



# Changespell

*Doranna Durgin*

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## **Changespell** Doranna Durgin

Award-winning author Doranna Durgin has nearly 40 published novels (MMPB, trade, and hardcover) and another 19 short pieces. Now available from the author, CHANGESPELL is a re-released Baen Fantasy. Once a horse, still learning human ways...only Dun Lady's Jess has the insight--and heart--to save her world from a rogue bent on revenge.(Changespell Saga Book II)

"Durgin tells this deeply insightful and touching tale with a deft clarity. Her eye for detail will delight and astonish you..."

--Hypatia's Hoard

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Jess, once a horse called Dun Lady's Jess, is still struggling to integrate her human and equine selves when the wizard Arlen discovers someone in Camolen is callously turning wild creatures into bewildered and maddened human slaves.

It's unsettling enough that Camolen's wizards can't find the rogue magic user--but the trouble has just started. A dangerous wizard escapes, Arlen's hold comes under attack, and an entire company of peacekeepers disappears. Jess soon realizes that she and her friends are at the center of events that threaten to leave her trapped helplessly in equine form while her friends fall victim to revenge and the Council of Wizards slowly loses control of Camolen.

Other books in this series: Barrenlands, Dun Lady's Jess, Changespell Legacy

"Doranna Durgin is one of the freshest new voices in fantasy fiction. Her style is clean, uncluttered, and effortless. Changespell is a full-bore, straight-ahead, fast and furious read. I want more!"

--Jennifer Roberson, author of the Karavans and Sword Dancer series

## **Changespell Details**

Date : Published January 1st 1997 by Baen Books (first published January 1st 1995)

ISBN : 9780671877651

Author : Doranna Durgin

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## From Reader Review Changespell for online ebook

### Laura (Kyahgirl) says

Its too bad that this book is so hard to find. I had to get it through inter library loan and there was only one copy in all of Alberta.

If you like animals in your fantasy stories then you won't find many authors who do animal communication better than Doranna Durgin. Changespell is a continuation of the story of Jess, a woman who started life as a horse, Dun's Lady Jess, and now spends time as both horse and woman. If that isn't enough of a trial to deal with, there is still a forest full of evil magic wielders, some mysterious connection between mundane and magical realities, and a some very challenging romantic possibilities.

I enjoyed this book from start to finish.

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### Hannah Steenbock says

I fell in love with Jess when I read the first book in the series. It helps that I love and adore horses, of course, but Doranna Durgin makes Jess really "feel" like a horse in a human body.

In "Changespell", Jess' story continues in a gripping adventure that brings together Jaime, Carey, Jess and Dayna again. Only Mark gets left out...

I enjoyed this very much because it's a full adventure in its own right, even as it picks up some threads from the first book. Jess continues to grow in her human personality while also incorporating her horse essence more and more. And yet her relationship with Carey remains troubled.

Of course, there are also evil wizards, a nasty drug and changed animals to content with, so things never get boring.

Enjoy this wild ride!

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### Rita C says

It was nice to see most of the people we met in the previous book again. I liked seeing character growth across the board here, too. :)

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### Sue Harris says

#### Middle book of the series.

Good and easy read. Would recommend it for that weekend trip to the beach or mountains while you sit be the fire with a cup of tea.

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## Kat W says

[ though poor Mark got left out (hide spoiler)]

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## Jael says

Dun Lady's Jess was absolutely captivating and even though it did not end with cliffhangers of any sort, I went and bought this book immediately simply because I can't have enough of Jess and Carey and Arlen and Jaime and Mark. Especially Mark, simply because he is exactly like my brother.

Here's the problem: Where in Book 1 I found Jess' little quirks brought over from her horse persona endearing and realistic, in Changespell, it starts bordering on annoying. In Book 1, it is evident that despite her continued expression of horse behaviour, she is continuously learning to adapt to the human way of life. In Book 2, this is all I see: Jess is stubborn. Jess is headstrong. Jess is unwilling to compromise her horse behaviour simply because she can and the world should learn to accept her as she is. Well, let's be honest. This "don't change yourself to make the world happy" thing doesn't apply in every situation and it seems to me that it's something Jess doesn't understand. Jaime told her in Book 1 to be her own person and it felt like she decided it meant she can stop trying to learn to accept the human's way of life. For example, when people crowded her, her horse instincts kick in and she (quite literally) kicks out at the offender. Just like that. No warning at all, except for that "mentally laid-back ears" that she expects people to see. Oh, and did I mention that she also knows that said person doesn't know that she is a horse and didn't bother mentioning it, so said person won't know what to look out for? Of course, essentially there is nothing wrong with that since a lifetime's worth of behaviour can be hard to change and I know that first hand. The problem is, where in Book 1 she would feel guilty about it and try to change; in Book 2, she feels completely self-righteous doing it and gets annoyed at the offender instead. I mean, really? You wanted to have the liberty to change into human as and when you fancy it, so shut up and start learning some manners. If you can't deal with it, go back being a horse. Humans aren't superior to horses, you know (no sarcasm intended). Really, it's not her actions that annoy me. It's the *attitude*.

Also, where in Book 1 the characters were all rather rational and wise, in book 2, I felt as if they have all gone and lost their wits and cool. In Book 1, when Carey was so desperate to save Arlen, it made sense. In Book 2, (view spoiler) it felt like pride and arrogance. Happy, self-absorbed little children that think that they can do anything and everything that they want without considering the consequences. They were like, what happens if we win? World Peace! Hurray! What happens if we lose? Oh, umm... I think it'll be bad. Oh, let's not spend too much time thinking about it because it'll distract me. People, you think about all the good and bad of a situation before you do something so big! What if the plan failed and you are used as hostages against your friends. Wow. Congratulations but you just made an already complicated situation more complicated. Except, of course, if the friends made the wise decision of not giving in to the bad guys' demands, you'd go all outraged and think that it's them being so slow to act and all that crap (reference to Arlen's capture in Book 1 here). No, dears. It's them weighing the good vs the bad and deciding that the good outweighs the bad. Something that you will do well to learn. (view spoiler)

Honestly, if I hadn't liked Dun Lady's Jess (Book 1, not the character) so much, I would probably have given this book a much lower rating. At least it's not so bad that I would have thrown it into the bin without finishing it (I hope). As it is, 3 stars is the most I will ever give it.

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## **Mel says**

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

This continues to be an interesting series that twists the traditional shapeshifter story and layers it really fluidly with a traditional fantasy setting and backdrop of wizards and amazingly engrossing characters.

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## **Doreen says**

Jess is now coming to terms with her dual existence. But she is faced with threats from within and without. There are strange, unfamiliar magics being practiced.

Doranna Durgin has managed to write a sequel which isn't just the same book in a different disguise. The challenges which face Jess and her friends arise from the happenings in Dun Lady's Jess, but are not the same old, same old. An original plot, recommended to lovers of fantasy.

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