



## Dragon Claimed

*Donna Grant*

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## **Dragon Claimed** Donna Grant

New York Times bestselling author Donna Grant brings you another sizzling Dark Kings novella.

Born to rule the skies as a Dragon King with power and magic, Cináed hides his true identity in the mountains of Scotland with the rest of his brethren. But there is no respite for them as they protect the planet and the human occupants from threats. However, a new, more dangerous enemy has targeted the Kings. One that will stop at nothing until dragons are gone forever. But Cináed discovers a woman from a powerful, ancient Druid bloodline who might have a connection to this new foe.

Solitude is sanctuary for Gemma. Her young life was upended one stormy night when her family disappears, leaving her utterly alone. She learned to depend solely on herself from then on. But no matter where she goes she feels...lost. As if she missed the path she was supposed to take. Everything changes when she backs into the most dangerously seductive man she's ever laid eyes. Gemma surrenders to the all-consuming attraction and the wild, impossible love that could destroy them both – and finds her path amid magic and dragons.

\*\*Every 1001 Dark Nights novella is a standalone story. For new readers, it's an introduction to an author's world. And for fans, it's a bonus book in the author's series. We hope you'll enjoy each one as much as we do.\*\*

## **Dragon Claimed Details**

Date : Published January 15th 2019 by Evil Eye Concepts, Incorporated

ISBN :

Author : Donna Grant

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Dragons, Novella, Paranormal Romance

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## From Reader Review Dragon Claimed for online ebook

### Sofia Lazaridou says

4.5 stars

Dragon claimed is a complete stand-alone novella in the Dark Kings series. It might be book 14.5 in the series, but new readers can be like Gemma and slowly get into the world since everything is pretty much explained. I am always gonna be happy with these novellas and the series as a whole if I want to be honest. You can read this novella even if you haven't read a single book in the series, but you might get hooked and you have been warned. To be completely honest, I was expecting a little bit more bonding between Cináed and Gemma. Their relationship is a little rushed, but that is to be expected considering the length of this book. Other than that, the story was never interesting and I would recommend the book.

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### Sonja says

When I first started this novella, I was loving it. There was just so much of Gemma that reminded me of myself and I thoroughly enjoy when I come across characters like that. But eventually that started to wane. Mostly because these two were just way too damn polite to each other! Oh my gawd. There's being nice, and then there is overkill. This killed me. Plus I'm not sure how much I buy the extreme change that Gemma went thru so fast.

Gemma was a pretty believable character for most of the book. When she was child she suffered a horrible trauma that has shaped how she lives her life and interacts with people. She prefers to be alone and leave her house as little as possible, and she staves off loneliness by always have a dog with her. Unfortunately her most recent companion had passed and she's feeling the sadness more acutely. But that all changes when she backs into one of the hottest guys she's ever seen with her car.

Cináed was going thru stacks of old articles for Ryder when he came across a certain one that completely captured his attention. Not so much the article, but the picture of the young girl with it. The look in her eyes has him desperate to find out more about her. And after some more searching, it turns out that she's right there in town. Coincidence?

Cináed didn't actually intend to talk to Gemma that first day he found her, but her running into him with her car gave him the perfect opportunity and excuse to see her again. When he first tells her he knows of her past and has gone looking for answers for her, she is understandably angry. But Cináed makes her feel safe, which is a feeling she hasn't had in such a long time, that she decides that she will try and finally trust someone. And hope he doesn't stab her in the back like others have done. Together they work to piece together what happened to her family and her history. During which time they quickly fall for the other, of course.

What we learn of Gemma's past and her ancestors is definitely interesting, and that knowledge gives Gemma the strength to stand up for herself a lot more than she has ever done before. It really did not come as much of a shock when we find out who was behind everything either. They are insane after all.

I'm curious what part she will play in the future and am obviously looking forward to the next book.

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### **Megan says**

I honestly cannot get enough of this series. Strong women, incredible males, drama, intrigue, mystery, and dragons. Dragons. Done. I'm sold. Gemma is strong and has her moments of fear, but when it counts she listens to her gut and acts with grace, strength, and wisdom. Cináed is a quiet strength that supports and thinks before rushing into things. He's honest and subtle. While both of them were a bit mild and generally tame, I appreciated their understated fortitude. It was clear that their backbone and power were present, but it wasn't necessary to go into everything with guns blazing and cocky smirks.

