



The Undivided

Jennifer Fallon

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From one of Voyager's bestselling authors comes an outstanding new epic fantasy trilogy ... taking us through the Rift where the Druids survived the Roman invasion of Britain to become the most powerful magical force on Earth ...

the Undivided are divided. the psychic twins Rónán and Darragh have been separated by a traitor Druid, Amergin, who has thrown Rónán through a rift into another reality. Now time is running out for Darragh. If Rónán isn't found soon, they will both die. Meanwhile, Ren Kavanagh has no notion of where he comes from and is plagued by mysterious injuries. then he meets the enticing and mysterious trása ... Ren's life is about to become more bizarre and dangerous than he could ever have imagined. PRAISE FOR JENNIFER FALLON 'a multi-hued tapestry of myth, deceit and ambition' Publishers Weekly 'intrigue and conspiracy ... and fast repartee' Book News'characters are dynamic and engaging, her plots are intricate and detailed' Good Reading

The Undivided Details

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Author : Jennifer Fallon

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From Reader Review The Undivided for online ebook

Elizabeth says

My first thought upon finishing this was "Wait what? Is that it?" The story just stopped. I would even go so far as to say it's the dreaded....CLIFFHANGER. Consider this your warning, which I wish I'd had before starting this.

That said, I did find this a very enjoyable read. Although the "portal to another universe" is horribly cliched, this one did quite well with that, with the differences between the worlds being due to different historical choices - the effects were well explained and logical. It also hit that sweet spot where the plot was just complicated enough to keep me thinking and on my toes, but not so complicated that I was struggling or *coughs* Ian Banks *cough* just gave up trying to follow.

I found the main characters RonanDarragh (their names are supposed to be written like that, by the way) quite interesting and likeable, but ultimately a bit forgettable - too much like every other male MC ever written.

The big thing that kept me from rating this more highly - other than the cliffhanger ending which always knocks at least a star off for me - was that the writing style was a bit simplistic for the intended audience. I would recommend it for high-school students whose reading level is decent but not stellar. But for someone like me who wants to savour exquisite wordcraft, it fell flat. Definitely not the writing style I expected from Fallon, who came highly recommended.

Not sure at this stage whether I'll bother with the next one.

Sonia says

I hate it when fantasy authors merge the real, modern world with fantasy worlds in their book. It stops you from being able to get into their book because you can't quiet that "that's so unreal!" sense. The plot and characterisation in this book were simply awful and it seemed like Jennifer (whose work I ordinarily LOVE) just wanted to tie all this Gaelic mythology and Gaelic names into a book and forgot that about the plot. Mind you, the Ancient Future by Traci Harding managed to merge the real world with an ancient British world with more success, but in general I think it's near impossible to pull off!

Damali says

That was a disturbing turn of events. I'm glad the series is finished, and I can proceed to book 2.

Jennavier says

I'm here to announce that I was the lucky duck this month. I know, you're all jealous. Jennifer Fallon (or JJ Fallon) was a favorite author of mine as a teen. Due to her publishing in Australia and me reading in the US and all the crazy production schedules I lost track of her. So when I found out that there was review copies of The Undivided to be had I camped out in the e-queue and held out. I got one. Huzzah! So obviously this is a copy provided by the publisher for an honest review. Definitely honest and hopefully still readable.

Onto the book. As you may have guessed this fantasy world is fraught with dissension. At the middle of it stands Darragh and Ronan, a pair of psychically linked twins living in different realities. One reality is a take on a druid based Ireland/England. The other is a reflection of our own. One of the things that makes the fantasy reality awesome is a unique take on the fey. They're mostly antagonist due to their opposing motives to the Druids and Darragh but that doesn't make them cartoonish, only dangerous. In both realities there are threats to the boys. In the fantasy world their way of life is threatened on all sides as everyone tries to use an uneasy peace as a means to domination of their kingdom/species. In the "real" reality Ronan has no knowledge of his true birth and no way to protect himself from people wanting to use him. I was really invested in the fantasy world due to Fallon's awesome world building. I was a little less attached to the real world reality but I liked the portrayal of fame shown through Ronan's adopted mother Kyra the movie star. Here's what I really loved. The characters were fabulous. Within pages of walking on they were vivid and real in my mind. Despite her limited screen time Brydie is my favorite. She's female in a culture that highly values her uterus. Not that that's stopping her. My favorite moment of hers is when another character asks whose side she's on. "I'm on my side." Gotta love it. Like her the other minor characters aren't cardboard cutouts there to say yes and no the plot. Sometimes I wanted to smack them and tell them to do what the main character tells them to, proving that Fallon wrote them awesomely. Feminist moment: I liked that all the female characters were just as interesting, if not more so (bias speaking!), then their male counterparts. Even when they were unlikeable they were always themselves.

