



## The Du Lac Devil

*Mary Anne Yarde*

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War is coming to Saxon Briton.

As one kingdom after another falls to the savage might of the High King, Cerdic of Wessex, only one family dares to stand up to him — The Du Lacs.

Budic and Alden Du Lac are barely speaking to each other, and Merton is a mercenary, fighting for the highest bidder. If Wessex hears of the brothers' discord, then all is lost.

Fate brings Merton du Lac back to the ancestral lands of his forefathers, and he finds his country on the brink of civil war. But there is worse to come, for his father's old enemy has infiltrated the court of Benwick. Now, more than ever, the Du Lac must come together to save the kingdom and themselves.

Can old rivalries and resentments be overcome in time to stop a war?

## The Du Lac Devil Details

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Author : Mary Anne Yarde

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## From Reader Review The Du Lac Devil for online ebook

### Elizabeth Cole says

The original copy of this post can be found at: <http://www.nerdprobs.com/books/book-r...>

\*\*A copy of this book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.\*\*

When approached by the author to read the next installment of the Du Lac Chronicles, I squealed with delight and answered with a hearty, YES! I couldn't wait to start the next book! This book, however, doesn't follow the story of Alden and Annis. It is the story of Merton. Merton is a lot more rogue than Alden. Remember Merton in the first book? He was Alden's brother who acted like a drunk lunatic in court. People really didn't filter what they talked about around him because they figured he really wasn't in the right mind to remember or hear what they were saying.

The book opens with Merton and Alden building the castle so that they have something to live in for the winter. The General James comes and gets Merton to take care of a situation amongst the troops. A soldier is using the slaves that they plan on selling for profit as "target practice" so to speak. Merton comes upon the slaves fighting soldiers to the death. Through breaking up the fighting he meets Yrre. Yrre eventually becomes a mercenary who fights with him. The story then flashes forward 5 years. Merton, Yrre and the rest of Merton's men are trapped between two armies. They make a plan. Well, Merton does. They steal uniforms from one of the armies and sneak into his brother's (Budic) kingdom. Once they arrive, Merton discovers that his sister-in-law Anna and her new baby have died of fever and are being buried the next day. While visiting his brother, Merton discovers that he has feelings for his dead brother's (Garren) wife Amandine. He loves her deeply. More than anyone he has ever had feelings for. He doesn't care that she has an old drunkard for a husband. He is willing to kill him and whisk her away. Suddenly, they all find themselves in the middle of a rebellion to usurp Budic as the king. Will they succeed in their actions to cull the rebellion?

I loved the second book in the series. It had all the feels. Love, romance, suspense, rebellion, and sadness. The author does an amazing job of making the characters come alive. She deepens Merton's character and makes him more human. She makes him both a monster, him locking in the villagers into a barn and lighting it on fire, and a hero, showing how caring he is by risking his own life to come back to save his love, Amandine. I don't think I can wait until the next book comes out. The story was left on a huge cliffhanging bombshell that I didn't even see coming.

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### Mary Yarde says

Reviewed By Christian Sia for Readers' Favorite — 5\*

The Du Lac Devil is the second book in The Du Lac Chronicles by Mary Yarde, a story with a compelling historical setting and a drama that will surprise fans of fantasy. Saxon Britain is on the brink of war. Kingdoms fall under the might of the Wessex King, Cerdic. Only the Du Lac family can stand up to him, but the family suffers from internal discord which can play to their great disadvantage. Merton is a great warrior whose interests are very unpredictable. Will he join the ranks of the Du Lacs and stand against the invading king or will he follow his personal interests? This is a series that features a family saga, political intrigue, and war.

Mary Yarde has woven a compelling story with a beautiful setting, a story that features an equally

compelling conflict. The reader is introduced to the key characters in the very opening pages of the story and the conflict comes across as a great hook. The Du Lac Devil combines great writing with storytelling skills to keep the reader's eyes riveted on the pages. The writing is clear and beautiful and the descriptions are vivid, painting a picture that readers can easily visualize as they read. The dialogues flow naturally and they help to deepen characterization and to enhance the plot. I also enjoyed the narrative voice which came through as strong, clear, and confident. Yarde creates characters that are real and memorable and a story that readers will love to share.

