



## Gawain

*Gwen Rowley*

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Loyal Sir Gawain pledges to marry a hideous crone in exchange for the answer to a riddle that will save King Arthur's life. But the loathly lady is actually the lovely Aislyn, former sorceress, in disguise, who is out to make Gawain pay for rejecting her in the past. Then Aislyn finds herself enchanted by the gallant knight.

## Gawain Details

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Author : Gwen Rowley

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## From Reader Review **Gawain for online ebook**

### **Paranormal Romance says**

When the heroine discovered a plot to murder Arthur, she knew she could not stand by and let it happen, not when she can stop it. But when she sees that the hero is with him, she realizes this is her opportunity to seek revenge against a love scorned all those years ago when he broke her heart. She appears to the traveling pair as a hideous old crone, vowing to give Arthur the answers he needs if the hero will marry her. The hero, much to her amazement eagerly and instantly agrees. They marry and return to Camelot and into a society with supposed 'honorable' knights who mock the hero and laugh at him behind his back. She herself had the plan to embarrass him and ridicule him by forcing him to have a hideous old woman as a wife. She thoughts to leave the night of the wedding, her revenge acted out and him free to consider his previous transgressions. But she can't go through with it. When she changes back to her true form and seduces him, she realizes that she loves him still. And she realizes that he returned for her, all those years ago he returned. Only to be told she had died. By the time she realizes her error in this foolish plan to hurt a good man, she is punished by his aunt to be cursed to her crone form as punishment. She'll only be free if he should kiss her with love. And so, life goes on. Living in the form of an old woman and knowing the fault is her own allows the heroine to look inside herself and see how selfish she has been. Not once has the hero treated her harshly and in fact he's been nothing but patience and kindness. He is a man devoted to his word and his honor. He is calm, respectful and quick to defend her against anyone thinking to insult or demean her in any way. She is disgusted with the mockery he receives from his fellow knights. How dare they treat this man in such a disrespectful manner? He is worth 100 of them and yet he does nothing to defend himself from their laughter. She wishes he would but he is not concerned with what others think of him. She admires his strength and his honor because she has neither. She is impulsive and quick with her mouth, causing her husband trouble on many occasions. Despite her appearance and the comment made by Arthur and others, she is his wife. She makes him laugh at times and he finds it humorous at times to see the expressions on people's faces when they find out they are married. But his heart will forever belong the woman who died before he could beg her forgiveness. Life in Camelot is tense and troubled these days. Lancelot, a vain and selfish man has dug his claws into the king and queen pushing the once favored hero from Arthur's court. His mother has returned, spreading her evil through his friends and family. And now, he discovers his wife is actually a woman he thought long dead. He is at first elated and joyous to kiss his wife goodbye only to have her change into a beautiful young woman who he loves deeply still no matter the years gone by. The he learns of her trickery. He is justified in his anger and demands that if she loves him, she'll renounce magic forever. She refuses. But she is no longer than selfish and ignorant girl she once was. She can see the error of her ways now and can see that magic has brought her nothing but pain and heartache. What's magic if she can't have the hero?

I was enchanted by this book from the first page to the last. It was nice to read a book with true meaning for once, a story with a moral code and a lesson to be learned. To start off my review, I'll say that I simply adored both of these characters and their interactions with each other. At first the hero could be considered strict and a bit complacent especially when you take into consideration the bold and reckless personality of the heroine but in reality he is simply wise enough and man enough not to bother with things he can't control. He can't fight everyone who laughs at him or questions his reasoning. He defends his honor and his wife's honor when they are insulted and he does it with dignity and grace. He doesn't let things bother him for the most point and it's this calm that confuses the heroine. She in the complete opposite. She is quick to anger and to run her mouth and it's this opinionated tendency that gets her in trouble. But despite her wrongs, she is smart enough to learn the error of her ways. She realizes how well the hero has treated her (though at times, perhaps she didn't deserve it) and in the body of an old woman she is able to learn forgiveness. She is able to befriend her husband and she thinks very highly of him. They had a very magical romance because

for most of the book it was so far from lust driven, as is typical for my sort of books. The lack of sexual tension was a change and one I honestly didn't mind because it made room for a far deeper relationship. It worked for this book where as it wouldn't have for the majority of PNR out there. I also loved how much I HATED the other characters in the story. Lancelot, Guinevere, even Arthur at times. I couldn't stand them. It was a pleasure to watch them be brought down from their self-imposed high horses. Over all, I loved this story because it was different than any book I have read.

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### **Jamie says**

I want to read the first to. I really liked it.

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### **Monica says**

As a sucker for a happy ending and romance stories being a weakness of mine I really enjoyed this book. It did seem a bit rushed in parts, but I enjoyed the writing style and the sense of humour used throughout the book.

And it did have its tense moments as all the character's stories intertwined towards the end.

It was a light, quick read and lots of fun too.

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### **TINNGG says**

3.5 stars

This came v. close to being a hate read. Why? Authors publish series out of order at their own peril. I managed - barely - to set aside my anal-retentive tendency to compare notes and just...enjoy the story. More or less. Things still bug me. Will explain later.

