



Dragon Killer

Rob May

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The epic fantasy trilogy begins. In a world fearfully waiting for the return of the dormant dragon god, a triumvirate of evil villains rises up to take advantage of the chaos. Reluctantly pitted against them is Kal Moonheart, an adventurer and gambler, marked for a life of danger at a young age. But Kal has friends to stand with her—honest thief Will Straightarrow, smuggler and pirate Lula Pearl, knight-errant Rafe Firehand, and wiley politician Benedict Godsword. There will be blood. There will be a reckoning ...

In DRAGON KILLER, a mysterious threat puts Kal on a collision course with terrors she thought she had left buried in her past. Teaming up with a young guard captain, aspiring knight Rafe Firehand, she travels to a dragon-haunted island to hunt down a murderous beast. Once there, Kal soon discovers there are worse things in the world than dragons, and when an unexpected sequence of events leaves her in an impossible situation, she must summon every ounce of skill, cunning and strength in order to survive.

Dragon Killer Details

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Author : Rob May

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From Reader Review Dragon Killer for online ebook

Sage Knightly says

I liked it, but I didn't love it.

Gabriel Boutros says

For my first foray into the fantasy genre I chose Rob May's Dragon Killer, figuring that it was quite short, so at least I wouldn't be stuck too long on something I wasn't really into. Imagine my surprise when my main complaint about the book is that it was too short. May gives us a great heroine in Kalina Moonheart, and an even better bad guy, Gron Darklaw. In fact, Darklaw's back-story could make a terrific book of its own. And there is, of course, a fierce dragon killing and destroying all in its way. The fictional world is realistically detailed, the action scenes are taut and exciting, without being too gory, and the writing isn't too flowery or corny. But, it all ends much too soon, as if it's only a part of a much larger epic that remains to be told. May obviously believes in the old adage of always leaving your audience wanting more.

Robert Spake says

I received a free copy of Dragon Killer in exchange for a non-reciprocal review. I enjoyed this book a lot. It's very fast-paced and tightly plotted, but it still makes time for world-building, which is always one of my favourite aspects of the fantasy genre. The tales of the old gods were intriguing and I liked how the author showed how religion and superstition would work in a world where the gods had died. I loved the picture of life he gave us, about how the society worked and the economics and even how people in this world gamble, and how it was all relevant to the plot.

The story was well-structured. The first chapter of each part is devoted to a flashback, until the last part, when the climaxes to both stories are told simultaneously and they complement each other well. I liked the characterisation of all the characters, each were given distinct personalities, although the stand-outs were Kalinda and Darklaw. Kalinda especially was a protagonist that I could identify with and root for. The villain was surprisingly nuanced, I say surprisingly because at first he seems a typical power-hungry villain but then we are given a backstory which engenders some sympathy.

As I said before the story is very fast-paced and there's a lot of action, but it never feels confusing or repetitive and the climax to the flashback story is particularly visceral. My only complaint is that I feel the romance was underdeveloped. It was quite brief and it seemed to come out of nowhere, and I think if it had been developed more it would have given certain events more emotional impact. But overall it was a very enjoyable read and I have no hesitation in recommending it.

C.S. Houghton says

I liked it. The sensory-rich and consistently solid writing in *Dragon Killer* kept me turning the pages. Well, the tale of adventure kept me moving forward as well. It's hard not to be swept along. The protagonist is likeable, and the story is good enough, especially when buoyed by the parallel past/present experiences.

Rob May both uses and subverts a number of fantasy tropes. Yes, there are goblin-kind and dragons, but May does a lot of heavy lifting too. There's a nice blend of expectation and unexpected invention. Although, I feel like a vulcanologist should have been consulted, but that's a bit of a spoiler.

I'd recommend the book without any genre qualification. If you're looking to enjoy a short but agreeable story, try *Dragon Killer*. I should note that I received a free copy of the book in exchange for a non-reciprocal, entirely objective review.

Dean C. Moore says

One of my favorite things about this book is how, despite its terse page count, it doesn't feel like a novella, but like a full length novel. The writer has a fabulous ability to cram a ton of story and character development into a very small page count. Speaking as a professional writer myself, I can tell you, that's no easy thing to do. Rob's prose sparkles on many levels, not the least of which is the copy-editing. I have an eye for catching typos and awkward phrases, and it's not unusual for me to find these even in published books from major publishing houses, far less self-published books, which are often far guiltier violators. It's a tribute to Rob's commitment to excellence that this is one of the cleanest published manuscripts I've ever read.