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### **Ellie Midwood says**

After reading the first book in the series I couldn't wait to get to the second one, and it was even better than the first. "The Du Lac Devil" concentrates mainly on Alden Du Lac's brother – Merton, who tries his best to come to terms with what he had become once he became a mercenary, whose trade is to kill for money. Only, very few people know what this money Merton is using for... I absolutely love how real and complex Merton came out, and how he constantly struggled with himself trying his best to protect his loved ones. The rest of the characters, who readers are familiar with after reading the first book in the series, also make a comeback, and sometimes a former lover or ally can turn into the worst enemy. Multiple twists and turns, conspiracies, a beautiful love line, vivid battle scenes – all this make "The Du Lac Devil" a true pleasure to read. If you love good quality historical fiction, which is meticulously researched and beautifully written – this book is definitely for you. Highly recommended!

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### **B.S. Gibbs says**

This second book in the series was even more captivating than the first.

I am a fan of all things King Arthur, and have read numerous versions of the legend. This one is a new take on the story that is simply brilliant! The tale is fast paced, suspenseful, and full of twists and turns. I found myself mad at times, and close to tears at other times.

The author made wise choices when addressing the events in the book. For instance, the romance is well done and tasteful. There is also violence in the book, but a book without that in the time periods covered would not be true to life. And in describing such events, the author did so appropriately, providing just enough to explain what was going on where lack of detail was appropriate, and getting into detail when it was necessary to convey what needed to be conveyed and to evoke appropriate emotions from the reader.

There are also a large cast of characters in this book, and the author did a great job of managing them all, which is a difficult task. I hope there are more books to come in this series as I would love to read them.

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### **Louise White says**

This was a riveting read from the start and I quickly became immersed in the story which concentrates on Merton, the mercenary brother, dubbed the 'Du Lac devil' which in Saxon Britain would have instilled fear in the hearts of friends and enemies alike. The characters and settings were realistic, beautifully drawn, and I could picture everything as events took

place. Action packed and full of intrigue, the story progressed at a fast pace with a few shockers along the way. I was swept along in the roller coaster of events that culminated in a nail-biting finale.

I cycled through a huge range of emotions, mainly whilst willing Merton to be 'saved' – in a variety of ways – and for justice to triumph with many of the characters.

Even without the cliffhanger ending, I wouldn't dare miss further instalments in the Du Lac saga.

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### **Angelina Kalahari says**

The Du Lac Devil, although a standalone novel, continues the story from the previous two books in the series, The Du Lac Chronicles, and the novella, The Pitchfork Rebellion.

I was looking forward tremendously to reading this book as I had enjoyed the previous two so much. I was not disappointed. In fact, I could not put it down and read through the night because I could not wait to see what was going to happen. Now, I can't wait for the next one!

This could be the next big series on TV, because you'll love it as much as Game of Thrones!

Mary Anne Yarde is a masterful storyteller. She weaves together history and fiction so perfectly and magically, that I find myself fully immersed in the world of her novels. It was wonderful to be back in the time of the Du Lac brothers, sons of Lancelot du Lac from King Arthur Pendragon's court during the time of Camelot. The Du Lac Devil reveals the story of the youngest son, Merton du Lac, the Du Lac Devil.

Merton becomes a mercenary as a result of his guilty conscience over his inability to protect his brother, King Alden, who was once captured and tortured by the King of Wessex. King Wessex is blackmailing Merton in return for a promise not to invade Alden's kingdom. But selling himself to the highest bidder lands Merton in trouble as he finds himself in the middle of two armies. We learn of his ingenious ways of solving problems as he escapes. He travels with his band of mercenary comrades to reunite with his brothers, Alden and Budic. Merton's eldest brother, King Budic, recently lost his wife and son. Their funeral is the reason that everyone is at Budic's court. But this is where the trouble really starts. There's intrigue, romance, dastardly dealings, political scheming, surprising twists and turns...

I won't spoil it for you, save to say that this is a wonderfully gripping story that both young, and not so young, can enjoy. I cannot recommend it highly enough!

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### **Beatrice Rivers says**

**\*I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review\***

OMG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This book is the second book of the Du Lac Chronicles, and it had me gripping my seat in anticipation.

