



## Evermore

*Lynn Viehl*

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# **Evermore**

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**The NEW YORK TIMES AND USA Today bestselling Darkyn series continues...**

Jayr is proud to be the only female ever permitted to serve as seneschal to a Darkyn lord. But in her centuries of service to Master Byrne, she has fallen in love with him. Now, Byrne plans to step down and hand over the Jardin to another Kyn lord-a move that threatens not only Jayr's position, but her very life...

## **Evermore Details**

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Author : Lynn Viehl

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## From Reader Review Evermore for online ebook

### **Megzy says**

2.5 stars

This one didn't work for me. I live near Orlando and I am familiar with the setting and I couldn't imagine it as it was set in this book. The relationship between Jayr and Byrne was lacking and the connection between Lady Marion and Robin-hood was too much!

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### **Johanna says**

I'm a big fan of the Darkyn series, so I was very much looking forward to reading the next book. In my eyes, the strengths of Lynn Viehl's series are the round, troubled and passionate characters who don't leave us after one book, the complex plot which is full of history and kin politics and, of course, the romance which always makes me want to cry out "Open your eyes!!!" all the time (mostly right from the beginning). And there is this special dark twist to her novels which just aren't the usual paranormal romance type.

Jayr has always been in love with her Master, who has made her one of the Kyn. Byrne himself has always felt guilty for robbing Jayr of her mortal life but he also has deep feelings for her. This is the foundation for a really frustrating love story which is why I can't give a full five fairy rating. I'm glad that Viehl's novels are never only about the couple. But I love about her stories that they are always unique. Jayr had been turned before her body reached puberty and has some very special problems herself.

This book focuses on a tournament at Byrne's castle where all Darkyn lords are invited. It's a great opportunity for Michael to take up his reigning tasks after Alexandra's abduction. Those two also have some problems because this traumatic experience won't pass without a consequence. Alex is having some really strange dreams which seem to draw her to another man.

I enjoyed this book very much and read through it in one day, I think that speaks for itself. Another reason might also be that I'm currently more into adult than young adult books. If you haven't started this series yet, you definitely have to do so. The Darkyn, as Knights Templar, have an interesting history which never fails to surprise.

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### **Heather Dalgarno says**

On the face of things, if asked to explain the plot of a Viehl Darkyn book, you wouldn't get very far before you felt pretty silly. Robin Hood as a vampire? That's odd enough for me, but given that the historic Battle of Bannockburn took place just 5 miles from my doorstep I found it pretty funny that vampire involvement factored so heavily in the victory the Scots took from that.....

So the plot lines may sound ridiculous, but the odd thing about Viehl's books is that when you're reading them they don't seem ridiculous in the slightest. In fact, every book that I have read I've found exciting,

intriguing, funny, tragic, romantic, and packed with action. All the hallmarks of an excellent series, and an excellent author.

This installment is quite different to the others. It's darker, more complex, and kept me guessing right up until the very end. These might be romance books, but there is a heck of a lot of meaty plot there too. Unlike Sherrilyn Kenyon's formulaic books (sexy knightly type vampire meets girl next door, turns out they're soulmates with some mystical problem to solve, they shag, the end) Viehl is a different beast entirely. Her heroines find their heroes, but the path isn't easy and somehow it all comes across as being a lot more believable. I really liked that in this book the heroine at least starts out as a vampire in the first place, and didn't become one through some trick of fate....

Viehl's books also have a cohesive storyline to bind the series together - Seigneur Michael Cyprien and the vampire first-lady Alexandra Keller. I like the fact that Alex's wisecracking comments stop these medieval romps from seeming too cheesy and provide a light-hearted note to what is otherwise quite a dark book.

Brilliant series, can't wait to read the rest.....

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### **Kathryn says**

No real review here, just me seriously tempted to list every little problem I had with this book...

