



## The Dark Divide

*Jennifer Fallon*

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## The Dark Divide Jennifer Fallon

From one of Voyager's bestselling authors comes the second book in an outstanding epic fantasy. time is running out for the Undivided. Rónán and his psychically-linked twin brother are trapped ... Rónán in 2001 Dublin and Darragh in a reality where the Undivided are not Druids, but Shinto warriors. they have two weeks to find their way home or they will die. they also need to break the curse on trása and rescue Hayley from the Faerie Lord's seductive embrace. With Darragh caught in a reality without magic, and Rónán stranded in one with plenty of magic but no idea how to use it, the brothers must prove that even across realities, they truly are the Undivided. PRAISE FOR tHE RIFt RUNNERS 'dynamic, compelling' BOOKSELLER + PUBLISHER 'brings to life the fantastic world of Celtic mythology ... vivid and engaging' GOOD READING

## The Dark Divide Details

Date : Published April 1st 2012 by Voyager (first published January 1st 2012)

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Author : Jennifer Fallon

Format : Paperback 544 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Young Adult, Magic

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# From Reader Review The Dark Divide for online ebook

## Melanie says

Intrigued enough to continue, but disappointing overall. Fallon is an amazing writer, but this series is flat and has little of the sophistication and wit of her earlier works, especially series like Second Sons and The Hythrun Chronicles. It almost reads like YA, but it hasn't been promoted as such - not sure if Fallon is simply taking her work in another direction, or if this is a series that - quite simply - isn't as good as her others. Lots of typos and grammatical issues in this too, but I suspect that's more the publisher's fault than the writer's.

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## Rochelle says

A great installment in the Rift Runners series. The ending leaves the reader eager to find out what happens next and for our heroes to reunite and find their way home. The nature of the story allows for multiple different worlds and cultures to intersect. A large chunk of the book takes place in a realm where the Japanese rule the Celtic lands, so we get to switch between the modern world and Celtic and Japanese cultures. Add the magical and fantasy elements and the created worlds are really entertaining.

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## Tsana Dolichva says

Originally posted here: <http://tsanasreads.tumblr.com/post/22...>

The Dark Divide by Jennifer Fallon is the second book of the Rift Runners (trilogy, I think). The first book was The Undivided.

This is very much the sort of series where you can't read book two without having read book one before it. The Dark Divide picks up more or less right where The Undivided left off. I don't think I can say anything too specific about the plot without spoilers for the first book.

The story mainly follows Ren and Darragh, the Undivided twins, Trasa the half-banshee and Pete the cop who is on the case of the shenanigans the other characters committed in the first book.

I liked The Dark Divide more than The Undivided. When I read the first book, I enjoyed it but I was a little disappointed that it wasn't as full of twisty intrigue as I have come to expect from Fallon's books (not that disappointed since I still have it 4.5 stars when I read it). The second book more than makes up for it. Where the first book had to introduce a lot of world-building concepts (faeries, rifts between realities, the magic of the twins' existence), the second book was much more free to dig deeper into everyone's motivations. There were a lot of ah-ha! moments and a lot of dawning comprehension as pieces of the puzzle came together.

One of the things I particularly liked was the juxtaposition between fantasy-world values and our world values. As in, often times killing someone for the cause in a fantasy book (in general) is seen as necessary.

However, move the act (and the fantasy book character) into our world and a host of problems arise.

Another aspect which I thought was well done was the inclusion of a certain real-world recent-historical event. It was something that could easily have felt tacky but worked because the ordinary consequences were given as much (if not slightly more) weight as the plot-related consequences. Also, history wasn't rewritten to accommodate the plot; from the characters' point of view, it was a coincidence that affected them but that they had nothing directly to do with.

This is a very good series and I encourage all lovers of fantasy to give it a go. And if that wasn't enough, *The Dark Divide* also has ninja leprechauns. Seriously. How can anyone resist reading about ninja freaking leprechauns with shuriken?

5 / 5 stars

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### **Newtown Review of Books says**

In a lively and informative prologue, which recaps much, but certainly not all, of Book One, *The Undivided*, we discover that Ronan and Darragh, the Undivided twins who are Druid princes and who can channel magic in special ways, were separated when young by Marcoy Tarth, the Faerie prince, for reasons of power, security and control. Darragh was raised in Faerie, or Tir Na nÓg, and is used to magic, but Ren Kavanagh, or Ronan, who was raised in Dublin in the human modern-day world by a celebrity film star, has not understood his potential and in fact has been a somewhat difficult adolescent.

