



The Enchanter Heir

Cinda Williams Chima

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They called it the Thorn Hill Massacre—the brutal attack on a once-thriving Weir community. Though Jonah Kinlock lived through it, he did not emerge unscathed: like the other survivors, Jonah possesses unique magical gifts that set him apart from members of the mainline guilds. At seventeen, Jonah has become the deadliest assassin in Nightshade, a global network that hunts the undead. He is being groomed to succeed Gabriel Mandrake, the sorcerer, philanthropist, and ruthless music promoter who established the Thorn Hill Foundation, the public face of Nightshade. More and more, Jonah's at odds with Gabriel's tactics and choice of targets. Desperate to help his dying brother Kenzie, Jonah opens doors that Gabriel prefers to keep closed.

Emma Claire Greenwood grew up worlds away, raised by a grandfather who taught her music rather than magic. An unschooled wild child, she runs the streets until the night she finds her grandfather dying, gripping a note warning Emma that she might be in danger. The clue he leaves behind leads Emma into Jonah's life—and a shared legacy of secrets and lingering questions.

Was Thorn Hill really a peaceful commune? Or was it, as the Wizard Guild claims, a hotbed of underguild terrorists? The Wizards' suspicions grow when members of the mainline guilds start turning up dead. They blame Madison Moss and the Interguild Council, threatening the fragile peace brokered at Trinity.

Racing against time, Jonah and Emma work to uncover the truth about Thorn Hill, amid growing suspicion that whoever planned the Thorn Hill Massacre might strike again.

The Enchanter Heir Details

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Disney Book Group

ISBN :

Author : Cinda Williams Chima

Format : Kindle Edition 464 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Magic

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From Reader Review The Enchanter Heir for online ebook

Afrah says

That was horrible. I know it's harsh, but i had really high expectations after the Dragon heir, and this book was just so disappointing.

Reasons the book was so disappointing:

- 1) CHARACTERIZATION?: Jonah Kinlock is a buff dude who hates himself because he thinks he's a horrible person. That about sums him up. Even better is Emma who's narrations exist mainly to explain to the readers how attractive Jonah is.
- 2) Nothing Actually Happened: Seriously. Nothing.
- 3) WHERE ARE SEPH, MADDIE, JACK, AND ELLEN?????: The characters from the previous books were just dropped/dispensed randomly in the plot. Chima made Seph, Jack, and the others seem so unimportant. The ending of the Dragon heir just left everyone so confused about how the characters would continue their lives, and in this book Chima just totally erased their roles and presence from the plot line.

AND THEN SHE DECIDED TO ADD TWO NEW MAIN ROLES (JONAH AND EMMA) WHO WERE JUST SO BORING AND CLICHE. UHHHHHHHHH SOOOO MAD RIGHT NOW

Beth says

There isn't a lot of good in this one, which surprised me, because I really liked all of Chima's other books. She departs from her previous style in *The Enchanter Heir*, though, and the novel suffers as a result.

First of all, this novel isn't self-contained. I know trilogies are all the rage, but I hate cliffhangers. I think they're lazy.

In addition to that frustrating non-ending, the writing throughout the novel is abrupt and choppy. The sentences feel awkwardly linked. Information is dispensed clumsily instead of integrated smoothly into the story's flow. I don't want to call it an info-dump, because it doesn't happen in one clump; instead, the information is lobbed into the narrative in disruptive pieces. The dialogue is good, but it's overwhelmed by the uneven exposition. Actually, most of this novel is exposition, but unlike *The Demon King*, I don't think that the sheer amount of pages devoted to exposition introduce a compelling world (or more precisely in this case, a compelling facet to an existing world). Most of the initial story dispenses with previous Heir characters too easily in what feels like a shoddy attempt to manufacture more story.

Disappointingly, and despite its connection to a more unique storyline, *The Enchanter Heir* fits in all too well with the typical teen paranormal romance crop. It isn't new or different. It shares a remarkably similar element (and its inevitable conflict) with *Shatter Me*. And I get bored being told how good-looking someone is so often. And how *conflicted* - through no fault of his own. There haven't been enough good-looking, conflicted, dangerous YA male protagonists yet? There isn't any real characterization here: there's a shoddy plot and default characters patched into it.

I remember reading that Chima got a book deal for three additional Heir novels after the publication of *The Dragon Heir*. *The Enchanter Heir* feels exactly as tacked-on as that book deal suggests.

