



Transformation

Kara Dalkey

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Nia and Corwin have each fought their own battles. Now they are Joined together to face their most dangerous enemy yet: Ma'el, the evil Avatar. In order to defeat Ma'el, they must retrieve a magical sword from Atlantis. But after a treacherous journey through the sea, they are shocked to discover that the sword is nowhere to be found. As Nia and Corwin search for the sword, they realize that the good people of Atlantis are now enslaved by Ma'el. Worse still, Ma'el plans the same for Corwin's native land of Wales. Nia and Corwin must find the sword and stop Ma'el -- before it's too late.

Transformation Details

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Author : Kara Dalkey

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Rebecca says

Nia and Corwin are joined together as Avatars, linked together with Gobaith, the young Farworlder. Now they face their greatest challenge yet as they travel to Atlantis to stop the evil Avatar Ma'el and his Farworlder, Joab. Nia and Corwin hope to find a magical, powerful sword that they hope can help them defeat Ma'el for once and for all. But they arrive in Atlantis to find the sword missing. They must search for the sword in the once-grand city, now a ghostly near-ruin. But even if they find the sword, will they be able to save Atlantis, and even if they succeed in stopping Ma'el, what sacrifices will Nia and Corwin have to make?

I read this thrilling, shocking conclusion to the Water trilogy in one sitting, it was that much of a page-turner. This whole series has managed to surprise me at every turn -- not an easy accomplishment! I highly recommend the entire Water trilogy to fans of fantasy novels, especially if you are interested in the legend of Atlantis.

Aubrey McKay says

In this less than thrilling conclusion to the Water trilogy (one third of which was actually on land), we dredge through a hundred pages to finally get to the point that the author wishes to make. Corwin and Nia face surmountable obstacles to eventually get home to Atlantis. Once there, they search for the sword, their one hope of defeating Ma'el. The tale finishes in quite the unexpected twist, but the ending is worth getting to.

I started out really loving this trilogy, but it just kept going and going. Too many of the plot twists were predictable, obnoxious and unnecessary for character growth. If I underlined every time this book said the word 'energy', I just might have a fully highlighted novel on my hands. I won't be reading anything else from this author.

R says

Amazingly done! And a story that links to tales close to my heart. I had no idea!! She utterly surprised me and I LOVED IT! This is a series that will stay in my collection forever.

Betsy says

An easy read. Though the series has a semi-disappointing end.

Tamara? says

This last installment is consistent with the previous two - fun and fantastical!! I'm a sucker for this kind of late 90s/early 2000s fantasy nonsense, since it was what I was into as a kid. I'm predictable whatever. Anyway, this was a good ending to the series and tied up a lot of loose ends. SPOILERS: I liked how Dalkey tied the series into Arthurian legends, the cover is a dead giveaway if you think of King Arthur. I'M NOT GONNA DO THE MATH FOR YOU, IT'S VERY SIMPLE FRIENDS. When I read it I had a good cackle cause I wasn't really expecting it but enjoyed it all the same.

<https://hercommonplaceblog.wordpress....>

Kiera Beddes says

Genre: Fantasy

Summary: The last part of the Water trilogy by Kara Dalkey. As the subtitle says, "the quest is fulfilled AT LAST..." Amen. At last, the book series is over and done with. Like I predicted in my review of the second book, this ended sadly, I think. I am still puzzling over how it ended. Anyways, in this book, Nia and Corwin leave land to head back to Atlantis to defeat Ma'el for the last time. When they reach Atlantis (after avoiding different traps) they find the remaining inhabitants enslaved and Atlantis almost in ruins. Ma'el is preparing to take over the rest of the world, but Nia, Corwin and their Farworlder Gobaith fight Ma'el and Joab, gaining allies along the way. Once they kill the Farworlder Joab, Ma'el flees to the surface in search of the last place of power in Wales. Nia and Corwin follow him, do one last battle in which Nia almost sacrifices herself entirely and Ma'el is destroyed for good. Corwin puts Nia to rest in the pond next to the Farworlder place of power and that is where she rests until years later Corwin comes back as the old man Merlin guiding the young King Arthur to the Lady of the Lake, Nia.

Response: Interesting plot, no? I tried to describe it to a friend, but every time I tried, it kept sounding foolish. Mermyds and aliens? Again, it is a little too much imagination. But it certainly is a creative reworking of the Arthurian legend. I just wish it could have ended happier for Corwin. The book is very idealistic, which may be a result of the Arthurian setting, but it has interesting implications for those who think they want power and influence.

Kelsey! says

Well, I've finished this trip down nostalgia lane and, while it started out promising, the quality definitely deteriorated over the span of three books. The dialogue was even stiffer than the second installment, awkward foreshadowing is clunky in the middle of otherwise interesting plot points, the romance was lackluster and forced, and far less time was given to the "surprise reveal" in the epilogue than I remembered from my initial reading. But the world building was fascinating and I did appreciate the fast-moving plot! Overall, I'm still mostly satisfied with this reread (especially keeping the intended audience's age in mind) and will keep it in reserve on my youth services recommendation list-- but not as a priority.

