



Dreaming of Zhou Gong

Traci Harding

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Set in ancient China, DREAMING OF ZHOU GONG is a beautiful story of Hudan, one of the mysterious Wu who lives on the sacred mountain of Li Shan. The Wu have been living in isolation for decades while the Shang Emperor and his enchantress have ruled the land. It has been a terrible time for the common people and the noble Ji brothers are keen to bring the emperor's arrogant bloodthirsty reign to an end. They believe an ancient prophecy has predicted the fall of the Shang emperor and they are keen to enact it, but first they must journey to the mountain and seek out the Wu.

When the Ji brothers join forces with the beautiful, enigmatic Hudan and her equally mysterious tiger sister, they begin a powerful journey of love and adventure.

But the Shang emperor is not their greatest threat. There is a dark curse that has plagued the rulers of the land for generations. And the mysterious Sons of the Sky who visit Hudan in her dreams have a plan to destroy it. Can Hudan trust them?

DREAMING OF ZHOU GONG is a beautiful, evocative journey through ancient China.

Dreaming of Zhou Gong Details

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Author : Traci Harding

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From Reader Review Dreaming of Zhou Gong for online ebook

Kylie says

Ever since I read The Dark Age back when I was fourteen (a friend of my older brother at school gave it to me, since he knew I loved fantasy and wanted to be a writer and that I was also dyslexic) I have been a HUGE fan of Traci Harding! While to be honest, it is hard for these new series to compare to my utmost adoration and teenage love of Tory and her children and the Chosen, it is really nice to just be back with those characters.

Like my love-affair with Anne McCaffrey's The Tower and the Hive series Traci Harding has built a group of characters that I can open up any book and just know where I am in time/space, it's like a tv-show that I know SO well I'm there, inside it, with the characters and I am happy, angry, annoyed and infused with the tale. That's what I love about the Tower and Hive series and that's what I've enjoyed about Traci Harding's work as well -- the characters. It's all about them.

Dreaming of Zhou Gong was great, I read it over a few days, contemplating it when I wasn't reading it. My only, only issue with it was actually (hilariously enough) two of the characters actions towards each other that felt kind of out of place in the philosophy of the series 'world' -- you know, when you build a world around the pure emotions of love, acceptance, goodwill etc. then I really thought that two brother's -- the sons of Tory would follow that philosophy to the letter, being the Chosen. So I was really irked by their scenes. I'm really...really not sure why this bothered me so much...

As in -- it still bothers me after having finished the whole Timekeeper trilogy, so that's really odd. XD

Never the less. I LOVED getting back into the world, the characters, and enjoying going back the Kila and Ancient China was awesome. Traci Harding has a beautiful way of writing that lets you, the reader, paint a picture of the characters, the setting and all that goes on. It's fabulous. I loved it when I was a teenager and I still love it.

I will always buy her books. So she has a fan in me still. :)

Eli says

A good book, all round. At some points I found it exciting, hard to put down, but this seemed to taper off a little bit, and whilst I was still interested, I found myself picking it up far more sporadically later in the story. I do appreciate stories that don't convene to the standard "ramp up, crisis, conclude" format, but ultimately I'm not going to run out and pursue other books in this series. Actual rating 3.5 stars, not bad, but not necessarily memorable.

Jennie says

Traci's written a few trilogies now, but it's like she only ever had one idea and then wrote a bunch of books with the SAME characters the SAME basic plot and spread them out over a buttload of books.

Rosita Stone says

I picked this up for \$2 in an op shop and thought the blurb sounded interesting. A got two chapters in and did some Googling on the author, for surely something so poorly written and edited had to be self-published. While I don't hate self-published books, this one was truly awfully written I thought it had to be a self-edited job.

No, it's published by HarperCollins and to them I say: do you not read or edit your writers anymore?

The story could have been told so much better had a lot of tautological phrases, exposition and unbelievably cringeworthy dialogue had been cut.

I've worked in editing and publishing for many years and I honestly cannot believe such a popular publishing house let this one slip through the cracks. The story seemed solid but to me, was lost in the mire of such poor writing! Perhaps this author would be better scriptwriting where exposition is more acceptable.

In reading other reviews, it's clear this author has a loyal following - which I understand because, like I said, the story, the time travel, the spiritual concepts are solid.

I couldn't finish this book because I found the characters incredibly one-dimensional and, really, who talks like that? Especially in ancient China!

Jacinda says

Having read and loved the Masters of Reality series by Traci Harding I was a little bit disappointed by this book in that it seems to follow a very similar pattern. The idea that people have their one true soul mate and even as they reincarnate they will always find the same people to live their lives with again and again and that a group of people are destined to change the course of history.

The only difference was this book was set in Ancient China instead of Ancient Britain and it didn't have quite so strong lead female characters.

Carla Khoo says

Another fantastic installment for Traci Harding. I'm addicted to the characters, their love, their power, it's a lot of fun and always makes me think hard about my life and what I value. That said, Traci always appears to do a lot of research into the lands she send us too, and here we're in ancient China, with mythical priestesses that can fight better than any warrior, some can even shape shift, and warlords, both the 'honorable and brave' types, and the ones you know are trouble. Hard to put down, yet another page turner. Looking forward to the next installment!

