



The Hawk's Gray Feather

Patricia Kennealy-Morrison , Patricia Kennealy

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This first installment of a trilogy describes Arthur's education by Merlynn, his gathering of followers to campaign against theocratic tyranny in his homeland of Keltia and his turbulent, jealous relationship with cousin Gweniver.

The Hawk's Gray Feather Details

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Author : Patricia Kennealy-Morrison , Patricia Kennealy

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Norman Howe says

Science-Fiction

Kerry says

The Hawk's Grey Feather - Patricia Kennealy
The Tales of Arthur, Book 1; Fantasy; Reread; 8/10

Michael D. says

I read this years ago - about 20 years ago. The notion of an outer space version of the Arthurian cycle was very interesting. Great read.

Ron says

Are you tired of these endless rehashes of the Arthurian legend? No, I'm not either. And it was an imaginative recasting of the whole cast and history. That said, The Hawk's Gray Feather just didn't engage me. I doubt if I'll read the follow on volumes.

Kenneally-Morrison adds science fiction to the usual mix of fantasy and myth, but she doesn't do it well. Despite occasional references to starships and laser weapons, her tales are firmly planted in late Dark Ages Britain. Science fiction isn't just the occasional jump between planets, is a world transformed by information gathering and dissemination, altered materials and processes and, yes, weird and wonderful weapons. We got none of that.

Lovers of all things Celtic will revel in her pronunciation guides and quixotic spellings; the rest of us would have settled for something a bit easier to read.

I love maps, but her's was wasted by an illegible font for the labels. At first glance I couldn't figure out where Swynedd was. (The "g", improbably, looked so much like an "s".)

Stacey says

The writing is superb, lyrical, poetically descriptive. A "savor" book instead of "devour." I had forgotten how much I enjoy Kennealy-Morrison's prose.

A re-telling of the Arthurian legend, set on a different planet in a Celtic society. Combines fantasy, legend,

science fiction.

Lisa says

I love this reinvention of the Arthur tales. The characters are vivid and the language lovely. Patricia manages to get you thoroughly engrossed in the characters' experience.

Kristine (fezabel) says

This book seems to be nothing more than another retelling of the Arthurian legends. But it is so much more than that. It majestically weaves colorful characters and intriguing storylines with a fresh plot. I highly recommend it for any fans of Celtic legends and certainly any Arthur fans.

Jill says

This one is the first of a series that is a futuristic Arthurian tale, and is related to the series that starts with the Copper Crown. This series is set in the past of the Copper Crown series, and does somewhat help make the other series make sense. Loved both of these series.

Kim Stewart says

Please see my review [here](#).

Paula says

Written when Kennealy wasn't yet calling herself Kennealy-Morrison, this is an inventive, colorful adventure, the first of three Arthurian books set in her Keltiad universe. Narrated in first person by the legendary bard Gwydion - that is, the Keltiad version thereof - it re-invents the tale of Camelot as a science-fiction tale with imaginative twists aplenty, brave and likeable characters, and a great sense of texture, pace and place. It's the story of how young Gwydion grows up as Arthur's foster-brother and begins his career as a bard, while watching Arthur grow into the military genius and born leader destined to deliver the Keltian throneworld, Tara, from the grip of the renegade Death-druid Edeyrn. Along the way we meet all the other Arthurian characters in their Keltiad guises: Morgan, here Taleisin's beloved and wife-to-be; Morgawse, here Marguessan, still up to no good; Merlynn, Gweniver, and so on. I'm halfway through the second book. The Oak Above the Kings, now, and I wish her work had stayed this good.

I have one huge peeve with Kennealy's writing here, though, and it irks me fiercely: it's her constant and totally unnecessary interjection of words from her invented neo-Gaelic language. There's a parallel to this in

anime fanfic writing - it's called "fangirl Japanese" and it's regarded as a glitch of young writers that one ought to eventually outgrow (I did). There is just no excuse for this unless there is no equivalent in English, and then the accepted thing to do is to translate it the first time one uses it. She occasionally does that, but much, much more often resorts to the smug little device of a glossary in the back, which brings your reading to a full halt time and again while you go look up a word that turns out to mean "purse" or "dress" or "barrel". (It's slightly less over-used in the second book, but still grates.)

Despite that, this is an enjoyable adventure, especially if you're a fan of Celtic myth and/or the Arthurian cycle, and worth spending a summer day or two with.
