

Daughter of Blood

Helen Lowe

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A failing wall, a broken shield, and an enemy that will exploit every weakness . . .

Malian and Kalan have recovered two of the three legendary weapons of the Derai, but already it may be too late. The Wall of Night, fractured by centuries of blood feud and civil strife, is on the verge of falling.

Meanwhile, among Grayharbor backstreets, an orphan boy falls foul of dark forces. A daughter of the House of Blood must be married to the Earl of Night, a pawn in the web of her family's ambition, and Kalan is caught in a political web he may not be able to escape.

While even as Malian dodges Darkswarm pursuers in her search for the Shield of Heaven, rumour whispers that it may be broken beyond repair – and she herself may be the blade the ancient enemy will drive into the heart of the Derai Alliance...

Daughter of Blood Details

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Author: Helen Lowe

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From Reader Review Daughter of Blood for online ebook

Victor Gentile says

Helen Lowe in her new book, "Daughter of Blood" Book Three in The Wall of Night series published by Harper Voyager gives us another adventure with Kalan.

From the back cover: Malian of Night and Kalan, her trusted ally, are returning to the Wall of Night—but already it may be too late. The Wall is dangerously weakened, the Nine Houses of the Derai fractured by rivalry and hate. And now, the Darkswarm is rising . . .

Among Grayharbor backstreets, an orphan boy falls foul of dark forces. On the Wall, a Daughter of Blood must be married off to the Earl of Night, a pawn in the web of her family's ambition. On the Field of Blood, Kalan fights for a place in the bride's honor guard, while Malian dodges deadly pursuers in a hunt against time for the fabled Shield of Heaven. But the Darkswarm is gaining strength, and time is running out—for Malian, for Kalan, and for all of Haarth . .

Welcome back to another adventure with Malian and Kalan. Ms. Lowe has a special gift for fantasy and knows how to tell a story and of the three books so far this may be the best of the series. This is definitively an exciting story. Don't start this book late at night because it will cost you sleep as you are not going to want to put the book down. I am glad I found this talented author and am looking forward to more epic imaginative adventure from Ms. Lowe.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Pump Up Your Book. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

TJ Fox says

So much better than the last one! Instead of huge chunks of time seeming to just drag along like we saw in the first two books, this one picks things up and keeps a steady, intense pace throughout. We also spend way more time with the focus being on our main characters rather than hopping all over between main and secondary characters.

Of the main characters, this one seems to focus most heavily on Kalan so we get to see his character growth first hand. While we do see bits of Malian, they are small and with the little actual growth we saw of her in the last book and the short page time in this one, it feels like we've missed some important changes along the way. That would have to be one of my only drawbacks to this, the fact that we saw so little of her.

The only other drawback, and it is more of a personal taste thing than anything, is the giant cliff we were left hanging off at the end of the book. It is understandable that with an ongoing series that builds book to book that you aren't going to see major story line resolutions and that is fine. I'm just not a huge fan of a main character doing or experiencing something big only to not know the outcome. As a major character, you know it can't be world ending, but still. Not a fan of the hang. Sadly, I'm not seeing when the next one in this series is going to get released yet, so I'm going to have to wait a while to get any answers. Otherwise, I

Claire says

I enjoyed books 1 and 2 but this one really hit the spot. I like that fact that Lowe isn't afraid to spread out her story (much of this book doesn't actually feature our hero Malian) but doesn't lose track of the overall picture/narrative arc. She knows that we actually don't really care about reading all 5 years of Malian's training (something a certain fantasy author could learn a lot from), we can just move the plot forward.

And events really start to accelerate here - we learn a lot more about what is really going on, and what is at stake. The central section of the book focuses on Kalan and the titular Daughter of Blood. The Blood characters are, by and large, totally venomous and the tension ratchets up as do the stakes.

I love it so much that I'm going to buy copies to keep. But be warned, there is at least one book to come publication date uncertain.

Rosie says

I tried so hard to eke this book out. I went to bed at midnight instead of 3am. I read some of the really good bits out loud to myself (it's great - you should try it!) I looked up oriflammes and massifs, and a couple of other technical terms that I kind of knew but wanted a PROPER picture of in my head. I still finished too fast, but this book lived up to every expectation I had of a great world-builder and character writer.