Anne says

Looking at some of the reviews I can see that some of my friends struggled with this new storyline, but I actually liked it *better* than the first three books. The characters (while sorta cliche) were written in a way that was less dry, and more interesting. At least, to *me*.

Alright. What's an **Enchanter**, you ask?

Well, they're able to make people do what they want. Everyone is drawn to them, and they can exert a great deal of *influence* over others.

Think: Hypnotoad...but hot!

Jonah is a childhood survivor of this famous 'magical commune massacre' that happened close to a decade before. Most of the children (and every adult) died because of...well...nobody's sure.

The other guilds think that Thorn Hill released some sort of a magical poison that backfired, and the survivors think that one of the other guilds (wizards are the prime suspect) poisoned the water supply.

Long story short, the surviving children were basically turned into magical mutants by *whatever* happened. Most of the mutations are pretty horrible (like being the Human Torch without the ability to say **Flame Off!**), and *all* of the mutations are pretty much slowly killing all of the children.

Jonah (originally *just* an Enchanter), now has all kinds of extra enhancements. Speed, strength, hearing, smell, etc..

PLUS the old cliche Death Touch.

Great for assassinations, bad for Prom Night.

Of course, this sets him up as our lonely, but stoic, ~~virgin~~ hero, and paves the way for his love interest, Emma.

Her origins connect in a murky/mysterious way with the Thorn Hill tragedy, but I don't wanna spoil the how/what/why.

**cough* Also, I'm not exactly sure what her real connection is, because this is one of those cliffhanger stories that leaves a lot of the mystery unsolved. So...yeah. I couldn't spoil it for you even if I wanted to.*

Anyway. It looks like Emma & her origins will play a BIG role in uncovering what's *really* going on...in the next book. Exciting, no?!

I don't think these last two books were originally slated to be part of the Heir stories, and maybe that's why this one has such a different feel to it. Something about the way the characters were written was just less clunky, in my opinion. There's also more of a conspiracy theory air to everything that gives the plot a bit of urgency. I don't know. It's just a bit cooler, I suppose.

If you liked the first three, I say give this one a shot.

Debbie says

this is the 4th in the series and it has been a few years since she wrote the first three. I enjoyed the first three and felt like the series was done. This one was odd- except for a few crossover moments - minor moments - with characters from the other three this story never felt like a part of the overall journey. In some ways I felt like I was dropped in the middle of a conversation trying to figure out what was going on and how this fits into the first three books. To me it never did.

Also, this book didn't have a conclusion so there will be another I guess and unfortunately I never got interested enough in the Thornhill mystery nor did I care for Jonah - the main character so I probably won't be reading any more.

I would still recommend the first three and leave it there.

Justin says

HOLY CRAP THERES A COVER AND A DESCRIPTION!

AND ITS BEING RELEASED EARLIER!

Molly Mortensen says

The storyline was much better than Dragon. (And you could totally start the series here!) Normally, I hate zombies, but these were totally unique. I loved the added worldbuilding with the Savants/labrats and the mystery of what happened at Thorn Hill.

There was definitely something up with Nightshade and Gabriel (director guy.) Why would he take Jonah, his best guy, off field work? (Luckily, the action didn't end there.)

It was nice to see Seph, Jack, and Ellen again. (Madison was there too.) The fight with the warriors was particularly awesome! I so wanted Jonah to befriend them.

I liked Jonah. The parts with his brother were particularly great! His friend Moss, admits to crushing on him and he's only nice to they guy, which says something about his character. He sure kicks butt! (He might be a bit overpowered.. He not only has the powers of an Enchanter (persuasion & feeling other's emotions) but he has enhanced strength and speed. (Probably healing too) Not to mention that his hands and lips are poison.)

The Bad:

I didn't like/ understand why Jonah's rude and disrespectful to the director, his boss/guardian. He also whines

too much. So, he feels guilty about killing shades.. They are killing people! And he insists on talking the woman who tried to get him to kill kids why?!

Despite his faults, I wish there was only one POV. I couldn't stand Emma. Like wishing for her death hated. She's supposed to be a strong character but she's just constantly mean to everyone!

Emma has lust at first sight with Jonah and we have to hear how attractive she thinks he is every time they're in a scene together. Unfortunately, he seems to like her too. (Like why?!)