But on to the stuff that really matters. For those of you who enjoy books with strong, compelling female leads, look no further. For a guy, this author does "chick lit" (a bona fide watterpad genre in case you were interested) like nobody's business. His hero, Kal Moonheart, is warm, likable, and just sheer fun, with an appetite for danger and a fearlessness and disrespect for authority that you know is going to get her into trouble in short order that will be next to impossible for her to extract herself from. But her character traits do lend themselves to a nail-biting collection of cliff hangers!

The one thing that took me a while to adjust to was that Rob isn't one for using period-appropriate language. Some readers will find this off-putting, while others will find it grants them a way into the novel, and makes it that much easier to bond with the characters, without feeling like they have to take a class in medieval lit just to keep up. At times in Act 1, I found this a bit jangling to the nerves, but eventually I settled into the logic of the approach.

One other caveat, this story isn't told in a linear fashion. That also takes some getting used to. But once again, Rob uses this effect to highlight suspense, amplify the already adrenaline stoked pace of the novel, and I suspect it is also one of his well kept secrets for keeping the page count down. Once he messes with your sense of what comes next, and gets you sold on his rationale for connecting the dots, he has you entirely under his spell.

When I first encountered this book on watterpad nearly a year ago, I thought, this is definitely an author to watch. I've since read a second of his titles and am happy to say I was right.

Elisabeth says

I got the ebook on Amazon when it was free a while ago, and expected it to at least be quite good, considering the reviews it got here on goodreads. It was off to a good start, the story seemed interesting, and you got interested in getting to know the characters better. However, I never did. Most characters are very superficially written, and incredibly inconsequent.

When reading a well-written book, one usually gets a feeling of the characters' inner struggles and character traits by about the middle of the book. This doesn't happen here, because many times the characters act in ways not aligned with what we know about them so far and they act in ways which might be useful for the advancement of the story, but not helpful in establishing a believable character.

The relationships between the heroine Kal and her friends/lovers are not built well. You know that she is friends with these people, because she says so, and because they say so, but it is rarely stated WHY, and when it is, it often seems a bit far-fetched.

I saw a review which stated missing details as a positive story-advancer, but I disagree. I like to imagine settings and characters in my head, but I like some foundation for these images. Kal's appearance, for example, it established incredibly late in the book. Descriptions of characters all appear quite late, and while that might be intentional, it is in no way beneficial to the enjoyment of the book.

The biggest problem is however the way in which the main character's emotions and thoughts are described. Here, even more than in all which was mentioned before, you get the feeling that the author could not quite choose a few out of many admirable character traits for Kalina, so decided to give them all to her, depending on the scene that is happening at the moment. Since the book is written out of her perspective (in third person in this book), you witness all of Kal's emotions first-hand, but she switches them up so quickly, that you wonder whether she has any at all. One example: Someone dies, and you expect her to be grieving. Instead, she mentions how distraught she is once, but then continues on and you get the feeling, that this death does not bother her in any way afterwards.

I must admit, I have a hard time not finding any faults in fantasy books after reading Pat Rothfuß's novels, but this one somehow rubbed me the wrong way in so many manners, that it prompted me to write my first review, ever.

Leigh Stuart says

Tight prose, quick action and sparse details make for a thoroughly enjoyable read, however, it was not always to my taste.

In the Dragon Killer, Rob May gives the reader a kick-butt heroine that packs not only a punch, but a clever woman who is able to use her brains in order to get out of dangerous spots. And she gets into several. The parallel stories of her current mission to find out why production has been disrupted at a politician's gold mine and her past as a village girl turned to dragon killer were riveting. There was only one strange moment in the narration, where Kal skips forward to the future and is speaking to someone else.

Unfortunately, what kept me from really loving the story (come-on, a book about a warrior woman, ancient gods, politics rife with intrigue and corruption, fights with decidedly evil villains, and some gore to keep things interesting--who wouldn't love it?) was its bare-bones writing. While other readers might like a book to move fast, I want something juicier that I can really sink my teeth into. I was just starting to really know

and enjoy Kal's character and the plot and the book was suddenly over.

There is a sequel, but I haven't decided if I will read it or not. In spite of what I found a bit negative, I can recommend this book to fantasy lovers. I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Teryl says

Although I like the main character, Kal, this book didn't fully grab my attention.