There is a genius storyline, more like the format is genius, that wends its way through the series, involving the romance between Cyprien and Alex but I am sick to death of Alex's inane comments. She is soooooo annoying, and what was with the dig on using the name Sookie. Jealous much... :)

And the two main characters in this book, they've known each other for hundreds of years but suddenly they're all aflutter? Not buying it, any of it. And the idea of a prepubescent girl, acting as a boy, feeling like a woman, actually sounds interesting to me, at least something different, but I did not like the execution. The bug guy, Gabriel, has so far been my favorite but I am interested in discovering what happens with John. I despised his character in the first 2 books, couldn't read his bits fast enough, but now I'm curious. I just hope he does not have a book to himself. I like the idea of him wandering alone, the poor lonely hero, but I have problems and these are supposed to be Happily Ever Afters when all is said and done, right.

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### **Melissa Wehunt says**

Evermore: A Novel of the Darkyn by Lynn Viehl (2008)

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## **Christel says**

5th in the series.

Jayr is the seneschal of Aeden Byrne, Suzerain of the Orlando Jardin of the Darkyn and owner of the Realm. Jayr saved Byrne from certain death in the battle of Bannockburn and has secretly been in love with him since that day, even though he changed her to Darkyn.

Byrne is a centuries old Darkyn, battle for the freedom of Scotland from the English. But he is tired of trying to hold in his inner beast, a beast so horrible that he has decided to step down as suzerain of the The realm and retreat to entire seclusion. But he is afraid of leaving Jayr behind, for in truth he is deeply in love with her.

Nice story! My favorite so far and I have one more on hand of this series to read. Like I said before these books get better and better. I am hoping that there will be a book for two of the minor characters in this one, Robin of Locksley and Guy of Guiseborne, they both deserve an HEA.

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## **Nikyta \*Miss Forgetful\* says**

This is one of my favorite m/f books and I've read it at least half a dozen times so far. While the book isn't perfect (the scenes regarding Alex and her drama were seriously annoying so I skipped them. They really add nothing to the story), the development between the main couple, Byrne and Jayr, is just so sweet. The fact that they've both had unrequited feelings for the other for *centuries* is just heartbreaking. But more so than that, the fact that Jayr hates the way she is, not a child but not quite a woman, but Byrne loves her anyway is one of the sweetest story lines I've ever read. He wouldn't care if Jayr was a man or a woman, he just wants her and he takes her as she is.

So, I ask this. How can you not love a huge, Scottish Highlander with tattoos on his face on the verge of a berserker rage and his second, a woman underdeveloped that moves at the speed of light and often time catches things on fire because of it?

The story is beautiful and when Byrne and Jayr finally get together it is just *explosive*. It's a must read!

How truthful may I write of this,  
The want of love, the love I hide?  
My passion drowned by cowardice  
Yet evermore by hope revived.  
You do not want me  
However much I need.  
You will not see me  
However much I bleed.  
Thus I dwell in silence, for  
I have made well my prison  
loving you, evermore.

How are we to live, my lord,  
ever together, forever apart?  
The night between us poised, a sword,  
forged and edged in my cinder heart.  
I cannot have you,  
however much I long.  
I cannot leave you,  
this bond too strong.  
Thus I go on as I have before,  
burning in Eden, with you,  
evermore.

-Jayr

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*Originally read in January, 2009*

### **Sandradine says**

After the first book in the series, this one is definitely my favorite. Very rich in characters, plots, actions and biting humor!

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### **Rain Kump says**

I was going to write something about sexist and racist undertones, but they're not even undertones in this novel. Also, rape isn't cool, kids.

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### **Jen says**

*"There once was a rich man who tried to cross the river... What a dope, he slipped on rope, Now look at him shiver."*

*AHH Robin Hood - one of my favorite movies - Christian Slater, Kevin Costner...*  
*Oh wait - This is a Darkyn Book Review :)*

*I have to say that this wasn't my favorite while reading most of it - I liked a lot of it, but I kept groaning when I pieced together the parts with Robin of Locksley, Nottingham - and even Maiden Marian - Yes you got that right - Robin Hood is Darkyn ...*

*The story begins with Aedan mac Byrne, and his seneschal Jayr - Jayr is one of the youngest turned Kyns (turned at the age of 17) but for some reason, he body never made it all the way through puberty - living her full 710 years as a Seneschal for Byrne, looking like a boy, and trying to fit in with the rest of the Kyn - She doesn't have time for romance, fluffy dresses or jewels - give her a sword and she's happy :)*

*But she has a secret that she mustn't tell - Her feelings towards her Lord Byrne... She would do anything for him.*

