



The Arrival

Nicole MacDonald

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On a world where sword and sorcery rule, a feud between two archaic families threatens to eradicate the oldest line of Kings. Only one thing can tip the balance, the return of the Elementals.

In Wellington, New Zealand, four friends cast a love spell unaware that within each of them a dormant power waits. As the final words 'So mote it be' ring from the lips of Kassandra, Catherine, Sian, and Laura, a bridge between realms is formed.

The Arrival is a story of love, hope, despair, and above all, determination. Only through strength of spirit and mind can the four women hope to survive a war where they are the ultimate weapons AND the ultimate prize.

The Arrival Details

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Author : Nicole MacDonald

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From Reader Review The Arrival for online ebook

N.R. Williams says

I don't think it is difficult for anyone to imagine the frustrations accompanied by searching for your soul mate. In *The Arrival*, by Nicole MacDonald, her four protagonist are in just such a frame of mind. After a night out in New Zealand they gather to cast a love spell and end up along with their pet dog and cat in a different world. Here, magic is real and fantastical creatures abound. The girls have their hands full from the start but are delighted to discover clothes and weapons along with a small supply of food waiting for them, as if someone, or some thing, knew they were coming.

MacDonald soon has her characters in a battle for their lives against a formidable foe. Just as exhaustion has them close to their end, four griffins arrive with four fabulous men. Did the love spell work? But this question is far from the minds of the characters at first, but it won't be far from your minds.

MacDonald combines 1st person along with 3rd person to tell the story and has multiple POV shifts which you may find distracting. Because of this I give it 3-stars, but MacDonald is an important new voice to fantasy and I will be delighted to continue to read her work and watch her grow.

N. R. Williams, fantasy author

Mara says

Writing this review is difficult. In no way I want to offend the author, but I disagree with the high rating.

This book strongly needs a good editing, both for length and grammar and punctuation mistakes. (Real mistakes, not style choices.)

I had to read some paragraphs 3 or 4 times to understand (and often I had to skip.) [i.e. the world they came, from magic...]

To me the alternating POV (third person, first person) was confusing as hell. I know it's a willingly made choice (the author said so), it doesn't mean is for everyone. :)

There are 4 "heroines" (and heroes). But to tell them apart you use name/color/dresses. They are "told", non described in depth.

Moreover, an editor might have explained to the author the difference between an open ending, a cliffhanger and no ending at all. This book has NO ending. You are reading a "battle" scene and all of a sudden you read "to be continued." :)

Again, a personal choice by the author, but for me is difficult to accept. A cliffhanger makes me gasp for the character, not the plot. (Usually, the plot ends, but the story arch goes on. Here there's no ending to the plot.)

Go on and buy this book (0.99). Just let me know if you disagree :D

[June, 27. This review has been slightly modified in response to Alex's comment.]

Angela Shields says

I have never read a book that didn't have a grammatical error. A misspelt word here or a comma instead of a fullstop there. A good book will take you beyond that to another world or time, and this book does that. Thank you Nicole, for taking me to a different dimension for a few days. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Nicole MacDonald says

Okay so I wrote it *grin* and I'm totally allowed to love it!! I survived 18months of creating this story and still love it so it bodes well - for me at least *lol*

The Pen & Muse says

I found this book to be a bit of a tough read simply because it hit on my biggest pet peeve: bad editing. I struggled with multiple names of characters in addition to a nickname for nearly every one of them. Many of the characters expressed thoughts that were difficult to follow with the point of view shifting nearly every paragraph. Also difficult to process was the overuse of words (more specifically “and”) and misuse of verb tense (such as using has instead of had). The problem is that most of these issues manifested within the first chapter, making it difficult to proceed. Reading over a paragraph multiple times tends to interfere with the love affair created between reader and story. The introduction of 16 characters for a book 1 was a bit much. Hopefully with Book 2 each will prove necessary. I also appreciated that this was not a romance dripping in sexual encounters. Not to say that I don't love such books, but it is nice to have a break as well as a book that can be recommended to the “faint of heart”.

Never one to leave anything unfinished (especially a book), I continued on. I am glad to say that I hung in there and did not give up on the book. It was at about Chapter 10 that I found myself getting into the story a bit more. I had been skeptical about a working plot, but was happy to discover that the author has a good basis to work with. MacDonald also threw us a doozy in ending the story in the middle of what is likely a pivotal fight between the “good” and “bad”. I would classify this story as sort of an Eragon meets Avatar: The Last Airbender with a little Charmed surrounding it all. Short of telling the story, those familiar with the given references will understand why. I really enjoyed the use of Griffins, having always been fascinated by the mythical creature.