See full review here: <http://newtownreviewofbooks.com/2012/...>

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### **Shaheen says**

Following almost immediately from the end of *The Undivided*, *The Dark Divide* builds upon the rich and complex landscape Fallon created in the first book and introduces us to an alternate reality where the Japanese rule over much of the world (including Ireland). The brothers Ren and Darragh are divided; Darragh is trapped in our magic-poor world while Ren has been thrust into an alternate reality where he can be sentenced to death for merely existing.

*The Dark Divide* is immeasurably clever - the story is told across so many realities and characters that it could have easily become a confused mess, but the plot elements are skillfully woven together. Readers won't be able to see the twists and turns until Fallon is well and ready for them to do so. Ren's story-line is especially interesting because he is trapped in a world where the Japanese rule, and he has to contend with their weird (to him) concepts of honour and dignity. I really like how Fallon has created this empire and envisioned it so vividly without judgment. As Trása reminds Ren, it is not his place to judge another culture just because he doesn't understand them - their ways of life have developed over centuries and make perfect sense to them, and that's all that matters.

Darragh, on the other hand, is stuck in our reality and lacks access to the magic that would take him back into his world. He trusts that Ren will come back for him, which is impressive because he, Darragh, is soon hauled off to a police station and made to suffer through our confused and convoluted judicial system.

Seeing our world from Darragh and Sorchá's eyes really made me think about some of the things we take for granted here, and their struggles to understand our ways of life were sometimes hilarious. The inclusion of a real-world event, which impacted many lives internationally, made me a little uncomfortable at first, because I felt that the book was about to stray into preachy, political agenda territory. As horrific as that event is, however, it impacts our character's lives in unexpected, indirect ways. I think it's a really clever way to show that although Ren and his contemporaries might look down on other realities for how barbaric and callous they might be, but we have our fair share of unspeakably evil people as well.

The secondary cast in this series have always impressed me, and it is no different in this book. My favourites are Pete, the very confused but determined police officer who investigates Darragh and Ren's crime-spree in the previous book, and his journalist brother Logan. Their relationship is awesome, and I like the glimpses we got of their extended family. Other characters I liked are Sorchá, who has one of the most interesting side-stories I have ever read, and Trása, who I wanted to hate, but the more I found out about her, the more I liked her. Surprisingly, I also ended up looking forward to Brydie's appearances in the story because with her trapped in a jewel, she was privy to all sorts of secret politics that we would never have seen otherwise.

The world Ren finds himself in, where the Japanese control Ireland, has been exquisitely crafted and I loved spending time in it. Stories that are influenced by Asian culture are prone to over-use stereotypes as fact, but readers will easily be able to see how much in-depth research the author has done into the culture bases this reality on. I learnt a lot of interesting things, and never felt that the author was trying to show how these people are better or worse than the people in our reality - they are just as brilliant, kind, selfish, ambitious, courageous and blood thirsty as people from our world. It seems like we are going to spend more time in this reality, which is awesome because I get a kick out of reading about leprechauns dressed up as ninjas and carrying nunchuks and tiny swords.

*The Dark Divide* is, dare I say it, a more fulfilling read than *The Undivided*, which is incredibly rare in a sequel. It builds upon the world admirably, and lets readers explore new characters, new realities, while at the same time giving a deeper look at the characters we know and love. This series is not to be missed by fans of Jennifer Fallon's work. It would especially appeal to readers familiar with urban fantasy who are looking for a different kind of novel, but is perfect for any reader to pick up. I am looking forward to reading *Reunion*, the next book in the *Rift Runners* series, soon.

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher for review.  
You can read more of my reviews at **Speculating on SpecFic**.

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## Eunice says

~~The main male characters are hot. They are twins, so TWICE THE HOTNESS.~~

Shallowness aside, this series is like the holy-trinity of what I love in a good juvie book: **fantasy - alternate reality - medieval society**

And the rapier wit and manner of the twins is just an added bonus.

I am such a sucker for young-adult novels. Written in such an engaging and entertaining way, I like nothing better than books such as these to break up the intense uni readings I am forced to do.

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## Michelle Smith says

A cracker in this busy series. I think I even like it better than the first, which I have to say, rarely happens. The story goes deeper, and there are some amazing reveals at the end that felt like a nicely wrapped Christmas present. Will be coming back for the third. (is there only three?)

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## Lauren says

Originally posted on Biele <http://laurencella.blogspot.com.au/>

Rating: 5/5

This book has been taunting me for a while. First, it came out in stores early but I had to wait for my pre-order to come in the mail. Secondly, when I got it, it was the last week of the uni term so I was far too busy to begin reading it. Finally, I wouldn't have put this book down if real life hadn't forced me to.