*Lord Aedan mac Byrne, He is a very LARGE Warrior with long Flaming Red hair (I'm seeing the guy from "how to train your dragon" )*

*His Jurdian is the Realm - where he entertains the public (humans) old mid-evil style. Once a month out of the year, they close the castle from the public, and bring in the Darkyn from Europe to bring on a friendly Tournament.*

*Byrne is having troubles with his temper, he is afraid of losing control. In confidence, he tells Michael that he wants to leave the Realm, Michael and Alex come to the tournament for a vacation, and to figure out who the best replacement for Byrne is.*

*Now Robin of Locksley is an old friend of Byrne, so he is at the castle more often than just for the tournament , But once the other Darkyn start to arrive from Europe, a newcomer shows up and wants to play the games - This is Nottingham - Nottingham and Robin have a bad history (over Maiden Mary) - Nottingham also has a very annoying Seneschal who gets on everyone's nerves -*

*The plot thickens and everyone becomes on edge -*

*I thought the whole thing was silly - really - Robin hood?? But after the ending - it really fixed the book for me. I think I like the story a lot better now. it wasn't the whole tall tale of Robin Hood - yes he was outlawed for stealing, and yes Maiden Mary wanted to be with Robin hood but was engaged to Nottingham, but there was a lot in-between.*

*BUT That's not that main part of the story :) I didn't tell you that Byrne shared Jayr's feelings - only he was too afraid to act on them, because she was so loyal to him. He was afraid that she would only like him because he told her to -*

*Their story was a little troubling for me - Jayr was born with the body of a little girl - she was 17 when she was turned Kyn, Byrne was in the war, dying, and she saved him by pulling the copper steak out of his chest and giving him her blood - he also had his way with her (her first... and only time with a man) Maybe he seemed a little old for her, but they explained that in those days, you were considered an adult at age 12....*

*I'm not sure what it was that troubled me about their story though. but towards the end, she got her help from Alex and started to blossom into the women she so desperately wanted to be, so it all worked out :)*

*SO That's why I need to hunt around Netflix this week and see if I can find Robin hood on Instantly Watch movies :) If I don't, It's going to be stuck in my head until I do :)*

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## **Cindy says**

Good read - but I found it more leisurely than the other books. Lots of very interesting history revealed but not the page-turner the first four were.

## Darkyn

1. If Angels Burn (2005)
2. Private Demon (2005)
3. Dark Need (2006)
4. Night Lost (2007)
5. Evermore (2008)
6. Twilight Fall (2008)
7. Stay the Night (2009)

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## Tania says

"Evermore" by Lynn Viehl. Book 5 in the Darkyn series.

Absolute best one of the series! (So far...still 2 more to go!) Byrne and Jayr are a match 600 years in the making. I freaking loved this one! Byrne and Jayr have been mentioned in previous books but you can really read this book as a stand alone although if you start at the beginning, you will be more familiar with all the other characters.

Aedan Byrne is a Darkyn who is tired of being the leader of his *jardin* (group of Darkyn). He runs a knights in armour restaurant/show that's called the Realm. Now the Realm is closing to humans so other *jardin* can come and participate in the annual tournament of jousting, sword fighting and archery. And of course, Byrne's seneschal Jayr will be by his side. After the tournament, Byrne will no longer be leader of the Realm *jardin* and he'll have to leave Jayr behind. The problem is, he's had feelings for Jayr ever since he changed her into Darkyn over 600 years ago.

Jayr is the only female seneschal that exists in the Darkyn world and she has loved Byrne for her whole 600+ years of being his seneschal but he doesn't know it. The master/seneschal relationship is not an intimate one. It is a relationship of respect, honour and duty. But it's getting harder and harder for Jayr to keep her feelings hidden. It doesn't help that Byrne is acting more friendly with her than usual. She knows he doesn't have "that" kind of feelings for her. For how can a man love a woman who looks like a teenage boy? She's definitely not the buxom figured woman that is his type.

