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Kate Beacham had had a bad day. After almost being assaulted in an alley by three masked bigots, she arrived home to find her beloved stallion lying dead in her driveway with a note reading YoU'Re nExt. Too tough a cookie to crumble, Kate got out her shotgun and loaded it. Then she saw the book on her nightstand -- a guide book to a place she had never heard of: Glenraven. When she opened it, words magically appeared: Get out of the house, quick. Still holding the shotgun, she obeyed; and saw riders on horseback gallop from a hole in midair, pursued by a nightmarish flying thing like a cross between a dragon and a shark. Good thing she had the shotgun, or there would have been no hope for Kate, the riders, and both their worlds.

Once before a woman from our world had saved the realm of Glenraven. Now another must do it again -- or her own world will be forfeit, too....

In the Rift Details

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Author : Marion Zimmer Bradley , Holly Lisle

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From Reader Review In the Rift for online ebook

Dennis says

Tough book to get through. Couldn't get into it.
Not MZB speed.

Nick says

This was an interesting book, but a frustrating one as well. The fantasy part works quite well, but there's a "murder mystery" part which doesn't. I hate it when an author explicitly says, through characters and story, that a character or group of characters can't be guilty, and then they are. That's just not playing fair with the reader. In this case, the authors state very clearly that certain entire races of beings CANNOT use magic. So, of course, one of them turns out to be a powerful mage, and the reader is NEVER given an explanation for:

- 1) Why everyone is wrong about said entire race being magicless
- 2) Why no one could detect said mage's magic
- 3) How that mage could damp down everyone else's magic in weird ways
- 4) How that mage LEARNED to use magic in the first place

There's also a romance story that just doesn't work. Two characters with very different backgrounds just randomly get the hots for each other. It felt really forced.

The overall grand adventure was much better, and the main villain was remarkably creepy, as well as the most forward-thinking villain you could imagine, literally planning a generation ahead. That story is why this book is worth reading.

The secondary story, about the townspeople being so easily stirred up against a pagan in their midst, felt a little forced, but unfortunately possible. I had trouble with the setup, and why she was there in the first place, since that was all before the start of the book.

Doris says

From the very start, I was reminded of the Diane Duane book "So You Want to Be a Wizard". In that book, like this, a random book opens to be a guide to wizardry. Again alike the average person can't read the magical notes.

Unlike Duane's book however, this one was blocked by magic in a way that I found intriguing.

I had read this before, but didn't realize it until I found where the renegade Callion was feeding the creatures from the Rift. It had an intriguing element in that one member of the party of adventurers was a traitor. Even having read it before, I couldn't remember who. And not being able to figure out the ending before I was halfway through made this a truly excellent book.

Michelle Wardhaugh says

Pretty good. Harsh in a lot of ways. There was definately a POINT to be made about how most people are apathetic and do not go out of their way to help others. It was repeated enough to start loosing its edge. But still, the characters were strong. The plot twisted and turned in satisfying ways. It was a good S&S book.

? BookAddict ↗ La Crimson Femme says

The second book is just as enjoyable as the first book. I liked the magic in this word and the quest. I read this so long ago yet I still have fond memories of this book. Ms. Bradley is quite the writer. There are many writers like this anymore.

Pam Bales says

Second in the Glenraven series, this is a good fantasy. Mary Zimmer Bradley and Holly Lisle are hard to beat.

Susan says

I have a soft-spot for Cross-Hatch novels...
