



Time Dancer

Inez Kelley

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Everyone has a duty in the royal castle—everyone except Jana Haruk. Despite her promising magical bloodline, her gift is weak. As a Reminiscent Seer, she knows only what happened in the past, not what will happen in the future. When the crown prince's life is threatened, Jana vows to do everything she can to help him—including asking the queen, a powerful sorceress, to lend her some magic.

The queen summons Darach, a spell in human form. The arrogant and mysterious man soon discovers there's more to Jana than meets the eye: she's a time dancer, someone with the ability to move backward through time in her dreams. With Darach as her anchor, Jana can explore the past and try to figure out who is behind the attacks on the prince.

Despite her attraction to him, Jana knows little about the handsome warrior. The past is tying them closer to each other with every trip, but Darach is bound to return to his homeland when his mission is complete...and their time together is running out.

Time Dancer Details

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From Reader Review Time Dancer for online ebook

Brie says

Originally posted at Romance Around the Corner

Source: a review copy was provided by the publisher through NetGalley.

I've been known to really enjoy Ms. Kelley's Contemporaries, but what you probably don't know is that I'm also a fan of her Fantasy trilogy of which Time Dancer is the last installment. Each book takes place in the same universe but features a different leading couple, yet they don't stand alone that well, especially this book. You could read the first two in any order, but this one ties everything together and brings the series to a closure. Maybe this review will tempt you to try the books!

The setting is a fantasy land that somewhat resembles medieval Europe, but with magic. Jana, the heroine, has some magic but it's fairly useless because it only gives her insight into the past, and even then, she's not that good at it. But when her best friend, who happens to be the prince and heir to the throne, receives assassination attempt after assassination attempt, she asks the prince's mother, a powerful sorceress, to create a spell to protect him.

In this particular universe spells take human forms, at least half the time since they can also shapeshift into animals. In fact, the queen originated as a spell and had her own love story in the first book. So now Jana gets her own spell in the form of Darach, a proud, almost conceited mountain of a man who can shift into a bear.

At first, Darach and Jana don't get along that well, mostly because he sees her as unworthy and weak. But it doesn't take long before he realizes there's more to her, and the two end up falling in love. Each other is not the only they have to deal with, though. The kingdom is in jeopardy, Darach knows nothing about the world and is awkwardly trying to get used to it, and no one even knows for sure who is trying to kill the prince. Basically, everything is a mess, and falling in love with a spell that will go back to his realm the moment they stop the person trying to kill the prince, doesn't make things easier.

I don't know why it took me so long to talk about this series, because the truth is that I really like it. The world-building is interesting and not overly complicated, the characters are likeable and the stories quite romantic.

Both Jana and Darach are fairly predictable Fantasy characters. She's a bit of a Mary Sue, and he's very strong and honorable. But the stereotypes aren't cartoonish and each character has unique traits that make them stand out. This means that Darach is a socially-awkward virgin, and Jana is a socially-awkward virgin. Wait. No. She isn't a virgin! In fact, that ship sailed a couple of times with an evil guy who broke her heart. She is slightly awkward and borderline annoying in her extreme vulnerability and selflessness, but she also develops a bit of a backbone. She's too set in her self-sacrificing ways to be truly interesting, but I never disliked her.

The romance was sweet. It happens fast and includes a heavy dose of insta-lusty protectiveness and love, but Ms. Kelley takes time to show personality traits that justify the friendship and the love.

Perhaps my favorite part of the story is how it transgresses a couple of genre conventions and plot devices.

The very alpha hero is a virgin who needs to be taught everything, including how to pleasure the more sexually experienced heroine. The first time they have sex things don't go as smoothly, and she isn't afraid to let him know. But what really surprised me was the fact that the popular fated mate trope is painted as a curse instead of a blessing. The whole plot revolves around how easier and happier everyone's lives would be if fated mates didn't exist.

Time Dancer is the last book in the series, and so the ending belongs to all the characters and not just to Darach and Jana. They all get satisfying resolutions that are this side of cheesy. It was sweet and a bit sad; in a way reflecting the emotions the reader faces when saying goodbye to the series.

The book isn't perfect, and the flaws are easily spotted. But it packs a lot of emotional punch and it's very engaging. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I think you will too, but listen to me when I tell you to read the books in order.

Ni_kii says

Originally reviewed at <http://scorchingbookreviews.blogspot...>

Lets start with a warning; this is a series read. No, I didn't realise this when I picked it up but, although there is obvious back story I now need to fill in, I didn't enjoy this any less for not reading the other books. This book is pure fantasy, set in a world where love crosses class, and species, boundaries and magic is rife. It had such a lovely message.

