



Days of Blood and Fire

Katharine Kerr

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In the peaceful land of the Rhiddaer, Jahdo the ratcatcher's son stumbles upon a secret meeting between a city council man and a dangerous, mysterious woman. Suddenly the boy is tangled in a web of intrigue and black magic that drags him far from home. In the company of a blind bard, Jahdo must travel to Deverry to unravel the evil that binds him. But there the boy is caught up in dangers far greater than he has ever known. Two powerful sorcerers--one human, the other elven--are battling to save the country from a goddess gone mad. Their strongest ally is the mercenary soldier Rhodry Maelwaedd, a berserker bound to both women by fate and magic . . . and to the dragon upon whom all their live may depend. *Days Of Blood And Fire* begins an exciting new chapter in the chronicles of Deverry and the Westlands, with a story suited to new readers and loyal fans alike.

Days of Blood and Fire Details

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From Reader Review Days of Blood and Fire for online ebook

Benjamin Thomas says

This is the seventh book the overall Deverry series and the 3rd book of the second quartet (The Westlands) within that larger series. Yep, it's complicated but that is par for the course in this complex fantasy series.

This time we are introduced to more characters, get inside the cultures of whole new species and get to explore a bit of territory beyond previous novels. That's cool, of course, but we also get to advance the "present day" story plot along in the 'Time of War' (title in the UK). Unlike most of the other novels in the series, this one does not jump back and forth through the timeline with reincarnated versions of main characters. Even though that has been the unique aspect of this series, and perhaps what put it on the map of fantasy literature, I didn't miss that at all this time. I think the story presented here was sufficiently complex and dynamic that it needed its own complete volume.

Once again I would highly recommend that readers begin with the first book in the series and proceed appropriately. While, technically, this one could be read first and result in a nice fantasy story, you would miss out on the larger and incredible macro-story. This one does end in a cliff-hanger and the next volume, I understand, picks up in the very next breath. Good thing because I wouldn't want to miss a beat heading into the next one.

Maureen says

This entry in the Deverry saga is an unusual one. There is no jumping between souls and thus storylines. We are introduced to an expanding world in Cerr Cawnen, the Gel Da Thae and the dwarven holt of Linn Serr and the magical island of Haen Marn. And finally, finally, we meet the dragon. I only knock a star off because no one actually cares about Evandar and his younger brother, Lord Vulpine, do they? Do they really? I love that Rhodry finds peace in this one, even if only for a brief moment.

Amanda says

This is the third book in the second Deverry quartet. Here all the action takes place in the present - we meet the Rhiddaer folk and the Gel Da'Thae (in the form of Jahdo and Meer), who quest to Deverry in search of Meer's brother. When they find him, they discover he is part of a major plot dreamt up by Alshandra in order to regain her daughter. At the same time Jill charges Rhodry to find the only weapon that will help the Deverrians in their war against the Horsekin and Alshandra's evil followers.

So, I was disappointed in this book - I feel as though Kerr has lost her way a little. One of the high points of her first quartet is the fact that the storyline flits back and forth in time, deepening your affection for various characters in the different lives they have lived. Here, when she moves to a more linear storyline, I find myself less entranced.

Part of the problem is that I'm finding it hard now to care about ANY of the characters. In a previous review for an earlier book, I noted that Jill is far less likeable as a dweomermaster than as a silver dagger. The last

character that I held deep regard for is Rhodry and in this book he seemed to descend into a unique kind of madness. He speaks often of courting his Lady Death and Kerr over-uses the beserker howl of laughter that had, up to now, been used effectively to build Rhodry's character.

I already didn't care for either Evandar or Dallandra, and here they crop up time and again in a very tedious storyline about Dallandra being kidnapped by Evandar's brother. All the time spent in Evandar's dreamlike homeland is slow and plodding and doesn't seem to advance the plot at all.

I would also like to complain that there were a number of scenes where Jill did etheric scrying, or changed into her falcon, which seemed lifted in their entirety from earlier books. There are only so many times I can read that without becoming bored.

I did like a number of aspects of the book. These included the touching scenes between Jill and Rhodry as they reached out in friendship and found a sort of reconciliation. Also, Kerr is extremely able at drawing distinctions between each of the different locations - in previous books, Bardek has been richly imagined; here we delve more into the homeland of the dwarves, which is given a very different feel to the other lands. Her world-building is on a more cosy scale than, say, the GRRM's of the world, but very effective nonetheless.