Mixed in with Jayr and Byrne's love story is a twisted tale of revenge and betrayal, mystery and intrigue, which happens to encompass the legend of Robin Hood! And yes...Robin of Locksley is in this book and he happens to be a Darkyn. By the ending of this book I was thinking "What the hell is going on!?!?!" and that's a good thing! Just when I thought I figured everything out, WHAM! Plot twist! Jayr and Byrne's longing for each other was really heartbreaking when you know they love each other but are hiding their feelings. Their relationship is quite steamy. In this book, the overall series bad-guys, the Brethern, are not in this book at all, which surprised me and I actually enjoyed the book without them even more.

I'm so glad I kept reading this series because this book alone made it worth it. LOVED THIS BOOK!

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## Terra says

This is the first book I've read from this author and I must say that it will not be the last. Fabulous, delicious,

sexy with a smooth as silk storyline that will make you want more.

The author takes a tale of Olde England and turns it into spun gold. That is vampire style spun gold. The characters are not only likeable but loveable with the exception of Lord Nottingham whom you really want to hate. It's not a matter of the storyline making you want to hate him but just the aura of the character. There really is something devilish about him.

The action that takes place with Jayr doing her Lord's bidding, setting up the tournament for the Realm and accomodating the number of guests and their needs makes you wonder how anyone could possibly do everything in the amount of time allotted. Yes I know that Vampires are faster, more adept and tireless but everyone does have their limits.

Jayr not only questions herself but has doubts about who she really is. Emotions come into play that make you want to weep for her. Can she really find out who she is and possibly entertain the concept of love with someone whom she shouldn't even be thinking of. Can an erotic dream be truely real and shared? This is something Jayr must find the answer to while questioning her own sanity.

The characters, their flaws and emotions along with the deep need for sexual contact leave you to turning page after page to find only so much more.

The ending ties up loose ends with battle prowess, sexual heat and lifetime questions that have been unanswered only to show us that not is as it should be. Secrets uncovered brought to startling life make all's well that ends well.

What more can I say that if you don't read this you don't deserve to read a great work of art.

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### **Natasja says**

During a raining night Jayr is attack by a group of thieves who wants to take him down, only for an expensive Rolex watch. But the thieves are shocked when they discover that this young boy isn't an easy target, because Jayr is not only a woman but also a Darkyn. She can fight like any male Darkyn and she is not alone, her Lord Byrne and his best friend Robyn are near. Jayr became Darkyn at an early age, during the last battle by Robert she tried to help a wounded man, not knowing that would change her life forever. Turned by this man Aaden mac Byrne, she joins his realm and served him well after centuries and deep in her heart she loves him dearly.

Aadan mac Byrne is the seneschal of the Darkyn in his area and the Lord of the castle, the Realm where fellow Darkyn can come and celebrate some festivals. But Byrne feels he is losing control little by little over his berserker, his beast. So he is ready to step down and let someone else take over before he hurts someone, especially the woman he loves secretly, Jayr.

When Michael, the lead Darkyn of all America and his wife Alexandra make their way to the Realm to choose a new leader, nothing goes as it should be. Before any decision is made, an old enemy of Robin of Locksley shows up and throw some damper over the whole event.

Evermore by Lynn Viehl is the fifth novel in her Darkyn series and a real treasure. Just like the previous

books Miss Lynn Viehl knows how to lure me into a world full of danger, conspiracy and great characters from fairytales. What I love most about the books is the real connection between them.

Main characters Jayr and Byrne are strong, determined and a little bit stubborn. They both have strong feelings for the other, but in secret. Byrne is the head of his area, but lately he feels restless and knows he cannot control the beast inside him. The only thing to do is to step down and let another run his realm. Byrne knows he will have to give up Jayr when he steps down. When Jayr hears about Byrne stepping down, she is furious because she doesn't want another boss to serve and with the help of Alexandra she now knows how to seduce the only man she loves and wants.

I really love the fact that in every novel in this Darkyn series, Michael en Alexandra make an appearance. We learn more about the bond between those two and Alexandra's journey to find a cure for all Darkyns.

Lynn Viehl writes fabulous and treats the readers on a huge doses paranormal that we can value and I'm curious to see what will happens next.