In short, MacDonald has developed a promising story line that has potential. With a bit of polishing in the editing department and possibly making the story more focused on Alec and Cat, rather than the point of view of everyone, I would easily have been submersed within this book. If the girls are as close as they are supposed to be, Cat could easily convey how each one was feeling, rather than having each character express their own thoughts, unfortunately effectively pulling attention away from the story. I will be giving book 2 “Awakening” (due out in December 2011) a chance to see what develops for the characters.

Natasja says

When Catherine “Cat”, Sian, Laura “Loi” and Kassandra “Kassie” from New Zealand cast a love spell one night to find their soul mates, they couldn’t imagine that this will transport them to another world, where magic, other creatures and evil are normal.

Waking up outside in the woods, along with Lucky the cat and Audrey the dog, they discover that all they have are the clothes they are wearing, some food, weapons and strange money. They realize that they are not on Earth anymore and know that they have to adapt to the life there and hope to find this sorceress Elena, who will be powerful enough to hopefully transport them back home to Earth.

Then one night during a battle against evil, the four friends hold their grounds against them and are about to meet their other half, when they faces the Griffon Guards.

The arrival by Nicole MacDonald is the first novel in her BirthRight Trilogy and also her debut. When the author approach me through my Blog and ask if I was interested in reviewing her novel, I couldn’t refuse especially when I read the blurb she send me. Boy, what a surprise it was, the story is well build and kept my attention all the way through the book.

I love all the characters, especially the women. On Earth all four women are practicing a form of martial art and with the battles they having on this new planet, its definitely a bonus. Although the book is written from several points of views, it was clear to me that Cat has a bigger part in this whole thing; her attraction to the leader of the Griffon Guards has a purpose. The switching between characters bothered me in the beginning, but after reading a couple chapters I realize that it was needed to tell the whole story.

The interactions and the growing relationships between the four women and the Griffon Guards are fabulous. Even though the women just met them, you can see the growing affection and trusts towards them, telling us they might be their soul mates they were looking for.

The only downside of this book is the huge cliffhanger at the end, leaving the reader desperate to get his or her hands on the next book, including me. So lets hope that the wait for the second book won’t be long.

If you are looking for a fabulous book with some strong kick-ass heroines, mixed with their gorgeous soul mates, magic and other beings, then I truly recommend this novel.

I’m definitely going to keep my eyes on this author and sees what she has in store for us next.

Diane Ryan says

This book is an adventure and a half. It had me laughing and turning green with envy over Nicole’s eye for detail. I love a good fantasy meets sci-fi novel. Think Lord of the Rings meets a really interesting and witty chick lit book. At first I was afraid I would be thrown off by the switching point of views. I knew she was going to do it, but I hadn’t quite prepared myself for how it would work. But it did work out well. It is

actually a very interesting way to read a book. You get to try on different characters and see their point of view.

I enjoyed the relationship between the four girls. Their absolute loyalty to one another really stuck out to me. Their interactions never seemed contrived and pretty steadfast to how I see my friends and I interacting. I loved all of the love interests for each of the girls. I felt that Nicole matched them all very well with someone who would challenge them and bring them out of their shells, but do it in a unique way.

My most favorite aspect of this book is Nicole's keen eye for detail. I felt like I could see it all unfold in my mind. Which to me, is a sign of a great novelist. I found myself wanting to see the Griffin take flight and their varying colors of feathers matched with their lion-like manes. Oh and what I wouldn't give to have an Ada in real life to make my wardrobe sing.

My only grievance was the ending!!! I wanted more, which just means I'll be picking up the second book the second she releases it. I sort of felt like she ended it on the climax. I needed that payoff. But other than that, which may or may not be a good thing to others, I loved the book.

Nicole my hat is off to you on your first novel out the gate.

Jolene Stockman says

What a way to dive back into the female POV! The challenge of jumping between so many different voices was one I struggled with initially like many others, but once I pushed through, I got into it! I love the combination of weaponry, magic, fight scenes, fantasy, romance, plants, creatures, landscapes, fashion, and kick-ass Kiwi women. Go Nicole!

Dianne says

I read this book at the end of March (2017). I mean to review it much earlier, but life kind of got in the way. This book reached out and grabbed me and I found I didn't want to put it down

BookWormAli says

Hello super kick ass quartet of Women!!!

Alright so I love a kickass heroine...add in some fantasy and wit and I'm hooked. I loved this. At first I was a little confused by they changing viewpoints but I quickly adapted and realized each character had their own voice... While I understand that's not everyone's cup of tea, I had no issue with it. Sue me I'm fangirling here!!!