Budic still isn't one of my favourite characters, despite his witty remarks, which obviously aren't meant to be funny to the characters.

In book one, I liked Josephine, the fun, jumpy girl who can't stop talking, but what on earth happened in those five years between the two books? Now I hate her.

Like everyone probably does, I love Merton. But doesn't he go through hell? First, no one will so much as look at him, and if they do, it's with caution, because they all believe that he is a demon, but then his unwelcome return to Brittany? His problems with Philippe and the mysterious argent?rius? He certainly doesn't have it easy for him and anyone who suggests that he does apparently have not read this book.

I Highly Recommend this book to EVERYONE!

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### **R.M. Gilmour says**

A finely woven web of relationships and intrigue, kept the pages flying from one to the next, this book is hard to put down. Mary Anne Yarde has delivered another amazing story of the Du Lac brothers and I hope book three is well on its way – pretty please!

The Du Lac Devil is a heart-wrenching story of Merton Du Lac, the bravest, strongest and most-feared of the Du Lac brothers, as he sacrifices all within himself to save his brother, his country and his love, from war and unspeakable injustices. The story is well-crafted, and shines a glaring light on life in the middle-ages, while gifting us with an harrowing tale of love, fealty and betrayal. Long live the house of Du Lac!

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### **E.M. McIntyre says**

The Du Lac Devil: Book 2 is a brilliant continuation of the Arthurian legend series (and I say series because I'm hoping it's not to be just a trilogy). The depth and complexity of the characters is fantastic - their growth (and things revealed about them) outdoes that of the first book, and the first book was fabulous. I wanted to weep for Merton who takes center stage in this book, and at times, there were several characters who I wished would have their necks wrung. Though a long book for me, the pace was fast and I really did not want it to end, but what an ending. I will be eagerly awaiting its continuation.

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### **Bill Ward says**

I loved the first book in this series and was eagerly looking forward to reading this second book. I wasn't disappointed! This is a fantastic read if like me you enjoy Arthurian legends with a sprinkle of realism. There is war, intrigue, love, treachery and revenge mixed up in a story of the Du Lac brothers and their families. The author transports you back in time and has you turning the pages desperate to find out what happens next! There is plenty of action and violence but there is just as much romance and scheming to provide a balanced read that should appeal to a wide audience. This would make an excellent TV series!

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### **Larry Shackelford says**

Ms. Yarde continues her beautiful historical series with the Du Lac Devil. The Du Lac Devil is book number two, coming after The Du Lac Chronicles, and The Pitchfork Rebellion (Novella). Although the Du Lac Devil may be read as a standalone book, I highly recommend you read the first two installments first to fully enjoy and appreciate The Dulac Devil.

I could not wait to dive into this book, and it was great to see the Du Lac brothers were back...and in full conflict form! Once again, the family is surrounded by turmoil, war, complicated romantic interests, and imminent death. Ms. Yarde magically transports the reader back to sixth century Briton as she captures the reader from the opening pages with her master storytelling ability and excellent writing skills. Her description of the time period and folklore was very vivid, and the amount of research Ms. Yarde put in to this book is not only impressive, but commendable. The reader will actually feel like they are a part of the extremely well crafted drama, and all the characters are very memorable. Love or loathe Merton, he was undoubtedly my favorite character!

I am amazed by Ms. Yarde's ability to weave a story and situations which appear to be insurmountable for the characters. As with all her books, I found myself flipping through the pages with great anticipation, and wondering how in the world her characters were going to survive...if at all? The Du Lac Devil is a very intense, compelling story which I am confident fans of historical drama will love. I highly recommend this book and the entire series. I just hope that Ms. Yarde continues this timeless classic!

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### **N.N. Light says**

Think you know what really happened between King Arthur Pendragon and Sir Lancelot Du Lac? This is the real story... or at least what Mary Anne Yarde envisions it.

This is book two in The Du Lac Chronicles series and while it is a standalone (thanks to Yarde's excellent backstory abilities), I highly recommend you read book one first.

