



Gift of Magic

Lynn Kurland

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***Gift of Magic* is the latest installment in *New York Times* bestselling author Lynn Kurland's breathtaking Nine Kingdoms saga, which follows the daughter of a dreamweaver and the son of a mage as they struggle to save the realm from a magic as dark as it is powerful.**

Sarah of Doire knows the pattern of spells is no accident. With each page, each powerful rune, she and Ruith are being led somewhere, to someone-but by whom, she cannot tell. Sarah's gift of sight only allows her to see the spells themselves, not the person behind them.

A reluctant sorcerer still learning to trust his own magic, Ruithneadh of Ceangail knows he's woefully unprepared for the adversaries they'll face. But he and Sarah must collect and destroy his father Gair's spells soon. Many mages seek their power, and in the wrong hands, Gair's magic would plunge the Nine Kingdoms into an eternity of darkness.

But as they pursue the final spells-acquiring strange companions, welcome allies, and unexpected foes along the way-Sarah and Ruith realize that their true quest has only just begun. The real enemy is closer, darker, and more power hungry than they ever imagined; and until he is defeated, the fate of the Nine Kingdoms hangs in dire peril.

Gift of Magic Details

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From Reader Review Gift of Magic for online ebook

Angela says

5 June 2015: \$3.79 on Kindle

3.5 Stars I think. Full review to come.

Any questions you had from the first two books - answered. Fear not, all the threads that were hanging are resolved. The characters are, as always, charming and lovable. Great scene, highly anticipated near the beginning of the book that had me tearing up a bit.

Some frustrations though. Sarah's reluctance to accept (and return) Ruith's feelings and love got old fairly quickly in this book. Her desire to keep him at half an arm's length was disappointing because it was less than Ruith, and the Sarah I loved from the previous books, deserved. The ending also reminded me a bit of Return of the King by J.R.R. Tolkien - *Gollum may yet have a part to play in this...* (paraphrase) - though only very loosely. Still it led it to be a bit anti-climactic.

And then there's one plot point that's bugging me. I can't really get into it because it's a huge spoiler, but...

If someone who's read this wants to talk spoilers - let me know.

Lacey says

My friend, Sarah Grass, wrote up her feelings on this book and I agree 100%. Please see her review. :)

Ashley Daviau says

I was incredibly pleased that this was heaps better than the last two books in the series! It totally captured my interest from start to finish and I couldn't be happier about it. It was so interesting to finally see both groups merge together and meet each other, it made for some quite interesting situations! And then the chase for the spells and what finally awaited them at the end of the trail was just mind blowing! It was kind of hinted at all along but I honestly didn't see how it could really happen. The way it came about was believable though and I definitely can't wait to continue with this series and see where it goes from here!

Ruman says

[Thoir (hide spoiler)]

Leah says

#65 of 2017- Ruith and Sarah's take is more repetitive than Miach and Morgan's. It reminds me of an elongated encore, where character reprisals happen frequently. It does however set us up nicely for the next trilogy as far as exploration of the Nine Kingdoms.

Jill Furedy says

I haven't been impressed with the second Nine Kingdoms trilogy, so it was no surprise I didn't care for the final book. I got tired of things being blatantly stated and then two paragraphs later everyone is startled by the same revelation. Or the never ending admiration for everyone's beauty. Or the repeated doubts of overtly stated love. Or the fact that everyone is royalty but no one wants to be. I was excited that Miach and Morgan showed up, but they weren't in it nearly long enough. And I clearly wasn't following the plot properly, as they were chasing spells on a quest that they could only do alone: until they decide, eh, okay, you should help us...and then pick the only people they don't fully trust. And the goal of gathering spells, but only to destroy them as a complete set...just destroy them as you get them if they are so dangerous! Morag's stint as a bad guy turned out as useless as the bad guy from the first trilogy...you hear more about them second hand and the actual encounters are brief and anticlimactic. Ditto Urchaid. As was the conclusion of the book really. Ruith's solution was far too easy to defeat all the evil and powerful magic that should have been in play (plus what happened to Doire being a magic sink? There were spells aplenty!) And speaking of holes in the plot...if Ruith, Morgan, and Runach all survived the well incident that supposedly killed everyone involved, then why shouldn't we think all their siblings survived and are hiding in various castles/fortresses etc? Kurland created a lot of interesting places...Wegner and Nicholas's castles, Hearn's horse stables, then the hidden cave set up we see briefly here. But we skim past them. The characters would have to be more interesting to take full advantage of the settings anyway. Other reviews say there will be a third trilogy. I'm not sure if I will check it out...we'll see if the description (when it comes out) pulls me in enough to lure me back into the Nine Kingdoms, since right now I've had my fill of it.

