

Close Kin: Book II -- The Hollow Kingdom Trilogy

By Clare B. Dunkle

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For thousands of years, young women have been vanishing from Hallow Hill, never to be seen again. Now Kate and Emily have moved there with no idea of the land's dreadful heritage?until Marak decides to tell them himself. Marak is a powerful magician who claims to be the goblin king, and he has very specific plans for the two new girls who have trespassed into his kingdom . . .

So begins the award-winning Hollow Kingdom Trilogy. Now in paperback, these editions welcome a whole new audience to the magical realm that Newbery Award winner Lloyd Alexander calls "as persuasive as it is remarkable."

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9—Years have passed since the events of *The Hollow Kingdom* (Holt, 2003), and Kate is happily married to the Goblin King, Marak. As a human who has always thought of goblins as exciting and exotic creatures, her younger sister, Emily, enjoys spending her days with the many goblin children in her care. She has no thought of marriage until she unintentionally rejects the awkward proposal of her best friend, Seylin. Devastated, he decides to leave the kingdom to search for his elf ancestors. Once Emily realizes that she is the cause of his departure, and how much she cares for him, she sets out to find him, accompanied by the curmudgeonly goblin, Ruby. As in the previous book, the different characters discover that appearances do not necessarily reflect inner attributes, but this story delves deeper into examining the xenophobic attitudes held by the goblins, dwarfs, elves, and humans. The narrative draws readers into a multifaceted world of strong, compelling individuals. The final chapters come across more as a group of appendixes with a lot of explanatory information than as a true conclusion. Still, the background detail creates a compelling saga for fantasy fans. For maximum satisfaction, the books need to be read in order. The final book of the trilogy, *In the Coils of the Snake*, is due to be published in 2005.—*Farida S. Dowler, formerly at Bellevue Regional Library, WA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-9. In Dunkle's follow-up to *The Hollow Kingdom* (2003), the elves face an awful reality: they have forgotten the ancient spells that once ensured their continuing survival of their races. When mixed-blood goblin Seylin joins the elves to explore his ethnic roots, he is shocked by their reduced circumstances. Parallel stories find human teen Em, now 18, replacing older sister Kate as heroine as she pursues Seylin to declare her love, and the Machiavellian King Marak strategizing to add more desirable elf blood to the goblins' genetic pool. The resulting multiple wedding manages to be both decidedly alien and strangely romantic at the same time--qualities that neatly encapsulate the allure of the first two books in the Hollow Kingdom trilogy. Despite a weirdly rambling conclusion, returning readers will appreciate the expanded view of a world where human, goblin, and elf sensibilities interestingly, if not harmoniously, coexist.

Jennifer Mattson

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Review

“Clare Dunkle brings a fresh new voice and a fresh new vision to the high art of fantasy. She creates a world filled with intense excitement, terror, beauty, and love--a world as persuasive as it is remarkable.” ?*Lloyd Alexander*

“* A luminously polished fantasy that starts off strong and just gets better. A masterly debut.” ?*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

“The impact of Dunkle's evocative storytelling lingers long after the final page.” ?*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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