Helen Lowe is all about the people. Their whys and wherefores, the horrible complications we dig ourselves into, the kindness of friends and strangers, and how far compassion can take us. To quote the vlog-tastic Mark Oshiro... FRIENDSHIP!!! (NB. I have no idea if he's read this book, it's just he shouts about friendship. A lot.) I particularly appreciate how Helen explores the sheer difficulty and unfairness of doing the right thing. Resisting and changing the negative aspects of your culture, staying true to the path, knowing that not everyone will want or be able to walk alongside you. She develops this all the way through the series in a number of character story arcs, and I am in awe of how realistically messy things get.

Other things I appreciate are the consistent geography and... Equality!! While real-earth cultures are recognisable, Haarth isn't a caricature. I didn't leave the story once, and I positively love nation-spotting in fantasy books. Back to equal representation; so many central roles in this series are women and people of colour, and its all so matter of fact. More than that, this it isn't the case everywhere in Haarth, and the differences and impacts of the different cultures are a major plot driver.

Daughter of Blood has a significant POV change from the first two books in the series, and the story is very focused in comparison to the haring all over Haarth that went on in The Gathering, but I had no problem with the change of pace and think both these things are going to turn out to be integral to the over-all plot. Malian is the first to say she can't save her world alone, and debunking the knight in shining armour is one of the things I love about this series. This book feels like a deep breath, the centre of calm inside every Derai-dan... and the best bit is I just know I'm not going to guess everything that's coming in book four!

Charlotte Breinholt says

Better than the second one in this series. I love the people we meet. But it is as if there is something missing from the story. I might have to reread the series to get a better understanding of the storyline.

John says

Best book so far in the series! Great story line, characters, twists and a most enjoyable read. Difficult to put down! Can't wait for book 4 now!

Laura says

Another great installment of the series! I like how the plots are coming together and are heading back towards the Wall. The introduction of new characters at this stage is usually painful and awkward but in these cases it doesn't feel contrived or forced at all. One thing I noticed, however, particularly towards the end, was a distinct lack of Malian's perspective. We get plenty of other character POVs, and it makes her seem a bit like a Mary Sue: she has all the answers to the pressing problems. Even though she's not the same thirteen yer old who fled The Wall, it would be nice to go back into her mind and see her doubts, light bulb moments and all round thinking process. I hope we get more of that in the fourth book but I'm interested to see how each and every character moves forward!

Sharon says

I don't read a lot of epic fantasy...okay I don't read any cause...have you seen the size of those books? Years ago Helen Lowe published Heir of Night, the first book in a four book epic fantasy series. It was only 458 pages long and I wanted to help an author out...well, I got hook hard and fast. I wasn't the only one, cause it won some awards, most notably, the Gemmell Morningstar Award for Best Fantasy Newcomer 2012. She was the first woman to ever win a Gemmell Award (there are three).

Here we are at book three, Daughter of Blood. It might have been 750 pages, but it didn't feel like it. There is constant action and I was absorbed in the complexity of the story and watching as all the pieces Lowe has been putting into place since book one start to fall into place. At the end of book one, Malian and Kalan had to take separate paths. It has been six years and both have been changed by their journeys. In Daughter of Blood, they finally meet again. Many mysteries have been uncovered and I was surprised by the turn of events for Kalan and Malian . Can't give any details, cause...spoilers, but it is a sword and sorcery party!

The writing is amazing and I'm captivated by the world Lowe created. This is a very involved story with an incredible number of character and names to remember. You need to give it all your attention. Definitely start from book one.

Adam Hackers says

Excellent series of books. Can't wait for no 4 to come out.

Great storytelling and worth reading. All the series are equally good. Looking forward to the next instalment when it comes out.

Alex Jones says

This is such excellent fantasy. Really nicely written, super likeable and engaging characters, and a thrilling plot. Highly recommended, despite the length, and really looking forward to the next book in the series!

Leon Hermanson says

Best of the Wall of Night books so far. I don't read that much fantasy, but this series is exciting and engaging. This book gives you more insight into "the other side" than the other books and I can see where Lowe might be headed, trying to show how there are two sides to any story.

Daniel O'Brien says

Great book in an increasingly well-written and immersive series.

My biggest complaint is that it jumps from character to character at the most inconvenient of times. Too often I had gotten deeply invested in one character's story, only to be dropped into another character's completely uninteresting story. Of course, 50 pages later I was complaining about being dropped out of that story. So. Yeah.

