



Magick by Moonrise

Laura Navarre

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Tudor England, 1556

A religious war is brewing. The Catholic Church relies on the ruthless reputation of Lord Beltran Nemesto, who tirelessly hunts down those who don't believe or who practice dark arts.

Half mortal, half Fae princess, Rhiannon le Fay is a healer trying to broker peace between the Faerie and mortal worlds. The Convergence is approaching, an occurrence every thousand years where the Veil that separates the two realms temporarily dissolves. Without her help, war between the two is inevitable.

After meeting Rhiannon, Beltran knows he must bring her to justice, but he's instantly attracted to the ethereal beauty. She forces him to confront his beliefs and introduces him to the Faerie world, and in the process he discovers a haunting truth about himself.

As the Convergence nears, Rhiannon and Beltran must decide where their loyalties lie as they fight to prevent a war that could destroy both of their worlds forever.

Book one of The Magick Trilogy.

88,000 words

Magick by Moonrise Details

Date : Published August 9th 2016 by Carina Press (first published March 11th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Laura Navarre

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical, Paranormal Romance, Historical Romance, Fantasy, Magic

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From Reader Review **Magick by Moonrise** for online ebook

Melody May (What I'm Reading) says

Originally posted on What I'm Reading"

Hey everybody! Well, todays selection is *Magick by Moonrise* by Laura Navarre. I have to say that this was interesting read. Something I wouldn't normally choose, because there are a lot of layers to this story.

First off you have Rhiannon le Fay who happens to half-mortal and half-faerie. Who happens to be on a mission to make sure a war doesn't start between the faerie world and the mortal. Rhiannon is to get Queen Mary to sign the treaty between the two worlds. However, there are a few obstacles occur. One of those obstacles comes in the form of Lord Beltran Nemesto.

First off, I had a really hard time getting into the story. Don't get me wrong it was good story and well written. However, *Magick by Moonrise* just wasn't for me. However, there were somethings I really did enjoy as I read the story. I loved the sacrifice Rhiannon makes for her friends and Beltran. I enjoyed how Beltran starts to wonder about his mission in life.

Overall, it's a good story, just not for me. However, if you love stories with a bit of Arthurian legend, a bit of history of Tudors (by the way I'm not a Tudor fan), and fallen angels, you might want to take a shot on *Magick by Moonrise*. It was well done with all those elements in the story.

Copy provided by LitConnect

The Window Seat says

I am such a sucker for a Fantasy Romance. I love the idea of Faeries roaming through a Medieval world and my biggest love as a child was Arthur and Camlot. So when a book seemed to combine all of those - I jumped!

Rhiannon is the daughter of the Queen of Faerie and King Arthur of Camlot. As she has spent most of her time in the Faerie Realm where time moves differently, she is a young princess on a diplomatic mission as she enters the mortal realm. She needs to meet with Queen Mary and secure a truce before the Convocation sends the world into chaos. This treaty, once signed, would be binding through magic and would keep the Faeries from the mortal world while protecting them from harm by the humans. But Mary Tudor's England is not safe for anyone with questionable abilities. With the Inquisition in full swing in Spain and Prince Philip spreading the love to England, Rhiannon's mission is a dangerous one.

For the full review, please go to <http://www.thewindowseat13.com/2013/0...>

Tin says

To read my full review, visit: Love Saves the World

Disclosure: A review copy was provided by Lit Connect. Thank you to Lit Connect and to Carina Press for the opportunity. Yes, this is an honest review.

This novel incorporates Arthurian Lore, Faerie Legend, Angels and the history of Mary I and Elizabeth I -- one would think this mix would result in a hodge-podge of a story but, no, Laura Navarre's *Magick by Moonrise* has got to be one of the most intelligent, most focused, most absorbing stories to be published this year.

The author weaves each element intricately into the story of Rhiannon and Beltran and presents a very clear narrative structure, which takes you through a well-paced exposition and rising action before providing a breathtaking resolution to their story.

...

This is a story that shows development and growth. Like building blocks, each chapter contributes to the journey our hero and heroine take: moving forward, there is a deconstruction of their former selves and a reconstruction of a new one. When the story ends, Rhiannon and Beltran have undergone a profoundly personal transformation.

