



Maerlin's Storm

Nav Logan

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*** Winner of The SpaSpa Book Awards 2013 (Fantasy) ****

Maerlin's Storm begins a series of novels called the Storm-Bringer Saga. They are a coming of age, fantasy tale about a young girl called Maerlin Smith. Maerlin's life has been increasingly troubled of late. It all started when she predicted a violent storm; the storm that killed her mother. Now, she finds herself alienated from the other villagers. They believe she is responsible for the freak storms that have wreaked havoc across the mountain. Maerlin, however, has other things on her mind - she believes that she is going to die. In desperation, they summon a healer and Maerlin's life is changed forever when the witch takes her under her wing. Like a stone causing rippling across a lake, Maerlin is destined to create shock-waves across Dragania, and beyond. Her journey becomes more than just the many miles of wandering; it is a spiritual and emotional roller-coaster ride. Can Maerlin learn to control the storms, or will they consume her? Will she find the true meaning behind her dreams, or will they lead her to insanity? Perhaps, they are the very path to her destiny. Only time will tell...

Maerlin's Storm Details

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From Reader Review Maerlin's Storm for online ebook

David says

This was a very good read. Nav is a new author and this was a very good debut novel. There's lots going on and clearly lots to come. The characterisation is good and each character brings new concepts with them. For example, the central character Maerlin suspects she can control storms and her fears are proven as she sets out on a journey of discovery that ends with her companions in peril and the land on the verge of war. There's an undiscovered prince, a beggar lord travelling the country as a tinker, fear and betrayal. Nav is from Ireland and his Celtic heritage shines through.

Emily says

I received my copy of this book for free through a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

Whilst Maerlin's Storm may appear at first to be a fairly run of the mill traditional coming of age fantasy tale about a young girl growing into her powers, it soon expands to incorporate rising tensions between warring factions and the journey between an unlikely alliance of characters to reclaim an important heirloom.

I really enjoyed this book, particularly the characters. Whilst the book as a whole is primarily plot driven, the characters are most definitely a strength; we meet characters of a variety of ages and backgrounds, each having their own distinct voice and purpose in the story. Some of our main characters are coming of age, but Nav Logan has not fallen into the trap of making them act older than they are, creating some hilarious interactions between these characters which dissolve into childish bickering.

The idea of seeking aid from the elements as opposed to wielding them, or wild magic as it is known in the book, is fascinating. It's just a shame that we were not introduced fully to this magic system! As a personal preference I like magic systems to be robustly created, to be introduced to the methods of the magic, the limitations, the rules, to gain understanding of how a magic system works in and affects the world it exists in. Maerlin's Storm does not achieve that to a satisfactory level as the plot progresses at a rapid pace, denying the possibility of slowing down for a lesson in magic.

The rapid pace of the story also hinders the potential for extensive world building and other expansion. I think this book would definitely benefit from a good editor combing through it to help improve upon some of these weaknesses, and to catch some of the small spelling and grammar errors that remain.

Whilst full immersion into the world may be lacking, there are so many allusions to past events or backstories for characters scattered throughout the text that there is most certainly potential for a series of novellas set in the same world. I would love to learn more about Taliesin's life and travels, The Battle of the High Kings, the Holy Isle and their teachings, the Order of the Black Dagger... perhaps some adventures of Cull and Broll? Elements of the world that may not have a place in the novels as they are structured, but create enough questions to inspire curiosity!

Overall, a thoroughly engaging read with much potential that I hope is met fully later in the series; the end comes together wonderfully and hints at possible plot points of future books. I would also consider this a good bridging book for teenagers who would like to start progressing from YA to adult fantasy but find the

genre somewhat intimidating.

Serena says

If *The Eye of the World* were written by an Irish author, it would look like this.

Although the plot may not be all that creative, I rarely count that against a book. It was approached in a different way, and the characters are all new. For the most part, I enjoyed reading this book. I appreciated and was fascinated by the Celtic mythology woven in, and wish I knew more about it so as to better understand some of the connections. A lack of knowledge of this topic does not detract at all from the book, however.

Another plus: this is a very realistic fantasy, if I may pair those two words in a single sentence (this wouldn't be the first time). For example, the youngest characters are coming-of-age, which means while maturing, they are still kids and will revert to childish bickering when tired and provoked.

Maerlin's Storm is very plot-driven. I had a difficult time associating with any of the characters, as they seemed a bit two-dimensional and lacking in many emotions. In addition, it seemed that when the author bored of a conversation, he would abruptly state something like, "and then they continued chatting and giggling about various topics," and move on.

Despite being a coming-of-age story, this book is not designed for young minds. There are some rather graphic scenes and a few instances of nudity sprinkled throughout, though I have read much worse. I do not recommend this book for anyone under 16.

(Thanks to author Nav Logan for sending me a free e-copy of his book in exchange for an honest review!)

This review originally posted on poetree

Derek White says

The synopsis just hints at the story, which is volume one in *The Storm-bringer Saga*. Don't think it is that simple. The heroine of the story, Maerlin does much more than merely learn to control her emotions which caused the storms that followed her wherever she went throughout her life so far.

We are introduced to Wild Magic (a fascinating idea) and Maerlin's companions in her adventures, including, amongst others, a High Priestess, a Healer, a Prince and a War Chief as Maerlin plays her part in the development of a war. This book has all you need to keep you engrossed from page One to the End and I recommend it. The book is the first in a series, but can be read as a 'stand alone.'

It's a personal thing but I found the story being told from different viewpoints annoying; I note other reviewers liked that aspect. Certainly the author's skill was demonstrated and I congratulate him.

Tina tinkerbel Hart says

This book will grab you and keep you hooked from the start, I have loved getting to know the different characters & I loved how it's written from all the different characters perspectives. Exceptionally well written and I would highly recommend it :-D

Angie says

The synopsis of this book does not get even close to giving this book justice. It is just a small part of a great tale. So if you are thinking it doesn't sound interesting you need to think again, there is just so much more to it.

Maerlin plays a very important part of a war in the making. Though a series of events she finds herself in the hands of Nessa, a magic wielder and is shown that the storms that have followed her all her life are so much more than she ever thought. Growing in the knowledge of the Wild-Magic she has she finds herself in the unlikely group of a prince in hiding, the heir to the begger throne as well as a war chief and a close friend. Its up to her to grasp her magic before things turn towards the dark.

Hmm, I usually don't try to sum books up like that but I feel it needed to be done in order to express how much is really going on in this book. Its not just Maerlin coming to grips with her life, there is so much more going on under the surface of things.

The book is told from a few different point of views, though in the beginning you are mainly focused of Maerlin as she learns what exactly she is. This is done brilliantly, there is nothing more that I love than being able to view things from so many perspectives. There was never a time that I didn't know who's head I was in. It also gives you a chance to get to know everyone that is on this quest and to see how the grow and change.

I really liked the way the magic was in this book as well. It is done in a way that I have never seen. I loved the way the people that used it didn't so much as "use" magic but asked permission to control the elements around them.

The beginning of the book moves a little on the slow side, but that is needed that so you can really get to know everyone, but once things start moving they really take off. I wouldn't have guessed at everything that happened at the end, though I did kinda figure out who the Dark Mage was towards the end, there was enough subtle clues left that I knew, but at the same time wasn't 100% sure of it until it was really said out loud. I love when I read books like that, I like to try and figure out exactly whats happening and I either smile because I did or smile because I didn't. Its fun for me.

Would I recommend this book? Yes, it was a very exciting read for me and I'm very much looking forward to reading more about Maerlin and everyone else.

<http://zephyrbookreviews.blogspot.com/>
