



The Hollow Kingdom: Book I -- The Hollow Kingdom Trilogy

By Clare B. Dunkle



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The Hollow Kingdom, the first book in Clare Dunkle's acclaimed fantasy trilogy, will transport readers into a magical realm that Newbery Award winner Lloyd Alexander calls "as persuasive as it is remarkable."

For thousands of years, young women have been vanishing from Hallow Hill, never to be seen again. Now Kate and Emily have moved there with no idea of the land's dreadful heritage?until Marak decides to tell them himself. Marak is a powerful magician who claims to be the goblin king, and he has very specific plans for the two new girls who have trespassed into his kingdom . . .

The Hollow Kingdom is a 2004 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9-Kate and her younger sister, Emily, are orphans, sent to live with great aunts at remote and mysterious Hallow Hill. Hugh Roberts, their guardian, is a surly and somewhat sinister cousin. One afternoon, the girls come upon some strange people and an abnormally huge cat in a clearing. One of these folk, Marak, is a goblin king. He needs Kate to be his human bride, for goblins may not marry their own kind. When Emily disappears, Kate assumes that he is responsible and agrees to marry him in exchange for her sister's freedom. Once in the goblins' vast underground kingdom, Kate is sure she will die from not being able to see the stars. But she does marry Marak and assumes her life as a queen. At this point the plot takes an unexpected turn. A sorcerer attacks Marak, and Kate discovers some surprising things about herself and her relationship with her husband. This is an interesting fantasy world with well-realized characters. Hugh Roberts is a true villain and Kate is a feisty heroine. Marak is frequently described as an ugly monster, and he definitely comes across as something other than human. However, he has a good nature and a sense of humor as well as a great love for his chosen wife. The goblin kingdom itself is beautifully described, as are the strange creatures that inhabit it. The story moves a bit slowly in places, but overall it should attract readers who like magic and adventure. Kate is surely a heroine to be reckoned with, and girls will relate to her predicament.

Bruce Anne Shook, Mendenhall Middle School, Greensboro, NC

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-8. When orphaned Victorian teenager Kate and her younger sister move to an estate they have inherited, Kate feels sure she's being watched. She's not wrong. The suave, hideous Goblin King, Marak, plans to kidnap and wed her (goblin women are mostly infertile, so "crossing out" to other species ensures the survival of the race). All seems poised for clever Kate to outmaneuver the villain, but the seemingly conventional setup gives way to something far more intriguing: the dreaded marriage actually happens. Readers are then plunged into the goblins' eerily lovely subterranean world, where Marak, despite his pitiless disregard for certain human sensibilities, surprises Kate with his wise leadership and husbandly concern. Each of the novel's three parts fairly brims with plot, at times things seem a bit rushed, and Kate's concluding adventure presupposes a devotion to her husband that hasn't yet been convincingly established. But this is a fresh, powerful twist on the Beauty-and-the-Beast theme, and the impact of Dunkle's evocative storytelling lingers long after the final page. *Jennifer Mattson*

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Review

"Clare Dunkle brings a fresh new voice to the high art of fantasy. She creates a world filled with intense excitement, terror, beauty, and love-a world as persuasive as it is remarkable. Splendid!" ?Lloyd Alexander

"[A] fresh, powerful twist on the Beauty-and-the-Beast theme, and the impact of Dunkle's evocative storytelling lingers long after the final page." ?Booklist

"[F]irst time novelist Dunkle turns out a luminously polished fantasy that starts off strong and just gets better. . . .The story line does not slow, offering suspense and plenty of evil to be vanquished. A masterly debut, it will almost certainly leave audiences hoping for more." ?Publishers Weekly, starred

“This is an interesting fantasy world with well-realized characters.” ?School Library Journal

“[A] charming fantasy romance.” ?Locus

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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