



Demon's Law

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There is a bridge between two worlds, that of Life and that of Death, and Paedur the Bard, Champion of the Old Faith, steps tentatively across the fathomless gulf. Legend speaks of peoples of all races and times still carrying on a semblance of life within the silent Wood of the Dead, kings and peasants, warriors and priests, all living out an eternal parody of their days in the World of Men, perhaps even unaware that they are dead, their kingdoms dust, their time long forgotten.

There is even a tale that Mannam, Lord of the Dead, deliberately keeps the finest the World of Men has to offer, the wisest kings, the bravest warriors, the most powerful magicians, the most knowledgeable bards and rules them himself...

But no-one knows for certain, for no-one has ever returned from the Land of the Dead to speak of its wonders...

Demon's Law Details

Date : Published October 1st 1988 by Orbit

ISBN : 9780722177761

Author : Michael Scott

Format : Paperback 294 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Young Adult

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James says

Nice to see that the series I enjoyed many years ago does improve on book 1. This was a much more coherent tale, and built to a satisfying climax.

The characters remain a little underdeveloped, but the strong action scenes continue, and combined with two storylines that moved along nicely, it was an easy book to read.

The final chapters did get a little silly, but if you got that far, then there was little to complain about. I think that using death/Death as a means of transportation is still one of the strangest ideas I have yet encountered.

I have no memory of book 3 at all, so that should be interesting...

Intoxicatedcake says

The conception of this series is so far very solid. The mythology and plot are both interesting, but, while it has improved from the first book, the conclusions of the plots seem a little forced, almost like the author wasn't quite sure himself when he got that far along what to do. Otherwise I'm a fan so far.

Nikki says

The main thing I've noticed, which is annoying me very, very much right now, is that in this trilogy, all the bad guys have servants who are "more than a servant to them". Implication as far as I can see: gay. None of the good guys are gay, but there's just this hint that all the bad guys (Thanos, in the first book; Barthus, in this book) are gay. Do Not Want. There's also a lot of pseudo-bestiality, but only amongst the "evil" ones, and I get the sense that there isn't too much of a difference between the two, at least in the minds of the characters.

Which, uh, no thanks, Michael Scott. Really. No thanks.

It isn't too intrusive to the reading experience, particularly as I know I love the books in other respects, but if I was reading it for the first time now... hmm. I'm not sure I'd stick with it. It irritates me a lot.

In terms of plot, a lot of the threads from the previous book continue. Tuan and Cliona are barely more than an excuse for Paedur to end up in Death's domain, and while the bard says he loves them and wants to return them to life, that's obviously not the driving force of the book. Stories and references from the first book are used again, like the Onelord Churon, and other gods like Buiva play more of a part. Kutor is supposedly particularly important in this book, but his feeling that he's pretty much a figurehead is more or less true. Owen and Tien have a bit more of a role to play, and two awesome warrior-women, Fodla and Katani, are introduced. I like that the women are equally good fighters to men, in this world: at least Michael Scott doesn't fail at absolutely everything regarding discrimination.

Character-wise, though, they're not really all that deep. Kutor had doubts and gets annoyed and so on, but it doesn't really ring true. He annoys me a little with it, and I think that's because it isn't properly grounded in a complex character. Same, for example, with Churon. He goes from apparently evil and terrible to being the benevolent overlord of the dead. Hmmmm.

Still, Paedur's character and transformation is still interesting. He seems even less human, once again, at the end of this book. It's interesting to have a main character who is really quite hard to sympathise with.

Campbell says

Book two in Michael Scott's 'forgotten' trilogy loosely based on Celtic mythology.

Robert Preston says

Loved this book! Great central character and interesting and engaging story

David Bunegar says

I adore Michael Scott's characters in every novel.