Marc Secchia says

Fantasy which stands out from the crowd.

What a find! Dragon Killer by Rob May may weigh in at just 151 pages, but the quality of the prose, action, and sheer storytelling pizzazz that the author manages to pack in to those pages, makes for a gripping, unputdownable read.

The plot is great fun and delivered in espresso style - Kal, adventurer, thief and gambler, is a 'bad' girl taking on the bad guys. She's a refreshing character who introduces us to a world in which May subverts classic fantasy tropes to bring us action, humour and a unique setting. Are the dragons bad, good, or neutral - or in fact, are they dragons at all? He smuggles in backstory and world-building details beautifully, and the action moves at a fabulous pace, always flowing, often surprising.

One of the stand-out features of this work is the exacting (but never overbearing) detail that the author brings to the fray, from 50-inch bastard swords to a bascinet helmet - the weaponry and setting of his world is meticulously researched, but delivered in a cinematic package, where every paragraph and chapter drives the action forward.

Essentially, Kal the Dragon Killer is drafted to check into a dragon problem at a gold mine on an island off the coast. She travels there with a hopeful knight, Rafe, who also becomes her love-interest. Deep in the mine she encounters the 8-foot evil protagonist, Kron Darklaw, and the fun proceeds to fly. I don't want to spoil, so I'll say no more, but the plot twists abound and keep the reader hopping. Through it all, Kal maintains her integrity and is delivered as a well-rounded heroine, not without her flaws, but a girl of spirit and no small courage. The only complaint I'd have is that she seems to respond quite shallowly to relationship and to loss and grief, which perhaps the story length does not allow time to explore. However, this is a minor note.

I have to say, quite simply, that for the price you get a quality, engaging story with no editing problems, a thrill-packed ride, and a fantasy with a unique and memorable flavour. This is writing with great craft; an author to watch. I thank Rob for a review copy which he provided in exchange for an honest review. I'll be reading more of this author!

Michael Gallagher says

Great beach reading for the summer for any lover of goblins and dragons. The novel is a tad short, but very, very well written. The young woman hero is deadly for her potential lovers-they suffer deadly fates before they can be developed. On this point falls my only complaint about the book. I might have preferred to see the heroine's love life flourish. Hey, I get to have that experience in the next part. An anti-hero, complete with an interesting and deep background, shows the complexity of Mister May's view of his fantasy society. All in all, a good, fun read where predictable turns of events are spiced by well-placed teasers. Spoilers keep me from going into details but I would recommend this book to any of my friendds that go for the fantasy genre. The author gifted me a copy of his book in exchange for a non-reciprocal review. I was in no way encouraged to give it a strong review.

momokaachan says

Reasonably good story. I am really annoyed that both of the male love interests were killed before we got to know much about them.

L.K. Evans says

I'M (sadly) INDIFFERENT

Honestly, I can't find much to fault in this book. For me, it just didn't grab me. I think a lot of people will like this book. As I said, there's nothing glaringly wrong with it.

This was a short book full of action and traveling. I finished it quickly, even though I set it down a few times. It was a bit straining on my eyes because single quotation marks were used instead of double. It made me read slower since the dialog quotations don't stand out. Small complaint, but one that bothered me nonetheless.

I must say Kal is a strong female character. She's independent, tough, and isn't afraid of a little challenge. Rafe starts out kinda prissy and haughty for a guy, but still came off likable and grew into a character I enjoyed. All the characters were done well, and I had no issues visualizing them and the settings they ended up in. For me, I kinda like a more troubled character. Sure, Kal has a past, but it just didn't grab me enough.

The world has some interesting stories of old and I think it was a great setup for future books. I don't think there was anything crazy unique about it, but what we were given was delivered quickly and cleanly.

Which brings me to another point: This book moved. It felt like something was happening even when it wasn't. Sometimes it felt a hair too fast, but since I wasn't completely engrossed, I rather liked that it moved. Even the flashbacks had stuff happening. However, I think the flashbacks were a bit too many and I didn't like that they were handled as a dream. Kal isn't some crazy mage or someone with a unique gift, so I didn't feel dreams were believable (no one dreams events exactly as they happened). Just musing about her past would have done a lot more for me. Furthermore, there was one paragraph where we find out she's telling a story to someone which just really put me off. It came out of nowhere in relation to the other flashbacks.

