



Bridge of Souls

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General Wyl Thirsk of Morgravia has died many times . . .

But thanks to the miraculous gift bestowed upon him by the slain witch Myrren, Wyl lives on—though greatly altered and unrecognizable. Only by assuming Morgravia's throne will he be freed from the dark spell that has both cursed and sustained him.

But Wyl's time is running out. His beloved Queen Valentyna will soon be wed to his most hated enemy, the savage despot King Celimus—and despite the impending nuptials, war between their nations looms ominously, while the dire threat from the Mountain Kingdom grows stronger by the day. Trapped in a body that is not his own, Wyl must walk his most dangerous path yet—straight into the brutal clutches of his sadistic foe, in a last, desperate attempt to save his land, his love, his life . . . and his soul.

Bridge of Souls Details

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From Reader Review Bridge of Souls for online ebook

Angela R. says

A wonderful ending to a delightful series. The author employs many conventional fantasy conventions, but skillfully weaves in some unexpected and unique elements which heighten the suspense and really kept me reading well into the night. So often I'm disappointed at the ending with a series like this, but not this time. I'll definitely be looking for other books by this author!

Liz Cozens says

Sad it's all over. Loved the ending, not what I expected which was good as I would have been disappointed if it had ended the way it seemed like it would. That may not make sense but I'm sure it will if you read it.

Mily Lou says

I loved the first book, was still fascinated by the second book, but by the start of the third book I thought I know what to expect. After all, Wyl Stark had the curse of Myren's Gift, which caused him to switch bodies with whomever kills him. Crazy twists had already happened because of this. I assumed more would. But the ending had to be predictable, right? I mean, all he had to do was get killed by the evil King Celimus who was to marry Wyl's true love, Valentyna, and all would be right, yes? NOOOO! It turns out that the curse/Gift may not work if Wyl intentionally gets himself killed by someone (although what about that time...?? Well, I don't want to spoil the book, but it's not a huge plot-hole since they really didn't know everything about the Gift, so that may be wrong). The problem is that Wyl is certain that he could not stand to be Celimus, no matter if he does get his dream girl and a chance to live happily ever after. He knows he absorbs a bit of the personality/life of the bodies he inhabits and the idea of being THAT close with Celimus just is too much for him. One wants to yell and scream at him, of course. But it does make the ending a bit more interesting!!! If he refuses to continue living if he becomes Celimus, then what? Well, you'll have to read and see! --I found my interest almost petering a bit by the third book, but I still thought it very much worth the read.

I enjoyed the characters and didn't think they were that two-dimensional. I enjoyed the twists and turns of the body-swapping. I have read hundreds of books and most are enjoyable but difficult to remember after a while, but despite a few flaws, this trilogy was still striking and an adventure to read.

Winnielou says

Après avoir dévoré les deux premiers tomes, j'ai été un peu déçue par la fin de celui-ci qui reste très conventionnelle et peu réaliste (si tant est qu'un bouquin de fantasy soit réaliste mais c'est évidemment au niveau de la psychologie des personnages). C'est cependant une très belle saga.

Michael Harry says

Well it didn't end it quite the predictable way I thought it would and that was a good thing. Be warned though, the author likes killing off characters even more than George RR Martin though if you've made it this far (book 3) then you probably know this already.

Swiftsea says

Grappling

Interesting

Unique

Different

With conflicts I thought were settled too easily.

The ending was rather predictable especially with the way Fynch behaved- risking everything even his own body to aid Wyl Thirsk.

These are amongst the few issues I had with the outcome with this series:

1) Rashlyn's death & The mystery surrounding the Thicket

=_= " We all knew how he was one superb super-ass evil villain who intended to dominate through Cailech's reign but gosh, wasn't the way he died a bit too simple/easy?

We all knew from the first book of Fynch's implied yet somehow astounding abilities that had been blessed upon him by the Thicket. However, the magic felt too vague. It felt almost as though Fiona McIntosh had no idea on how to kill off Rashlyn and decided to dump Fynch into the mix. From gong boy to hero- that's how his story would carry out.

Even if Fynch was the son and one of the King of Creatures, if even the creatures of the Thicket feared Rashlyn so much, wouldn't Fynch have been threatened by Rashlyn in the same way?

What made his magic so much more potent and stronger?

Ugh. The complications with this series.

2) Lothrynn the Horse

Neigh I go. Neigh.

His transformation problem was settled too easily. I admit that I was getting quite excited when they mentioned he couldn't transform back on his own since the magic had been too corrupted but alas, the King cured him with as ease as it was said. Sigh. Poor Rashlyn, nothing goes well for evil dudes. Evil people just were all born evil. This includes Celimus.

3) Bridge of Souls -- BLEHK

In my opinion, I thought it would have been best if Fynch's story was indeed kept separate from Wyl's.

Unfortunately, they just had to lump in the transformation as well as the 'Bridge of Souls' that had no basis.

The concept of the 'Bridge of Souls' came out of nowhere!

=_= " So Fynch was dead but his spirit lingered so he somehow managed to save Wyl by switching Jessom?

The cruelty in this series is magnificent. Jessom who was about to turn his life around instead got beheaded while Celimus got the lovely more intact death of poisoning.

GAH. I've just concluded from all this rambling, the lack of basis of the MAGIC is entirely the problem.

