



The Summer King

O.R. Melling

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Sequel to the critically-acclaimed "The Hunter's Moon"

This second book in a series "shimmering with magic, myth, and romance" ("Booklist"), follows sixteen-year-old Laurel as she tries to understand the cause of her twin sister's mysterious death. Honor believed in Faerie, a parallel land of mischievous immortals. Laurel doesn't. That is, until the fairies come and ask her to take up her sister's failed quest to find the Summer King, a lord who can light the midsummer fire that keeps the two worlds, human and Faerie, cleaved. Laurel must decide to help those whose cause killed her sister, and, in the process, come to believe that there is still magic and love in the world.

Lush descriptions of Ireland and Celtic lore make this a satisfying read for travelers to other lands, real and mythic.

The Summer King Details

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Author : O.R. Melling

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From Reader Review The Summer King for online ebook

Kristen Coffin says

"It is not yet day, it is not, my love. It is not yet day, nor yet the morning. It is not yet day, it is not, my love. For the moon is shining brightly."

The best thing about this book is the descriptions of Ireland and Faerie. The plot is a little choppy, and even though I read Hunter's Moon, I still felt like I was missing things, like there were plot holes.

But the writing style was really beautiful. You can tell Melling either put a lot of research into how he wanted to word things, or really loves the places he's describing.

Sgrif says

3.5/5

Alegna says

The only reason why I read this book was because a friend of mine recommended it to me. His words were "I kept remembering you while reading this. You must read it!" And even though I don't like to read my books out of order, I decided to break that rule once more (making it twice now that I've read a series out of order) but it proved to be well worth it.

This book is amazing! Captivating, Mystical and Fantastical, this is truly a must read!!!

As you read along, you're learning about the world of Faerie and its many magical creatures. What I liked the most was how O.R. Melling also has you learn Irish aka Gaelic language, a language truly mystical and wonderful to learn. The only thing I regret is not hearing about this book before or reading it before. I now look forward to reading the first book as well as the following two books of this series.

Lia Marcoux says

This book is definitely flawed. The pacing is weird; every chapter has one "main event" and ends on a cliffhanger, but almost without exception, the "main event" would make a better cliffhanger. O.R. Melling also spends a LOT of time describing visual details while skipping over important emotional revelations in a single paragraph. She also fails to inhabit the character. The main character, Laurie, formerly athletic, has spent a year in grief and seclusion doing basically nothing, but when it comes time to scale a cliff face there's not even a throwaway "This was harder than she remembered!". The story is basically cosmetic. Written with more enthusiasm than skill.

Shellan says

"Die Nacht der Elfenkönige" ist O.R. Mellings zweites Buch.

Das Cover ist bläulich gehalten und zeigt ein Mädchen das schläft. Es ist nun nicht unglaublich auffällig oder faszinierend schön.

Die Protagonistin Laurel ist eine wahre sympathie Figur. Sie ist ehrlich und ehrgeizig. Familie - und vor allem ihre Schwester Honor - bedeuten ihr viel. Sie ist sehr mutig und tapfer und geht ihren Weg - welcher auch steinig sein kann. Sie geht Gefahren ein und vergisst hier und da die Mahnungen um ihr Ziel zu erreichen. Sie ist gelegentlich ein Dickkopf und versucht auch mal mit dem Kopf durch die Wand zu laufen. Gelegentlich ist Laurel hin und her gerissen, sie versucht immer die Starke zu sein.

Der wohl wichtigste Nebencharakter ist Ian. Er ist Laurels bekannter der ihr immer wieder über den Weg läuft. Er ist ein Draufgänger und macht nur das was ihm passt. Es ist ihm egal was andere über ihn denken, und das zeigt er auch. Er versucht sein Ziel zu erreichen und nutzt hierfür verschiedene Mittel und Wege. Nach außen ist er meistens der Rebell doch gegenüber Laurel zeigt er auch mal eine ganz andere Seite. Dann ist da noch Grace - die Königin der See. Sie begleitet Laurel teilweise und steht ihr bei ihren Aufgaben zur Seite. Sie ist robust und wirkt eher männlich als weiblich. Sie hat einen scharfen Ton. Sie ist eine gute Gefährtin und hilft wo immer sie kann.

Ihre liebevollen Großeltern springen nur kurz ins Bild. Sie sind sehr liebevoll und kümmern sich rührend um Laurel.

Hier und da huscht auch einmal ein magisches Wesen in den Mittelpunkt.

O.R. Mellings Schreibstil ist sehrträumerisch. Sie schreibt sehr verspielt und romantisch. Beschreibt Details, so dass der Leser sich alles sehr gut vorstellen kann. Ihre Worte sind fesselnd und bilden ein wunderbares Ganzes.