As you can see, most of my issues are small. For me, I just couldn't get myself into the story. Might be because I was coming off a really heavy read, one that I absolutely loved, and wasn't prepared to move on from it yet. If you're looking for a light, fast read, I'd suggest giving this one a try. There's a lot of reviews out there that rave about it.

You can see this and other reviews on my website: <http://booksbylkevans.com>

Rachel Barnard says

Kalina Moonheart and a man in pursuit of knighthood find themselves on the same quest to rid a gold-mining island of a terrible beast. Two stories unfold, one of Kalina the Dragon Killer and the other of her present day predicament trying to solve the mystery of the island's dragon and eventually just to stay alive. This is an adventure for those true of purpose and who are ready to take on any enemy, no matter its form or shape.

It is easy to fall in love with Kalina Moonheart. Her name alone would make any reader a fan. She presents herself as erring on the arrogant side of confidence. Anybody looking for a super hero will adore Kalina. She is a young heroine of no doubt and no hesitation. She is strong, witty, and clever. She can use all the tricks up her sleeve to accomplish her goals. She remains emotionally above her past's tragedies and stands tall in the face of her current enemies. She is the renegade Indiana Jones and for her to grow and develop as a character throughout the series, my guess is that she will learn humility. At times it was difficult to connect with her as a real person because she is superhuman. She gets injured but doesn't tell us of any pain and is not slowed down by these injuries.

In Dragon Killer dragons are clever and to defeat one Kal must be cleverer still. Rob May has one more trick up his sleeve where dragons are concerned.

I wasn't sure which I wanted to read more, the back-story of how Kalina got the name Dragon Killer or her present adventure in the heart of a mountain on the island of the present dragon, but I was glad May gave me both and integrated them smoothly throughout the book.

The author has a knack for throwing out intriguing cliff-hangers at the end of each chapter to keep you moving through the rather short chapters.

The only part that seemed out of character for the balanced novel was the romance between Rafe and Kal. It was as if Rob May was told his story needed romance, and he threw it in after he had written the entirety of the novel.

I recommend this book for anyone who enjoys the adventures and smart alecky-ness of Indiana Jones, the relentlessness of the Terminator, or a novel with a young kick-butt female hero.

Hemant Jadhav says

Why is it that we like to read books and stories which belong to the 'fantasy' genre? Perhaps it connects the 'child' within us, to a world which we have left far behind. And with the passage of time, as we regretfully

turn into adults, a part of us still hankers for the fairy tales, albeit more sophisticated ones.

Since JKR, the 'fantasy' genre has really taken off like never before. One really can't figure out the 'good' stuff from the 'bad', if one goes only by the cover. That is why, I don my wellingtons mentally when I pick up a book from this genre, mentally prepared to wade through acres of bullshit and hallucinations.

I tossed the wellingtons aside, after reading the very first chapter of Dragon Killer by Rob May. It is a superbly written book! May has an incredible imagination and a terrific eye for detail, enabling the reader to vividly visualize the entire story.

From the entire cast of characters, surprisingly, I found the chief antagonist - Gron Darklaw the best. In fact at one point, I found myself rooting for the fellow.

"I want to conquer the horizon", says Gron Darklaw. What a profound statement, makes you actually stop and think! And continue thinking even after putting down the book.

Then there is 'dragon piss', which is so vividly described, that I found myself actually rubbing my fingers...

These and so many other charming details, makes you wonder, whether the author may actually have a few goblins and a dragon or two in his own backyard!

Congratulations Rob, you've written a splendid book.

Edmond DeRousse says

What I loved about Dragon Killer is the fact that the main character is female.

I strongly believe that literature needs more strong female main characters, especially for this genre.

Literature does reflect the ideals of the present.

This book teaches girls that princesses aren't meant to be locked up at towers. Instead of waiting for their knight and shining armor, they can choose to be the heroes of their own story. They, too, can slay their dragons. They, too, can save princes.

(There's nothing wrong about kids wanting to be princesses. But I do hope they learn that they can be both strong and beautiful at the same time.)

I would've liked to see Kal as more feminine. I mean, a character can be feminine and still slay a dragon.

Also, I think the brevity of this story is kind of a problem. The story is brilliant, and it deserves more pages.

There are certain aspects that need development - Kal, and the love story (abrupt).

I think the impact would have been greater if this was longer because it would've provided more opportunities to develop Kal and her love story.

Overall, I thought it was good. Anyone who wants to read about dragons and kick-ass female characters should read this book.