The beauty of *Magick by Moonrise* is that it works very well as historical fiction and just as wonderfully as historical romance -- but Laura Navarre decided to up the ante and created this incredible world that appeals to all of one's senses. It is immersive and enchanting in its beauty and menace.

Stephanie Collins says

I have to start by saying I loved the premise of blending Tudor England, Inquisition insanity, Fallen Angels and Arthurian legends but I found myself a bit bogged down by the sheer amount of information provided. I enjoyed it but am writing it up as first book information overload and will want to watch out for more in the series.

Rhiannon is the half mortal/Fae daughter of Arthur and Queen Maeve who doesn't feel like she belongs anywhere but is now charged with a mission that could save both the mortal and Fae realms. She's unfortunate when she not only runs in to people working for her sister, Morrigan le Fay, but also a Blade of the Catholic Church who is bent on uncovering heretics and witches in the name of his Faith. She's rescued by him but also now a prisoner of his to be delivered to the hands of inquisitors who could end up sending her to burn as a witch. Even with all of this she manages to keep her wits about her but also fall in love with this man who isn't completely what he seems. She does everything she can to show him exactly who she is and that she isn't evil but a bringer of peace to two very tumultuous realms. I liked how strong she was in her beliefs and that even when things were bleakest that she still wanted to succeed in her mission to save both realms even if it meant sacrificing herself.

Beltran was interesting in that he starts the book as a massive asshole who won't listen to anything but what his self-righteousness decides is correct. I think what was fun was that you saw even though he presented this attitude of being close-minded to the world he really is a man at war with himself. As you learn more about him and his past you start to see why this is such an incredibly hard war for him to fight and win. He's very drawn to Rhiannon even as he believes her to be wrong and deserving of holy justice. I loved how he was able to finally open his eyes to the truth but getting to that point was extremely tough to read and I felt for

both of the main pair as they work through the intrigues of the English court and the Catholic vs Protestant mess that has engulfed Mary's court.

Overall this is a well written title but a bit information heavy so go in to it with that knowledge and like me you will still be wanting to see where she goes with this series. The premise is good and worth additional looks at future titles.

Thanks to NetGalley.com and Carina Press for the chance to read this in exchange for my honest review.

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: The Magick Trilogy

Stephanie G says

Rhiannon Le Fay is charged by her mother, the Queen of Faerie, to travel to the mortal lands before 'The Convergence.' The idea is that Mary Tutor (present queen of England) will sign a treaty with the Faerie Queen so the two realms don't merge. There is dire need because Rhiannon's mother is knocking on death's door, and if Mary doesn't sign it in time Rhiannon's evil sister will corrupt the human lands. Rhiannon is stopped by bandits when a man shining with divine light saves her party. He is clearly no ordinary man. Instead of seeing her on her way, he detains her, being a servant of the Catholic Church and a man of the inquisition.

Magick by Moonrise is the first book in Navarre's The Magick Trilogy. It crosses historical and fantasy lines, but at heart it's a romantic story.

After Rhiannon is captured by her savior, Beltran, it's made clear he plans to take her to be questioned. Readers know that there is no such thing as 'questioning,' when it comes to the inquisition. It really means he's taking her to be tortured then killed. Knowing that, I had a really hard time overall with his character. Later in the story he even comes clean and admits to himself this is what is most likely to happen. On the other hand Rhiannon does fight back in her own way. Beltran is forced to run after her more times than not.

Getting away Rhiannon happens to run into Elizabeth Tutor. This is also where the relationship between Rhiannon and Beltran starts to really develop. The fact that Rhiannon finds a man sexy, who wants to take her to be tortured and killed, is beyond me. Because of this I felt as if her character was a little too good, making her read as dense. In fact, I started to side with her evil sister when the audience later encounters Mary Tutor and her court. Once the story moved to court Beltran starts to question his standing in the world, but is easily swayed back to how he was before.

There are a couple steamy scenes between Beltran and Rhiannon, but I didn't enjoy them. I couldn't forgive Beltran, and didn't enjoy the way he was done as a character overall. There was also some words used during these scenes which always make me cringe, most notably, 'milking.' That's a personal pet peeve of mine, and might not bother all readers.