Die Story von "Die Nacht der Elfenkönige" spielt in Irland, und somit ist dieser Roman auch der erste für mich der dort spielt. Sie beschreibt alles sehr genau, was es dem Leser ermöglicht sich alles sehr genau vorzustellen - und wer eine vage Ahnung von Irland hat, weiß wie traumhaft sich alles anhört.

Der Inhalt der Story mit ihrem klar definierten Ziel hat mir auch sehr gut gefallen.

Die Charaktere haben mir ausgesprochen gut gefallen - auch wenn Laurel an der ein oder anderen Stelle echt verwirrend ist.

Die Entwicklung der Beziehung zwischen Laurel und Ian ist auch teilweise sehr verwirrend. Mal ist es so und dann springt Laurel wieder um und es ist wieder anders - sehr verwirrend. Natürlich ist das im wahren Leben auch mal so, aber nicht so häufig.

Auch hier und da treten Passagen auf, die den Leser etwas verwirren.

O.R. Melling versteht sich sehr gut darauf die Leser in die Welt des Buches zu ziehen. Es kommt einem fast so vor als wäre sie selbst schon im Elfenland gewesen, so trifft es eine Aussage auf dem Buchrücken doch ganz gut.

Die Charaktere sind alle sehr verschieden und haben ihre eigenen Charakterzüge und doch passen sie alle wunderbar zusammen, ich konnte mit ihnen sehr gut warm werden und mich in sie hinein versetzen.

Und natürlich mangelt es dem Buch auch nicht an Witz, vorwiegend herrscht aber eine romantische, verträumte Stimmung.

Was aber nicht bedeutet das es nicht spannend ist, denn das ist es definitiv.

"Sie haben es auf mich abgesehen", schrie der Gnom. "Ich bin weg! Vergiss, was ich gesagt habe. Stell den

ganzen Weg über Fragen!"

Zitat S. 115

Interessant fand ich auch den andauernd Einbau von irischen Worten, Sätzen und Begriffen

Das Ende war gut in sich abgeschlossen. Es lässt einige Fragen offen, unter anderem wie es weiter geht.

Fazit:

Alles in allem hat mir das Buch wirklich gut gefallen. Es ist sehr romantisch und verträumt, beinhaltet Spannung und hat tolle Charaktere und die Handlung der Story ist auch gut strukturiert gewesen. Lediglich das Cover konnte mich überhaupt nicht ansprechen. Hier und da ist es etwas verwirrend.

Lexidreams says

On page 117

I am regretting buying this book. The main character is way too naive for my liking and I think it would've worked better if the author made it in a little bit of an Alice in Wonderland style and made her 7 or 8, which is so much more believable. The romantic aspect would only have to be slightly tweaked. Why do authors purposely make their characters stupid? Laurel is in no way a realistic 16 year old.

I haven't seen (or maybe I haven't looked hard enough) one bad review on Goodreads for this which surprises me. The writing is very simplistic and I keep imagining this as an advanced children's book that can be read aloud.

The descriptions of the Fay, Ireland, and nature are beautiful and there are enough of them to keep me thinking maybe it will get better a third of the book, in but the simplistic writing style puts a damper on my mood.

On page 133

I just can't ignore it. What's a better way to describe it other than childish? It's meant for a younger audience, there too many cliches... I am 16, my reading's a bit more advanced than my peers but I read a lot of YA fiction and there are so much better things. I feel as if this is the summary written by an eighth grade student of a book that could actually be good if you were reading it and not another school kid's work. It doesn't even really try to make you believe in the fairy world, after a few moments of doubt at the beginning it's all jolly hoe! Laurel doesn't even think to ask the barest of questions like; How exactly am I going to get my sister back? Won't that be a problem if you're trying to hide the existence of Faerie from people? What about the fact that her body is in a coffin? And you just know that the author purposely dumbed her down because if she actually asked these questions the whole premise of the book would probably collapse!

Is she just too grief stricken to ask these questions? Something about her grief for her sister always rings false whenever it comes up. Laurel is simply not believable as a human being (maybe an alien?) and her

dialogue with Ian is wince worthy. So cliched! It's all fine to read this stuff in books sometimes but actually try to imagine this stuff happening in real life.

""I feel like you're looking after me," she said, with a little laugh.

"Maybe you need some looking after."

She concentrated on her sandwich."

I think I read somewhere this book was lyrical... Beautiful enough descriptions of Ireland to make you feel as if you were there...

(That bit about the summary might have been a bit harsh but I am not used to the short sentence style...)

End...

I'll admit, this book perked up at the end but I look at the books I've given 2 stars and I'm not really sorry to say this doesn't rank with them. Hopefully The Light Bearer's Daughter will not make this author a total bust for me.

1.5 *s

D-

Shelby says

It is great book!