Horrible Cliffhanger! Like she cut the book in half cliffhanger!

hpboy13 says

Cinda Williams Chima is one of my absolute favorite authors, so my expectations were sky-high for this book. I reread the entire Heir trilogy before starting this so it would be fresh in my mind, and was reminded of how much I love those books, even if the ending of the Dragon Heir was a tad iffy. The Enchanter Heir is a very solid book, no question about that... but I'm afraid it's just not quite as great as the others.

The good news is that Cinda's writing is as riveting as ever – the book is very difficult to put down, and she has a gift for making things come alive. Even things that I have no concept of, like guitars, were vivid and interesting when described by Cinda. Also, this book is peppered with lyrics to songs the characters write, and these were very good.

Also, the idea is kind of genius: it's essentially the X-Men, but in Cinda's fantasy world. It makes things very interesting, since the magic guilds are already hiding from the Anawair and have a lot of strife among them; now you throw in the mutants, who don't really play well with anybody. The familiar themes of discrimination and isolation pop up in Gabriel Mandrake's School for Gifted Youngsters (I don't think that's the actual name of the school, but that's what it brought to mind).

But the book also tackles disability. Sure, some of the characters have awesome healing powers, or not-so-awesome deadly touch powers (think Rogue, but much deadlier), or downright depressing foreseeing-death powers. But others are disabled, having magical seizures among many other things. Cinda does not shy away from this, and she also stays away from the ableism that often plagues such stories. Jonah's brother, Kenzie, is one of the disabled ones – but he is so much more than that. He is a tech whiz, he writes music, and has a snarky personality. In short, this is the perfect way to tackle such issues in books, and I applaud Cinda for doing so.

Now, while the world-building is impeccable as ever, the exposition of all this is not at all up to Cinda's usual standard. Even though I knew all the guilds and stuff from the first three books inside and out, I found myself hopelessly confused for a time. In addition to the guilds, we now have these mutants – known as savants, and as labrats by those wishing to deride them. Moreover, we now also have shades: they're ghosts, but want to possess corpses to become zombies. Apparently only the dead who were massacred at Thorn Hill become shades. Then there are the new organizations – Nightshade (savants who hunt down shades) and Black Rose (wizard assassins). Then there is new terminology thrown in – the guilds we know (the non-savant ones) are termed "mainline guilds," which really confused me. So while I finally figured it all out, I was very fuzzy on what was what for the first half of the book.

What I give Cinda major props for is not pulling any punches – there is a LOT of death in this book. We open with a massacre, then have our protagonist commit a double murder in chapter 1 after finding an old friend dead... the stakes are very high, and Cinda gives a great sense of all these characters' mortality.

While I assumed this would be a plus, I was actually not a fan of seeing all the previous Heir characters return. When they popped up in Wizard Heir and Dragon Heir, it was because they were relevant to the plot. Here, it's nothing but glorified cameos, which really serve very little purpose aside from being a wink and a nudge to old readers. Also, Ellen is virtually unrecognizable – she's turned downright unpleasant, arrogant and pushy, and I was struggling to remember why I ever liked her.

Ellen and Jack duel against Jonah together in one scene, and it takes the two of them some effort to beat him. Now, I get that Jonah is a powerful savant, etc. But doesn't it somewhat cheapen the whole warrior thing if it takes two of them to barely beat an enchanter?

I also found myself rolling my eyes at a point in the middle, which I've never done during one of Cinda's books. Let me set the scene: a strange boy wearing a mask and everything breaks into the basement where Emma is working. This boy (other protagonist Jonah) says he likes Emma's guitar. We then get this gem:

"A fragile thread of connection shimmered between them. It was that, and his voice, more than his physical beauty, that drew her in. In fact, she couldn't *see* his physical beauty, but she knew it was there under his clothes."

Oy vey. This reads like something out of a trashy romance novel, and just serves to make Emma appear like an idiot. But then it gets much worse. (view spoiler) Now, while Emma gets some allowance because of Jonah's enchanter powers, this is just too moronic to justify.

The other issue with the protagonists is that they're both loners, which makes it very difficult for the supporting cast to come alive like they did in Cinda's other books. I still don't have a good connection with any characters outside these two protagonists, and I'm not thrilled with Emma.