Good prose, solid characters, excellent world-building, and highly enjoyable. Eager for the next book.

Gordon says

This series shouldn't work. It's too sprawling, with POV characters, geography and plot threads everywhere like an overstuffed pillow that's burst - bazillions of characters with similar names, extensive dream/vision sequences, and melodrama villains with pointy armour battling heroes and heroines with suspiciously awesome combat and magical powers. I could have done with a summary of the preceding book 1 and 2 at the start, because I could barely remember all the things that happened. I felt the author was also over-using the farseeing and visions a little too much to cover difficulties in narrating such a sprawling thing.

And yet... I have been completely hooked with every book, and can barely contain my impatience with her to

write book 4. They really are the real deal, triple-chocolate full-fat ice cream of epic fantasy. I'm not quite sure why. A few thoughts: (a) the world-building is detailed and convincing; (b) the action and pace are varied well to propel you along, (c) most of the characters are appealing and interesting, and (d) there are a few twists and turns of plot to make this more than a giant military piece.

The biggest reason I think fell into place for me reading the author's blog on goodreads, talking about an old Arthurian film than influenced her when she was younger. The books are at heart about chivalry: the powerful romance of knights in shining helms standing in the breach before an enemy charge one more time for the honour of their lady - or questing across far lands for a mythical thing that will halt the impending darkness across the land - or a beautiful maiden standing up to her cruel father's wrath for the sake of doing what is right. These are deep wells of stories, and many a modern series I've tried wants to be darker, grittier, with less burnished helms and more socially-conscious protagonists. That has it's place, but it's not nearly so satisfying.

Robert says

I wish I had found the dramatis personae before I finished the book. I bought the first two volumes together and so had no difficulty in following events, but the break before this book meant I was several hundred pages in before I really remembered who was who - I kept confusing Nalin, Namath, Nerion, Nerith, Nerys, Nhairin, Nimor and Nindorith even though the names aren't very similar. Apart from that, I love the whole series so far.

Seregil of Rhiminee says

Helen Lowe's Daughter of Blood is a superb and satisfying sequel to The Heir of Night and The Gathering of the Lost. It continues the story of Malian and Kalan in a magnificent way and surprises readers with plot twists and unexpected turns. It's traditional epic fantasy with a wonderfully fresh and exciting twist, because the author uses well-known elements in a refereshingly original way. It's an enchanting and masterfully created feast of epic greatness that is genuinely worth reading and praising.

Before I delve into analysing the contents of this novel, I'll mention that it's slightly difficult for me to avoid writing a few spoilers when I write about this novel, because I was thoroughly impressed by the story. However, I'll try to do my best to avoid writing spoilers, because there are many important scenes that benefit from not knowing too much about the events leading to them and the characters that are connected to them.

I had high expectations for Daughter of Blood, because its predecessors were excellent and enjoyable novels. I was pleasantly surprised when I noticed that it exceeded all of my expectations and I could see that it was worth waiting for. I was honestly surprised by the deep, complex and multi-layered story and almost skipped pages to find out what happens to the characters and how the events unfold (to be honest, the story was so good and captivating that I found myself losing a few hours of sleep because of it, but it was well worth it).

This novel is something special and unique among epic fantasy novels, because it has been written out of love for storytelling. When you begin to read it, you'll immediately notice that the author aims to entertain and mesmerise her readers with the powerfully unfolding story and beautiful prose.

Daughter of Blood is a fantasy novel that beckons readers to immerse themselves into a fictional and fully realised fantasy world that has its own customs, laws and political conflicts. The world of Haarth is a magnificent and complex place where different realms have conflicts with each other and where an ancient enemy is about to wreak havoc. It's a world that needs to be experienced personally in order to understand its harsh beauty and vast scope.

This novel is everything that fans of The Wall of Night series could ever hope for and more. It continues the epic story in such an amazing way that you'll be totally overwhelmed by the various events and plot twists. It's a rewarding and thoroughly satisfying reading experience. It's one of those novels that demands all of your attention and rewards you handsomely for the time you spent reading it.

