



# The Red Wyvern

*Katharine Kerr*

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## **The Red Wyvern** Katharine Kerr

Katharine Kerr's richly imagined cycle of novels set in Deverry and the Westlands has earned a devoted following--and a reputation as the finest Celtic fantasy being written today. Now she returns to Deverry's war-ravaged past....

In a kingdom torn by civil war, young Lillorigga seeks to shield her dawning powers from her cruel mother Merodda's manipulation. Mistress of a magic that, untamed, could kill her, Lilli brings her terrifying visions under the kindlier tutelage of the mysterious dweomermaster, Nevyn. But soon she must choose between her own clan and the true king who fights to claim his rightful throne, between sanctuary and blood feud, loyalty and love. Little does she dream that the slaughter she invites, and the malevolence she defies, could stalk her across the ages...twisting and twining the strands of timeless destinies.

## **The Red Wyvern Details**

Date : Published September 1st 1998 by Spectra (first published 1997)

ISBN : 9780553572643

Author : Katharine Kerr

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Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Epic Fantasy

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# From Reader Review The Red Wyvern for online ebook

## Iben says

The Red Wyvern tells the story of a civil war in the land of Deverry. A war that has been going on for many, many years, and this has taken its toll on the land. No longer can the would-be-kings bring as many men to war, and no longer can they command the loyalty they used to.

One of the main charectors, Lilli, is hoping that the war will soon end and that her family makes a good marriage for her. However she is burdende by her mother's constant insistance that she looks for omens for her, an extremely unpleseant thing to do.

I have never read any books by Katharine Kerr before so the way the book is cunstructed was quite a surprice. There seems to be 3 stories in this book. One in the prologue and epilogue, one in the first and third pard and the main one in the second, and by far the longest, part.

This was a little strange. The middle part was great, I loved the plot and the charectors. The two other parts were a little more boring since there was a lot I didn't get, which I assume would be in the earlier books.

But all in all I really enjoyed the book. I am definetly going to look into reading the rest of the series and some of the earlier books.

So I would recomend The Red Wyvern to all lovers of fantasy novels.

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## Broodingferret says

As the first book of "scene 3", The Red Wyvern spends most of its time setting up background; most of the book is set in the "past", during the time of Deverry's 100 year civil war, and it's the actions taken during this time by a number of characters that set into motion the interweaving of fate that influences the story that takes place in the series' "present". This book does a good job of quickly catching the reader's attention and holding his or her interest, making it a good lead-in for the next phase of the story. Also, I remember this book dragging the first time I read it, but that wasn't my experience this time around; if anything, I found the characters and plot more engaging in this book than the others to date.

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## Megan says

Since in this book we get perspectives from both Deverry and Cerrmor during the Great Wars (to put Maryn on the throne), we are also made to think about the human toll of the Great Wars. I spent a lot of time while reading thinking about the moral implications of Maryn winning and holding the throne - does he murder the 5-year-old king and his young wife? What is the right thing to do? And how many men is he willing to sacrifice in order to get the throne?

It's almost unfortunate that the decision of what would happen to the young king was taken away from him by someone else in the dun. It saves the author from having to make the decision, but I'm curious what Maryn would have done, given the opportunity.

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## **Fantasy Literature says**

The Red Wyvern is the first book in a new cycle of novels set in Deverry by Katharine Kerr, and as such new readers can start out at this point. I would recommend vehemently, though, that they do not since a number of storylines from prior novels come together or are referenced in this novel.

For the first time we drift in time forwards rather than backwards, albeit for a short time, when we discover that Haen Marn is adrift in time as well as space. A soldier from a more modern Scotland is cast into the mythical isle for a night, showing us that Angmar is pregnant with Rhodry's child.

The majority of the novel takes place in the past though, continuing the tale of the civil war that tore Deverry in two — where Maryn becomes the High King under Nevyn's tutelage. The story is concentrated on Lillorigga (who we know in the current times as ... [Read More](#): <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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## **Tari says**

I'm so glad that I've been re-reading this series! Age can play tricks with memories & it's been a treasure rediscovering this truly great series!

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## **Gypsy says**

I forgot this was also part of another series that I had started a long time ago and so parts of it were a struggle as I wracked my brain trying to remember minor details from the previous books even though they weren't really relevant to this particular installment. This series really has an interesting concept which, while it can sometimes be hard to follow, is entertaining and well worth the effort. Will be rereading sometime soon.

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## **Andrea Seiffertt says**

Interesting, and I really enjoyed some of the ideas and world-building (that at the end I am still not clear about), but most of all the organization kept throwing me; not sure if it's just the kindle version, but there weren't any space breaks between different scenes with different characters, or any way to tell sometimes until I was a paragraph into a new scene and a character that couldn't have been in the previous scene was named. I also would have liked the appendices to be at the beginning so I would have known that some characters were specifically reincarnated versions of others. It certainly wasn't clear, and only after I'd finished and read the appendix did I sit and ponder that it made sort of sense. I am interested in the next book, but I could've been more invested and excited about it if it hadn't been a frequently confusing reading experience.