Betsy says

This was definitely not as good as The Hunter's Moon. The characters started out interesting, but never seemed to go anywhere. I definitely liked Gwen and Findabhair better than Laurel and Ian. While I liked hearing a little more about modern Ireland, I felt like this book spent way too much time in the real world (or in history...what was up with that?), than in Faerie. I really wanted to hear more about the sea fairies, and have more interaction with Midir and the fairies we met in the last book. The ending was confusing, and the time jumps didn't make any sense to me either. That being said, I loved the increased use of Gaelic. I didn't figure out until the end of The Hunter's Moon that there was a glossary (I know, stupid of me), and I enjoyed flipping back to learn how to pronounce the Gaelic in this book. I hope the next volume is better though.

Jeanne says

An excellent follow-up to The Hunter's Moon (The Chronicles of Faerie: Book One). Melling's storytelling continues to delight with her knowledge of the Irish landscape and legends. This time she works in my most favorite Irish heroine of all time, Grace O'Malley. There are interesting plot twists along the way and, as fitting in all fairy stories, a happy ending. I quite enjoy Melling's story telling.

American Mensa says

“The Summer King” is a captivating novel by O.R. Melling. Melling has written an enchanting fantasy full of mythical creatures that will have you on the edge of your seat clambering for more. The main character, Laurel Blackburn, has traveled back to Ireland in search of answers. Her twin and best friend, Honor, died mysteriously last year during their trip to Ireland. Laurel thinks there is something more sinister behind the death of her twin. So, Laurel searches in Honor’s journal to find clues about what may have happened to her sister. Although Laurel and Honor were twins, their views of life were very different. Honor had loved to read and believed in fairies while Laurel loved sports and never thought fairies were real. Laurel learns to change her point of view about fairies when she is told there is a way to save her sister. She soon finds herself wrapped up in an epic quest to find the Summer King and save the land of Faerie, a land full of puzzling mysteries, whimsical creatures, and dark secrets. Despite all of this, Laurel still holds one last hope to save her sister. Will Laurel succeed?

I love the part where Laurel speaks to legendary creatures such as Laheen, the King of the Birds, or when she outsmarts Granuaile, the Pirate Queen, who helps Laurel in her mission. I highly recommend this book because it is a real page-turner. With suspense in every page and twists in every chapter, this book will rise to be one of your favorite books of all times. This is an enthralling Irish tale that you do not want to miss.

Join Laurel in her quest to save the land of Faerie, find the Summer King, and save her sister in the book “The Summer King” by O.R. Melling.

Review by Roksanna K., age 11, Broward Mensa

Ashli Edwards says

This book is possibly my all-time favorite. This could be because it's subject is related to twins, which being a twin myself, I related to it fully. But aside from that, it is well written and delves deep into fantasy (which I love), while still being relatable. It deals in pain, loss, adventure, and love. It is a fast-paced read. And I very highly recommend it!

Eunice says

I really liked this book because of how it was based on Irish folktales. I don't know much about Ireland except for leprechauns so it was very interesting

Cassie Burris says

Very cute

Brittani (Hope, Faith & Books) says

You can find more reviews, along with this one on my blog Hope, Faith & Books

I did enjoy the book. As with The Hunter's Moon (the first book in the series), I really enjoyed the Irish language and culture and we got to learn even more about that in this book. So in this book Laurel travels back to Ireland where a year before her sister Honor died. I found it really sad that all throughout the book Laurel was shadows by her sisters death. She did everything she did for her sister. She came back to Ireland to get answers about Honors death. She wanted to know why her sister was on the mountain in the first place. But to get answers to that question and others she has to pretend to believe in the faeries like her sister did. Along the way she finds out her sister may still be able to live in faerie but she has to free the summer king to light the midsummer fire to be able to free Honor from the place she's in to be able to live in faerie.

Laurel really struggled throughout the book. She had to pretend to believe in faeries to help set Honor free to live in faerie but throughout the book she struggles with believing. She would meet a faerie and learn something but then meet another who said the other wasn't telling the truth. It was really hard for her to know who to trust on top of her wavering belief in faeries. She found someone to help though. Her childhood friend from Ireland named Ian. She was not sure if she could trust him at first but eventually he earned her trust and helped her. I can understand her not wanting to trust people. With all that had happened and not even being told the truth half the time I can understand why she wasn't sure of who to trust. In the end though Laurel succeeds with freeing the summer king even and getting the fire lit even though it came with some major struggles. She never gave up though. I got to give her that. She was a fighter, and it was all for her sister.

With this book I have the same complaint as with the previous. I felt there should have been more character development. We only really learn about Laurel and a little about Ian. That was about it. I would have loved to get to know more about the other characters. Overall though I'd say the book was still good and I'd recommend it if you enjoyed the first one.

Christi Jenkins says

Can't wait to read the next one!