The plot was both my love and my hate. I loved how all the twists and turns left me unsure of the ending. I hated how I never really felt the stakes of the story. While I had a fuzzy idea of what failure meant I was never sure what the twins success would look like. There was so much time spent flipping in between realities I never understood the fantasy reality as well as I wanted to. Considering that all of the plot movement was coming from the fantasy world that might be where I felt the lack. My other frustration is the frequency that different characters were written about. The characters that I fell for in the very beginning of the book were mostly sidelined for large chunks of the story. Characters from the "real" reality were written about the most and I just found that plot line less interesting and was itching to get back to the fantasy one. I'm a huge urban fantasy fan so I don't think that feeling comes from a preference for the fantastical. As Ronan was in the dark so was I the reader. When I knew there were answers elsewhere it was really tempting to skip ahead.

Thanks again to Jennifer Fallon and her publisher for giving me the opportunity to read *The Undivided*.

Kendra Ashcraft says

Not bad for a fantasy novel. However, be prepared for many typos and formatting errors. Interesting plot and ending concerning magic and alternate realities, enough to get me to start the sequel.

Ross says

Good, book, enjoyed the characters and story throughout. Very Good story 4/5

Anu says

The Undivided is the first book in a new series called "Riftrunners" by one of my favorite authors, Jennifer Fallon. And, true to form, this book does not disappoint. Far from it, in fact! This book follows the lives of a pair of psychically connected twins, born in an alternate reality where the Romans were beaten back from their conquering rampage of Britain, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. How they were beaten back forms the foundations of this alternate reality.

The Sidhe (and for once, there is no division of the Seelie vs. the Unseelie that so many authors deem necessary), the elven race whose very being is merged with the force of magic that saturated the world when natural resources dominated man-made ones, foresaw that with the advent of Roman civilization, magic would be cut off from their world, and they would die a slow death. To prevent this catastrophe, in this alternate reality, they come up with a simple solution. The Druids, who are the ruling faction of the Isles during the Roman incursion, are given conditional access to the magic of Tir nA nOg - the condition being that the magic can only be shared through the medium of psychically paired twins.

Believing the high improbability of finding such twins to succeed each time, the Sidhe believed that the sharing of magic would soon come to an end. The Druids however, through methods only known to them, have somehow ensured that 6 succeeding pairs have been found. This is where our twins enter the storyline. Durragh and Ronan are the latest in the Undivided to grace the halls of the Druids. Something about this pair causes great unrest among the Djinni and one Sidhe in particular, Marcroy Tarth, who is the Sidhe ambassador in the Druidic court. Believing that a future which holds this Undivided undivided will cause some great rupture (which we are not privy to), they decide on a course which, with the help of a Druid traitor, separates the twins when they are 3 years old. Ronan is sent to a reality much closer to ours where technology, and not magic, rules; where the Romans invaded successfully; where the precious natural resources whose breath fuels the magic of Tir nA nOg are close to annihilation; and where any full Sidhe would die on entering. In this world, with a great deal of confusion, Ronan, as Ren, grows up. Confusion fills his life, as his link to Durragh is not severed even with this strain on it. Cuts and bruises, poisoning, and assassination attempts faced by Durragh are mirrored on Ren's body, leading his foster mother to believe that he cuts himself in a measure to seek attention.

Fallon does a brilliant job of bringing an entirely new world to life in vibrant technicolor. The characters step out of the page and quietly nestle themselves into a corner of our brains where their story whispers in 3D across our eyes. The story of how the two factions are locked in a struggle, one to keep Ronan away from the Druidic reality, and the other to bring him back, revolve around a half-Sidhe character named Trasa whose mix of naivete and unformed morality leave you not knowing whether to cry for her or yell at her. The best friend, played by a Hayley, in Ronan's world, is another character whose very realism leaves a warm-bodied feeling around you making you turn to see if she might actually be in the vicinity. There are no 2 dimensional, evil/good characters in this book. There is a very quirky philosophical current that one so minded can follow throughout the book, that displays a highly pragmatic quality where good and evil are bed-mates and if yin exists, thus does yang, else will either?