Although Jana is the heroine of the book, she isn't special at the start. Best friend to the future king, step-sister to the heart mate of said Royal and weak spell-caster, she doesn't seem to have a role by herself. I knew there had to be more. Once she called Darach to help her protect the Prince her destiny starts to become clear. Jana is a Time Dancer, a mythical being, powerful enough to travel through the histories of bloodlines. Using the guidance of Darach, she masters her gift well enough to try to solve the mysteries of whoever is trying to kill the Prince. I really enjoyed her determination and grit. She tries to help the people that she loves and I respected her decisions and actions. Watching her fight with lack of feelings towards the Captain who professed her love for her on his death bed was quite heart-breaking; her guilt was misplaced but it showed how much compassion she had towards others and fit well with her actions in the rest of the book. She literally risked everything in her quest to save the Prince and was quite simply one of the most selfless heroines I have come across in sometime. Sometimes, this did grate slightly. I wanted her to grab onto her life with both hands but she kept trying to let it pass by so she could protect everyone else.

Darach is a spell who became a man. Watching him trying to wrestle with the actions and feelings that his human shell experiences was both fun and endearing. Looking at this world through the eyes of someone who has never experienced the true horror of how humans can treat each other was quite refreshing; the scene where he named and fed the little boy who had been abused made me tear up a little and cemented his place within my heart. I adored the way he struggled with his feelings for Jana, knowing well that their relationship was doomed from the start. He worshipped her, knew her true strength and tried to guide her into it, generally being the perfect hero. He and Jana together were an amazing couple. They complemented each other in a way that was truly lovely to read about, with both helping the other develop into their full potential. He helped her develop into her powers and she helped him develop into a man; it seemed that they could get to a place where they were on level footing to be together but of course of true love never does run smooth.

I do think I missed out on some of the finer details of the plot by not reading the other two in the series. I almost never review books in the middle of the series but, before I realised that that was exactly what I was doing, I was hooked into the tale and couldn't put it down. This is a world full of myth and legend and it was brilliantly created. I loved reading the threads of time that lead to the current tale, each one adding a depth to the plot.

Overall this book was a lovely fulfilling read. The main romance kept me hooked and I adored Darach to the point I think I may adding him to my book boyfriend list! I will be buying the other two to fill in all my blanks.

Nancy says

I have not read either of the first two books in the series but that has no real impact on the enjoyment of this story.

This was great.

Warning to soft hearts...this story made me cry...almost to sobbing at one point.

Beautiful.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Posted on Under the Covers

Last year I discovered Inez Kelley. Her book SWEET AS SIN blew me away and still remains as one of my top favorites EVER. Since then I've read other books by Kelley because I just love her writing voice. I simply can't get enough of it, so when I heard about TIME DANCER, I knew I just had to check it out as well. And what do you know, Kelley doesn't disappoint!

As a full length fantasy novel, the world that Kelley has created in this series is sparkling. It's so complex and alluring that I literally found myself amazed by how beautiful it all seemed. If you're a fan of Nalini Singh's Guild Hunter series, then you are familiar with the eloquent way she is able to paint a canvas with her vivid descriptions of her world. As I read TIME DANCER, I felt the exact same way with Kelley's writing. Each description is so vivid and mesmerizing that I felt like I was in another world completely. It all seemed so real to me. Not many authors can so easily transport readers with their words. Kelley can.

As Kelley unravels this sensual romance between Darach and Jana, I thought the rest of the story was appropriately dramatic. Jana is a time dancer and Darach is the handsome warrior sent to help her find out who is attacking the prince. Their romance blooms at a steady pace, but time is running out for the both of them. I loved the sense of urgency this book had. It definitely made for a perfectly paced story, creating highs and lows at just the right intervals.

For fans who want to read something fresh and completely different from the paranormal romances that are out there, I highly recommending Inez's fantasy novels. They're a different take on magic but no less amazing.

Delia says

Time Dancer was the perfect kind of fantasy. Inez Kelley has crafted a world completely different from our own without getting trapped behind countless lines of description. The author is able to bring all of the characters to life in such a subtle way that I felt instantly drawn into the story. It is not often that I feel such an emotional connection with the characters. There were even some tear jerker moments. I loved this one. A fantasy world seemed in myth and magic, time travel and a love story to boot. Don't let this one pass you by!

Danu the GODS of Writing says

Eons ago, when Thoth had no interest in tans, he created a box and filled it full of tempting, precious things. Then he created a monster and set it to guard the box. To Thoth's surprise no one tried to steal the box. The treasure was worthy; but he was the only one with knowledge of the contents. Time Dancer is such a box. It is beautifully adorned with a top-notch cover and enticing blurb. Despite being the third in a series, it is not ignorance of the other books that made it hard for Thoth to deem it a treasure beyond compare, but ignorance of a shared vision. People believe invisible words to be subtext—or the meaning beneath the narrative, but in the first third of Time Dancer the invisible words are literally invisible, as on page 31 when the heroine reacts without reason, moving a shared conversation to where none can hear.

Thoth believes the author and editor knew the reason behind Jana's reaction, but where there is long-standing, shared knowledge, sometimes there are blind spots. As a first-time reader of the Eldwyn Chronicles, Thoth saw a sturdy, well-built keep, but heard nothing. While moving the action is a good way to include information about the Claiming Tree, a suggestion would be to flesh out the buildup leading to Jana's actions.