Myrren's gift was fine but all the other involvement of magics made no sense & I don't even make much sense anymore either!

PEACE OUT. SORRY FOLKS.

Andre says

The trilogy is finally over - a painful experience in cliche harlequinesque fantasy. Nevermore.

Kylie says

2.5 stars. I enjoyed the first book, but should have stopped there. Everything became repetitive and annoying.

Hope says

After reading Myrren's Gift, I immediately hit the library to grab the two final installments of The Quickening. I love fantasy/scifi. This series was so much fun to read. It wasn't one that was easily put down (lost some sleep with poor Wyl's story.) If you don't read reviews and don't read ahead (including the next book covers) there are some nice surprising moments. All in all, a very enjoyable series that I would recommend.

Drake says

The secondary plot introduced in the second book diverges almost entirely from the main storyline here, confirming impressions that it should really have been a separate series.

Worth borrowing, not buying.

Stargirl says

De péripéties en péripéties, toujours autant de plaisir à suivre Wyl pour ce dernier tome à la hauteur du reste!

Alayne says

The third in the series, again there was a lot of info dumping, and I again skipped a lot of the book. The ending was very good though, very satisfying. I don't feel the need to read the middle book of the series!

Lowed says

I'm Done! I'm Done!! Not only that it's action-packed. It's also peppered with deceit, betrayal, and hmm.. forbidden love.

And what was that famous line from Kung Fu Panda again? That damn line just kept on popping up in my head halfway through the book.

oh yeah! **SHEER AWESOMENESS!!!!**

Seán says

Bridge of Souls will sadly forever be the book that 'turned me off fantasy'.

Or so I thought upon finishing it. I was so utterly and completely jaded from the series as a whole, so disappointed by such a lacklustre finish to what had already been a 'maybe it will pick up again soon' journey that I couldn't stomach another fantasy novel for a good three years. That's a pretty major impact for a single book.

The Quicken series itself is a rollercoaster of ups and downs. As the series entered its final arc however there were noticeably a lot more downs to the point where it became less of a rollercoaster ride and more of an underground subway commute.

The story picks up from where we last left our hero Wyl, still in the body of another and struggling to control the bittersweet curse of Myrren's gift. It continues with Wyl trying to stop the impending marriage of his series long love interest, Valentyna from his cruel to the point of silliness adversary, the evil King Cellimus. Along the way he must deal with the Mountain King Caelech and the young Fynch who becomes ever more proficient as a mage as his destiny to defeat an evil, if somewhat inconsequential, wizard is made clear. It's a cliché, disappointing and sadly shallow ending, particularly with its continuing cast of characters and the pacing of a three-legged cheetah at the world's longest, greediest toll bridge.

The major problem I have with Wyl is that he is a far less interesting character than the people whose identity he assumes upon being killed. The character seems completely lifeless and, aside from trying to pretend to be the person he's inhabiting, he never really shows enough of himself to be compelling. This comes to the point where the character's fate is completely inconsequential to us. Instead McIntosh seems more concerned with the myriad of minor characters that slip in and out of the story. The problem with that unfortunately is, of course, that they slip in and out of the story.

Most of these minor characters have their personalities practically shoe horned into them in the space of a single chapter too. This leaves them feeling incredibly rushed, insubstantial and, after inevitably leaving the plot or having been consumed by Wyl, like a complete waste of development. One particular example is King Cellimus' advisor, a character with a bit of grey ambiguity to him that made him something of a wild card in the plot. This was the one character I felt a vested interest in and wanted to see used in some kind of imaginative twist. Well... There's a 'twist' alright, but it's so badly executed and roll-your-eyes predictable

that it barely constitutes as one. Think of every twist in the tale so far... Yes, that's right. You've got it. And, no, she hasn't stopped repeatedly using that same plot device even in the final pages of the final book. In fact, it's almost insulting that we are meant to be surprised by it.

The major characters, contrastingly, are as thin as they come. The Mary Sue-esque Princess Valentyna is still as goody-goody as always, somehow managing to rule her people with a much praised wisdom never displayed in any of her dialogue and King Caelech is hardly worth discussing for all the attention he gets. The evil King Joff-, I mean Cellimus still has no redeeming aspects of which to speak. And Fynch, a character whom I repeatedly wanted to leave the story suddenly becomes a living *deus ex machina* wizard-dragon-Jesus leaving the reader completely befuddled and scratching their head as the story pulls to the close.

Which brings us to the story itself. I've already touched on the subject of disappointing ending but it's the downward spiral of the series as a whole that really plants the tombstone at the head of the grave. Myrren's Gift started off exceptionally strong, wobbled a bit at the centre and left on a bizarre note. Blood and Memory stayed pretty mediocre throughout but Bridge of Souls feels rushed, poorly thought out and, frankly, downright lazy. The latter half in particular is so contrived and badly put together that in parts that were obviously meant to build tension, it merely felt that the author was continuously changing her mind on one of two obvious and dull outcomes for the story, neither one very different from the other.

If you labored through the first few books in hopes of a redeeming ending like I did, save yourself the trouble. There's nothing to be found here but a furrowed brow and a feeling of wasted time at the end for you. Oh, and an eternally burning hatred for Fynch, assuming you haven't developed one already.

James says

I dipped in and out of this book a lot and the series as a whole really. But it was very good. Really enjoyed the whole series and every character.