The action scenes made me feel lost on occasion. There was some battling, which is usually my cup of tea,

but I never felt pulled into these scenes. Instead I kind of figured ahead of time what would, and often did, happen.

The story was a little predictable as a whole, and didn't hand out any surprises. The whole story doesn't take place England. They do travel to the Faerie world, but it's brief. There are also visits from angels, mixing Christian and Pagan myths. While this sounds really interesting, and was the reason I picked it up, the characters didn't do it for me. Because of that I had a hard time with *Magick by Moonrise*.

- Beth

Kari says

Let me start by saying that *Magick by Moonrise* is a well written and well thought out book. There is a lot of world building in this first book. I liked both Rhiannon and Beltran and I found myself rooting for them to find a way to be together.

Having said all that, I found that the book just didn't work for me overall. It may have been that there was too much of a mix of genres in the book. There is fantasy, historical, and angels. Because of this, the book was too densely packed for me to enjoy. It dragged in places and I found myself skimming.

I do think that this book will work for anyone who loves both historical and fantasy together. Just because it didn't work for me, doesn't mean others won't enjoy it. It has gotten good reviews and I think it should be given a chance. So, check it out.

Quiana says

I read the synopsis for *Magick by Moonrise* by Laura Navarre and jumped at the chance to read this story. I love books that heavily feature faerie lore, so I was especially excited to see someone else's take on the faerie realm. The fact that it was a historical paranormal romance was a welcomed bonus.

We're introduced to Rhiannon le Fey, a half mortal, half faerie tasked with delivering an important treaty to the Tudor Queen Mary. This treaty is essential in preventing a cataclysmic event known as the Convergence: in where the invisible line between the faerie realm and the mortal realm dissolves, bringing about chaos and war between the two groups. Time is of the essence, but Rhiannon's road to the queen is beset by many obstacles; the biggest one might just be in the form of the mysterious Lord Beltran Nemesto. The man who has awakened feelings she's never had before. The same man who wants to see her burned at the stake.

I thought *Magick by Moonrise* was a promising start to what looks to be an intriguing series. It had just about all the ingredients needed for an entertaining read. The hero and heroine were easy to like and the supporting characters were interesting. Plus there was plenty of mystery, romance, danger, political intrigue, good vs. evil, etc., to keep readers enthralled until the very last page. Navarre effortlessly crafted a story brimming with elements of Arthurian legend, Faerie lore, Tudor history and fallen angels.

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Gaele says

Incorporating faerie and Arthurian legend with the intrigue at the end of Queen Mary's reign, add in biblical references to angels and vengeance for the church, the reformation versus the inquisition and a desperate quest to reach Queen Mary before Convergence and you have a hint at the elements Navarre has woven together in creating this fantasy.

As if the political intrigue, superstitions and the time-sensitive mission weren't enough; magic and mayhem are constantly stepping into the forefront as Rhiannon's sister Morrigan seeks to disrupt the mission and uses every power at her disposal to thwart Rhiannon: even spoiling her first taste of love and desire.

The attraction between Rhiannon the half-faerie princess and Beltran with unusual ties to Uriel and his commitment to the Pope and the inquisition to roust out heretics is denied and fought by both. While their interior voices narrate the confusion, desperation and longing, the magnetic pull of one body to another is undeniable and detailed in every encounter. Lushly phrased and drawn specifically to place the reader in the middle of the story, the author has managed to define a world and setting that feels real and tangible, and the historic details of space, clothing and speech further ground the edges in an easy to imagine reality.

Beltran is haunted by his failure to join the priesthood, and conflict arises between his oath to serve the Pope and his desire for Rhiannon. Rhiannon has always been "different" and feels even more so in England, her desire for Beltran is an unknown and confusing. The slow pace as the two work through their own questions and baggage, and take tentative steps forward and back while constantly finding themselves closer together is all the more sensual for the delays.

This is a great start to a richly detailed and crafted fantasy, with elements that manage to add some fairy to history, and ground fairy in a world that is known from school days. Navarre has managed to weave multiple elements into a story that will transport, entertain and enchant.

