



Sorcerer's Son

Phyllis Eisenstein

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"This is the story about a boy whose mother is a sorceress who uses spiders to make magic. The boy does not know his father and was told he died. He goes in search for him and to learn about himself. He does not want to be a sorcerer, but a knight like his father. He does not know that his father was really a sorcerer. His father is a sorcerer who uses demons and tries to kill him and his mother because his mother won't marry him. He learns how to be a sorcerer and use both spiders and demons."

Sorcerer's Son Details

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Author : Phyllis Eisenstein

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From Reader Review Sorcerer's Son for online ebook

Stephen J. Wolf says

This was my kind of story. It was well told and an interesting spin on magic and demons.

Asghar Abbas says

One of the best fantasies I have ever read. I really enjoyed the depiction of true friendship in it.

Fumphwoog, Lady of all Sorrows says

REALLY GOOD! I really liked this one!

Molly Lee says

I really adored this book as a kid. I think it still holds up, however there may be some nostalgia that is making me love it as an adult. I think the world that Eisenstein created with its rules of magic were really quite absorbing.

Roslyn says

I actually read this some years ago. This is an absorbing, original fantasy by a writer who is rather less known than others, but shouldn't be.

Leon Aldrich says

Fellow Amazonians, please log into Amazon and add this book to kindle publishing request list. And while there are many low priced paperbacks available, my OCD prohibits me from reading books with: possible missing pages, loose pages, worn covers, broken spines, dog eared pages, doodles on pages, fingerprint food smudges, etc.

That and my Kindle Fire gets insanely jealous if I spend any time at the local library or purchase non-digital books.

Rebecca Huston says

A beautifully written fantasy novel with grownup emotions and actions, and one of my favourites ever since it was released back in the seventies. There was a sequel, but it is not as well-written as this one was.

Jeffrey says

A terrific fantasy from the under known Phyllis Eisenstein.

Kat Hooper says

ORIGINALLY POSTED AT *Fantasy Literature*.

After the sorceress Delivev Ormoru rejects his marriage proposal, sorcerer Smada Rezhyk becomes worried that she's out to get him. In order to reduce her powers so that he'll have time to weave himself a protective gold shirt, Rezhyk sends his demon slave Gildrum to impregnate Delivev with Rezhyk's own seed. Gildrum takes on the form of a handsome young knight (Mellor) and shows up injured at Delivev's doorstep. As expected, Delivev falls in love with Mellor, but unexpectedly, Gildrum (who doesn't even have a heart) falls in love with her, too. However, Gildrum must return to serve Rezhyk. He doesn't tell Delivev that he's really a demon -- he lies and tells her that he'll come back after he delivers a message.

Sure enough, Delivev becomes pregnant and gives birth to Cray. And, of course, Mellor never returns. When Cray becomes a teenager, he decides to find out what happened to the father whom his mother still loves. This leads to a series of adventures which create more questions than answers.

Phyllis Eisenstein's *Sorcerer's Son* is a pleasant coming-of-age novel. The writing, for the most part, is lovely -- it flows well and is not overdone or pretentious. The dialogue, however, (and there is more of it than their needs to be) is sometimes stilted and unrealistic.

The plot of *Sorcerer's Son* is original and interesting -- especially the parts in which Delivev or Rezhyk appear. Delivev has control over nature -- particularly snakes, spiders, and ivy. Rezhyk summons and enslaves various types of demons who live in a complex world and follow strict rules about summoning. These parts are very creative and entertaining and I found that I have developed a respect for Phyllis Eisenstein's imagination.

Unfortunately, I just could not believe in Cray, the hero of the story. He was too nice, good at everything he tried, rarely complaining, and too mature, noble, and philosophical for a teenager. Except for the very rare occasions when he lost his temper, he was boring. I'm not into angsty teenage brooding, but Cray could have used a couple more personality dimensions.

The ending of *Sorcerer's Son* was a little too sweet for me, but if you like that sort of story, then this is a good read.

Read this review in context at *Fantasy Literature*'s Phyllis Eisenstein page.

Valerie says

Loved this book as a kid!

Cheryl Dyson says

I don't know why I love this book so ludicrously much, but I want to read it again. I adore it.

mlady_rebecca says

This is another one of those books I first read around two decades ago. I'm pleased to say it holds up to what I remembered of it. It's one of those epic quest type fantasies, with the bulk of the book being about Cray's search for the father he never knew.

Cray's mother is a great sorceress who can control spiders, snakes, vines, and anything weaved from thread. (It's creepy, yet cool.)

Cray's father, who was only around long enough to get his mother pregnant, presented himself as a knight. So rather than follow in his mother's footsteps, Cray chooses to become a knight like his father. He leaves on a quest to not only become a knight, but to find his father, who had promised to return after he completed one last mission.

The one thing I didn't remember is how paranoid the "bad guy" / "evil sorcerer" was. When it comes down to it, he was the instrument of his own demise. No one was ever out to get him until he began to "strike back". Even so, he doesn't come across as cartoon-y, more ironic.

In terms of world-building, you have sorcerers and you have regular humans. Some sorcerers - like the "evil sorcerer" - can control demons, which come in fire, water, air, and ice varieties. (Hmmm, why not earth which is the typical 4th element?) There is also a seer/oracle who can predict the future.

The bdsm_ds tag is for some novel bondage/kink. I swear this book created some of my mental kinks. *g*

Oh, turns out this was the first in a trilogy. Not sure if I can find the other two. They appear to be out of print.

Crystal Carroll says

A delicious combination of romance, fantasy, and bildungsroman.

Cray's journey is interesting because everything is defined by his unknown father. Who in the end, well, his biological father is no father to him.

The fantasy setting is not only intriguing, but transgressive. Consider this, the demon, who is the love of Delivev's life spends most of the story wearing the clay shaped body of a little girl. Gender being a transmutative thing for beings all soul and shaped bodies. He/She wears the bodies her master gives him/her to wear. Or no body. All flame. A romantic fire demon hoping and dreaming to be rescued by his/her not child.

Delivev's weaver magic was really new. All the things that are so often fearsome into a gently woven world.

While Cray, all he wants to understand is who he is. His journey being about who he isn't as much as who he is.

And the villain, paranoidly villainous. His journey a natural outgrowth of his even inward journey.

Really, just lovely.

Renee says

This book was recommended to me by a friend. It... was a page turner... but in part because it was ridiculous. It would be a lie to say that this book doesn't have a plot, but it would also be a lie to say that this book has more than six pages of actual *action*. The rest is just... well... dialogue. And not very good dialogue. Just like

Guy: 'man, Cray, I hate being poor.'

Cray: 'you're not poor now that you're with me!'

Guy: Why would you take in someone like me? I am below your social status! You are clearly rich! And training to be a knight!'

Cray: 'Well you see, I was actually raised by um, a sorcerer woman. She wears feathers all the time and controls spiders. And plants. And snakes. She weaves for fun. I never knew anyone but my mom for all my life. Except her horse. Until I met you. Also, I'm trying to find my dad.'

Guy: 'Your tale of total isolation and insane amounts of power ought to frighten me, but I'm kind of just glad you didn't beat my brain out of my skull. I hate spiders!'

And on, and on, and on.

TJ says

Read this many, many years ago, but it's one that has stuck with me. I'll be keeping an eye out for it when I'm in used bookstores to see if it holds up over time.