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### **Melindeeloo says**

#### **3 Stars? 3.5 Stars? Viehl's books are interesting, but inspire such mixed emotions for me**

I am so mixed in my feelings about Evermore, and truly, I always hesitate before buying the Darkyn books, because while there are always interesting parts to the books, Viehl in keeping her books on the dark side of paranormal romance, always seems to include a bit of twisted characters indulging in gratuitous torture or victimizing sex-- I guess because when the 'good' guys are predators that control humans with no remorse, you've got to toss in something extreme to make the evil guys stand out.

While the torture was offscreen on this one, there was still enough of the evil guys (some human) this time indulging in thoughts of perpetrating sexual abuse or bad Darkyn compelling sex on someone in thrall, which I find disturbing. And in this book, this stuff really feels pasted in. I can tolerate a bit if it is necessary to develop some significant part of the story, but here these scenes could have been easily left out they didn't add to the plot at all. The bad guys in the first scene at the start of the book go away never to appear again and we would have disliked Nottingham even without his 'charming' introduction. While I really disliked those pieces of the book, much of the rest of the book was interesting. I liked Jahr and Byrne, both their well developed characters and their relationship, even though the language in their love scenes was a bit odd -- guess it was supposed to reflect Byrne's still medieval thinking. Also in Evermore, as always, I liked the parts with Alex, I like her character's fortitude, insight and unwillingness to let all these moldy old guys force her into a mold not fitting a modern woman and I like how her participation ties the books together. And I also liked Robin of Locksley and all the secrets.

Overall my reactions to the book were a patchwork of positive and negative much like the book was a mix of a bunch of different story threads, leaving me not knowing how many stars to give Evermore -- since for me, parts were one or two stars and other parts four or five. So I guess that averages out to 3.5 or 4 stars depending on how I weight the various sections. But, having said all that, if you are a fan of the series you will probably like Evermore because it really does have the flavor of the rest of the books in the series, and I need to learn not to buy these Darkyn books because my reaction is really always pretty much the same and the 'eeww' residual lingers.

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### **Cid Tyer says**

The Setting — still America, but this time you're bounced around between several different places as the plot thickened. Most of them are already locations and established, except the Florida Everglades. ~\_\_^

The Characters — are what I seem to love about these books. I looked back on my previous posts and saw how much I wrote in this section. Oh well! Jaus has been one of my favorite characters, probably because of his tragic encounters earlier. What I thought was the established mold he would follow – he did not. At first it bothered me, but then I sat back and looked at him as a character and I could see how it all fit. The heroine, petite Chinese Liling, is much like the other female characters before her – but different. She is depicted as very powerful, but quiet and self-sacrificing, which were wonderful to read. Her twin was an interesting character with the climax of the story I would love to see again. John Keller, as always, was annoying but I think he finally got his just reward, well, he at least had his mind made up for him by the end of the book. I liked how the other characters grew or became more of their own through this book even though several of them were not featured prominently or much. I adore Rain and Farlae, for instance, and really liked that they were in the story as well.

The Plot — is getting complex and yet more complicated! These books create layer upon layer of story and situation. Not only is there the story of Jaus and Liling going on, but also a rescue, the investigation into the orphans, what the heck is wrong with John, what's going on with Luisa, and what are the Bretheren up to? Part of the story contained in Twilight Fall is that of the orphans and what the Bretheren do with DNA. The dark and twisted truths uncovered are what is setting the foundation for the Kyndred series, I know, but it's fascinating and I know I can't wait to find out what happens next.

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### **Zeek says**

One of the elements of the Darkyn series by Lynn Viehl that I just LOVE is the way Viehl has begun to take characters of lore and make them Darkyn, thereby giving them a fresh spin.

In Evermore, we get a dash of William Wallace, a whole heap of Robinhood and an entertaining tale that kept the pages turning til late in the night- or I should say, early in the AM!

The story starts out one rainy night when a bunch of two-bit thugs try to take down a young boy wearing an expensive Rolex watch, who just exited a downtown club. Much to their shock and dismay, the "young boy" ain't such an easy target. Not only is he Darkyn- the name for the former Templars cum Vampires in Viehl's world- he's a woman. And one who can fight like something out of the Matrix! She also is accompanied by two men who would give their lives for her, whether she knows it or not. The attackers have no chance of victory.

