



The Night Bird

Catherine Asaro

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Her beauty made her a captive. Her power would set her free.

For centuries the women of Aronsdale have lived freely among the green and misted valleys. Creatures of exotic beauty and sensuality, they possess powerful skills of enchantment...and young Allegro is no different. But her life—and Aronsdale's independence—is threatened when Jazid nomads invade, carrying Allegro into the desert as a prized trophy...or worse.

Until an unexpected ally falls under her spell. From the moment feared Jazid warrior Markus Onyx sees the alluring beauty, he knows he has found his queen.

But even the promise of love cannot quell Allegro's determination to save her homeland. Summoning her powers, she casts herself north—out of passion's grip—and into the dark heart of conflict...

The Night Bird Details

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Author : Catherine Asaro

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From Reader Review The Night Bird for online ebook

Karina says

This is a very typical book in Asaro's Lost Continent series, very much resembling Misted Cliffs (which it seems I forgot to review): a beautiful woman who is taken away from her home, a dark powerful man with whom she eventually falls in love, and a sadistic evil guy who wants her for himself. Throw in magic and politics, and stir. A good non-complicated read - finished it in one day.

There is one new element in the story, though - a child, the heir to the throne that has been usurped; exceptionally bright, brave, and despite all the reasons he might have gone wrong (nearly his entire family was killed, and the sadistic man I mentioned already being his general) loving and lovable.

Another reviewer said "I just don't like stories where the girl is forced/raped by the hero but then falls head over heels in love." Well, when she really resisted, he did not force her. The book even makes a point that he had shown an amazing self-restraint for a man of his culture (though perhaps not of her culture).

The good idea in the book is that most can be redeemed. Even though at first sight the sadistic general and the main character seemed cruel alike, they were very different when you get to know them closer. The influence of those around you is very important. The idea "Love first, and make him lovable afterward" seemed implicit in the story. She made him think (by his own admission). Cobalt who had a similar redemption through love in Misted Cliffs now let his sworn enemy live because the woman stood by/for him. At some point he said "You're lucky to have someone to love you" (I forget to whom it was addressed; probably the boy).

Angela says

I'm still reading it but only have 6 chapters left. I started reading the series when I found The Charmed Sphere in my favorite second hand book store and I couldn't put it down. I force myself so I can go on with day to day activities. I am very sad that there are no more after this one but I understand that Catherine Asaro wants to write more but Luna doesn't want to publish it because they don't feel there is an audience for them. Pah! Is there is hope for the adventure to continue after The Night Bird!? She wants to write about Price Aron's story. I've talked to her on Facebook and she is so nice and talks to everyone. I can't wait to finish this book to find out what happens but I also don't want it to end. It's all so lovely!

This is a message from Catherine about this series, to anyone that would wish them to continue:
I'd love to do another one. But Luna doesn't want to publish it. They think it won't sell enough. If you'd like to express your interest to the publisher in seeing more of them, this is what my editor says:

"You can have them contact our customer service department. The email address is:
customer_ecare@harlequin.ca.

Tell them to reference that Luna Books and they can suggest their request be forwarded to the senior editor, Tara Parsons.

Nice to know readers are still finding the Lost Continent books."

Thanks for your support of the books! I'd love to write more of them.

Best -- Catherine

April says

This book was a quick read and it was pretty over-the-top. I understand that every inhabitant of Aronsdale is an ethereally beautiful being, even the "bad" guys always have some kind of redeeming quality because they are described as good-looking, but it is now starting to get old. And fast. As much as I truly love following these characters across the generations and learning how their family trees have expanded, there were simply more descriptions about Allegra's nipples than anything else in this book. I'm not kidding. It's not the fact that there is sex and torture in this book, I can accept that; it's just that there is an overabundance of it and the plot (watered down and convoluted as it was) doesn't truly reveal itself until Chapter 14. There are 29 chapters in the book. I kind of feel compelled to hide this book on my book shelf. It was such a tacky read, even for it's genre. I appreciated the earlier books in this series and reading more about the magical aspects of Aronsdale. This one didn't have much of an emphasis on the mages and I kind of missed that. I was pretty disappointed with this book.

Anna Neal says

I skipped a book in this series but remembered The Lost Continent series didn't have much of an over arching plot. I think I probably should have read the previous book instead.

This book had a lot of rape and man on woman violence in it. Allegra is sold into slavery in a land where women are considered animals. I hated this premise. I don't read fantasy to be offended. I know the other books in the series didn't have this premise.

Once Allegra escapes I enjoyed it much more. But then the book turned highly political which kinda made it less exciting.

It was cool to read about the Jarid who was the lead in a previous book.

The writing is good and I love the magic system of the series. I will read more, But I would skip this one if rape and misogyny make you queasy.

Coffcat says

I read about half of this book and just couldn't finish it. Girl gets captured by evil mercenaries from a warring country with the intent of selling her off to the highest bidder. Sound familiar? Yeah, that's because there's like about a thousand romance novels out there with the same story. Add that to the fact that I just don't like stories where the girl is forced/raped by the hero but then falls head over heels in love-give me a break. And just because this story has magic in it's supposed to make it unique but it really doesn't. The magic is haphazard and has such a little effect to the story it's not really worth mentioning. Maybe it gets better in the

second half...maybe it redeems itself. But my best guess is that it ends just like all of the other ones like this story I've read already...badly. Save yourself the time and find a good story with romance and magic in it: Jacqueline Carey's Kushiel series, Guy Kay's Lord of the Summer Tree series, Bujold's Sharing Knife Series, Spencer's Tinker series, Moira Moore's Hero series...there's a million of them.