Because it takes a lot to but four different women who not only are strong but unique in their own way and Ms. MacDonald did it. I loved watching them adapt to their new surrounding and develop relationships in their new world. I especially loved that they complimented each other but still had their differences. I liked seeing all the creatures that Ms. MacDonald created. I can not wait to see where this goes and I have a

feeling I will love it as well.

Besides who doesn't love a man in armor that gets caught unawares by an equally strong woman who while doesn't need him to rescue her still appreciates it! The male counterparts were equally strong and empathetic as well as unique. I liked that they didn't overpower the females as characters, or each other.

Alex says

I wasn't sure what to expect with this book - some of the reviews nearly put me off it but MAN am I glad I tried it. I'm a guy, normally I avoid chick lit but this was so far from what I'd expected. And written in such a cool way. I really don't get some of the reviewers comments about it being hard to read or make sense of. It was straight forward - seriously if you have issues with making it out maybe you should be reading a lower grade. Multiple POV makes this story fast paced and on the ball and the creatures and world the authors created is outstanding. It reads like watching a movie, the first book I've read that does this for me. So for anyone out there wanting a decent fantasy read give this a shot. You'll be impressed. Have to say the six months til the release for the next one is going to be a long six months. Kudos to the author.

Kami Dodson-Perry says

Cat, Kassie, Loi, Sian are the 4 main characters of this adventure. I feel that the author really wants the readers to feel that Cat is the #1 main character. I only feel this way because a lot of the story seems to be told through her & from Cat's POV. I like the relationship between the 4 girls & love what the spell does. I guess you need to watch that wording when casting a spell (note to self, LOL). Once the spell is cast the story really seems to take off. There is great action & adventure with a bit of romance thrown in. I am not big on the romance novels so I like that it seems to have a little of everything.

SPOILER ALERT

When the girls 1st arrive in this strange realm the Griffon Warriors are sent to rescue them. You instantly feel the connection with Cat & Alek. I love Loi in her obsession with the different creatures of the realm. Dragons, Griffons, Elementals oh my.

The exchange between Alek & Cat at the lake is priceless. I read it several times over. I gave me such a mental picture & I laughed out loud.

Book #1 follows the girls through the realization that they are Elementals & were sent here for more than the reasons they think (To find their soul mates). They find out they can not return to their home on Earth & have left everything & everyone they loved behind. They start training with their physical as well as mental abilities on a daily basis. They become stronger with each lesson. They also become closer with the men in the story.

They realize that they are meant to help guard this realm & stop an evil witch from killing them & stealing their powers which would also enable her to rule the realm.

This book leaves off in the middle of a major fight with all 4 girls fighting for their lives & the lives of the

men they love, one being the prince. What a major cliff hanger that is.

Thank goodness book #2 was already out & available to purchase. I downloaded it 2 minutes after finishing Book #1. I had to know what happened next. And you will have to know too.

Latte says

An Amazon freebie, I wasn't certain what to expect. While I enjoyed the storyline, the cliffhanger end drove me crazy.

As others have mentioned, it's rather disjointed in that the POV changes. Constantly. Without warning. Sometimes within a single paragraph.

It's a bit like being in the mind of a schizophrenic.

Despite this, the overall story is enjoyable. It's a fun read if you don't get too caught up in trying to separate the various POVs as you're reading. I lowered the the rating to reflect that.

gerald larue says

Great read, kept me wanting more from the first page to the last page, would definitely recommend.

Penelope Fletcher says

I'm little more than a strumpet when it comes to book covers, and this one had me rolling over and practically purring. It's not obvious but subtly engaging.

At first the numerous points of view annoyed the hell out of me because I wanted to crawl into one characters head and stay there, letting the rest of the story envelop me. But I have to humble myself and say by doing this I was able to glean a broad and comprehensive understanding of the story, of the characters in a way I don't think I have before. The p.o.v changes let you glimpse one person in so many different ways it's like you know them personally.

I won't ramble on about the storyline - hey, it's a book read it yourself - but what I will say is you'll find yourself swept into another world ... it takes a long time to get there, but it does happen. I love a pacy read and whilst at first I thought this wasn't going to cut it, it picks up momentum ... like a rolling stone it gathered power toward the end. Oh, Lord above save me from cliff hanger endings! But I will be grabbing the sequel once it's out. The sudden missing edge had me diving off looking for the sequel rather than clinging on with my fingernails scowling into the abyss.

The storytelling style is a tad intrusive, and if you like figuring out emotions for yourself by action you may find yourself disgruntled at times, but I for one found the read refreshing, and an interesting take on the

classic damsel in distress scenario.

This story reminded me not to become a slave to submissive romance. Rather than swooning at your lovers feet take up arms and kick ass like the ladies in this book. *deranged battle cry*