By the way, if it's been a while since you've read the previous novels, I recommend taking a look at them, because you'll enjoy this novel more when the previous events are fresh in your mind. I personally re-read the previous novels before beginning to read this novel to remind myself of the happenings. It's not absolutely necessary to read the previous novels, but I do recommend reading them, because you may find yourself wondering about the different characters, magic, politics, prophecies and the history of the world.

Here's a bit of information about the story:

- In the prologue, Ilkerineth and Nuithe talk about their dead son, Nherenor, who was killed by a Derai. They have a yearning to avenge his death.
- Lady Myrathis, Myr, is the ninth and youngest child of the Earl of Blood. When her sisters refuse to marry the Earl of Night, she finds out to her surprise that she will be married to the Earl. Beacuse her sisters feel the House of Night is lost to the Derai Code, Myr has to become the bride.
- In Grayharbor, Faro is hired by strangers to take them to a house. One of the strangers is a Darksworn Aranraith who is looking for Nirn, a Darksworn sorcerer. Aranraith is trying to find Emuun to make him pay for his treachery, because Rhike was slain by a warrior who is immune to magic and Emuun is known to be an immune warrior. Aranraith needs Nirn back with him, because the Maelmstrom the Swarm of Dark is rising again.
- Nhairin travels across the barren land after what she has done and is tormented by her deeds. She suffers from the Madness and tries to flee from Nerion, Malian's mother, because she has always been able to find her.
- Kalan dreams of the heralds and Jarna whom he cared for. His bond to Malian and the debt of honour owed to the Winter Woman, Rowan Birchwood, are bringing him back to the Derai Wall. He saves a thief from being punished and meets other Derai. A bit later Kalan learns that the thief is called Faro.
- Malian is traveling carefully by using portals to make the distances between different places shorter. She tries to avoid attracting unwanted attention from the Darksworn. She is looking for the shield of Yorindesarinen, which is the missing piece of the arms of Yorindesarinen...

This is all I'll write about the story, because I don't want to reveal too much information about the happenings. If this small glimpse into the story arc whets your appetite towards this novel, I can assure that you're in for a real treat when you read the whole story from start to finish, because it features spellbinding scenes. What I mentioned here is merely the beginning, so there are many more exciting scenes to be found in this novel.

The characterisation is splendid and compelling, because the characters have their own personalities and problems. Each of the characters is a realistic and well-created person. What makes the characterisation work well is the author's ability to write about the characters' strengths, flaws, relationships and problems in an endearing and gripping way. She makes readers care about her characters (she creates an emotional bond between the readers and the characters).

The cast of characters featured in this novel is satisfyingly large and versatile. Just like in the previous novel, the author introduces new characters and deepens the already beloved characters by writing about their new adventures and choices. This is good, because the combination of new and familiar characters works excellently and keeps the story interesting.

Malian and Kalan are the fascinating protagonists of this novel. Both of them are fully fleshed characters that struggle with their own feelings and problems. It was fun and rewarding to read about their separate adventures and deeds, because the author had come up with intriguing events and surprises. They find themselves in tricky situations and have a lot to think about, because their quest involves saving the Derai Alliance from their enemies.

Malian and Kalan have grown a lot as characters as they have aged. They've gained more insight into what fighting against the Darksworn means to them and also to Haarth and its inhabitants. They're not as young and innocent as they were at the beginning of the series and they've learned many new things. They've also made new acquaintances and alliances.

Myrathis is an especially well-created character who has an important role in this novel. She's the youngest child of the Earl of Blood and the Daughter of Blood. She's considered to be a weak person and is called Lady Mouse. It was intriguing for me to read about how she reacts to the changes in her life (because her elder siblings are not at all fond of the idea of marrying the Earl of Night and find it highly offensive, it is Myr's duty to take their place as the Bride of Blood for the honour of the House of Blood demands it). The author explores Myr's life, feelings and choices in a perfect way and makes her an interesting character.

Faro is an interesting addition to the cast of characters, because he's a boy who has lived and thieved in the streets of Greyharbor. He takes a liking to Kalan and becomes his ward. By becoming Kalan's ward, he causes a few tensions between Kalan and the other Derai, because he's an outsider. In my opinion, his character brings a tiny touch of mystery to the story.

Raven, who was introduced to readers in The Gathering of the Lost, is a well-created secondary character, because he saved Malian from the wolfpack and turned out to be the leader of a Darksworn House. He has a complicated past, which Malian eventually has to take into consideration when planning things.

