



Mother of Winter

Barbara Hambly , Donato Giancola (Illustrator)

Download now

Read Online →

Mother of Winter

Barbara Hambly , Donato Giancola (Illustrator)

Mother of Winter Barbara Hambly , Donato Giancola (Illustrator)

Five years after defeating the Dark Ones, the embattled inhabitants of the once-great Keep of Dare face a yet more deadly foe. An icy-cold force was spreading across the northlands, spawning strange creatures that killed everything in their grisly path . . .

Archmage Ingold Inglorion believed the source of this monstrous evil lay in the decadent lands to the south. With him traveled Gil Patterson, the scholar-warrior from Earth who had forsaken her own universe for love of the mage. Determined to aid him in his quest, she was cursed to become the instrument of his death.

Ingold's apprentice Rudy Solis was left behind, the sole wizard standing between the Keep of Dare and the nightmare creatures besieging it. Rudy struggled tirelessly with wavering magic to ward off the virulent attacks of the ice mage's minions. But when someone attacked the widowed queen--the woman he loved--Rudy was forced to plumb the ultimate secret locked in the black crystal heart of the Keep of Dare . . . and so decide the fate of the world.

From the Paperback edition.

Mother of Winter Details

Date : Published July 20th 2011 by Del Rey (first published 1996)

ISBN :

Author : Barbara Hambly , Donato Giancola (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 380 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy, High Fantasy, Science Fiction

 [Download Mother of Winter ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mother of Winter ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Mother of Winter Barbara Hambly , Donato Giancola (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Mother of Winter for online ebook

Jagrid says

I didn't even realize there was a fourth book in the series until I stumbled across it.

And there shouldn't have been.

It's basically just the previous three novels all rolled into one, but with a new enemy.

Though, I suppose it might be okay if I hadn't read it immediately after rereading the first three.

Douglas Cook says

One of the Darwath series. Well-crafted fantasy series.

First paragraphs

PROLOGUE

In the moonstone dawn, the lone rider dismounted at the top of the steps, passed through the black square open eye where the doors would one day be, and halted on the edge of shadowed abyss. The woman who lay on the obsidian plinth in the chasm's midst knew by the shape of his shoulders and back, by the way he carried his head, who he was; there was in any case only one person he could be. The wind that brought the smell of the glaciers down to her funneled past him through the passageway and carried on it the stench of blood. When he stepped clear of the gate's collected gloom, she saw he was covered with it, as if he had lain down in a butcher's shambles. Some of it she knew was his, all mixed with the nigrour grease of torch smoke;

Hambly, Barbara (2011-07-20). *Mother of Winter (Darwath)* (Kindle Locations 40-47). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Jennifer Gaarder says

The fourth book in the Darwath series, *Mother of Winter* was a fantastic read. This story compiled more lore about the keep itself and the wizards of the days past. I enjoyed reading about the transformation that every person underwent and grew from, especially Rudy, in the days leading up to the end of the story.

Honestly, the end came as a surprise to me. I never thought the battle would be as it was, but to save this review from spoilers, I will say, it showed that perseverance definitely won out on that one.

Their writing is always fluid with Barbara Hambly. She is a marvelous writer and story teller. She has written scores of fantasy and science fiction books and stories over the decades and has proven herself a formidable force.

Mary says

This book takes place post Darwath series.. It explains how Dare keep continued to be a viable place to live thousands of years after it was built... The Dark have been defeated but the terrible cold continues...the ice has frozen most of the food that was planted as well as their livestock.. In addition alien being that loves cold is producing life forms that kill the land....The Keep has to figure out how to obtain sufficient food and how to defeat this menace in the south...

Dan says

I really liked the original trilogy, it was fun and I really enjoy a long story that spans several books.

That said I did not find this one all that great and was kind of happy to see it end, it just didn't have that epic "feel" or struggle to it except for maybe at the very end there.

Dunno I think this world and it's characters was quite interesting and fascinating and deserve better than some "one off filler" books that don't lead to a bigger story arc.

I am half way through Iceflacon's Quest and while I am enjoying it more than this one these last two stand alone books are not up to par with the first series when it comes to the story.

Nikki says

I really enjoyed the first three books in the Darwath Trilogy, Mother of Winter just wasn't as great for me. It was fun being with beloved characters and inside Hambly's world again, but the plot of this one was just really confusing for me and I'm still not totally certain who the "Mother of Winter" was supposed to be or how exactly that final "battle" played out.

Vanessa Parry says

I was worried that this would just be a way to cash in on the success of the original trilogy but I need not have been.

This tale deepens even further the characters and relationships of Ingold, Gil and Rudy, pitting them against a new foe that I personally found to be the stuff of nightmare. (Suddenly nowhere is safe.) Add to that the slowly revealed secrets of the creation of the ancient Keep of Dare and you have a book that I found difficult to put down.