With such an intricate plot this really isn't a standalone, but for the romance itself, it works. Bear that in mind when reading any of these novellas; as a part of the series they're fantastic, alone they're a bit confusing. What makes this addition to the Dark Kings series so great is the way it all came together and made my insides tighten in anticipation, my heart flutter when they got to the heartfelt confessions, and my mind whirl with all the implications of the revelations.

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### **Shelleen Toland says**

This novella is a stand alone book for the Dark Night's World. I have been reading the new ones but would love to get the ones before that I have not read. Cinaed is a Dragon King and he meets Gemma and feels connected somehow and wants really help her. She lost her family as a child and does not know what happened to them. She doesn't trust anyone and is a researcher for people when she meets Cinaed. He wants her to trust him and to help her find out about her family. As she gets to know Cinaed she learns about magic and dragons. But for some reason she isn't upset but intrigued by it all and wants to learn so much. This was a little over 100 pages so is a quick read and really loved the chemistry between these 2. I am going to look forwards to reading more of this world.

I received this free for review through #Inkslinger.

#1001DarkNights

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### **Angie says**

I loved this novel. I wasn't sure what to expect with Cináed because we haven't really seen him in the other novels. Nor have we seen his friend Merrill. So that just proves that there are way more Dragon Kings than we ever see. Anyway, things are starting to heat up in the Dragon King world as they search for The Others and try to figure out the Queen of the Light's plans. Since this is a novella I don't want to give anything away but y'all are going to love Cináed and Gemma. I think they are going to be a force to be reckoned with once the war comes to a head.

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\*\*I received an ARC for an honest review\*\*

## **Becky says**

*Reviewed on my blog, Becky on Books, on 1/19/19.*

A dragon king with a Scottish accent? Yes, please... ;)

Somehow this novella ends up feeling like it's longer than it actually is--so much is going on within its pages. There's a mysterious and ominous backstory, a new and powerful danger, a connection to a possibly-not-so-long-lost family line, and beautiful but isolated Scottish islands.

Oh, and a romance. Plus puppies.

And did I mention dragons? ;)

Though technically yes, this novella *\*could\** work to introduce readers to the Dark Kings books (Gemma is new to the universe. so things are explained to her and you're not totally lost) this is definitely one of the 1001 Dark Nights books that works better as a filler novella for those who already know the series. There's very much a sense of being thrust into the middle of things, and though Gemma and Cináed's HEA is set by the end, there are other overarching plot threads that are still dangling. Gemma does get some long awaited answers, though, and a sense of finally belonging, so for her and Cináed the story is satisfactory.

Rating: 3 stars / C+

*I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.*

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## **Malissa says**

There is just about nothing I love more than a Dark Kings story, my investment into this series is with my whole heart. While I always want a full length novella, because come on...these Dragons each deserve their story told in ALL detail, I love these novellas too because I know that they give us a glimpse of new Dragons and they advanced the story little by little. They are the little snippets that tie me over until the next full length story and I have to say thank you to 1,001 Dark Nights for that because I am not sure that these novellas would have come about with you them.

Dragon Claimed is the story of Gemma and Cináed, (pronounced Kenny) and also the story of a little more insight into someone else. As always I can't talk too much about what happens because it will spoil the read for others, but if you have been a long time reader of this series, you want to make sure this one is in your hands. It's these books that give little pieces that make the bigger books come together in the end. I really enjoyed this couples relationship, the fact that for Cináed there was a connection before he ever even truly met Gemma and Gemma's backstory, *\*sigh\**. It's funny because typically it is the Dragon King who's back story gets to me, but this book it was all Gemma. Heck this whole book was just all Gemma, she was the true star in this one, the Dragon King taking a bit of a backseat. I am really to see her in future stories and her interactions with a few other people, who shall remain un-named for now, ha and those scenes....they just make you hate that character a little bit more. When the day comes for that character to wrap up their story it will be a grand one, I can't wait, except that will likely bring us to the end and I am so not ready for that. I want all the current secrets revealed but then I just want new secrets, ha.

Dragon Claimed is classic Donna Grant, hot and steamy, intriguing, swoon-worthy, secretive, and dramatic, both in story and in description. One of the only things I would have liked more of is more Con and more interaction between Gemma and the rest of the Kings and Mates, though that would lead to a full length book I suppose, which is basically what I always want, ha.

