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Wyvern: A Dragon Shifter Novella



Synopsis

Eight years earlier the talented fiddler, Elsbeth Weaver, gave up the man she loved to care for her ailing grandfather. Now, she must risk her life to save her grandfather from a lynching by playing for the wyvern terrorizing the countryside. When she comes face-to-face with the beast at the haunted cliffs of Maldoza, she is both frightened and fascinated. Something about the creature reminds her of the bard who once stole her heart, something more than just a shared name. Alaric has never stopped loving the human woman he left behind in a dusty village almost a decade before. When he meets her again at Maldoza, wearing old dragon armor and playing her fiddle as if her heart would break, he is overjoyed. Elsbeth doesn't know her erstwhile lover is only an illusion for the wyvern, and Alaric must convince her that the heart of the beast is no less devoted than the heart of the man.~Second edition. Originally published by Amber Quill Press in 2007~Note: Some scenes contain graphic descriptions of physical intimacy.

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Customer Reviews

Just finished reading Wyvern by Grace Draven and though it ended as expected, I do admit to

feeling a bit melancholy after reading this novella. Non specific spoilers below...I guess my feeling mostly stems from the fact that while Wyverns live for a very long time (600 years is prime age), obviously humans live a fraction of that...so it's highly possible that our heroine will be one of very many. This, followed by the inability of Wyverns to create a child with their human partner, just seems as though our heroine Elspeth is a bit on the bittersweet end of this relationship. To love someone and know that he can father only children of his own kind (and he will while he is with you) and that you will only have him for a short length of his life, just feels like a sad story to me. Like you will just be a blip in his long life and he won't really have much to remember you by. I don't know if this feeling makes sense but it is what I feel and while the romance has its sweet moments, I personally feel that Alaric would have been a great choice for a lover but not really someone you'd want to spend your life with...the uncertainty, you know? Plus the fact that they don't grow old (the way humans do) and that she will, makes this even more temporal. I guess the moral of the story is that love is blind...Either way, this is an easy read and I would still recommend it just because it is by Ms. Draven. You just have to stop noticing the same things I did or to not ask the same questions and just enjoy it for what it is- a fantastical short story.

At almost three in the morning I am writing this review because once again Grace Draven has out done herself. Yes this is a reprint, (is it still called that when it's a digital format) but the story telling is beautiful. Flawlessly pulling the reader into Beth's and Alaric's world. It's testament to Grace Draven's attention to detail and to her wonderful storytelling talent that she can immerse us so thoroughly in her writing. Do yourselves a favor. Start here and then go snap up the rest of her library. Yes I know I sound like a gushing fangirl, I am a gushing fangirl but I am also a discerning reader and Grace Draven never fails me. Go, buy, read, and enjoy.

I enjoyed the story, but felt a bit let down at the end for reasons some other reviewers explain in detail (and which involve spoilers). The dragon-lover motif has been done with more mystery and drama and a better ending, e.g. by Christine Pope, and others a while back. The character of Alaric (in history, a Visigoth king who captured Rome in 410 AD) is a bit one dimensional. There is selfishness and maybe even evil there which doesn't really get explored. Other options for the heroine are not explored. I think this might be owing to the novella length. So if you are properly forewarned and not expecting too much, you may enjoy it, but it is not as complex as Draven's novels.

This short novella by Grace Draven has the aura of a traditional fairy tale, where burdensome responsibility and unfortunate choices mold the lives of the characters. At times we forget these tales don't always end with Disney-induced euphoria. In this vein, the well-written Wyvern is the tale of star-crossed lovers who find a gentle acceptance in the happy moments as their lives intersect. I have to admit I missed the euphoria.

Grace Draven really does have a way with words and is a great story teller. I do agree with some of the reviewers that feel that it is a love story with conditions, but perhaps all love stories have a bit of compromise. There were a few places where she did not fill in details, but it is, after all, a novella. Still quite enjoyable. I will continue to read everything to read that Ms. Draven puts out there.

This novella by Draven, a story between a fiddler and a dragon is bewitching and at times heartbreaking. As with all of Draven books I was drawn immediately into the story of the fiddler, the granddaughter of dragon slayer and the 'dragon' she goes to bargain with for her village's safety. The romance is both sweet, and fiery in its intimate nature and for any fan of Draven or dragon books this book is not to be missed.

I really like Grace Draven's work, but this one's weak. The mystery identity is obvious, the peril is fleeting and easily resolved, and none of the characters (aside from Irena) are particularly memorable--in short, there's just not that much happening in this story. Well written of course, like all Draven's stories, but otherwise just okay.

I have read most of this author's work and she truly has the "gift for words". Her stories make you feel, feel hope, sadness disappointment, longing, joy, love. This story will make you feel all this and more. It is a perfect gem, just the right size to read in a sitting. Sit, relax and enjoy!

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