If you like fantasy, if you are an avid Tolkien reader, if you just want a book that will take you places you never thought to go before, step into Fallon's web and immerse yourself.

Dot says

If I can sum this up in one word? Disappointing.

The book is semi-rooted in the myth of the Tuatha De Danaan and the druids. Semi- in that it doesn't actually give the full myth but works on the idea that the Romans had never conquered the world so everybody is still kicking it in Ireland and the Tuatha have given the druids access to magic via a treaty involving psychically linked twin boys, one of whom is missing. Unfortunately, it's just not that interesting.

In large, this is because it's at times tragically YA. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy YA... when it's done well. That means, not feeling like the language is in any way dumbed down and not getting overwhelmed by teen DRAH-MAH. Both happen here. There're no lengthy descriptions and nothing particularly unexpected or challenging, which actually works in the author's favour. Despite sitting at just over 500 pages, it never felt stodgy. It is the definition of an easy read, the kind where you can gloss over paragraphs and not miss anything (this is never good). Unfortunately it meant that when I did get bored just over the halfway point, it was because I was actually bored.

There's also this unfortunate curse on YA where either your characters are so intolerably self-involved that you roll your eyes at everything they say...

...or they speak so eloquently and beyond their years that you roll your eyes at everything they say (TFIOS, anybody?). Fallon somehow manages both at different points in the book.

The thing is, I wouldn't necessarily recommend this to anybody under 17-18. So who's the audience meant to be? Beats me. Then again I wouldn't recommend this to anybody - there are better YA novels and much better fantasy novels. #spoiledbysanderson

It's a rare occurrence to find a crossover between "our" 21st Century and any sort of magical or historical realm that doesn't look like this...

...only reversed. It's just a very difficult thing to pull off and Fallon doesn't achieve it either.

It doesn't help that I got the impression the author doesn't really know what the youth of today are all about. Despite being published in 2011, Hayley - who is 17 - owns and uses a walkman. For the curious, the iPod was launched in 2001 and sales peaked in 2008. Another character, who is in the entertainment industry, asks if she's listening to Lady Marmalade (the popular *Moulin Rouge* cover she's presumably referring to, also came out in 2001). It's the little things that drag you out of the world and make you audibly groan.

I could take or leave the little bits of Gaelic. I was fortunately already familiar enough that I wasn't stopping over every word, it just feels a little pointless for words that have an English equivalent if entire blocks of dialogue are being translated anyway.

There was one glaring ~~inconsistency~~ complete and total error that rubbed me the wrong way: Lughnasadh. It's not, as Fallon repeats multiple times, the Autumnal Equinox. It actually occurs six weeks prior to the Autumnal Equinox (Mabon) and signals the start of the harvest. For those of you familiar with the Wheel of the Year, Fallon actually rotates the entire thing 45° so that all the Sabbats now have the names of the Equinoxes. Why? Your guess is as good as mine. Assuming she did her research (and this is pretty basic, unobscure, well documented, still observed stuff), all I can think is that she liked the names better.

It's not bad, it just lacks a lot of depth and variety. The writing is easy enough and there's enough of a cliffhanger that I may continue with the trilogy (even though I'm pretty sure I'm not going to be particularly shocked or intrigued along the way), I'm just not about to push anybody else to do the same.

Els (Tragic Romantic) says

It's possibly a 3.5 because I did really enjoy this one, although it was a bit meandering at times.

Maeglothorn Silverweb says

Gosh dang I'm loving reading this book. I love when I read it but when I put it down I've got the story in my head and the urge to go back and keep reading. I'm usually a really slow reader and I'm already a 1/3 of the way through in the last 2 days.

Yuan says

For more reviews, visit my blog Obsessive Compulsive Reader

Actual rating: 4.5/5

In recent weeks, it feels like I have not stopped talking about Jennifer Fallon. Of course, she is one of my favourite authors and when I stumbled across this trilogy in the library, I was super excited and grabbed them at once. They are quite thick volumes, each numbering over 500 pages, but once I started, I simply had to keep going. I finished all three books in succession over the span of roughly 48 hours.

Jennifer Fallon is known for her high fantasy sagas encompassing multiple characters, each with their own story line which weaves and intersects with one another, culminating in a climax with a hint of something more to come. There is a lot of politics thrown into the mix too, ensuring there is battle of wits as well as of the brawn. Her Hythrun chronicles, both the Demon Child trilogy and the Wolfblade trilogy, are some of my favourite high fantasy sagas to reread.