Paul says

I've been a fan of Barbara Hambly since the beginning. I have recently going back to my favourites to re-

read. This is one I had not read before. Unfortunately, this one didn't connect with me. I don't know if it was just because it's been 30 years and my reading material has changed but it didn't have the same feel to me as the original stories

astaliegurec says

Well, Steve Martin might have sung "Oh, murder and death and grief and sorrow," but Barbara Hambly has sure taken it to heart in "Mother of Winter." In book time, it's only been a couple of years since the characters prevented the end of the world in the previous book. But, now, here it is all over again with Barbara Hambly's standard set of antagonists who are not exactly pleasant or helpful. But, hey, that all gets better as the book progresses. Anyway, Hambly published this book in 1996 (13 years after she published the last book in the "Darwath Trilogy"), and the intervening years have definitely improved her already good writing. This is very close to being the best of her works that I've read. With a little bit less doom, gloom, freezing, and starving at the start, I'd have probably said it IS the best. If you've read the "Darwath Trilogy," then you definitely want to read this. I rate it at a Very Good 4 stars out of 5.

The novels in the Darwath series are:

- 1, 2, and 3. The Darwath Series: The Time of the Dark, The Walls of Air, and The Armies of Daylight
 4. Mother of Winter (Darwath)
 5. Icefalcon's Quest
-

Joel Flank says

Mother of Winter picks up 5 years after the original Darwath trilogy. The survivors of the Dark Ones have established a new kingdom, centered around the ancient Keep of Dare. They still struggle with the changing climate, but eke by. However, recently, crops fail, and a strange white fungus appears all over the land.

The wizard Ingold travels south to investigate lost lore, along with his lover Gil, who has grown into a formidable guard and warrior, far from the shy research assistant back on Earth. There they run afoul of mutated creatures, and witness firsthand how wide and deep reaching the changes overcoming the land are.

Back at the Keep, his apprentice, Rudy awaits his first child with the queen, despite the people's unease with a wizard having a family. He continues to research the ancient and lost magics that built the keep, knowing that if they can restore more of them, it would help with their food shortages. Even with the threat of the Dark Ones gone, politics continues to plague him and distract from his work.

As the creeping intensifying cold encroached further into their lands, both groups encounter an alien power which drives the changes with a sinister intelligence, and odd creatures appear to threaten all they hold dear. With an enemy far more powerful from them, and no ancient knowledge of how to fight them to fall back on, this threat is even worse than the Dark, and their entire world is on the brink of a deeper ice age than is natural.

While it was great to return to Darwath, in some ways the book was too slow moving. There was a lot of time spend on the characters mental states, dealing with mental control, as well as the politicking taking a long

time to develop. It might be realistic with a weak monarchy, but sometimes I felt that when characters took actions which were clearly detrimental to the kingdom, it was beyond reason that the Queen and her loyalists didn't impose more of a martial law.

Horus says

The fourth book in the Time of the Dark series, this one deals with a completely different problem, and as such, could be considered a stand alone novel, with the caveat that there is no explanation for those who haven't read the previous three. Admittedly, I spent a good bit of time railing at the lack of presence, yet again, of our "strong female lead", which was mostly defrayed at the climax. Even so, I still feel that Hambly wrote Gil with far less passion than Rudy, who stands out to me as a more formed character, full of changes as the series has moved on. Much of Gil's chapters have struck me as two dimensional. That being said, this was well written and page-turning.

Libby says

This is a much-removed 4th installment of the world of Darwath, followed soon after by its 5th brother, Icefalcon's Quest. At this time in my life, I wasn't able to browse in bookstores anymore. When I saw these sitting on a shelf, I gasped and exclaimed in joy audibly, which was pretty embarrassing. The world and people Barbara Hambly created in her original Darwath trilogy were so realistic and lovely, that there were no words to express my delight to see a bonus set of two more novels.

This book was great. It had a great main storyline, great 'villains-who-aren't-really-villains', and the characters of the original trilogy were perfectly true to form in exact calibration.

I did feel however, that some characterization was missing. Original side characters such as Minalde, Tir, and even Maia of Penumbra were short-shrifted in this novel. I think that there could have been more expansion on those older friends, and perhaps on some newer ones that hadn't been touched too seriously on, perhaps a friend for Rudy in the keep besides Ingold and Gil? Perhaps a friend for Gil? It would have been nice for instance to get close to one of the lady guards to expand our Darwath family. In addition, we met new people that simply weren't explored too much beyond what was barely necessary in order to establish their motives. This is truly the only book I've ever read by Barbara Hambly where I felt her character cast was not getting the full attention I know she can give it.

Regardless of that impression, the book is not boring. And it does not in any way lose the typical Barbara Hambly sharpness of thought and philosophy. We are asked a second time around are the villains really evil creatures, or something to be pitied and empathized with? We are asked even more.... how do we know we are human and sane? And again, how can religion be a good thing when it hurts people so much?

There's a lot of deeper aspects of Gil's transformation in this book which I feel weren't gone into for fear it would make the final plot twist too transparent. However, I have to stand and applaud what an amazing plot twist it is. It's one of those doozies that makes you read the book a second and third time just to re-read the nuances of Gil's changes with the knowledge of why they happen.

The Mother of Winter is very much up to standards of all the other Darwath novels for storytelling and

technique. It has the same sword-edge balance between action and calm exposition, the same depth of thought and introspection. Even better, she ramps up her imagination neurons with this one even more than her descriptions of the dark. The variety and sharp depictions of the invading otherworldly creatures in this book are a delight. As is the concept of using a silly child's term for a horrifying monstrosity.

Kelsey says

Pretty good as science fiction, but easily one of the creepiest books I have ever read.

Tess says

[Non-human magic. Rudy's discovery that the dooic people also use magic was very cool and surprisin

Helen says

#4 Darwath Wow!
