



## Chernevog

*C.J. Cherryh*

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A sequel to *Rusalka*, set in the magical world of pre-Christian Russia. Petyr and Eveshka, now married and living in domestic bliss in Uulemet's cottage, begin to realize that the past is not truly buried. Premonitions lead to a sense of unease that is terrifyingly realized.

### *Publisher's Weekly*

In this strong sequel to *Rusalka*, Cherryh continues her fantasy series based on ancient Russian folklore. During the hoary time of the book's setting, wizards have power to influence events by wishing things to happen--but sometimes unlooked-for side effects occur. Here the former destructive rusalka (ghost) Eveshka, killed by the sorcerer Chernevog in the earlier volume and resurrected when her father sacrificed his life in her stead, is living with her husband Pyetr and the young wizard Sasha. Both Sasha and Eveshka worry about the power of their often unconscious wishes, concerned that their thoughts are being influenced by still-functioning wishes remaining in the atmosphere from a former time. When Eveshka suddenly leaves home without reason, Sasha and Pyetr feel sure someone has been wishing or magicking her, and set out in search of Chernevog. Cherryh's lyrical, vivid depiction of lonely northern forests and their supernatural inhabitants creates a believable backdrop for her three-dimensional characters and their emotionally involving story.

### *Library Journal*

A young wizard, his best friend, and a woman magically restored to life find their idyllic forest existence shattered by the dark machinations of an old and implacable enemy in this sequel to *Rusalka*. Forest spirits, "yard things," and other magical creatures drawn from Russian folklore add a unique flavor to this story of loyalty and courage. Recommended for fantasy collections.

## Chernevog Details

Date : Published October 21st 1991 by Random House Value Publishing (first published 1990)

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Author : C.J. Cherryh

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## From Reader Review Chernevog for online ebook

### Graham Storrs says

I think this should have been a short story. There really wasn't enough there for a whole novel. I love C J Cherryh and I loved Rusalka (the first book in this series) but this had the feel of being the bridge between books 1 and 3 and I was quite disappointed.

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### Amanda Kespohl says

See my review for THE RUSALKA.

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### Ubiquitousbastard says

My problem with the rating system continues. I definitely did not like this book as much as I liked the first one, but I also didn't dislike it enough to give it a measly three stars. So, it gets the same number of stars as the previous book which I preferred.

There was far too much Eveshka, there just was. I don't like her as a character, her parts dragged, I just wanted her pretty much gone. I was happy for a moment when she was, then right back to her again. I guess Cherryh did a good job of portraying a selfish teenager, problem is, I can't stand teenagers. I also had the same issue I had with the previous book, a lot of what happens is unclear. I have problems picturing things in my head (it takes a lot of effort for me, so most of a book is more of a narrative to me than a movie or something) so when things move very quickly without outlining what's happening, I get kind of lost. I re-read the end three times and I'm still not sure of exactly what happened. Not that I don't know WHAT happened, but how and why.

However, that sounds like I didn't like the book. I did, at least, most of it. It did drag more than the first book, and the plot definitely wasn't as...magical? I suppose that's the word I mean. There was a bit more wonder in the first book, while this was more kind of just wrapping up storylines left over from the first one.

Complaining again. This book was readable, other than the Eveshka parts, it tied in well with the first book, and I haven't wanted to read lately, but I wanted to read this. I think the fact that I made it through this book in my current mood proves that it's not as bad as I'm probably unintentionally making it sound. Cherryh is a very good writer, this is a good book, and I'm just picky.

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### Wendy says

This is a sequel to Rusalka. The sorcerer, Chernevog, who killed Eveshka shows up, Eveshka disappears, and Pyetr and Sasha must go with Chernevog to find her. Is he subtly controlling their minds?

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### **Chris says**

Not spectacular but still a good read. I think I liked it a bit more than the first, but that could be because less character introduction and development was needed because its the second in a series. Eveshka has more of a personality now than just a vengeful spirit and Cherryh does a good job keeping Pyetr and Sasha consistent with their portrayals in the first book. I loved the addition of the horses appearing and becoming their own characters as well. Cherryh also did a good job of creating personalities for the horses, especially when Sasha slips in and out of Missy's consciousness. Another strength was the humanization of Chernevog, although I feel the story was still a bit lacking in fully explaining his motives and background. There's quite a bit in that regard that I am still curious about. In all, what keeps me so drawn into this series is the well developed land of Russian folklore that these tales take place in. I love reading about vodyanoi and Babi the domovoi and all these characters that I've previously encountered in Russian folklore. Babi is such a cute, tempermental little critter that he may be my favorite in the book. I especially loved the ending with his blessing of the new arrival. Looking forward to the final book of the series.

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### **KJ says**

Formerly-dead wives prove difficult to live with; local trees are ornery; local terrifying sorcerer wakes up and wants to be your best friend.

A delightful continuation, with the same virtues and failings as the first.

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### **Stephen Long says**

this book is less entertaining, more painful, and more deeply engrossing than its predecessor. it was written by someone going through a tough time and it shows. I'm glad I read it, I think it would benefit greatly from a re-read but I wouldn't want to do it.

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### **Connie says**

More dark tales from Russia. Last one I read.

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### **Michael Nalbone says**

Ghosts and goblins and stuff in the night grabbing you!

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### **Joseph says**

Picks up three years after the events of Rusalka. Sasha, Pyetr and Eveshka have made more-or-less of a

home for themselves in the forest when Sasha (possibly inadvertently?) summons Pyetr's old horse, thus kicking events into motion.

(A note about magic in the Rusalka books -- it's fascinating; basically, wizards can *want* things into happening, which means they have to be *very* careful about what they desire and how, especially when there are multiple wizards (Sasha and Eveshka, e.g.) in the mix.)

And speaking of multiple wizards: Kavi Chernevog, the Big Bad from the first book, may not be as eternally slumbering as was hoped; and although both Eveshka's father (Uulamets from the first book) and mother are dead, are wizards ever *really* dead?

More desolate forest, more tricksy vodyanoi and other supernatural beasties, and Cherryh does that thing (also done in the later Morgaine books, come to think of it) where the big, mostly offstage villain from the previous installment is brought into the spotlight and revealed to be just as flawed and (possibly?) sympathetic as the protagonists.

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### **Shylan Thornton says**

Also interesting, but still not on my favorites list.

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### **Elizabeth says**

3.5 instead of 4.

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### **Helen says**

The constant tension became exhausting somewhere in the middle. Then no amount of exotic setting or magical action could keep me engaged in it for more than short sessions before nodding off, even in the middle of the afternoon. I finally finished it out of pure stubbornness, with the help of strong coffee, having lost all sympathy for any of the characters except the poor horses.

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### **Ivan Andrus says**

I was afraid this book would be disappointing because I loved Rusalka so much. It wasn't.

I think I like these books so much because the characters are confused and helpless most of the time, but it doesn't seem whiny or pointless.

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**Howard says**

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