But the biggest beef I have with this book is that the ending is a nonending. The book introduces a lot of mysteries and conflicts, but at the end nothing is resolved and there have been no important steps towards resolution. Instead, a rather obvious event serves as a last-minute climax, and then we end on a cliffhanger remarkably similar to *Gray Wolf Throne*.

All of Cinda's other books have a very satisfying ending to tide us over for another year, until the next book comes out. Maybe everything isn't wrapped up in a nice little bow, but there is always a sense of having accomplished something, of ending a certain chapter in the story. *Enchanter Heir* never feels like more than just the intro to a large story. I personally think it will be ten times more enjoyable to read together with its sequel when that comes out, because *Enchanter Heir* does not really stand on its own.

So, in summary: the book is really good because Cinda Williams Chima is a fantastic writer and pulls you into the story. Those looking for an interesting fantasy read should pick it up, although I'd say it's better to wait until the sequel is out. However, Cinda's fans who are used to the monumental achievement that was the *Seven Realms* or even the fantastic original trilogy may want to keep their expectations in check for this book. While decent, in my mind it's clearly Cinda's weakest book to date.

Shalice says

From the authors website. 2 more heir books are coming! I don't know when though

"Coming - two more Heir Books and a fourth book in The Seven Realms series.

I have just signed a three-book deal with Hyperion, my publisher, for two more Heir books and a fourth Seven Realms novel. Likely I'll finish the Seven Realms books first (I'm working on #4 right now,) then start on the new Heir books. Possible titles for the upcoming Heir books include The Sorcerer Heir and The Enchanter Heir, but that's not graven in stone. See News for a few more details."

Sophie710 says

What? 2013????? want to read it noooooooooooooooow

Annie says

It's safe to say that I'm a fan of Cinda Williams Chima's books. I've read every book she has published to date, and I've loved all but this one. I adored the Heir Chronicles series in late elementary and early middle school, when I was that kid who read way above her level, all the time. (But what kid was ever harmed by reading above her level? Nobody. Go at those YA books, kids, and become more awesome.) More recently, I read her Seven Realms series, which I loved even more. When I heard that there were two more Heir books coming out, I was excited. And confused. It was like hearing about the fourth Pirates of the Caribbean movie. I was thrilled, because, well, PotC. I was also suspicious, though, because the trilogy had finished. Everything was wrapped up, so why were they making a fourth? I felt the same hearing about the fourth and fifth Heir books.

While *The Enchanter Heir* has its moments, I'm thinking that the Heir series should've stayed a trilogy. It brings back familiar characters like Jack Swift and Ellen Stephenson, Madison Moss, and others. I appreciated how easy it was to get back into this series after being away from it for so long. Most already-established characters make only minor appearances, though, and it introduces a new cast. It alternates between the points of view of Jonah and Emma, neither of whom are characters that feel three-dimensional. I kept wanting *more* from them, but it never came. I wanted more depth, more exploration of their characterization, more complexity, but I never got far below the surface. Their romance develops quickly and awkwardly, with little apparent chemistry. Both of them spend more time brooding and/or moping than actually doing anything, and are more reactionary than catalysts of their own story.

The plot itself takes a long time to develop. Either the entire first half is setup, or it just feels like it. I waited longer than I wanted for things to truly start happening. After that, the plot gets more interesting, but it keeps changing focus. First it's all about killing (or reaching a truce with) the undead/spirits. (Is nobody going to talk about the fact that the undead's ringleader is named Lilith?) Then it's about politics between the wizards and the underguilds. Then it's about Jonah and his band. Then it focuses on the relationship between Jonah and Emma.

Because of this, it was hard to care about the plot. It was interesting, in places, but I couldn't figure out

where it was going, which made it hard to be invested. Besides, some aspects felt unnecessary, and this book could've easily been much shorter without losing anything vital. Did we really have to include so many chapters about the drama within Jonah's band? Probably not.

My review is full of criticism, but really, I didn't dislike the book. I didn't necessarily like it, as a whole--it's somewhere in the middle. Parts are genuinely interesting, but other parts just left me bored. I'm most likely being a bit harsh on it since I had such high expectations. Still, it's not a bad book, and it's always possible that my tastes have changed enough that I'd no longer love the rest of the Heir series if I reread it. If you loved the Heir Chronicles, it's worth a read, but you miss nothing, story-wise, if you stop after *The Dragon Heir*. Overall, my opinion balances out to three stars.