Mae says

Best book out of the trilogy in my opinion ; lots of character development and I got what I wanted (more Callimar and Prince Farworlder). Amazing things happened, Ma'el is thwarted, most loose ends are tied (old man gains his sight, the "last" old the old-world teleportation ruins are destroyed...). And the true ending ties

in with King Arthur: the prophecy of a king bringing peace holds true (one who is young, blah blah). It was kind of a happy ending, though I thought Niniane's awakening was too strange (she rolls out of the water and immediately presents the sword to Arthur, as if she was awake the whole time??) and Arthur mispronounces the sword's name haha. I think I'm just really happy with the ending - the prophecies lead them very far into the future, and I feel the Unis (fate?) can be explored further in other books of the author (maybe she does it, I don't know). I was actually going to complain that Corwin's gift of sight should've been cropping up more, but I think the newly incorporated elements like Nia's point of view, and the actions of various characters, not to mention many looses being tied... I'd say the third book exceeded my expectation, as if the author didn't put much effort making the first two to lead up to this one with an incredible amount of rising action. It could stand on its own, but it requires the first two to be fully appreciated. But, like, it's as if the author had anticipated creating three books instead of one big one, so she pulled out all her best moves or something, the pace and flow were natural like in the previous works, but switching point of views and even more action had me reading nonstop. The ending is fantastic ! (I'm not one for cheesy perfect romantic endings, no way! Even Nia knew from the day she was born, she was meant for something big). I'm kind of curious if Gobaith took a new Avatar, or if Nia's frozen state kept all three of them alive? Besides that, I kind of wanted more Nia's thoughts, it felt like this was more about Corwin and that she took on the supportive role too easily, or I think she just accepts her fate and adapts quickly.

Roshani Chokshi says

When I read this trilogy, I had just entered that weird moment of ish-adolescence where you're holding your breath and waiting for that final/horrific shove into puberty (Dear 13-year-old Rosh, I wish I could go back in time and snatch that tube of Nair from your hands before you gave yourself a chemical burn mustache). When I read this trilogy, I still wanted to grow up and become a mermaid (this was before I realized that most oceans are cold and so no thank you). The movie Atlantis had come out in 2001, and I still wasn't over it. I was buddy reading these with my best friend (who is still my #1! whaddup Niv) and I remember how when we got to the end of the trilogy we were just *BROKEN*. But the trilogy introduced me to new ideas. It inspired me to think of retellings and backstories, of minor characters in epic tales with devastating backstories. This trilogy was the launching pad for my love of all things Arthurian. Sometimes I think this was the reason I majored in 14th century British lit.

In sum: I love these books.

Kathryn says

This book was okay. The first book introduced several ideas that meshed really well together. The second book introduced another idea, but the second book wasn't very good.

This third book was better than the second book but not as good as the first book. The relationship between Corwin and Nia still felt a little forced, but not nearly as horrifically forced as their blooming feelings in the second book.

The defeat of Ma'el seemed almost too easy, but it worked.

I really liked at the end ((even though I'd already guessed what would happen)) when it turned out that

Corwin is Merlin and Nia is the Lady of the Lake. I already knew from the second book forward that Eikis Calli Werr would be Excalibur. That was easy to figure out even if it didn't officially reveal it until the last page of the final book.

Overall, the writing was really juvenile, and the characters were just okay, but the ideas in it were pretty interesting, so this book gets three stars from me.

Aidan says

A good book with an interesting twist. Not quite as good as the second book, but better than the first. I wish that there were more books in the series.

Nita says

I think the ending was very disappointing and the climax kind of predictable. I mean it wrapped up the plot points and the plot hints, but it was rather abrupt and made the series feel like two series tied together rather than one, united book. It is still a good series, I just don't like it.

Ithlilian says

First, I would like to say that I loved this trilogy. There is plenty of action through each book to keep anyone entertained. Unfortunately, this was my least favorite in the series. The book starts out where the last one left off. Nia and friends head into the water to find the peace making sword in Atlantis. Along the way they run into traps laid by Ma'el, but our heroes work together to get through them. When the gang arrives in Atlantis they find it changed completely. During their quest to find the sword they will be betrayed and hurt, but there is always hope.

I was enjoying this book immensely until around page 200 when the group goes back to land. I thought the final showdown would be in Atlantis with a happily ever after, but instead it ended, rather strangely, on land. We never get to hear what happens to Atlantis, and as others have mentioned the ending is rather sad. Still, this was a worthwhile ending to a great trilogy fit for all ages. This one even had me laughing out loud a few times with Corwin's mishandling of the Altanis language. If you enjoyed the previous two you will enjoy this, though the ending is a bit sad.

Fantasy Literature says

Transformation is the final book in Kara Dalkey's Water trilogy, beginning with Ascension and continuing with Reunion, both of which are essential reads if you want to understand this final book. Previously, young mermyd called Nia from the underwater city of Atlantis came ashore in order to find Gobiath, a squid-like Farworlder that rules Atlantis. He is one of the last of his kind after Atlantis was betrayed by the evil mermyd Ma'el and his Farworlder Joab, and now Nia is an Avatar (someone with physic links to a particular Farworlder) and the only one who can save her home. In book two she met up with Corwin, a young boy

who unwillingly also became an Avatar to Gobiath and helped Nia in rescuing him from the tyrannical King Vortigern.

Now the two of... Read More:

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