



Raven's Cry

Dana Fraedrich

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"Everything has degrees, and deep evils seem lighter if you are broken enough."

Calandra—little sister to the future Count of Bone Bay—likes the idea of supporting her people without the pressure of an official title. She prefers quiet and learning over making dreaded small talk with her fellow nobles.

When Nicodemus, a magus with immense power, joins the royal court of Invarnis, Calandra's life changes forever. She is entranced when he shows her magic for the first time, but its entry into the royal court has repercussions she never imagined.

The world Calandra loves twists throughout the centuries while she, cursed and imprisoned, remembers her old life with envy. Her captor goes to any lengths to discover her secret, and Calandra is fighting for her very sanity within her cell.

Meanwhile, a war is coming to Invarnis, a war that will reshape the very fabric of the world. Calandra must decide who to trust and overcome her demons to get revenge...

But can she rediscover her lost light once the dust has settled?

Raven's Cry is a dark retelling of Swan Lake set in Dana Fraedrich's fantasy steampunk world of Broken Gears.

Buy it now to experience Calandra's heart-breaking struggle today!

For fans of Suzanne Collins, Sarah J. Maas, and Naomi Novik. In this standalone installment in Dana Fraedrich's fantasy steampunk series, readers will discover a realm of dark magic and technology as they join Calandra in her battle for freedom, hope, and healing.

Raven's Cry Details

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From Reader Review Raven's Cry for online ebook

Michael Chrobak says

Another fabulous novel by a very talented author. This time, Fraedrich takes the reader back into the distant past of the Broken Gears world. The story begins several hundred years prior to Out of the Shadows (which was the debut novel released) and explains some of the political intricacies and situations that created the current environment in which her other books take place. The story is told from a First Person perspective, placing the main character, a young woman named Calandra, in the role of narrator. This worked beautifully, especially with the style of prose which Fraedrich writes. I loved every moment of this story and highly recommend it.

Ruth Miranda says

I'm really bummed I wasn't the right reader for this book, I so wanted to have loved it! It's a Swan Lake re-tell, and I'm a former ballet student, so I dove at the chance of reading this, hoping to find the same eery, otherworldly magical ambiance of the ballet libretto here in this book. Alas, it was not to be. The only thing in common is that some girl has been hexed by an evil wizzard into bird form, only retrieving her human form at night. This book has a steampunk vibe to it, and honestly, I'm not a huge fan of steampunk novels, so it didn't help my liking either. The plot was also very predictable, and I was unsurprised by the plot twists, as I had seen them coming from afar, but maybe that's just me - maybe I would have written them the exact same way and this is why I was not taken by surprise! But I can see that fans of this subgenre will absolutely love reading this book, I am just not one of them. The writing style is not for me, sadly, and the voice didn't resonate with me, nor did the characters or the story. Still, it is a well written piece, that will deliver to the right reader.

Bethany says

There's nothing I love more than a good fairytale retelling.

In this case, it's more like a fairytale reinvention, which was even more exciting. Seeing through the eyes of our main character, Calandra was quite something and at first blush, it seemed like everything would be fine and dandy and this was your normal fantasy novel.

And then it changed and became something much more interesting. This book is a darker retelling of Swan Lake, set in her Broken Gears steampunk fantasy world. It's very much a fractured version of the fairytale and there are some elements that might not be suitable for very young readers. However, like with all great fairytale retellings/remixes, it takes the subject material and then expands and improves upon it.

I found it absolutely delightful. The worldbuilding is fantastic and Calandra is an interesting character to follow. I appreciated her growth as well as the fact that the author didn't shirk away from showing the effects of some of the trauma that she underwent.

If there is anything I find fault with, it's that the book isn't long enough for me. I found myself wanting more

about some of the side characters and more about some of the histories of the various places here and there in the story.

If you love female protagonists who aren't perfect, but grow and mature over the course of the novel. If you love fairytale remixes with steampunk and fantasy thrown in. If you like stories that span a long course of time, then this book is perfect for you.

Alex (PaperbackPiano) says

Having read *Out of the Shadows* at the end of last year, I was already familiar with the wonderful world Fraedrich has created. However, I'm delighted to say that the writing in this one is even BETTER than in *Out of the Shadows* (not that that was by any means bad!) I could really see an improvement! Fraedrich's writing has become even more refined and it was an absolute pleasure to read. I love the world-building in this book even more than the one I previously read and the descriptions were so cinematic!