Similar Books: It's a fantasy novel set in modern times with a plot that focuses on magical politics, like the Bartimaeus series. It will appeal to fans of Chima's other series, the Seven Realms series. It also reminds me of the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series (though I'm not really sure why).

Read more of my reviews at <http://anniesepicblog.blogspot.com>.

Regan says

I enjoyed this book, however it was not my favorite by her.

Eliza Crewe says

Meh. Pretty standard across the board--standard characters, standard plot, plus a few head smacking moments. I'm pretty sure the line "You're not like other girls" gets an automatic one-star deduction from me. I'm probably being too harsh, but my expectations are pretty high for the author responsible for the Seven Realms Series (one of my absolute favorites!).

Kyle says

The Thorn Hill Massacre was ten years ago. Thousands of Weir, living in a thriving community, killed by poison. Few survived and they were all children. But they did not survive unscathed. Most suffer magical health issues and disabilities. Many were also left with unique magical gifts that set them apart from the mainline guilds. Most people think it was the Wizard's guild's doing.

Now wizards are being killed. The Anchorage, a new community setup to treat and house the survivors of the Thorn Hill Massacre is being framed for it. The Wizards guild is looking for someone to blame.

In *The Enchanter Heir*, we're introduced to Thorn Hill survivors, Jonah Kinlock and Emma Greenwood. Jonah is an enchanter and assassin, gifted with fantastic speed and a talent with a sword. But Jonah has another gift, his touch kills. Though Emma Greenwood, a recently orphaned musician from Memphis, left Thorn Hill before the massacre. She finds herself somehow in the middle of it all even though she knows nothing about what happened.

As with all the books in **The Heir Chronicles** series, I got entangled in the story from the prologue and it would NOT let go. Even when I finished reading the last page, it's like okay where's the next book? The writing is excellent. Right from their introduction I found myself truly invested in the characters.

The only reasons I didn't give it five stars was the cliff-hanger ending. OMG I so hate that! Okay maybe it's a love-hate thing but still!

Amber says

The book is okay. I didn't think it was amazing or anything, it just wasn't horrible. The characters weren't really loveable but I didn't dislike them either. I give the book a 3 because I really did enjoy the plot and the idea of it

Diana says

I am usually a huge fan of Cinda Williams Chima. I LOVE the entire Heir series and was so, so excited to see this one come out. Unfortunately, I was really disappointed! I'm so sorry Ms. Chima (on the off chance you ever see this), I hate giving negative reviews, but it really wasn't up to your usual standard. I'll explain:

This story focused entirely on the romance between the two main characters. This in itself wouldn't have been a huge problem, but the TYPE of romance was VERY Twilight-esque. That is, it felt cheesy and completely unfounded. The entire thing seemed to boil down to "He's so hot, and he's *brooding* and *mysterious*, I must have him! Why can't I have him! He hates himself for some unknown reason! Sexual tension!" It was basically Bella and Edward all over again. :/

Basically, it was the kind of cheap, constantly-drooling-over-his-washboard-abs while asserting that she "wasn't usually the kind of girl who did this" teen thing I would expect from a standard YA paranormal romance. It made the characters and relationship seem really two-dimensional and shallow. There was tons of descriptions of his body and his gorgeousness and his lust-worthiness to the point where just got really annoying. The previous books, when they included romance, at least mentioned other factors that made them attracted to each other, such as humor or intelligence or myriad other things that made them legitimately interesting. Like I said, this one completely boiled down to "he's gorgeous and mysterious and exudes lust and therefore I love him!" There was nothing else. And that took up WAY too much of the story.

Way too much time was taken up drooling over the boy and his hotness and the tiny teen drama of the band they were in rather than the very, very interesting storyline. You had a really great, intriguing main plot, Ms. Chima! Why didn't you show us more of that?? Almost 500 pages and very little happened with the main

story. Why end this on a cliffhanger? None of the other books did, and if you had cut out a few dozen descriptions of Jonah's glowing pects you probably could have fit an ending in.

I realize this is a teen series and therefore I'm probably biased because I'm in my 20s, but the other books in the series had a lot more substance while this one was full of fluff :(You're a fantastic author and I have so much respect for your books; I just think this particular installment didn't do you justice! I look forward to reading the next one and just hope that it blows this one out of the water.