Despite the fact that the idea of a dragon is brought into the story in an abrupt manner (barring one brief paragraph two books ago), the introduction of Arzosah adds at least half a star to my rating. If you are as fond of decently-written dragon characters as I am, you will love Arzosah, who is both beautiful and slyly clever. The dialogue between her and Rhodry lends real vigour to the last part of the book.

This is a real lapse in form compared to the previous books, but I have high hopes of the last book in this quartet where a number of plot points should be resolved satisfactorily.

Nick Reys says

The Deverry series by Katharine Kerr, and more in particular the first cycle therein, has been a mixed affair. I really loved the first book, but the subsequent four, while never really bad, just couldn't live up to the first one. It seems like a change is coming, though, cause I really loved *A Time Of Omens* and thought it was the best book yet since the great first, *Daggerspell*. That trend does continue with *A Time Of War*, the seventh book overall and the one to last in the Westland cycle.

This book starts off really confusing, I think, when we are dropped in a completely different part of the world and every single character is new. Old characters do turn up soon, and it seems that we're in for some trouble as Carra and Dar try to protect their unborn child from Alshandra. The mad Guardian has presented herself to the Horsekin as a goddess and they follow her every lead, even if it means besieging a city in order to kill Princess Carra.

One thing I have to say, though, is that I find it a bit sad that the whole book takes place in the present time. I know that the trips to the past have rather been a hit and miss for me, but I got so accustomed to reading about past incarnations of our beloved characters, that I quite missed it when it wasn't around – something I found missing too in *The Dragon Revenant*, the fourth book in the series. The whole story does make up for not providing us with glimpses from the past, though. In fact, I found this to be that exciting that I kept reading, even though I was dead tired.

Part of the attraction of this story was the introduction of the dwarves of Lin Serr. Previously, the dwarves

were represented by Otho, but now we get a whole bunch of them and I really like their place and everything they got going on there. On top of that, the new dwarves that get introduced are really nice as well.

Another fascinating aspect was the city of Haen Marn. I loved what was going on there and I thought the whole storyline with Rhodry there was quite endearing, especially after everything he went through with Jill. The main attraction of the book is Rhodry's quest to find the dragon and find her they do. She doesn't really get a lot of time on screen here, but enough to make me immediately like her a lot. She has a very pleasant character and after Salamander leaving, I think she's capable of providing some comical relief, cause that's something that's really sparse in these books.

Apart from the dragon, two new characters get introduced, being Jahdo and Meer. I really like what they've got going between them and they make for a nice addition to the 'crew'. I don't know how it will work out for them, but I do hope they stay a while.

The storyline about the Guardians is getting more and more interesting as the books move along, as well. I remember being pretty disappointed with the final battle in The Dragon Revenant, but I do have some faith in the fight with Alshandra being something more. She's a great villain and raving mad, which makes her unpredictable and creepy. I do wish she would come more to the forefront, though. She'll probably die in the next book, so why not give some more screentime to the mad god?

Just like the previous book, this one is setting up everything to come to an end in the last Westlands novel, but takes quite a different approach to things. Everything's coming together for the final battle and if there is one thing that this book did well, it is making me excited for the big finale. Bring on the mad woman!

Kenny says

I'm feeling slightly let down by Ms Kerr in this book - as it is really starting to feel quite different from the previous novels in the Deverry series.

What I've really loved about this series so far was the way that this felt like a very unique series - highlighting the pseudo-celtic culture of the Deverrians and the people and politics of that region. Magic has been very subdued and felt quite subdued. All that seemed to disappear in this book.

We're introduced to the dwarves of the land - which are done in a very standard fantasy trope way - accented, money obsessed, underground dwellers.

The second main plotline is about the weird guardians. In the last book their story seemed interesting, but in this book it just labors on and nothing really is added to the story. Ashandra is portrayed as a crazy boogymen, and the other Guardians are just simple minded 2 dimensional characters.

The third plotline of Dar and Carra (elf "prince" and his new human wife) seemed vaguely interesting, but just putted along with Carra's dislike of being put in her place - a story which seems very similar to one we had with Jill and a few other female characters. We are also introduced to the Horsekin (+gel da thae) who are portrayed as bloodthirsty monsters, or through the character of Meer as an annoying "know it all" bard who just constantly spouts off rules...

The only redeeming feature was finally getting to meet this dragon - who is portrayed as a very sly and clever character.

I'll read the last book in the series, but I really hope the series improves!

Fantasy Literature says

A Time of War (Days of Blood and Fire in the US) is the third book in the second Deverry quartet. Here all the action takes place in the present — we meet the Rhiddaer folk and the Gel Da'Thae (in the form of Jahdo and Meer) who quest to Deverry in search of Meer's brother. When they find him, they discover he is part of a major plot dreamt up by Alshandra in order to regain her daughter. At the same time Jill charges Rhodry to find the only weapon that will help the Deverrians in their war against the Horsekin and Alshandra's evil followers.