Jayr, made Darkyn during the last battle lead by Robert the Brus on the fields of Bannikburn, is the blood servant of Aaden mac Byrne (a seneschal, in Darkyn terms). Turned by Aaden that fateful day, she's served him well all these years- and secretly loved him just as long.

Byrne is harboring the same love for her and, naturally, neither of them realizes it. Byrne, the leader of the

Darkyn in his area and Lord of a large castle nestled in America that he calls The Realm, is, however, ready to step down. He feels the tightly held steely control over his berserker nature slipping, and he needs to get away before he hurts someone he cares for- namely Jayr.

But things don't unfold exactly as planned, as Michael, the lead Darkyn of all of America and his blood-bound wife, Alexandra (hero & heroine from If Angels Burn) make their way to The Realm to choose a new leader.

A last tournament is to be held before the decision is made, but an old foe of Robin of Locksley- the close friend of both Jayr and Aaden- shows up to throw damper over the event.

There are many twists in turns in this novel and I don't really want to give too much away so I'll leave the synop here.

Evermore is much more romantic, in the classic sense of the word, than some of the other entries in this series. The torturous secret love that these two hold for each other creates a tension that sizzles when they are together. The characters have a depth to them which many recent novels in the romance genre have lacked. Though mellowed after all his years controlling his true nature, Aaden is old school- think Garwood Scottish historicals minus any lighter side- and Jayr so strong, yet so vulnerable, that you can't help but feel along with them.

As with all the novels in Viehl's series, Michael and Alexandra make an appearance and the continuing arc of their tale unfolds, giving us insight into the world that Viehl has built. Alexandra also makes a solid, defining contrast to Jayr that makes both characters more profound than without the juxtaposition.

If you haven't read a Darkyn novel before, you could pick this one up and not be lost, as it serves okay as a stand alone and too a major story arc resolved in the Night Lost- the novel before. However it is much richer having read the previous novels.

Unlike many series out there, this one gets better with each book released. (My favorites have been the latest two- including Evermore!)

(Thank you Ms. Viehl for a most entertaining read!)

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### **Louisa says**

So fantastic to read this book again! Lots of things going on, and I thought I knew the bad guy, but not really! So awesome! And the whole Robin of Locksley, yeah, really great! And Jayr being Maid Marian's daughter!

\*First read April 2011\*

Yeah more of this series! Love it, the characters, and the plot!

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### **Tina says**

This is the 5th book of the Darkyn series.

Aeden mac Byrne is the suzerain of the Orlando Jardin and owner and operator of The Realm. To humans, The Realm is a very cool Medieval theme restaurant where they can eat big turkey legs, watch and participate in battles, jousts and archery contests. For the Darkyn, The Realm is a way to cling to a familiar time and place and enjoy the contests and games as much as the humans. Only they know that the swords and lances are made of sharp steel and deadly copper.

Every year The Realm shuts down for a month to humans so that Darkyn far and wide can travel to Orlando and participate in a real Medieval tourney (not watered down for the humans). This year, The Mac Byrne wants to use the tourney as a real contest to seek his replacement as suzerain and lord of The Realm. He's tired of it and secretly worried that the years of control he's had to maintain over himself (in his human life he was a berserker warrior) will one day snap. He's also secretly in love with his Seneschal Jayr, the young woman he turned into a Darkyn hundreds of years ago. He's sure that his feelings would just worry and embarrass her.

However, Jayr, is also secretly in love with Byrne. But, like him, is sure that her attentions would be embarrassing and inappropriate. Instead she subsumes herself in her job and is dedicated to making The Realm run smoothly and (being the only female seneschal in all of the Darkyn) making sure she brings no shame to her Master. This tournament is especially important because the Seignuer, Michael Cyprien, will be attending.

Meanwhile, Alex and Michael are dealing with the aftermath of her captivity in Ireland. And a formerly outcast Darkyn from Italy arrives bringing back memories of a past that many Darkyn would prefer to stay in the past.

This is hands down my favorite of the Darkyn series. I LOVE Jayr. She is my second favorite female character of the whole series. The introduction of Jayr is fantastic and of all the Darkyn talents I think hers sounds the coolest (she can move so fast that she manifests herself as smoke). I am not one of those people who normally want to see books made into film, but I couldn't help but think that this book would translate very well to the visual media and I'd love to see the special effects of Jayr's movements made into smoke. Awesome!