With the Rift Runners trilogy, Jennifer Fallon is taking a bold step away from high fantasy and has produced a work that is probably more suitably classified as urban fantasy. Or a mix, I'm not quite sure. Ronan and Darragh, the psychic twins currently designated as the Undivided, have been separated into different realities - with one stuck as a young man in a world of six billion people. From that number alone, it doesn't take a genius to work out that Fallon is writing about our reality. Darragh, on the other hand, is in a world filled with druid magic and an uneasy treaty between the magical folks and humans. Everyone has their own agenda and beneath the courteous smiles on the surface, schemes are brewing - for the Autumn Equinox is not that far away.

I really enjoyed this series. Although I'm a huge fan of high fantasy, I found myself enjoying the chapters set in our world a bit more. The characters, across all realities, are engaging and easy to relate to - even those that you dislike. It is interesting to see the struggle between the two camps, one keen on keeping Ronan locked away in a world without magic and another desperate to find him in time and bring him home. Both

sides have their reasons for their goal. It is not a straight case of black versus white.

The Rift Runners series is probably targeted more towards a YA crowd. The style of writing is not as dense as her high fantasy sagas, which makes it easy for the reader to fly across the pages. The characters themselves, too, are a bit younger than some of Fallon's previous works, with most of the main characters teenagers or just above the legal age. The themes and plot lines, as well, are not as complicated and intricately set-up as the Tide Lord quartet or the Demon Child trilogy, but for a younger audience seeking to try out Jennifer Fallon, this is probably a great series to start with.

The ending, in typical Jennifer Fallon style, ties up things yet leaves the reader with questions about what happens next. Since Fallon's next project is apparently to revisit the Hythrun chronicles, I'm not sure if there will be a sequel in the future.

The Rift Runners series is probably going to be one of my favourite reads this year. It is entertaining, engaging and once I started, it was difficult for me to put the books down. While this series is probably more geared towards the YA market and more urban fantasy than high fantasy, it's still a really well-written trilogy with lots of actions and intricate story-lines. For YA-readers who don't mind the multiple characters and interwoven storylines that are key feature of Fallon's works, I'd highly recommend you to at least give this series a go.

Eunice says

3.5

I enjoyed this a bit too much, partly because of the sci-fi/fantasy, and also because it was set in a sort-of quasi-Ancient-Ireland (or rather, Ireland sans the Roman Invasion). It was entertaining, but kind of artificial, when her characters spoke Gaelic, but she'd (obviously) have to write it in English for her readers, but then she'd add a Gaelic word or two into the sentence, even when there were English equivalents - but hey, it meant I learnt a few new words.

It wasn't very in-depth, or complex, but the fact that the characters were more grey than good OR evil redeems it.

And I don't know what this book is trying to do, in that, considering the writing style and storyline, it is **clearly** a **juvie** Young Adult book, but one of the twins (albeit he's 18) drops quite a few F-Bombs in the book, which amused me, but I wonder if she is thus limiting her readership to a slightly-older audience. Except the writing seems to make it clearly intended for young adults...

[Edit:] but then again, I have noticed quite a few juvie books as of late where there are quite a few f-bombs dropped...hrmm...a change in the times? Maybe it will be the c-word next. I guess George R. R. Martin beat them all to it.

But maaaaan the twins *droools*. I'd put them on lay-by. But they're legal anyway. THAT ACCENT.

Lissy Chapman (Fahey) says

A gentleman in the local library recommended this book and I'm glad he did. I read across most genres but a

fantasy has to be very good to hold my attention. Unidivided is the first instalment of the rifrunners series. It took about 40 pages to really get my attention and then I found it hard to put down. A great read, now onto number two The Dark Divide ?

Candace says

I am only giving this book 3 stars because I finished it. I tried really hard to like it because I LOVED Jennifer's Tide Lords series. Unfortunately nothing in this book grabbed me at all. I kept on hoping for something interesting, and to like the characters but I never did. I feel like this series is aimed at twilight fans/teenagers. Maybe I have read too many stories about the fae, but I will definitely not be reading the next book in this series. Disappointing!

Delrine Billings says

Enjoyed the story but hate when authors leave you hanging. I refuse to be blackmailed into purchasing book 2 only to find it doesn't end either.