So get this book if you are a fan of the series, it is a must read. I will say that I think this is one where yes, you can read it as a standalone but you will enjoy it even more if you are reading it as part of the series. If you do read it as a standalone a little bit may feel confusing for you but it's still going to be a great read and I bet when you're done you head back to the very first Dark King book!

~ HAPPY READING ~

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### **Sandy S says**

4 stars

#### **ABOUT THE BOOK:** Release Date January 15, 2019

Born to rule the skies as a Dragon King with power and magic, Cináed hides his true identity in the mountains of Scotland with the rest of his brethren. But there is no respite for them as they protect the planet and the human occupants from threats. However, a new, more dangerous enemy has targeted the Kings. One that will stop at nothing until dragons are gone forever. But Cináed discovers a woman from a powerful, ancient Druid bloodline who might have a connection to this new foe.

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**REVIEW:** DRAGON CLAIMED is instalment 14.5 and novella in Donna Grant's contemporary, adult, DARK KINGS paranormal/fantasy series, and the latest instalment in the multi-authored 1001 Dark Nights series. This is Dragon King Cináed, and thirty year old, researcher Gemma Atherton's story line. DRAGON CLAIMED can be read as a stand alone but for back story and cohesion, I recommend reading the series in order.

**SOME BACKGROUND:** The DARK KINGS is a spinoff from Donna Grant's DARK WARRIOR series which in turn is a spin off from Donna's DARK SWORD series- all set in the Highlands of Scotland. The Dark Fae and their King Taraeth, along with the Silver Dragon Mikkel have declared war on the Dragon Kings by exposing the dragon's existence to humankind. The last wars between man and the world of the paranormal saw a great loss of life on all sides but someone or something is determined to push the Dragons back into another war; Mikkel wants to become King of the Silvers, Queen Usaeil of the Light Fae has set her sights on claiming King Constantine as her mate, and the Dark Fae want the Dragon's hidden weapon in

order to rule Scotland and the rest of the world. With the emergence of a group known as the Others, the Dark Kings are facing several supernatural enemies determined to destroy them all.

Told from dual third person perspectives (Cináed and Gemma) DRAGON CLAIMED follows Dragon King Cináed as he searches for a woman with connections to the past. Twenty-three years earlier Gemma Atherton was the sole survivor of a sudden but mysterious storm that took her parents and older brother. Fast forward to present day wherein Gemma will come face to face with a man who is willing to help her uncover the truth. Having changed her name and desperate to stay out of the public eye, this is Gemma's first real chance at discovering the who, how and why of that fateful day. What ensues is the quick building relationship between Gemma and Cináed, and the potential fall-out as Cináed and Gemma are targeted by the Others.

Gemma Atherton knows that something was wrong the day her family disappeared; the feeling of evil permeated the grounds, an evil that continues to threaten to destroy her world. Cináed suspects there is more to Gemma than meets the eye but our heroine is oblivious to her ancient heritage, a heritage that makes her a target of the Dark Kings' enemy.

The relationship between Cináed and Gemma is one of immediate and palpable sexual attraction. Cináed is drawn to Gemma like a moth to a flame. The sex scenes are passionate and seductive without the use of over the top, sexually graphic language and text.

The colorful secondary and supporting characters include the King of the Orange Dragons Merrill, Druid elder Corann, as well as Queen Usaeil of the Light Fae, and a quick appearance by Ryder, and a few of the dragon mates.

The world building continues to focus on the Dragon Kings' struggle to stay one step ahead of impending war. Queen Usaeil is determined to make King Constantine her mate but drops a hint about potential, future changes to the Dragon Kings and the women they love.

DRAGON CLAIMED is a story of loss and hope, survival and revelations. The premise is intriguing and spirited; the characters are animated and dynamic; the romance is fated and intimate. DRAGON CLAIMED is a welcome addition to Donna Grant's Dark Kings paranormal romance series.

Copy supplied for review

[www.thereadingcafe.com](http://www.thereadingcafe.com)

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### **Trish R. says**

So, I stumbled over his name, and mispronounced it again and again, until page 34 when he told Gemma that his name Cinaed was pronounced Kinnay. Really? I was totally lost on that and I hated to keep saying his name wrong for so long. I wonder how many readers had that same problem.

BUT, I think this was my favorite Dragon Kings novella. It left you in suspense as to who Gemma saw when she was 7 years old, when her parents and brother disappeared, and how she hid from the world as she grew up, until she met Cinaed. It was a great story.

