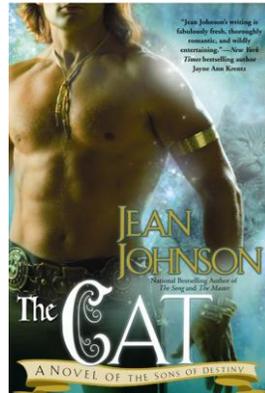


CK²S Kwips and Kritiques

Review by Debbie

Rating: 5 clovers



Amara and her sister, Arora, have fled their land and their people due to a secret, a secret that others will kill to possess. Amara is tired and the loss of her role as a future queen of the Shifterai tears at her very soul. She doesn't trust mages and finding herself on an island where all the inhabitants (other than Kelly and Mikor) are mages has her on edge. And she certainly doesn't take the news of her role as a prophesied bride well at all!

Trevan is more than ready for his prophesied bride to arrive. Once known for his charms at seducing women, Trevan finds himself faced with a new dilemma: a woman whose culture is so different that all his seduction methods are useless. Or are they? Will the next one of the *Sons of Destiny* finally find his match?

THE CAT is the fifth in a series of interconnected books. Jean Johnson does provide a recap of the main events of the prior books but the story is best appreciated if read in the context of the preceding books. Ms. Johnson also points out that THE CAT and the next book, THE STORM, occur concurrently. One can see the glimpses of Arora and Rydan and those tidbits only whet the appetite for THE STORM!

The romance between Amara and Trevan is sweet as both learn the importance of compromise. However, that is not the true highlight of THE CAT. No, the best parts of THE CAT are the clashes between Kelly, the self-appointed Queen of Nightfall, and Amara. Both women are headstrong and temperamental but for Nightfall to succeed, Kelly in particular has to learn a few lessons about diplomacy, tact, and forgiveness. Amara has her own issues with these very same things and the resulting quarrels between these two stubborn women will satisfy every single person (like me!) who was readily sick of Kelly telling everyone what to do. Ironically, Amara and Kelly provide each other with a mirror of themselves so that both can shelve their attitudes and work towards the betterment of the island as a whole.

THE CAT is an excellent entry into the series! Jean Johnson provides some interesting paranormal twists coupled with fantastic world building to produce what may be the best book to date in the *Sons of Destiny*! Readers will appreciate the way cultural norms and perspectives are viewed through the eyes of others as THE CAT provides the much needed depth the storyline has needed.