The love story is both sweet and sexy. I like the idea of both Jayr and Aeden pining silently for each other, each too afraid to admit what they feel. but when they finally do it feels really right. And Viehl has completely upped the sexiness quotient. Her sex scenes have gone from the almost non-existent (in the first book) to seriously hot in this one.

The story of The Realm and its denizens is wonderful. Jayr runs a tight ship (I love the fact that there is a seneschal manual that she has studied cover to cover). This book is a real departure from the previous books in the series because there are no Brethren scenes and no John Keller. This book is all Darkyn taking care of internal family business.

And what Internal family business it is! I've mentioned in my reviews before that Viehl does a great job of laying foundation work in previous books to for plot points brought up in later books. Well that continues to hold true here. In the second book, the medical cocktail used to keep Jema Shaw from completely turning into Darkyn is used as a basis here for a medical treatment that Alex makes up for Jayr. And who knew that the 'Locksley' person mentioned off-handedly in the first couple of books would actually be Robin of Locksley. Yes *that* Robin.

Viehl uses this book to play with the Robin Hood legend a bit. Robin is a Darkyn and Will Scarlett is his seneschal (Robin, or course fought in the crusades as well, the one commonality amongst most of the male Darkyn). They all have long memories of what went on at that time. It isn't like the legends that we've come to know as we learn in the course of the story.

At first I thought shoe-horning in the Robin Hood characters would be cheesy, but it wasn't. It was seemless and Viehl worked them well into the storyline and integrated them wonderfully with the existing characters giving them a history and a real sense of camaraderie. And Robin is written so charmingly that I am really eager to read his story (*Stay The Night* upcoming in Jan '09, with some really delicious cover art).

Finally, I must mention Alex and Michael's continuing storyline. Alex is dealing not only with the aftermath of being held captive but also the physical/emotional problem with the weakening of the blood bond that was a result of her long separation from Michael. Viehl introduces a threat to their relationship that had me nervous for awhile, but \*whew\* it gets resolved. And I like that Alex, who has all along quietly questioned if what she and Michael were feeling was real or just a result of the physiological changes she's gone through, is finally able to resolve that to her satisfaction as well.

I love this series and just think that it is getting better with each book.

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### **Theresa says**

Another good one. These just keep getting better. Lots of Scottish and British history and lots of involved plot and actions. Not so much fighting in this one, though they threaten it a lot.

Byrne and Jayr's relationship is interesting. The way they play off each other sort of works, but after 500+ years of it, they should have figured out something by now or be completely bored and/or fed up with the situation.

And I still love Alex. She is so cool, I'd like to be her. Why can't the Kyn world give Alex and Cyprian a break and just let them love in peace? Hopefully things will settle down now. Keyword for them: communication. I've noticed that a lot of the parts I like best in these books involve Alex and/or Cyprian.

I wish we'd seen some of the regular tournament, between the different jardins instead of just the practice and storyline stuff. Though the party was interesting. But these Kyn need to get with the times and modernize their behavior. The wives are the worst. So the way Byrne and Jayr ended up is a good thing, but not sure how it's going to work since Jayr knows how to do everything and Byrne doesn't. There's going to be some learning adjustments going on there.

I thought the Robin Hood connection, though interesting, was confusing and seemed a bit forced, I still enjoyed how it played out. I felt really sorry for Nottingham. He is a chauvinistic jerk and needs to learn manners, but I don't think deserves his punishment. It's not going to teach him anything and he'll just get worst. Like they say "keep your friends close and your enemies closer". I bet he causes trouble later.

Quick Thoughts: 1)Seems like Nottingham's reputation is always the same no matter who writes about him.

2)I'm surprised that the Realm Kyn is do things the old 13th century way. I understand that some of the things they need cannot be bought elsewhere, but it's another symptom of why they are so backward

civilization-wise.

3) Jayr's method of getting bagged blood is different, practical, but different. Waste not, want not. Having come across anything like it before.

Fave scenes: the human tourist tournament banquet, Alex's reaction when arriving at the castle, Alex's physical examination of Jayr and Alex operation on Nottingham.

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