

CK²'S Kwiips and KriTiques

In an alternate world where magic exists, eight brothers have been exiled due to a Curse. The four sets of twins have been cast out of their homeland and reside on Nightfall Isle. The youngest brother and the strongest mage, Morganen, defies all by rescuing Kelly Doyle from her burning bed... and sets into motion the guidelines of the Curse as dictated by the Seer Draganna. Saber is the oldest of the brothers and therefore reluctant to have any friendly contact with Kelly as he fears the unknown disaster foretold by the Seer. See what waits in store for the first *Son of Destiny* in THE SWORD.

THE SWORD is a splendid combination of romance and fantasy! The first part of the book is a bit too heavy on setting up the story and did drag a bit. However, once Kelly's character began to emerge as the very strong woman she is, the story took off. Kelly is forced to live in a world dominated by Alpha males but she doesn't cower despite her smaller size. Instead, she uses her wits and focuses on her strengths to make her own way in a world in which she is both the only female and the only non-magical person. THE SWORD has some of the best scenes of a male getting his comeuppance I have ever read!

Jean Johnson has crafted a number of very interesting creatures in this fascinating alternate reality. The mekhadadaks were wonderful although I did find myself comparing them to the replicators from the television show, SG-1, despite the obvious differences. However, it was the watersnakes that really creeped me out as Jean Johnson put such an interesting spin to these icky creatures.

THE SWORD is a superb addition to the ranks of the fantasy romances! Romance is a heavy element in this story but the fantasy is not overwhelmed by the sparks flying between Kelly and Saber. Jean Johnson has created a story that transports the reader into a world in which magic is a fact of life as THE SWORD is a definite keeper!

Reviewed by Debbie
Rating: 4 ½ clovers