There was explicit sex in this story and the F-bomb was used 1 time.

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## **Tanya Davis says**

I received this book for free from Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Dragon Claimed is another of the 1001 Dark Nights novellas. It follows Cináed. He is a recently awoken Dragon King. I will admit. Even with the pronunciation spelled out for me. I still had a hard time remembering that his name was pronounced like "kinney". My mind could not compute with what I was seeing on the page! I laughed at myself every time I caught myself trying to call him something else.

Cináed feels a pull to Gemma right from seeing a picture of her as a child. He doesn't understand the pull, but he knows it has something to do with the current fight the Kings are in. What is more convenient is that she is living in the little town just outside Draegan.

I think Gemma subconsciously moves around a lot because she fears she is being watched. She was severely introverted and hates to leave her house. Gemma has some pretty horrifying history and you can't blame her for just wanting to be away from people. But who could resist Cináed? He understood her feelings like no one else ever had.

The love story and the adventure were well balanced. We get to see further into the overall arc of the Dragon Kings and how the Others fit in with their desire to kill them. The fae assassin in Dragon Claimed has me confused because I really thought she wanted an alliance with the Kings. She is very powerful, but to everyone's surprise, Gemma has a little something that can help with that. Surprise even to herself! You get to see Gemma really grow and come out of her shell, and Cináed is a big part of that.

I would not miss one of these novellas! They can be read as standalone, but honestly I think readers of the series do not want to miss any of the new revelations we get. Dragon Claimed packed everything I love about a Dark Kings book into a novella and I truly enjoyed the read.

### **Excerpt**

“Gemma!”

She glanced in the direction that her dog had run. She hated storms. Her parents and Kyle knew that. Why hadn't they helped her? Anger seethed within her. They hadn't helped because they wanted to leave Daisy behind.

Well, Daisy was hers, and if she had to leave her friends and her home, she wasn't leaving her dog.

“Gemma!”

She ignored both her parents, who were now shouting her name as she raced after Daisy. If she had to carry the forty-pound dog to the boat, then that’s what she’d do. Just as soon as she found Daisy.

Another flash of lightning bathed the land in light, giving her just a glimpse of the dog as she headed toward the house. Gemma ran as fast as her seven-year-old legs would carry her. She reached the house and Daisy.

“Hey, girl,” she said to the terrified dog. “It’s going to be all right.”

It took her four tries before she was able to lift the dog. She shook badly, but at least she wasn’t trying to get free. Gemma knew her parents were going to be furious with her. She didn’t know why they were sneaking away in the middle of the night in a storm, but the fear in her father’s voice and her mother’s face let her know that the questions would have to wait.

In less than two hours, they had packed up all they could and put it on the boat her father owned. She’d asked where they were headed, but her parents hadn’t answered and her brother had shot her an irritated look.

Once she got on the boat with Daisy, she hoped someone would tell her something. She hated not knowing what was going on. Kyle didn’t care. He always said that their parents would tell them when they needed to know.

Gemma stumbled and fell to her knees. She pitched forward so that she had to release Daisy in order to catch herself, but she managed to keep a tight hold of the leash and pull the dog back to her. Daisy seemed to like being held, so she didn’t put up a fight.

“I’m coming!” Gemma shouted, hoping her family could hear her.

She couldn’t see the dock through the driving rain and dark. Which was odd. There was supposed to be a light on the dock. She knew the way to the water, so she hadn’t gone the wrong way. But...why wasn’t the light on?

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This review was originally posted on Rantings of a Reading Addict

### **Claire Cronin says**

I love these 1001 Dark Nights novellas, they let you read a little into a world you might not yet have explored - this is what I have done, this was my first Donna Grant read (where have I been?) and I loved it - it was very easy to read as a standalone and definitely got my interest to want to read more of the Dark Kings series!!

Cináed is one of the Dragon Kings and feels a connection to Gemma after seeing a newspaper clipping about

what happened to her a few years ago. Gemma, now a grown woman, lost her family when she was young in strange circumstances and has been searching for clues ever since. She is very introverted and does not mix well with other people at all, which is understandable when you find out her story. Cináed is drawn to her in a way he does not understand and sets about helping her out.