All of the secondary characters are intriguing and the author writes captivatingly about them. Unlike in several other fantasy novels, the secondary characters have actual roles to play in the story. They're not bystanders, but important means to advance the story and explore different events, beliefs and customs.

I enjoyed reading about Nhairin, who is the former High Steward of the Keep of Winds. I was positively surprised when the author wrote about her feelings and loneliness and how she survived in the wilderness, because her chapters brought elements of mystery and survival to the story arc.

Cher'Ryl-g-Raham of the Sea House is the navigator to the ship of the same name. She's an interesting character whom Kalan meets when he's returning to the Wall. This character's name has a fascinating background story, because it's based on a real person.

One of the things that I love about this novel is that the author dares to put the beloved protagonists to the background for a while as she introduces new characters and explores their lives. Story-wise this is very effective, because it brings plenty of depth and freshness to the novel and lets the author explore things from a new perspective. The author already used this technique in the previous novel, but now she has honed it to perfection and writes about the secondary characters in a more confident and fluent way.

The introduction of new characters also serves as an effective way to guide returning readers back to the world of Haarth. When you read about the new characters and their deeds, you'll be able to reacquaint yourself with the world and its wonders. If it's been a while since you've read the previous novel, you'll appreciate this opportunity to be led back into the familiar fantasy world.

The worldbuilding is skillful and vivid. The author's intricate and wonderfully realised fantasy world is truly a sight to behold, because different places are brought to life by detailed and nuanced descriptions of alleys, streets, houses, structures, wilderness areas etc. The author doesn't go overboard with her lush descriptions, but keeps everything fresh and interesting, which is something that not many fantasy authors are capable of achieving.

It's interesting that the author has created a world where the Derai defend the world against their ancient enemies, the Swarm of Dark. The Derai are not native to the world, but have arrived there ages ago. Their arrival had cataclysmic consequences for the world. A vast mountain range - the Wall of Night - separates the Derai from their enemies. An ancient prophecy says that if the House of Night falls, then all of the Derai will fall. Now that the story has moved forward since the beginning, it's evident that the threat of the Swarm of Dark is an even more dire and serious issue than before and the whole world is in danger.

Matters related to honour, jealousy, quarrels and rivalry have weakened the Wall of Night in many ways and the Darkswarm has gained strength. The Houses of the Derai have become weaker and now only a faint shadow of their former glory and power, and they're not able to guard the Wall as effectively as before. One of the most important reasons why this novel feels exciting and vivid is the author's ability to explore conflicts among the Derai.

What intrigues me a lot about the Derai is that they consider themselves to be good, but the truth is actually an altogether different matter. The Derai are in fact a society divided by a history of civil war and its legacy, which has greatly affected them. They may treat people who live elsewhere as outsiders or their enemies and demand respect for themselves, because they protect the people of Haarth from the Darkswarm.

The story flows beautifully and effortlessly from the prologue to the epilogue. The complexity of the story feels marvellous, because the story is well-balanced and contains different scenes that support and interlink with each other. All of the events - discussions and action scenes etc - highlight and emphasise the different aspects of the story. For example, the plot threads that connect Kalan to Myr are charmingly effective.

Helen Lowe effortlessly builds up tension as the story begins to move forward. She creates fascinating action scenes that capture the readers' hearts and minds with their frenzy and fervour. There's nothing heavy or annoying about these scenes, because they're an essential part of the story. It's great the author takes her time to build the happenings and doesn't unnecessarily rush into action, because it adds plenty of realism to the story arc. As the astonishing climax approaches, readers will be totally spellbound by the events.

The quality of the prose is outstandingly good and impressive in its lushness. Because Helen Lowe has written poetry, she has a masterful command of English language and can write beautiful and nuanced prose that reveals her love for writing. No matter what or who she writes about, she does it extremely well and uses

lyrical descriptions to make the story flow better. I can say that you'll be hard-pressed to find similar kind of prose in other fantasy novels.

Helen Lowe has a talent for writing convincingly and realistically about duty, honour, friendship, loyalty and politics. She explores these difficult issues by placing her characters into situations in which they have to make decisions that may be right or wrong. Depending on how you look at things, their choices can either be good or bad. For example, she writes well about Kalan and Faro. When Kalan saves Faro, he finds himself defending the boy and explaining his actions to others. The events related to Myr are also handled admirably, because the author writes fluently about her situation and choices as she becomes caught up in her family's political machinations. Myr's marriage is a political tool for her family.