'Tis a fairy tale sort of book, with heavy leanings on Beauty and the Beast. The h once apprenticed to the H's mother - Morgause (Arthur's \*other\* sister - the one who is apparently the mother of Mordred) - and was under orders to seduce and bind Gawain to her, Gawain being the oldest son of Morgause. She fell for him, and told him of his mother's plans. He became incensed, and left immediately, leaving her to face his mother. She did what any intelligent woman would do - she bolted and went into hiding.

Morgause is set upon trying to have her little half-brother (Arthur) disposed of, so has set him up - he must answer a riddle. He appears in the woods, the h knows the answer, and says she'll tell him, on one condition - Gawain's hand in marriage. She hasn't forgiven him, you see. She's also in the form of an old crone. He reluctantly agrees to save the king's life. The king is disturbed by this.

Much mayhem later (and Arthur's \*other\* sister making the form an enchantment that must be lifted by certain conditions), Gawain has fallen for the old bat. Not sure how but... In any case, he is more than a little startled to discover the woman he'd thought dead - he'd gone back to retrieve her you see, and been told by

his mother that she'd drowned - was actually the old lady.

Anyway, the story, in and of itself, wasn't bad, though once again we have a sanctimonious ass for a H. He did eventually come to understand that the power she wielded wasn't something you could just stop.

So my issues... Gawain's defeat by Lancelot at the joust happened within these pages. There was no mention whatsoever of Gawain having a wife years later during Lancelot's book. Considering all, you'd think that was kindof important. No further mention of the h's brother (who is now in service to Arthur, no mention of Gawain's little brother, who also entered service. Also, Sir Dinedan seems to have changed personality between this one and Lancelot. Hmm...

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### **Kayla says**

Loved this book so much! Read it many times over.

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### **Karen says**

I really enjoy King Arthur tales. They are ageless!

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### **Shadowstorm Norwicca says**

The Knights of the Round Table series is a very well written book and this book is about Sir Gawain. I feel in love with Sir Gawain and how he showed honor even when he should have turned his back and ran for the hills literally. The reason being is simple put in the name of the trickster crone Dame Ragnelle or Aislyn. The old crone uses King Arthur's need for an answer and Sir Gawain need to do the right thing for his King and Camelot. She only wants revenge and oh yes protection from Gawain mother Morgana. The love triangle between Gawain, Dame Ragnelle/ Aisyln is very funny and romantic. This is a must read... I loved it..

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### **Trishy says**

A decent story about Gawain and enchantress Aislyn. Some of the story was bland, but overall it was a good story. The humor was pretty good and it brought a smile to face. Overall an ok story.

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### **Ragnell says**

Not normally into romance, but I enjoyed this retelling of the Loathly Lady. It sets up Ragnell as having known Gawain before she got transformed, and even explains the transformation away as something of her fault. It does have Evil Morgause, but Morgan is a good guy without being completely white-washed so I'm not holding it against her.

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### **Debbi Skeen says**

a quick light fun read with a fairy tale romance feel.

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### **Victoria says**

For what this book was - a fluffy, quick fantasy romance novel - I really enjoyed it. The writing was rather good, although the pacing was at times point a bit too quick. The book was generally pretty clean which proved refreshing, and I was intrigued by Rowley's take on Camelot, to the point I wish the book and some of the characters (particularly Morgause, Morgan, Lancelot, and Guinevere) had been elaborated upon more. Overall, though, fun and amusing.

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### **Danae says**

3.5\*

There's less sex in this one than the other two, which i found interesting. Just one scene described, if i recall correctly. I think i liked this one more as well (not really for that reason). It has a huge "Beauty And The Beast" element to it, but in King Arthur's court and with a woman turned into a crone instead of a man turned into a beast. In a way, she's like the enchantress in the beginning of the Disney movie.

While both parties where exceedingly beautiful, there was more depth to it. Probably the main reason i liked this one so much is that it's not about one character being a jerk while the other, flawless one, teaches him/her the error of his/her ways. Both main characters were likable and yet each grew throughout the story.

On another note, who chose the names Morgana and Morgause? I still can't separate the two.

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### **Leanne says**

I absolutely loved it! I enjoyed this book from beginning to end and really had no complaints on anything. The characters are endearing, I loved them all and the plot is simple but so so entertaining. It was very reminiscent of the British tv show Merlin-which I also love-and this book was something I could have pictured as an episode from the show. I literally laughed out loud more times than I can count :D Suffice to say this is one of the best books I have read in a while and will probably always be a fave of mine!

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### **Latique says**

Well, honestly, this book was more like an excursion into an episode from the BBC show Merlin than what the gazing couple on the cover might originally suggest. Entertaining and rambunctious, with all the crazy

complicated emotions that humans have when In Love, when Forgetting Love, when Finding Love, when Utterly Confused About Love, and when Love is Complicated. Oh, and there's magic, jousting, revenge, and death threats. Characters do bad things, wrong things, and shameful things - but readers will continue to follow so that they can see retribution. A fun book and it makes one curious about the others in the Knights of the Round Table series by Gwen Rowley. I would recommend this book for late high school age and older readers who enjoy variations on the Arthurian tales, who have enjoyed the BBC Merlin series, and who like fantasy romance stories.

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### **SarahC says**

I just finished it and may not have my thoughts together on it yet. It is an interesting read and is part of her new Knights of the Roundtable series. The books in this series dont really seem to be interconnected though.(?) For example, the same characters are very different from book to book. So this is a different approach than most series.

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