I loved Callandra's character development; she starts out as a shy introvert but gradually gets a little bit more spice about her and ends up being a total badass. Also, the nods to *Out of the Shadows* were really nice (I had such an OMG moment when I worked out how the books were connected!) Very very cool.

JamesFahyAuthor says

a compelling and original take on a classic tale, Ravens cry puts a steampunk twist on a classic story. Set in the same fantasy setting as the authors Broken Gears novels, we follow the story of Calandra, and the impact on her life and fate which comes about following the appointment to court of Nicodemus, an immensley powerful magus.

I enjoyed this story greatly, Fraedrich really knows how to tease you into liking a character, and then dragging them through the wringer.

I was most impressed with the solid, imaginative and well-thought-out world building which forms the spine of this atmospheric take on Swan Lake.

it's certainly whetted my appetite for the writers other books, although this is a standalone which does not require any prior knowledge of the other stories to enjoy to the fullest.

interesting characters and a great setting and mood carry you along through this story. it starts off slowly, but soon kicks into high-speed steampunk gear. well worth your time.

Dana Fraedrich says

I started writing *Raven's Cry* years ago, back when I was in college. I loved the idea of rewriting *Swan Lake* with a dark twist. Originally, it was a historical fiction/magical realism story (back before I realized I don't have the chops for historical fiction), but it never felt quite right, like Calandra's story didn't quite fit. So I let it sit. Years later, when I was writing *Out of the Shadows*, I suddenly saw it. I knew where Calandra belonged. She was a part of the Broken Gears universe.

Denise Mehling Smith says

Raven's Cry is a darkly clever retelling of Swan Lake and my first venture into the Steampunk genre. I thought the author did an excellent job blending these two concepts into an engaging tale.

Ms. Fraedrich set her story within a vivid world, rife with equal parts beauty and terror. I had a clear sense of her characters from the beginning, as well as the many environments in which they moved. The magical elements were handled in quite an original way, and her deft writing style kept the story well-paced and filled with tension. Main character Calandra is a nuanced heroine whose journey is fraught with indescribable trials, yet her depth of heart and ability to overcome never felt cliché.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I look forward to reading the rest of the Broken Gears series.

Faith Rivens says

Having previously read the first book in Dana's Broken Gears series I was excited for the chance to see the world that existed before. This book works as a stand-alone but if you've read her other series you'll recognize some names :)

Calandra was an excellent protagonist for this story with a strong voice and arc. My biggest issue was with the start of the story which unravels quickly but lacks some grounding in the relationship. But by the time the plot kicks into gear, all that is forgotten.

Dana knows how to craft a fast-paced story that is gripping and creates intriguing characters we feel connected to as readers.

I won't say too much about the plot as there's a twist that left me quite surprised and it certainly didn't end the way I expected. Which is definitely not a bad thing.

Dana excels in many of these story elements but the biggest standout for me is her world building. She knows how to draw a reader into the pages and her steampunk universe.

You want to read this one friends. A fresh and gritty retelling of Swan Lake!

Alan T says

Cali and Nicodemous

Cali marries the mage Nicodemous. Later she finds herself trapped into the form of a raven for half of each day.

Excellent characterization and plotting.

Beverley Lee says

I've already read Dana Fraedrich's *Out of the Shadows* and *Into the Fire* (the first two books in the *Broken Gears* series) so I was eager to dive into this prequel exploring the same universe. I absolutely love the author's world building, so to discover how it all began was a very nerdy book high!

Even though this is a prequel I think it can be read at any time, because you've already been drip fed little snippets in the first two books.

Raven's Cry is a fresh and unique retelling of *Swan Lake* with many twists and turns, and I really had no idea where it was heading, which always pleases me. Calandra is a strong protagonist who experiences some pretty traumatic events (no spoilers!) I particularly enjoyed her relationships with Jones and her two young charges later in the book.

The first part of the story was a little slow for me, but it's all worth it as it suddenly punches into gear, and Calandra's future unfolds.