Lisa says

There was too much repetition in this final book, and it seemed to take forever for anything to happen. I was fighting boredom throughout most of it. I really love the rest of the *Nine Kingdoms* series; I just wish this book had lived up to the others!

Kara says

I have to agree with Beth's review on this one. It was definitely a sad let-down from how I had imagined the conclusion to be. I'm giving it a 3 because I love this series and love so many of the characters, but it did not live up to Lynn Kurland's usually very high standards of writing.

~Thena~ says

I had never heard of Lynn Kurland until I came across the first book in the Nine Kingdoms series back in 2009. She writes historical/time travel romance and that's not a genre I read.

This is the last book in this trilogy and the sixth book in this series. I really, really wanted to love it. The first three books--Star of the Morning, The Mage's Daughter, and Princess of the Sword have become three of my favorite books. While they are not as detailed or intricate as most fantasy books I read, I fell in love with Morgan and Miach and their story. I heavily recommend the first three books for anyone who likes "clean" romance with a good story set in a fantastic world.

I had such high hopes for the next trilogy set in this world. Maybe I got too emotionally attached to the first set of characters, but I just couldn't get as into this story. It wasn't poorly written--in fact, the writing is beautiful--but the first book, A Tapestry of Spells, just didn't catch my interest as well as I expected. I enjoyed it, but I just wasn't that excited about it, if that makes sense. However, the second book, Spellweaver, redeemed this trilogy for me. I came to like the main characters of this story almost as much as those for. The first trilogy and anxiously waited for the conclusion to their story.

Gift of Magic was released on January 3, 2012 (my birthday). I immediately ordered it for my NOOK and read it in one sitting. Again, as I have come to expect from Lynn Kurland, the prose was beautiful throughout. Unfortunately, I was left with a feeling of disappointment in this volume. The characters in this book just felt much less substantial to me. The story felt like it rushed through to it's conclusion, and it felt like it wrapped up just a little too neatly. Of course I expected a happy ending, but there was very little tension. The final battle felt anticlimactic. I would give this 3 out of 5 stars for the prose and because I am attached to this world, but I felt...blah...when this book came to an end. There will be one last trilogy set in this world, and I hope it better done than this one.

Mariana says

I liked her fist books in this series, but in her last few she says the same thing over and over, I got really tired of how often the main male characters are belittled and threatened and the same information is given about characters over and over. I mostly just wanted to know how the series ended.

Beth says

This book just wasn't up to the same standards as the rest of the series. Problems were solved too quickly and easily to be realistic. It was like Lynn Kurland lost the motivation and momentum to finish the series with the same gusto as the rest of the books. I also didn't feel as attached to Ruith and Sarah and their plight as I did in previous books.

That being said, it was still an entertaining story, mostly because of the "guest" appearances and because I LOVED the other books in the series.

But mostly I'm left with a feeling of... that's it? What a boring ending...

2.75/5 stars.

The Window Seat says

I'm not going to lie... I am a little disappointed in Gift of Magic... This is the book that I have been waiting for. This was the book that was going to make all the wait worthwhile. This was going to be Ruith and Sarah's chance to shine. But, I don't think it is. I think that, in the world of the Nine Kingdoms, Ruith and Sarah are destined to be shadows. And for me, from my place as captain of Team Ruith, it is a little upsetting.

So, we left Sarah and Ruith at a pretty good spot. At the end of Spellweaver, Ruith had admitted his feelings for Sarah, made it clear he wanted to marry her, and she had tentatively accepted. But first, they knew, they would have to finish their quest. The pages from Gair's book would need to be collected and then destroyed. But Sarah and Ruith knew they needed to do this together. Her sight and his magic were the only way that they would be able to complete their quest and save the Nine Kingdoms from the threat of evil.