Yes, I loved this book that much and yes, I may have a writers crush on Jennifer Fallon. I have read all of her books and loved every single one of them. I love her mix of fantasy and politics. I honestly believe she is one of the better fantasy writers published at the moment. She is an amazing world builder, does character development among the best of them, and best of all she keeps you guessing and manages to chuck things at you that you never saw coming. Ok, enough with my writer crush ramblings.

This book flows really nicely even though it jumps between characters and realities constantly. It was really easy to follow and helped build up the tension as the story moved forward as you just had to know what happened next. Although, what happened next you probably didn't see coming and with Jennifer Fallon you can never know what she'll do next (you just have to read *The Chaos Crystal* to know that). And that is what I love about her books, she gives you enough to make some educated guesses (I totally picked Pete) and then will throw you a curveball that you never saw coming. It makes for wonderful and compelling reading. She also does world building among the best of them. The world (or would that be worlds) in *The Dark Divide* is intriguing, dangerous and alluring, it sucks you in and you'll never want to leave.

I love all the characters in this book even the ones I hate, they all have their part to play and they all have their secrets. I love Ren/Rónán. He develops a lot in this book, becoming a self-assured leader rather than the rebellious brat he was in *The Undivided*. You can't help but to fall in love with him as he finds his way in a new reality that is so unlike the one he grew up with, while trying to work out who he is as one of the Undivided and the power he wields. His twin Darragh is also great to read about. I just love his frankness and his belief that he will be rescued by his people. I particularly liked how frustrated he was making everyone when they were trying to find out where Hayley was. Trása is another favourite. She really finds her place in this book and realises that even though she's half-fairie she still has a lot to offer. I just wish I could make up my mind about who I want her to end up with. I could go on for days about how much I grew to love Pete and Logan, how I suspect Kiva knows more than she lets on, how creepy Isleen and Teagan and how Lady Delphine is a evil b\*@\$.

I can't wait for *Reunion* to come out next year and to find out how everything will come together. I'm sure it will be a long but worthwhile wait.

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## **Cranky Dragon says**

I can sum up this book in one word: "meh."

It's not *bad* per se... I just don't care. Which is a pity because I'm a huge fan of Fallon and so I had high hopes for this series. The first book was okay and I got the 2nd book as well, thinking "Maybe it'll get better..."

Well, I'm not impressed with this book and I am debating whether to even continue with the last book in the series.

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## **Swiftsea says**

Mixed emotions in discovering Darragh and Ronan are not the only one of their kind and that are numerous eifilem of undivideds. Relieved they survived the mid-autumn equinox but suspects this complications of the matriarchs and faeries suddenly changing motives, rather unsettling as it just gives all the more hints that it's going to result in an unsatisfactory and hollow-shelled ending as it did for the Tidelords.

I particularly enjoyed the individual experiences the twins had in their separate realities.

Poor Sorcha.

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## **Donna says**

Not too bad. Glad Ronan has stopped being such a brat about things. Drags a little in places but otherwise okay. Figured out a few things before being told, which is always fun. Have a long wait til the last book though... Feb 2014.

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## **David says**

Another excellent novel. A small continuity error (only noteworthy because I don't usually catch things like this) is the only thing that I can really point to as a flaw in the book. Fallon's taking this series in an interesting direction, killing off characters that I expected to die at the end, if at all, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what she does with this whole thing.

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## **Danielle says**

I really enjoyed this book...particularly the last few chapters in which so much stuff happened. I liked that there were twists and turns in the storyline, and that most of the characters seem to have their own motives, which I think will make for an interesting book 3.

The only negatives I have to say is that the beginning dragged a bit. I felt like Fallon was trying to flesh it out

before getting to all the good stuff at the end. In practically every chapter I was reminded that Darragh needed to get home to his reality, that Sorchá needed to get home and protect the twins, that Ronan needed to get home to his reality and find Darragh, and Trasa needed to get home blah blah blah...yes I know, I haven't forgotten since you just told me in the last chapter!

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### **Anne Barwell says**

Book 2 of this series was as impossible to put down as the first one. Hoping book 3 comes out ASAP as the author has left this on several cliffhangers too.

In a book set in different realities, each one is thought out and realised complete with history. I like the changes between each reality, and some of the twists in the tale I suspected, others not so much. The characters are likeable and I'm particularly enjoying seeing the way Ren is maturing and adapting to his situation, and in lots of ways growing more like his brother Darragh. The plot has definitely thickened and complicated with each book - I liked the addition of Pete and Logan to this one and waiting to see how they deal with the information and the situation in which they've just found themselves.

More please and now.

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### **Kendra Ashcraft says**

The plot line grows more intricate and the characters gain more depth in this book compared to the first in the series. However, all the typos and editing errors started to wear on my nerves. As of now, I don't know if I liked the book enough to go ahead and read the third in the trilogy.

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