I was disappointed in A Time of War — I feel as though Kerr has lost her way a little. One of the high points of her first quartet is the fact that the storyline flits back and forth in time, deepening your affe... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

Milliebot says

Another enjoyable book in this (long) series by Kerr. I have to say, this is the first book where there is only one timeline (or time period) in the book, and it was a nice break. Normally each book will have two or three different timelines, where storylines from the past or present are unfolding. With reincarnation being a big theme in this series, that makes sense. However, sometimes it can be overwhelming to read about so many characters and know that half of them have been born again as several other characters. I can't keep track of who is who, so I made myself a chart to reference, but even then it can get tricky. I think there are too many minor characters who have reincarnated into other minor characters, and trying to remember who they used to be seems pointless. I think the series would be better served if only the handful of main characters had past lives that intertwined, instead of more than half the characters were introduced to in this series.

But, as I said earlier, this book just focuses on the most "current" timeline as yet and it was a welcome break. Finally I could focus on the characters that I consider to be the "main" ones - and since I remember who they were in the past, I wasn't confused. The drama of the story really shined as well, because there weren't any other little vignettes to think about. I'm hoping the next book in this series continues this trend.

Overall, I'm still really enjoying this series and I plan to keep reading!

Hilary says

Although the first 50 pages or so may leave you wondering if you accidentally picked up a spin-off book, rest assured you're still reading the right series, and it won't take long before everything begins to tie together!

A Time of War stands alone in that it's the only truly linear book in the Deverry series, as the stories of Jahdo, Jill, Rhodry and Dallandra begin to draw together through the frustrating riddles of Evandar, and Rhodry's Wyrd starts to become apparent, and it gives a fascinating look at Deverry from the outside.

A.L. Wright says

One of my favorite in this series

I love every one of Katharine Kerr's Deverry Series, but this one is one of my favorites. Love reading more about the history of the lands and it's inhabitants.

Trey Woody says

Truly captivating.

Once again Kerr has unfolded a marvelous tale of magic and epic adventure. Her use of true historical references as well as new and fresh outlooks on fantastical creatures such as the elves and dragons is quite masterful in my opinion. I find this series as a whole on a level with Tolkien's lord of the rings and if I'm honest I much prefer it over Tolkien's long winded and difficult story telling.

Kerry says

I'm actually reading the UK Kindle edition, which goes by the title of "A Time of War". However, to be able to update my progress as a percentage, I need to say I'm reading this edition. Confusing? Totally!

I have no idea when I finished this. The end of 2014/start of 2015 turned out to be quite horrible with family illness and a major move pushing me into an anxiety/depressive episode I could really have done without. It's going to take me a while to pull out of it and get my reading back on track, so I'll just going to take it easy.

And to give myself a head start, I'm going to call this finish as being New Years Day so I can have it to begin 2015.

Libbet says

2017 re read

Sandi says

This is just such a great series. I love Kerr's writing style. The characters are so real and the storylines so engrossing. I will say, however, that while I see how it fits into the rest of the story, I could really do without Evander and the Guardians and, particularly, Dallandra. I know, it's a fantasy, but that part of the whole thing could have been left out and I'd never miss it. In this book, the most momentous event in the book takes a

couple paragraphs, where page after page is devoted to the, in my opinion, idiotic Dallandra and Evander. Still, five stars for the overall story

Debbie Jinks says

Ok I'm biased but there is finally a dragon in this great series of novels, named Arzosah. As usual there is many a bloody battle in it too but these books wouldn't be the same without them. The Horsekin army are pretty terrifying and you want to hate them straight away, which I did so that worked! Also the introduction of new characters such as Jahdo and Meer the eyeless bard added a new element to the mix. I must admit Evander can get a bit tiresome at times though which is why I awarded four instead of Five Stars, apart from that I loved it.

Mark says

It has been 16 years since I first picked up the first Deverry novel, DaggerSpell, and here I am, 16 years later, about to finish the fifteenth and final one.

Has the journey been worth it? Yes. Was the wait too long? Yes.

I would not recommend anyone starts reading the Deverry cycle unless they intend to read them all, as the macroscopic story is at least as important as the microscopic ones, and as such I am reviewing the books as a set.