There has been plenty of magic in this series since the beginning (this is one of the reasons why I love this series so much). The author has infused her story with many kinds of magic that is an integral part of the world and magnificently enhances the atmosphere.

In this novel, magic is featured in a thrilling way. When I read this novel, I was once again mesmerised by the amount of mesmerising and mysterious magic, because I got to read about all kinds of magic ranging from the magic of the Derai to the magic of the Swarm. It was enjoyable to read about how magic works in the world, because it is infused in the story in such an impressive way that you get a feeling that the author has spent time on polishing everything that's connected to it.

Dream magic is one of the most fascinating forms of magic found in this novel. The Gate of Dreams, which is a supernatural realm between different planes of existence, has intrigued me a lot as the story has become more complex, because the workings of this realm may be chaotic and mysterious, but also surprisingly clear and easy to comprehend. What makes this realm even more captivating and mysterious is that it has its own denizens, but I won't go into details about them in order to avoid writing spoilers. I think that many readers will enjoy reading about the Gate of Dreams.

The Song of Haarth, which is the voice of the magic of Haarth, is also featured in this novel, but I won't reveal how or at which point it is mentioned in the story.

When I finished reading the story, I was surprised that I didn't find any faults in it. Everything worked perfectly and I found myself being amazed at the amount of small details and intricate storytelling. It was great how all the tiny bits and pieces came together and formed an intriguing whole, because it gave the story an epic feel.

One of the best things about Daughter of Blood is that magic, mythology and history have an important and integral role to play in the vast story arc. The author's desire and enthusiasm to write about magic, magical happenings, mythology and history is can be seen in the story. This enthusiasm manifests itself in poetic and lyrical descriptions of different events involving these things.

Daughter of Blood takes many steps forward in the overall story arc and brings the characters closer to the final confrontation with their enemies. I have to admit that I have trouble waiting for The Chaos Gate, which is the fourth and final instalment in The Wall of Night series, because I'd like to find out how the author ends the story. I'm sure that everybody who reads this novel will feel the same way when they reach the final page, because the story is so good and addictive that you can't help but wonder how things will eventually be resolved.

Although the story takes many steps forward, it also expands almost exponentially in a much larger and more

remarkable way than before. I loved this, because I've always been a fan of sprawling and complex stories that evolve towards the end. Despite the almost labyrinthine structure of the story, the author keeps the plot threads tightly in her hands and guides the story towards events that will have great significance in the long run.

The ending is excellent and satisfying, and it exceeded my expectations. As much as I loved the ending of The Gathering of the Lost, it was nothing compared to this novel's ending. I won't reveal what happens at the end, but I can say that it has something to do with Malian and ancient magic.

Helen Lowe has a genuine gift for storytelling. She creates stories that resonate among many readers and lure them into a beautifully complex fantasy world filled with magic and realistic characters. In this novel, she hooks her readers with little things that grow up to mean a lot during the story arc. As they say, little things mean a lot, and that's especially true when talking about high fantasy. This novel wouldn't be as good as it if not for the little things that spice up the story and make it come alive and light up the various events.

I know that this is saying a lot, but in my honest opinion, there are many epic fantasy authors who could take lessons in writing from Helen Lowe. She is undoubtedly one of the best authors of epic fantasy ever to emerge, because she has come up with a spellbinding story that grows richer and larger and becomes increasingly complex as the story unfolds further and things are revealed to readers. Unlike in many other fantasy novels, all of the happenings in this novel serve a purpose and advance the overall story.

I think it's worth mentioning that this novel has a useful and large glossary. It can be used to check certain words and characters, if readers have forgotten them.

By the way, due to its length (700+ pages plus the glossary) and complexity, this novel benefits from rereading. During the first read you'll love the story and the happenings, but when you re-read it, you'll truly begin to appreciate its epic scope, because you'll be able to pay attention to minor details in a whole new way. This novel is so full of details that it is actually amazing how the author has managed to write it without losing sight of what's important (I consider this to be something special, because you won't find this kind of storytelling in many contemporary fantasy novels).

<<< Continued in the comments section... >>>