Adverb confusion had Thoth searching for clarification in more than one instance although it was much heavier in the first third of the story. A thought, and one that Thoth spent much time pondering, was that perhaps the story hadn't found its voice yet, shifting between the stylized language of fantasy and a chatty informality that came across closer to new adult. The story line solidified and grew more substantive with the arrow attack on the crown prince, which lead Thoth to consider the possibility that the awkwardness was in the repeated world-building. The decision on how much set-up to add in the beginning is always an issue in any continuing series, and created the impression that fresh eyes would add needed balance to the next book.

Despite an awkward start, Time Dancer contains an enjoyable premise and Thoth found himself admiring the almost Christmas Carol-like sequences in which Jana danced through time. Expecting something more in line with Jayne Anne Krentz's Gift series, it was a pleasant surprise to discover a unique spin on the anchor concept.

The villain was excellent and drawn with enough angst and conflict to be an Anne Stuart hero. Thoth wanted more of him and his unique, two-sided issue. The ends were tied off neatly, but Thoth doubts this is the last of the Eldwyn Chronicles and hopes the next book includes a hero angsty and conflicted enough to challenge the current grandmaster.

--Thoth

Tracey says

I really fancied this book, so disappointed I could not continue with it. I believe as this is a series of books this being book 3, you need to have read the other two books first.

The books jumps straight into a full blown story and was unaware of the kingdom, and characters - it sounded a good book full of magic and mystery and I'm sure it is but needed more back story earlier on for me.

Mei says

WOW!!! Simply: **WOW!!!**

I didn't expected this!!!

The previous books were good, but this is excellent!!! And totally different twist!

Not only because the hero is the magical being, but because the whole story!!!

Here, we see the previous books in a totally different light! Not everything is like we thought! Not every good thing is really good! They're not bad, but they bring consequences... heavy consequences!!!

Yes, I know that I'm awfully cryptic, but I don't want to spoil your fun.

Just let me tell you that you should start reading this series, if not for anything else for this book!!!

At the beginning I was entertained like I was during the previous ones, but soon I changed my mind and at the ending I was sobbing...

The ending was really bittersweet, but it does make sense and closes in a logical and totally acceptable way the whole series!

Ilona says

Yesterday I mentioned that the mark of a good author was one that can move you to tears with the power of her words. Today I have to add Time Dancer by Inez Kelley to the list of books that I have wept over. If you haven't read any of the Eldwyn Chronicles yet don't worry. There is enough back story given that you can read this book as is, though obviously it is much better, as far as knowing other characters is concerned, to have read the first two before this. Time Dancer is a complex and magical read that you just have to

experience for yourself. If you love Fantasy and romance and magic then this is the one for you.

Ginny Lurcock says

So after reading the first two books in the Underlight series, all I wanted to read was??? okay, more Underlight. But I didn???t have that, and I DID have Time Dancer and it was published today??? so there you go.

Of course, as is always the case, I went in grumbling.

And then felt bad pretty quick.

I don???t know why I don???t just go into things all amped??? it would save me so much time and guilt.

???Time Dancer??? is the third book in a series, but don???t worry if you haven???t read the other two, you won???t miss much. After all, this one takes place YEARS after books one and two. That being said, book three was enough to make me want to go back and read one and two so if you???re worried it might ruin something for you (and the very end might) then start at the very beginning.

From what I understand that???s a very good place to start.

Growing up, I was a sci-fi and classic fantasy girl. I never read any of that now. So added to my aforementioned guilt, I now have guilt for not reading more fantasy. Because, my friends, this book is really good fantasy. I can???t say if it was unique or not, since I???m woefully under qualified to say what the norm is these days, but it was pretty unique to me.

Okay, not in the sense that there was a king, and a prince, and someone was plotting to kill the prince, and there was magic, but not so much magic that you???d say ???big fucking deal, solve all your problems with some woo-woo.???

Crap??? my kid woke up. This means I???m writing the review in parts and chances are it???ll be disjointed as shit. If I come back talking about ducks, blame her egregiously short nap.

And I???m back.

It was unique in the sense that the main character was a female who was friends with the prince since childhood, and a spell. Yeah, that???s right. A spell. Turns out the woo-woo in this world can summon beings from a magical land of happiness and light. A world where there is no gender, and when the spells take physical forms in the ???real??? world, they pick a form that benefits the needs of the person they???re summoned to help.

Which coincidentally is always the opposite gender.

There???s a joke in there, but I???m too high class to make it.

IT???S BECAUSE THEY NEED HELP WITH WHATS IN THEIR PANTS.

Okay, so high class I??m not.

Oh, and because the male in this book is a spell, he??s blissfully naive. Like so naive it makes the whole?? uh?? copulation thing awkwardly hilarious.

The book is more than amusing coitus though. It??s the touching story of two?? uh?? people falling in love in an imperfect world where bad shit happens to good people. And bad people. And people who you??re kind of ambivalent about.

It was just what I needed to jumpstart my fantasy batteries.

4 stars.

In case I didn??t mention the awkwardness?? at one point near the beginning he doesn??t know what good that appendage is because it just kind of hangs there limp and in the way. And I laughed.

I should probably say something about Jana, who was an epic character in her own rights and has a unique power that you??re just not going to believe. See she??s able too?? OH WE??RE OUT OF TIME.

You??ll just have to read it to find out.