The author delivers a compelling narrative in a stand out steampunk world. Add this to your reading list now (and the first two books!)

Mcf1nder_sk says

Whenever I discover a new author via #bookstagram, I first check out their bibliography. Once I read the synopsis for this fantasy tale, it immediately was placed on my TBR. Fraedrich has created a world in which magic is used for power, and the people subjugated by these mages fight back.

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The story of Cali is a tense one, and the tortures she experienced make her one of the most sympathetic heroines I've read of lately. Cali's refusal to roll over and quit will have the reader cheering and rooting for her throughout the novel. I don't know if this is the beginning of a series or a standalone novel, but I'm shouting "Bring on more Cali!".

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My Rating: 4.75/5 stars

Megan says

I didn't review this right away because I jumped right into the first of the *Broken Gears* trilogy. ? This is my first experience with *Swan Lake*, so I had no expectations. It starts off so normal and tame that when the really craziness starts, I was totally caught off guard and loved it. The amount of shit done to Calandra blew my mind and I thought she was really well presented between her struggles and resiliency. I loved how it ended and looked forward very much to reading the actual series and seeing what I might recognize!

Sharman Badgett-Young says

A historical novel of a fictional land

As a fan of Dana Fraedrich's Broken Gears steam punk Universe, delving into its past centuries was a treat. Telling a story across centuries is a difficult task, as it means dealing with multiple transitions (and every writer has struggled with transitions!) Fraedrich showed her skill in handling many of these wonderfully.

A happy surprise was seeing beloved characters from Fraedrich's first two novels cross over into this volume. Fans will enjoy receiving more about them from a new point of view. Understanding that the corrupt governance of her land was the outcome of an attempt to free its people from a previous system of oppression was a reminder of sad parallels in our own world.

Overall well crafted, and professionally edited, this novel will provide a good reading experience for those returning to the Broken Gears realm as well as those encountering it for the first time. This book is recommended!

K.J. Chapman says

I rate this book 4.5/5.

After reading Fraedrich's Out of the Shadows, I was keen for an ARC of Raven's Cry. I haven't yet read book two in the Broken Gears series, but it was easy to jump back in with this book as it is a standalone, yet still has links to Out of the Shadows for those who have read it. Don't worry if you haven't read the rest of the series, it won't affect the narrative for you. Those links are only noticeable to readers of the other books.

The world building in Cali's tale is just as thought out and imaginative. Cali's story is tragic for centuries, but she somehow keeps her head and makes it through the torture and imprisonment at the hands of a powerful, evil magus.

Fraedrich has mastered the retelling well. I am not usually a fan of retellings, but as long as the narrative carries its weight in its own right with hints to the original, then I am a happy reader.

If you enjoy retellings, this dark retelling of Swan Lake is for you, and while you're at it, why not get book one in the Broken Gears series?

Sarina Langer says

Rating: 3.5

You guys know I love a map in a fantasy novel, right? Well, Raven's Cry has THREE. T H R E E

The MC Calandra is socially awkward and bad with conflict; she's me, basically. I loved the relationship she had with Thomas, even if he was a bit of a stereotype, and I loved the relationships she build later on. Calandra is very much a character who's defined by the people around her, more so than most other

characters I've read, and it made her development interesting to follow.

Everything has degrees, and deep evils seem lighter if you are broken enough.

I admit, I struggled through the first third a little. The story was taking a while to move on, and since we got most of it through the eyes of a raven there was a lot more telling than showing as well as a few info dumps. After that first third, however, things picked up and Fraedrich's intriguing world-building shone through.

Calandra's character development was strong, too. She prefers her own company at the beginning, and clings to the few friendships she can make by the end. It was interesting to see her journey

This was my first steampunk novel, and it wasn't what I expected. It had either magic or technology, but the two didn't live together for long. There were a few magical leftovers in the second half, but by then technology was dead (no spoilers!).

What he did was far worse than anything I could have imagined. And I, dressed in my glossy black feathers and suffused in a haze of misery, was forced, as I always was, to play audience to his machinations.

While this can be read independently of Fraedrich's Broken Gears series, it did feel like a prequel to me because it sets the world up well. I haven't read Out of the Shadows yet, but based on this I'm excited to draw it from my tbr jar!