Kat says

[Entertaining chick flick set in a different world. We see Muller, Jarid, Iris, Cobalt, and a bit of Mel. So it pretty much went down like this: (view spoiler)

Laura Johnston says

This is my least favorite of her books. I strongly dislike romances that involve kidnapping with Stockholm syndrome.

Diana says

Allegra is on her way to the Aronsdale mage school when she is kidnapped by Jazidian bandits to be sold as a pleasure slave. Put up to auction, she is purchased by the prince regent of Jazid, Markus, who is leading a rebellion against Cobalt's occupation of his brother's throne.

I think I complained in my review of the last book that all the heroines in this series end up kidnapped. This one definitely takes the cake! This book read more as a romance to me than a fantasy with romance elements. Set against a very frustratingly misogynistic background, I applaud Allegra for being a spitfire. The book is basically set up in five distinct plot points, and I was very surprised at the turn the book took. I can't say I'm happy with the ending, provided that this is the end of the series (and considering there haven't been any new books in 4 years, I'm afraid it might be). There are still a lot of plot points that are loose and some intriguing new glimpses of the future that need to be explored.

Rusty says

This romantic fantasy is filled with adventure, change, hope and war. The heroine is Allegro who lives in a country where peace reigns. She has magical talents that are just beginning to develop when she is kidnapped by barbarians, members of a warlike group from another country. The plan to sell her to become a love slave. From a peaceful and beautiful life where all people are valued she finds herself in a brutal one where women have no rights, no education and no life except to serve the men who own them. The romance between Allegro and the man who buys her flutters, grows and flames as the novel proceeds. For her to find happiness the two cultures need to mesh. While romance is not normally a genre I read when it moves into fantasy I often find I like it. I did this one.

Minni Mouse says

[A beautiful, curvy young woman with blonde hair and curves to die for. Kidnapping. Girl gets slapped around and paraded back and forth in minimal clothing. Being sold as a sex slave to a mysterious regent of a group fighting to take back their throne. A creepy, cruel

Jessi says

This book was sexy, which kept me going. I don't feel that the sex scenes really were anymore graphic than in the last two books, but there was an awful lot of talk about nipples.

I can appreciate reading more about the Iris/Jarid side of the story, but this last installment of the series just gets redundant. We have all the same major components to all her other stories.

In no particular order.

**Flat evil characters

**Two sided "good" characters (even character development becomes redundant when you use the same archetype over and over)

**Wars with no good or bad side

**Torture scene

**A sunny girl turns the heart of a hardened warrior

**A sunny girl falls in love with a hardened warrior

**An arranged marriage to fuse royal houses

There was a pretty good quote I picked out though. This is after the Queen of Taka Mal enters the war council.

Allegra wondered if it had occurred to all those kings in Taka Mal and Jazid who were so intent on choosing wives to give them strong, fierce, powerful sons that they might end up with strong, fierce, powerful daughters instead.

A poignant point.

Kate says

Okay, so I stumbled upon the forth book in this series first and thought it was okay. It didn't require a lot of effort and was quick, light reading. So I thought I would read the rest. These are fantasy novels about a society that both reveres and hates magic. I was more interested in the ways different kingdoms dealt with threats and their people, which brings me to the last novel. There is a kingdom in these books where women are property and warlords rule everything. I thought this was going to be a compelling social commentary on the middle east, but instead the heroine actually falls for one of these violent war lords that believes she shouldn't be educated and should strive to make her life's work pleasing the men of the world. She tries to help him see how his way is wrong, but I wasn't convinced. I was disappointed to say the least. This book just got too weird for me.

Anna says

I had read all of the Lost Continent books and enjoyed them very much, so I thought I might as well finish the series. Night Bird was good. I really enjoy reading Asaro's writing because her female leads are always strong. I thought the political concepts were brilliant, and I loved the idea of all the kingdoms, from the previous books, being forced together in an intense war council. It was great to see everything come together. On the other hand, I could have done without all the sex and torture. Now I'm no prude. I'm not opposed to some good sex scenes now and then when it's appropriate, but this was a bit harlequinie. Let me explain: Unwilling but great sex with a dark and dangerous man, then get captured and tortured by an evil maniacal man. On and on it went. Captured by evil guy. Rescued by dangerous man= great sex. Oh no, captured again.... Blah blah blah. Asaro must have a thing about torture, seeing that it's almost in every one of her books. Other than that, I saw some possible foreshadowing for another book... and I liked them enough to continue with the series.

Theresa says

This book reminded me a great deal of one of my favorite books/series - Warprize by Elizabeth Vaughan - with one major exception - the "capturing" culture was far less likable and morally acceptable. Rather than portraying the difficult but inspiring attempts to merge two different but equally respectable cultures, like Warprize, this book throws the main character into a morally corrupt and violent culture and tries to make HER adapt her feelings to accept one of its rulers. Much of the main characters' relationship is based on physical and emotional abuse and even rape. This was just very upsetting to me and I do not recommend this book to anyone.

Antoinette says

I picked this up on a whim after reading the author's biography. Three paragraphs long, chroniciling her career as a ballerina and mathematician. I was curious, so I decided to give it a try. Even though it was the fifth one in the series, I had no trouble keeping track of the characters and plot points. It was a nice escape from politics and life. I enjoyed the constant description of beautiful hair and water. Allegra, the main character, has the ability to cast "sleep spells." These "spells" made me want to sleep, which I guess is a good thing. I would like to read the rest of the series, even though I am not sure what the order is.