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## **Kathi says**

9/10

The ninth book in the Deverry Cycle and the first of a sub series, the Dragon Mage trilogy, *The Red Wyvern* spends most of its pages filling in the story of the True King, Maryn, and how he came to power at the end of the Civil Wars in about 849. In doing so, it also gives us the backstory of Raena, a reincarnation of a troublemaker in Maryn's time who continues to cause problems for other characters in the "current" time of 1116.

Kerr continues just enough of the ongoing "current" story to keep our interest in Dallandra, Evandar, Rhodry, Jhado, Niffa, and others, while giving us a much fuller accounting of Caradoc, Maddyn, Branoic, and Nevyn during the final stages of the Civil Wars as Maryn battles his way to the throne as High King of Deverry.

Solid entry in the Deverry Cycle. Looking forward to continuing the series.

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### **Benjamin Thomas says**

It's been a couple of years since I last inhabited Katherine Kerr's celtic-inspired world of Deverry and the Westlands and I thought it was high-time I revisited the series. While this is, technically, the ninth book of the series, it is also the first book in a trilogy called "The Dragon Mage" trilogy.

Just in case you might be swayed by the cover art, I must point out right up front that I have no idea what inspired it. There is no red dragon being attacked by some kind of lance-wielding knight/warrior on horseback in the novel. Nothing even close. No dragons of any kind here. The term "red wyvern" refers to the battle-standard insignia that is adopted by one faction in the civil war that has been raging for nearly 100 years. I suppose the marketing experts of the day (published 1997) must have thought you had to have a dragon on the cover in order for a fantasy novel to sell.

Regardless, this is yet another fine novel in what I consider to be an under-rated series. These books take place in a world where reincarnation occurs and those that have intense personal relationships (love, hate, family, etc.) with another person are often re-incarnated with a strong link to that same person. They don't have memories of their prior lives but they are many times drawn to those people. We readers get to see how the plots play out from a God's eye view and understand these relationships even when the characters do not. It makes for a fascinating structure.

This particular novel takes place in two separate time periods. The bulk of the book takes place during the civil war where the effort to put Maryn on the throne is nearing its completion. This section is bookended by an era that happens nearly 250 years later. I recommend that readers new to this series not start with this one even though it is the first book in a trilogy because there are many characters and plot elements that tie together events from previous books. Consider this simply a subset trilogy within the larger series.

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### **E L E A N O R (bookishcourtier) says**

**This is quite old.** And I can tell. I guess that isn't the best thing to say about a book - that it hasn't aged well, but I could just tell it wasn't from the modern realms of fantasy. Which is fine. I was interested to see how the genre had progressed since the 1990s. It isn't that old, but there is a gap there, and a lot of development

has taken place in that time. This book is the first in a series that is part of a huge saga, and guess what? I haven't read any of the others. I think maybe it might have been beneficial to me if I had read the other books first, as in some places they sort of alluded to events that had happened that I didn't know about, but I *believe* this is a new set of characters, and anyway it makes sense on its own. It was entertaining, and I will probably read the rest of this series at some point.

**Okay, but something I find often in older big fantasy book series (not so much in newer ones) is that the characters tend to be kind of one dimensional - almost caricatures.** They tend to be a little bit over dramatized and a little cringey. I never really connected to any of them. Lilli was just kind of weak and annoying, and the whole damsel in distress. And the villain, Merodda, just never convinced me, and not in a "redemption" way. We just saw too much from her point of view, and it didn't really help to develop her character. None of them were really deep. And because I couldn't really connect to the characters, I didn't really feel the action scenes in full emotion.

**But it was pretty entertaining!** I just kind of wanted a big fantasy series with high stakes, and it sort of delivered? I didn't fully understand the motives behind some things, but the plot was what I wanted, and I kind of breezed through it without getting too emotionally involved. I liked the structure of the plot - how it went back and forth in time - but it really annoyed me how there were no chapters! It made the whole thing seem kind of long and drawn out. Plus, in the first and last part, nothing really happened, because stuff was only happening when we went into the past. Which meant that in the last fifty pages I was a leeeetle bored? But I think that will be remedied in the later books.

**I did enjoyed this, but I don't think it has aged as well as some other books.** It was kind of what I wanted, and I will continue the rest of the series when I'm in the mood, but this isn't an emotional book or whatever. It's more just a book that you just kind of read, and if it isn't an interesting plot line for you, I wouldn't recommend it. The characters feel underdeveloped and over dramatized, there was some sexism that wasn't *really* addressed, and the writing style wasn't good enough to bring up my rating. But I did enjoy it in some ways, and it was what I was looking for, and seeing how fantasy has changed even in the last 20 years was interesting too.