For the full review, please go to <http://thewindowseat13.blogspot.com/2...>

Terry (Ter05 TwiMoms/ MundieMoms) says

I have been caught up in this series for awhile now and enjoyed every minute of it. This the third book of the second trilogy, each trilogy featuring a different couple, but they are taking place almost at the same time and in the same world. The characters, both the major and the minor ones are interwoven between the stories. I have read some reviews of these books from people who did not care for them, but they seem to very often just not be their kind of books. This series is a romance but a they are sweet and chaste, not torrid and earth shattering like so often found in romance novels these days. In a way they are simple except that the stories are complex with many goods and evils running back and forth throughout. So what is simple? The slow developing, predictable and yet beautiful romances between the two main characters. I just liked being along for the ride and could not wait for a bit of time to pick the book(s)up again. I loved the complex names that I mostly could not pronounce but they slid nicely across my mind. In my mind's eye I could see the amazing Nine Kingdoms with magic gently flowing from fingertips and then often crashing through walls. I suppose this all comes down to the fact I really enjoy this author's way of combining a clean romance with magic and fantasy.

In this book we follow once more Sarah and Ruith on their quest to find and destroy his father Gair's spells. The mystery of who is the real enemy and how to stop him comes to a climax in this book, and I will not do a spoiler here. Again Miach enters into this story, and I would be lying if I did not admit he is my favorite character in this series. I will re-read I am sure many times the first three books and the story of Miach and Morgan. Ruith is Morgan's brother and long ago boyhood friend of Miach, but he was for many years thought to have died along with his parents at the well where his father called forth the blackest of magic. This was my favorite of the trilogy featuring Sarah and Ruith. I thought the series was over when I finished this one, but no, there is one more book out. (Dreamspinner) It is the first of the next trilogy and the story of Runach, brother to Morgan and Ruith. I hope there are many more. I would like a book about Weger - a very unique character who is in all of these books. This is a series I have very much enjoyed reading and after the next book I suppose I will have to wait. It was nice to read them all together.

Lady Jaye says

In one word, this book was a disappointing finish to the story of Ruithneadh and Sarah in particular and the tale of the Nine Kingdoms is general.

It's not that the story wasn't well told. It was. The writing was truly beautiful, and the world sprawled out like only epic fantasy can, and the names were right. It is a pet peeve of mine to read fantasy with names that sound fake - it spoils the whole story. Well, the names of people and places in this series, although unpronounceable, fit perfectly. So it was good book. It could easily have been a four or five star book, but it ended up a three because...it was just an anticlimax. Really, it was. The whole epic culmination of the novel was just blah.

In addition, the book had way too much repetition. Since book four Ruith had been whining about his magic. "Oh look at me, poor boy, I am a powerful magician, but my dad was evil. Never mind that everyone else in my family tree is a wonderful noble incorruptible person and I aspire to be like them, my dad was really evil, so I'll be evil too. Woe is me, woe is me." That was Ruith from book #4, when he was introduced, to the final 10% of this book when he realizes that he's nothing like his dad. Duh! And every 15 seconds, we were being reminded that he spent time running around with Miach of Neroche being troublesome and stealing spells when they were 10 years old. Every fifteen seconds. It happened over 20 years ago, and was repeated *ad nauseum* through the series, even from Miach's section - so that makes 6 books through which we've been hearing this. It became annoying after the 3rd mention in the first book. And we also heard way too much about Miach. This wasn't his book, and he didn't have any substantial part to play. i just didn't see the need to be reminded of him every few pages. Sarah also just spent half the book whining about not having any magic, even though she could dreamweave, and going on and on about not being princess enough for Ruith, even though her mom and dd came from distinguished royal families: every fifteen seconds too. Argh!

I think this might be the end of the Nine Kingdoms series, in which case I'm sad to part with a great cast of characters and a good epic story; but this ending didn't do it's characters or the series much justice at all.

ETA: No it's not the end of the series I hear tell Ms. Kurland is working on a set of books for Runach! So we'll see them again.

Kristen Robison says

Okay, so I really love Lynn Kurland's writing...usually. I had a hard time with this book. Like a lot of people I read her books right when they come out. So I have read tons of books in the meantime and had a really, really hard time keeping track of who was who. The beginning of the book really needs a map to help us keep track of where we are, have been and going. AND, it would have been nice to have some sort of genealogy sheet at the beginning or end to remind us who is who like she has in her de Piaget, MacLeod series. I will have to re-read the last two books and then maybe change my rating.