I received an eBook copy from the author for purpose of honest review for the Jeep Diva. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Lyn says

This book's combination of romance, history, and fantasy was interesting - but not something I was a fan of. I normally like all of those things (I'm not a fan of straight up history books, but told in the right way - like with a touch of romance - I'm good with it), but I didn't think it worked all that well in this case. I think it was the fae aspect with the particular time period the author chose that didn't work. Romance is good in almost any situation, but faeries in the Tudor / Catholic time period?... Not for me.

I've read and loved a lot of faerie books, so I've heard many things - they can't lie but do love to twist words, can't be around steel / iron, or salt, etc. It varies to fit the story, which is perfectly fine.

This book had a new one, in that saying any form of the name of "God" hurts them. This just bothered me, because there wasn't really an explanation for it, and as I've never heard that before, I felt it needed one. The best I can think of is to make it fit in with the Catholic Tudors. But even then... why set it in the Tudor time period, anyway? It's just a weird combination that didn't really work out, in my opinion.

Note: I received this book for free through Goodreads Giveaways.

Erin says

Wow was this ever a pleasant surprise! Historical romances tend to be hit-or-miss with me, because I tend to prefer lighter stories with plenty of romance, and sometimes that just doesn't happen with this genre. With a captivating mix of Tudor England and the legends of King Arthur, the fear and treachery of the Catholic Church's Inquisition, and the marvel of angels and Fae, *Magick by Moonrise* takes the reader on a journey that is truly like no other I've come across. Add to that one smoking-hot hero and a determined and enchanting heroine with some incredible chemistry together, and you have yourself one intense, sexy, suspense-filled story!

Rhiannon's plight was dire; the half-human, half-Fae princess was tasked with entering the mortal world to persuade England's Queen Mary to agree to a peace treaty with the Fae. If they didn't come to an agreement before the Convergence, the mingling of their two realms would end in war and destruction. As if her task wasn't challenging enough, Rhiannon happened upon the one man who could easily put an end to her quest; the Blade of God, Lord Beltran. Though he saved her life, as God's Vengeance he was tasked with bringing the "witch" in for questioning, which meant she was his prisoner. From start to finish, it seemed that Rhiannon just could not catch a break, and the bravery and strength she exhibited throughout every challenge made her such a lovable heroine. Her cruel and powerful sister Morrigan, Beltran and the wrath of the Church, and even creatures from her own realm all stood in her way, but she refused to give up. It was no wonder that Beltran became completely captivated and drawn to her despite his disbelief in her claims, and my oh my was he one sexy man of vengeance!! Turns out he had some secrets of his own as well, which was such a clever twist and made Beltran's role in the journey something else entirely as he questioned everything he stood for.

There is clearly a great deal of treachery still to come in this series as the Convergence draws closer and Morrigan's witchcraft gains strength. I'm nervous for these characters, because there's no doubt it's going to be painful both physically and emotionally for them! Laura Navarre is a fantastic writer, with polished storytelling and breathtaking descriptions of her mesmerizing world. I do worry that some readers will be deterred by the way the story gets bogged down on occasion, because it's a heavy read and I found myself wanting to skim from time to time. However, I still loved Beltran and Rhiannon's tale and I have no doubt that fans of historical romance will thoroughly enjoy it as well!

Violet says

Liked this a lot. Loved all the descriptions. Navarre's style seems to be descriptive, which I prefer over minimalist books. I want to feel I am in the setting, smelling the scents, seeing what the protagonist is seeing, and Navarre does that for me. Beltran is a great hero, tortured but strong and honorable, and Rhiannon is a great heroine, strong, brave, open to love. The only critique I might have is that the sex scenes were a little over the top graphically, considering the heroine was a virgin. I will read more of this author.

Janine says

I received this book through goodreads giveaways for an honest review.

Magick by Moonrise was a blend of magic, religion, and history. I had a hard time getting in to the book in the beginning, but got interested in the middle and end. I really liked Rhiannon's character and the way the point of view switched between Rhiannon and Beltran. I would have liked more of a wrap-up in the end.