A good storyline, dramatic and mysterious all based around Gemma's past - the attraction and chemistry between Cináed and Gemma was palpable but he had to be real gentle with her to not frighten her off. You don't get an awful lot of interaction with the other Dragon Kings in this book, but it was certainly enough of a taster for me to want to read more of this series. Highly recommended reading.

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### **Joelle says**

We love this author!

We really enjoyed this story from beginning to end. The story was fun and intriguing and filled with really interesting characters. We love the suspense it wrought and how the mystery unfolded and we have to say that the mysterious Cináed was a sexy mystery to us as well. "We loved him!"

We really enjoyed this story we love dragons's and magic along with Myths & Legends with a good mystery to solve which always is a perfect mix of something we love to read about. We are so looking forward to reading more in this series.

Pure Enjoyment !

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### **Valerie says**

Cinaed is helping fellow Dragon King Ryder search for unusual events from the past decade. His research uncovers the story of a child abandoned a few decades prior. A determination to uncover the mystery leads him to the adult Gemma.

Gemma is doing her best to overcome the fear she has had since her brother and parents disappeared years prior. The pain and anxiety never leave Gemma, who is still unsure if the family she loves perished or abandoned her.

Novellas present an opportunity to test a series or author. Reading Dragon Claimed as a stand-alone is possible, there is an explanation for all relevant backstories. I recommend the Dragon Kings to those who love paranormal romance and urban fantasy.

I'll be honest I tend to skip the novellas when I read a series. Romantic couples tend toward love at first sight, which is not my favorite approach. But, my sister advised me it is too far into the subplot arc to skip. I decidedly would've read this installment, regardless of the free copy from St Martin's Press. Cinaed and Gemma's romance was swift, but it did not feel forced. Donna Grant has a great formula when pairing her couples. And Gemma's addition will pay off later when the subplot reaches a climax.

My favorite part of Dragon Claimed is Gemma perseverance. The trauma she experiences as a child hinders her adult life. She finds the courage to excel at something, while dealing with, at times, overwhelming fear and sorrow. When Cinaed comes to her with a resolution, she overcomes her terror and faces her past. Her courage is admirable. And Cinaed, well the Highland Dragon Kings are always sexy, intriguing, mighty and gallant. No way to go wrong with them.

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### **Cheryl Whitty says**

Reviewed on Behalf of <http://bookaddict.live>,

Dragon Claimed is a novella from the dragon Kings series but can be read as a standalone. Also, if you are fan of the Series and Its real treat. This time its Cináed turn to find his mate.

While doing research Cináed finds a newspaper with a picture of a young Gemma being found with the rest of the family missing and for some reason he has to find out what happens. So, starts the adventure and when meets Gemma he is determined to give her closure. This was a novella with the heart of a novel with so much going on.

A great dip into the Dragon Kings, and an enjoyable novella. Hot hunky men and steamy passion and a happy for now ending.

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### **Sandy Kelly says**

I guess you could read this one as a stand alone novella but I would absolutely read the books before this one in the Dark Kings series or you might not understand the bigger story ARC. This one is about Cináed and Gemma. Cináed has been tasked with going through and looking for articles that seem out of place or that there is something strange going on with them when he comes across an article about a little girl who was found on a Isle alone after her parents and brother go missing. And once he see's the picture of the girl and reads the story, he finds himself needing to know more. Gemma has been alone since her family disappeared. She has learned to depend solely on herself because you can't rely on others to do as they say or to stay. When she meet's Cináed, she never expects for her world to completely change yet again. Or for her to fee such a pull to him. But when she decides to trust him, he will get the answers she not only wants but needs in order to move on with her life. And she will help figure out another piece of the puzzle as to who or what is targeting the Kings.

I absolutely loved this novella!! Gemma has been through a completely terrifying and emotional even as a child but somehow she has at least made a life for herself. Yes, she has had her issues but she is at least somewhat happy and she is healthy. Which just goes to show how truly strong she is! Cináed is probably the only person who has some kind of hope of understanding what she feels about her family as he feels the same about his own. It makes him the perfect choice to not only help her but to be with her. I love how he doesn't expect anything in exchange for his help, he just offers it. It shows how truly good his heart and soul are. I loved how this whole story played out and the connections that are revealed. I especially loved how it shows how the Queen of Light Fae truly got so powerful! I truly cannot wait for her to get her comeuppance!! Another great story that not only helped push the bigger story along but gave us a great

couple to love as well!

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