vast majority of titles in this series have gone out of print, though the first two books, DERYNI RISING and DERYNI CHECKMATE, have been issued in hardcover recently, 30 years after their original printing. However, this should not dissuade you from pressing on with CHILDE MORGAN. To do so would result in your missing out on a tremendous and beautifully told tale from a gifted and overlooked talent.

Bryan says

This was a great Deryni book. I was so/so on the first of this series, but this one was excellent.

Jeff J. says

This novel in the Derynii saga highlights the childhood of Alaric, and foreshadows future events.

Trish says

Way better than book 1 of this series. I'm a big fan of the Deryni series. Wish I could still get the earlier books from the library (they purged them - the nerve!) I may be forced to buy them to reread!

Vailhiker says

This book is so incredibly boring. Absolutely NOTHING happens! Day to day life and that's pretty much it.

P.M. says

I'm glad I read the trilogy but it just doesn't have the same quality as the earlier series. And Alaric in, my favorite character in the previous books, is only a toddler.

Carole-Ann says

Good to know about Morgan :)
