



Lady Pain

Rebecca Bradley

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Roaming the known and unknown oceans, one man hopes to defeat once and for all the private demon within him-a power that is coming ever closer to destroying everything he holds dear.

Lady Pain Details

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From Reader Review Lady Pain for online ebook

Melana says

I liked it although I thought it left a few unanswered questions. That's what the next book is for though. Took a little while to keep me interested. But, once it had me I was hooked.

Bridget says

The best book in this trilogy was the first. This was an end to the epic, but not as satisfying. Very internal and not a lot of action.

Jean says

This book was... whoa. It took me a long time to get into because it is quite a departure from the first two in the series - it picks up after a major time skip with a completely different narrator, who has a very different voice. Fortunately there is a very good reason for the change.

It was well worth adjusting to the changes because this is one of those amazing, underrated fantasy series. This brings everything to the table that the previous two had, though it's tempered appropriately for the narrator's characterization. The story finally hooked me about half way through, and practically dragged me from that point to the end. We finally get some answers for the mysteries that have been going on for the entire series, though not all the answers - we are left with some mysteries to keep us hooked.

If there's a downside it's that we don't get to see much of the series' kickass women. They're still there, they just don't get as much attention as the boys and their problems.

Kristin Brenemen says

This one is different than the first two, being told by a third party. But still I enjoyed this easy read.

Metaphorosis says

reviews.metaphorosis.com

3.5 stars

Tigrallef, having saved Gil, destroyed its divine icon, and escaped from unhappy marriage, has spent twenty years trying to get rid of the supernatural force that shares his body (and that he calls 'the Pain'). At last,

having run short of leads, he and his companions head back to Gil. There, things get worse - the new rulers of Gil capture them all, and the Pain is getting worse and worse.

All good things must end. The Gil trilogy is one of those good things. Unfortunately, the persistently high quality of the first two books also slows slightly in this final installment. Still very enjoyable, with a couple of flaws that could have been polished away.

While books one and two were narrated by Tigrallef himself, the third is told by his son Verolef. Tig is presumably too preoccupied by fighting the Pain to offer a consistent, coherent view, and the distance provides Bradley a way to keep plot elements secret. It's disappointing, though, that in what's been a largely male-focused series, she didn't take the opportunity to pick Tig's daughter or lover, either of whom could have served well.

For most of the book, Bradley stays close to the approach and standard she hewed to in the first two books. A few motifs begin to grate, however - I lost count of the times Verolef, watching Tig, told us 'If I'd only known what it meant'. He didn't, and we don't. A few times would be fine - it fits the tone - but here it seems as if every chapter or two we get another reminder that something is going on beneath the surface. Unfortunately, we're not given the information we'd need to figure it out for ourselves. In other words, a running reminder that we're under-informed. It grates.

The trilogy is largely about the people, not the magic. However, when a book is focused so closely on the interrelationship of the two, you have to give the magic its due. Bradley provides a decent explanation of the ancient source of the Pain and the mysteries we've observed over the course of the series - but she compresses it all into a few rushed pages. It's all there, but I strongly wish she'd taken another chapter or so, instead of hurrying through the resolution. It feels more like an outline than a fully-fleshed finale.

That said, the Gil trilogy, including this final book, stands well above the bulk of heroic fantasy, with its polish, humor, and emphasis on human, likable characters. The whole trilogy is well worth picking up and enjoying, especially since Bradley suggests that, after a long wait, there's more of it to come.

Laura says

This little-known fantasy series is one of my favorites, and this one, the last in the trilogy, is my favorite of the three.