I almost give them 4 stars (excellent) but in the end I am not enjoying them quite as much as I did in my early 20's and so I settled on 3 stars (good). As fantasy novels go the concepts and the writing are really excellent but for me the last couple of books haven't been as enjoyable as the early ones and it's a lot to expect people to read fifteen novels. That said I don't regret a single minute of the time I spent in Deverry. I even used to own a 'deverry' domain and use the handle of 'Rhodry' when t'internet was young.

Highly recommended IF you have the stomach for a lot of reading.

Kes says

My goodness, Rhodry gets himself *another* love interest/person to sleep with? How many has he had?

We see events coming together now - the siege starts, Rhodry finds his dragon, and we're heading to the conclusion of the defeat of some evil. I liked that we learn more about history - i.e. the displacement of Man onto the country led to the displacement of the Horde, which in turn affected the elves and the dwarves. Even the minor subplots - Yraen and Carra - are full of tension (in part due to the few glimpses we get of them).

Aria Tatiana says

A Time of War (the original US title being Days of Fire and Blood) has to be one of my favourite books in the whole Deverry series.

It brings new peoples (and by that I don't simply mean new characters but new *species*) to the story and deeply expands the series' world. The beginning of the book feels quite new and unexpected. Suddenly the familiar world of Deverry reveals unknown and fascinating elements. It is very easy to get attached to our 2 new protagonists, and their meeting with our regular characters makes for a great moment.

I don't want to detail too much, so I'll end this short review by simply saying that this is a wonderful book! I couldn't put it down.

Shamela says

Okay, look. *heavy sigh*

I'm just...

I can't...

Grr. Here's the thing. I am really liking this series overall. The language is GORGEOUS, the world-building is fantastic, the revisiting of the Romeo/Juliet thing is great. I do recommend it.

But I want to know--why is it that of the four books I have read or attempted to read recently, THREE of them have had rape/seriously attempted rape scenes? It's beginning to feel that if a main character in a book is female, there must somehow be a rape attempt...to prove, what? I don't even know. That she's strong? She can fight? It's somehow some kind of rite of passage for women? This is what we have to fall back on for character arc/development for characters who have orifices that might possibly be penetrated in ways they have not consented to? This is the fall-back for suspense?

I realize I'm being curmudgeonly here, to a certain extent. But it happens a LOT, in novels. A LOT. And if it were just the male authors doing it, I could cry misogyny and have done, I suppose. But here's Ms. Kerr doing it, too. And believe me, I realize that we live in a rape culture. Trust me, I KNOW THAT. So, sure, in YA novels in particular, I suppose that this is a way to safely learn about it and sort out feelings about it.

But you know what? I'm really sick of it. I'm tired of having novels and movies and t.v. shows ambush me all the fucking time. Just really tired of it.

Patrickderaaff says

'Fantasy voor een lange winteravond bij een knapperend haardvuur.', luidt de quote van Elf Fantasy Magazine op de achterzijde. Hier sluit ik me bij aan. De wereld van Deverry is inmiddels zo vertrouwd, dat het voelt als thuiskomen wanneer ik weer aan een nieuw deel begin. Helaas blijven we deze keer in het 'heden' en krijgen we geen verhalen van andere incarnaties van dezelfde zielen. Wel is Jill niet langer de

continu chagrijnige oude vrouw, maar begint ze zich (eindelijk) te gedragen zoals het een ware Dweomermeester betaamt. En, zoals de voorzijde van het boek al een beetje verklapt, ontdekt Rhodry een nieuwe kant van zichzelf als Drakentemmer (met hulp van Jill als voorbereiding uiteraard). Nieuwe lezers kunnen beter bij deel 1 beginnen dan ergens middenin de serie een boek op te pakken. Dat is minder verwarrend en ook veel fijner om de gehele serie op waarde te kunnen schatten en er van te genieten natuurlijk!

Megan says

Book 7 jumps right in with the introduction of a few new characters, and this time we find ourselves in a completely linear story line. Jahdo is a young boy sent on a trip with a Gel da'Thae, or Horsekin, by a (we are supposed to assume) very evil person. But we soon find out that even among the Horsekin there are very divided loyalties, and Alshandra is raising an army of Horsekin to do her bidding and get her daughter back.

While some of this book was a bit slow-moving (for some reason I'm not as interested in what is happening within the Otherlands where Evandar lives this time around), the build-up to all-out war makes all of the tense emotions really come to life. Rhodry's journey to find his dragon is also tense because, even though I know what happens because I've read this before, there's still the uncertainty in the air that you can definitely feel.

And now I am on to book 8, Days of Air and Darkness, which features heavily the dragon Arzosah, who is one of my favorite of Kit's Deverry characters.