Tammy says

I have read all of Traci's works to date and have not been disappointed. Dreaming of Zhou Gong, the first in the timekeeper series was no exception. I loved the setting of ancient China and the blending of fantasy and sci-fi she does so well. The inclusion of the book of changes and the female shamans of China are some of the favourite parts, I love that she does her research. I enjoyed every page.

Tarran says

I love all of Traci's books. This whole story arc has been one massive ride and it just keeps getting better. I love the tone of the book and it seems to bring something new to the table. I like how the characters keep developing and with each life, they evolve into something new. The Asian aspect of this book is fascinating and I am learning new things as I read. All in all, a very well written book. I shudder to think of how Traci keeps track of who everyone is, was and where they all are at one time. Good job!

Bee says

ended up not finishing the book. it had a good plot from what I could tell (I got half way through part 2) but I couldn't take the language used, it was very inaccurate, as well as the many spelling mistakes. maybe more enjoyable for younger readers or if you don't mind the mistakes.

Linda Horvejkul says

The novel was such a delight to read, I found myself staying up til 5am reading it! I was completely immersed in the ever changing story line with great characterisation and humour. The romance side of it just left me in awe and on edge. The fluidity of the novel from Traci's writing just made me finish the novel within 4 days. I loved the setting of the story too (a bonus for me because I just love ancient china)

Emily Craven says

I liked the plot line of this book as I am fascinated with ancient cultures. But I picked this book up thinking I was in for one story (set in China with magic as a part of the culture) and ended up in a completely different genre of book (a sci-fi one with time machines and different planets). Though I liked the evolution of ideas, it was completely disconcerting and a little annoying to learn I was making false assumptions because I didn't have the genre right from the get go. The other thing that annoyed me had more to do with writing craft, I was told everything! I was told what emotions each character had (and then told the emotions of all the other non-view point characters in the scene) and never ever shown those emotions through character body language and dialogue so I could actually FEEL them. As a result I only had a very shallow connection to the characters. So, in conclusion, good concept, but poorly executed. You won't regret reading it but it also won't be the best book you've ever read.

Barkent says

Enjoying this book which has a fantastical plot and storyline. Must be getting old though as I find Traci Harding's tendency to anachronistic language REALLY annoying. Especially coming out of an ancient, presumably Chinese, setting. Having the heir to the throne feel "gutted" has been the worst so far. At least she hasn't used the word "awesome". She also failed to create any real sense of the story taking place in another time and place other than for the Wu floating island thing. But, those things aside it's a good story, so far. This is probably not a book I would have picked up in a bookshop, so I am pleased to read it after being lent a copy by a friend.

Jason says

I couldn't complete this book. I felt that the story and characters didn't really do anything unexpected. The characters also experience extreme emotions towards each other constantly! I would understand that a character would feel elated being in a good situation. But it felt like every 5 pages a character would have an emotional revelation. It doesn't seem to level out at all.

The story also was so linear and almost boring. Where the expected climax turns out to get a seriously underwhelming scene. There is then a follow up plot that you would think the author had intended to act as the real centre of conflict for the characters. However again this scene felt wholly underwhelming.

It just feels like an over-romanised story about a man and a woman, add some random gods who basically solve any issue presented to them. I was apparently under the incorrect impression this was the theory about an escapade to save a country. However, the act of saving the country has very little sense of conflict. As each challenge is surmounted with the utmost ease, it's more about waiting for the GOD to be ready for them to do anything. You're going to see more of "ohh I want you so much but I can't have you" re-iterated every 5 pages.

MJ says

3.5?

I'm torn... I love TH's TAF trilogy, and basically, the souls of those characters have flowed through to this book... Literally, living out different incarnations while remembering snippets of previous ones. But it's been A LONG time since I read TAF extended series or the ToB follow on, so I wasn't quite as switched on as I would have liked to be, which irritated me.

Then there's the fact that we are in ancient times, with ancient people saying 'holy shit'. And weird local customs and systems, that then get switched randomly with duke or King or some average word/description/other, when there has been a point made before and after of it having a 'local' terms or customs.

I'm not sure if I want to read on, drop the series, or reread the whole series from TAF1. I MIGHT even reread TAF tril and just stop at that :/. (It's a whole other story to have medieval knights high diving and flipping each other off when they have a woman show up from the future and kick thiervasses with her black belts...) It feels like TH's a bit stuck on the wow factor of souls and universal power, without bothering keep the story tidy... cause it'll take care of itself. Guess it could... but the messy bugs me, even tho I love the souls and universal power.

Lyn Haines says

Author Traci Harding bends both time and space in order to weave a fantastical tale of intrigue, war and the supernatural set against the background of ancient China AND alternate dimensions in the far distant future.

Intrigued?

At over 600 pages it's not an overnight read but I did enjoy how she slowly built in the science fiction elements into the historical fiction narrative. Once I accepted the modern language an expression of the origins of the major characters in a different time, it worked well to make Dreaming of Zhou Gong an highly enjoyable read.