Merton Du Lac is one of Lancelot's sons and while he is the youngest of his brothers, his soul is weighed down by responsibility. To ease his guilt of his brother Alden's torture by the hand of King Wessex, Merton goes off to war, wherever he can find it. Being a mercenary to the highest bidder is good money but Merton is caught between two rival armies who want Merton's head on a spike when he gets word of the sudden death of his brother's wife and their sole heir.

Merton runs into Alden and reunites with Budic as well. The Du Lac brothers are all together and this can only mean one thing: trouble. Merton is the first to sniff out the trap but before he can escape, Alton is captured and thrown in the dungeon. He can't leave his brother and must figure out a way to free him before the noose tightens around Merton's neck.

Meanwhile, Merton reunites with his deceased brother's widow, Amandine. She's married once again to a droll Lord in Budic's court. A slow-burning romance between Merton and Amandine, even though Merton tries his best to squelch it. He pushes her away and confesses all his dark deeds in the hopes she'll reject him. Instead, her pure love for him purifies his heart and a small seed of hope grows in his soul. Can she truly love him?

A mysterious enemy is hell-bent on eliminating all the Du Lacs and when it's finally revealed, no one is safe. War comes to Briton and Lancelot's sons must work together to escape death and destruction... or is it too late?

The Du Lac Devil is darker than book one yet so much better. Yarde has done her research and she paints an accurate portrayal of sixth century Briton. Her descriptions of everyday life is spot-on, from the layout to the castle to torture to the Church to how women are treated.

The best parts of this book are the background of Lancelot Du Lac and Arthur Pendragon. Yarde weaves an intoxicating tale blending history with folklore.

This is why I'm a fan of historical fiction. I get to imagine what could've been and immerse myself into a particular fascinating time period.

If you're a fan of Game of Thrones and/or The Vikings, you'll love the back-stabbing/political jockeying in The Du Lac Devil. You'll also love Josephine and Philippe.

I wait with bated breath for the next book in the series. I need to know what happens next!

Favorite Character:

Merton. I love rooting for the misunderstood often brooding underdog character. There were times when I didn't like what the author was putting him through but I understand now why she did it. Merton is a tortured soul and yet when he falls in love with a pure soul, we catch a glimpse of the knight beneath the devil inside Merton.

Favorite Quote:

"An heir to the throne is hardly innocent." He made himself smile, and he held his hand out towards her.

My Rating: 5 stars

This review first appeared: <https://princessofthelight.wordpress.com>

### **Cecily Wolfe says**

Compelling - both the story and the characters are intriguing and captivating. War, politics, romance, and historical detail pull together to make this difficult to put down. Definite appeal for fans of Arthurian legend and medieval Britain in general, as well as Bernard Cornwell's fiction.

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### **Brian Kitchen says**

I have read and really enjoyed the previous two novels in The Du Lac Chronicles which are about the sons of Lancelot and so got 'The Du Lac Devil' on pre-order, when I knew it was being published. This novel centres on the youngest of the Du Lac brothers, Merton, who has become a mercenary trying to earn enough money to keep Alden's enemy Cerdic of Wessex from invading Cerniw. I won't spoil this excellent book for readers, which is a fast-paced historical adventure as well as a tale of jealousies and revenge. The book illustrates very clearly the dark consequences of when revenge becomes achievable, for a spurned lover and a bitter enemy. A great book and the best yet I think of the Du Lac Chronicles. Well done Mary Anne Yarde, I look forward to the next in the series.

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### **Dianne Ascroft says**

The novel is a wonderful mix of political intrigue, warring kingdoms, a love triangle as two women vie for the attention of one of the Du Lac brothers and larger than life, yet vulnerable, characters.

Although I'm not a keen fan of tales of the Arthurian era, this story gripped me from the beginning and I didn't find it difficult to keep reading. As the author develops the intricate plot, she also gives the reader glimpses into the thoughts and motivations of several key players. It was fascinating to see how they danced around each other, plotting and scheming. The character I found most memorable was Merton, one of the Du Lac brothers. Considered the black sheep of the family, the author reveals him as a complex character with a multi-layered personality, a fearsome warrior and vulnerable man. I could easily believe he was a real man and immediately empathised with him.

The author's skilled descriptions arouse all the reader's senses, bringing to life the place, the people and the plot. I highly recommend this novel to readers who enjoy historical fiction, as well as anyone who enjoys a good read.

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