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## Amanda says

This is the first book in a new cycle of novels set in Deverry by Katharine Kerr, and as such new readers can start out at this point. I would recommend vehemently, though, that they do not since a number of storylines from prior novels come together or are referenced in this novel.

For the first time we drift in time forwards rather than backwards, albeit for a short time, when we discover that Haen Marn is adrift in time as well as space. A soldier from a more modern Scotland is cast into the mythical isle for a night, showing us in the process that Angmar is pregnant with Rhodry's child.

The majority of the novel takes place in the past though, taking us to a continuation of the tale of the civil war that tore Deverry in two - where Maryn becomes the High King under Nevyn's tutelage. The story is concentrated on Lillorigga (who we know in the current times as Niffa, the ratter's daughter) and her mother Lady Merodda - the person who becomes Raena, the Black Raven, and causes Rhodry such heartache. Here we discover why Raena and Rhodry's Wyrds are so tangled.

This is a great return to form for Kerr. I was somewhat disappointed in the last few novels she turned out - she seemed very much to be writing by the numbers. Here her writing comes alive again - with intrigue, scheming, battle, fair maidens, dweomer mysteries, and high adventure. I loved the character of Lillorigga, who came blessed with good sense and honour.

I was somewhat annoyed with Kerr's descriptive passages that seem lifted from one book to another. On the one hand you could say that it reinforces the effect she wishes to create, but I find the copy and paste technique a little lazy.

Once again I sighed and slowed down my reading during each portion of the book that dealt with Evandar and his brother Shaetano, who has now taken over where Alshandra left off. I can understand that the Fae - as these Guardians seem based on - live in a dreamlike Otherland, and I accept that Kerr might well be writing about them in a capable manner, but it slows the book down and I find myself bored of their antics. I am particularly frustrated with Evandar's endless scheming that (as Dallandra says) brings naught but hurt to the people they affect.

In fact, all of the book that has dweomer in it directly, I find fairly tiresome. I strongly believe that Kerr's strongest ability is to bring to very vivid life the Celtic medieval world. She writes extremely capably about life in a dun; her battle scenes are fascinating and realistically chaotic; and her strong female characters are countered heavily by the responsibilities they hold in earlier times (e.g. never being part of councils, doing all the sewing for the people of the dun, always being above reproach in terms of producing an heir for their lord).

This book dealt greatly with that element of Kerr's writing and hence I award it four stars, and look forward again to the next in the cycle.

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### **Trey Wentworth says**

With this first book of the Dragon Mage series, the whole tone of the Deverry novels seems to change. Katherine Kerr follows the lives of Neff in Cerr Cawnen and the traveling loch of Haen Marn, while the previous characters return in the flashback to the Deverry civil wars. The change in focus characters is refreshing and gripping -- we see more of the complex web of Wyrd that ties together so many different locations and souls, while they echo back all the way to the events of Daggerspell. In the Red Wyvern, I feel like the story widens considerably, and I look forward to re-reading the rest of the series.

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### **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.

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### **Kes says**

It felt like the main meat of the story took place from the perspective of Lillorigga, who watches Maryn's conquest and unification of Deverry. In the meantime, Nevyn follows the curse laid upon Maryn, and we see Maddyn obtain "justice" for Aethan against Merodda. Maddyn's justice entwines his Wyrd with Merodda's - which I suspect will be a theme for this arc/trilogy to unravel. (My guess: Lillorigga has been reborn as Niffa, and Raena is now Merodda. When Rhodry brings Jahdo back, they'll clash.)

In present day, we learn of Evander's plans to rebuild Rinbaladelan. We learn that there are ongoing troubles with the Bright Court dissolving. We get the feeling that there's trouble building up around Niffa and Raena. Rhodry's and Angmar's twin daughters are born. In short: a good start for another arc of Deverry.

I do like the dialogue - it's all in English, but we get the clear sense that Niffa's people and Rhodry's people speak differently, in terms of word order and word choice.

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### **Ruth says**

c1997. I feel pretty ashamed of myself for not liking this book. Before this review, I re-read the book hoping that a bit of time would have changed my opinion (sometimes, I am influenced by mood, what has gone before, workload \*\*gosh - no! never!!\*\*\*). Sadly, not the case. Perhaps it is because I am never quite comfortable with the "re-incarnation" plot device or perhaps it is just the names. The writing is good, the world building is excellent - it is just the other major components of the tale. I think it is one of those series that you have to make up your own mind about. I was hoping that the re-read would make me start liking Deverry and to agree with the rave reviews that Ms Kerr gets throughout the various book blogging sites. Five words from the blurb: epic, continuation, feud, scheming, visions. "In the basin, the flaming swords winked out like sparks on a hearth stone."

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