



# The Darwath Trilogy: The Time of the Dark, The Walls of Air, and The Armies of Daylight

*Barbara Hambly*

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**The Darwath Trilogy: The Time of the Dark, The Walls of Air, and The Armies of Daylight** Barbara Hambly

Barbara Hambly's celebrated trilogy about a murderous force that threatens a far-off magical world and the two ordinary Californians who are drawn into the battle to save mankind

As a student of medieval history, Gil Patterson is a woman familiar with dark stories. She knows the Crusades, the Black Death, and the other horrors of the Middle Ages all too well, but it is another kind of atrocity that has begun to haunt her dreams. She sees forces of evil assaulting a beleaguered kingdom, whose kind people are on the brink of annihilation, and awakes each morning in a cold sweat.

In *The Time of the Dark*, Gil dismisses the dreams until a wizard appears in her apartment. He has crossed into her dimension, passing through the fraying fabric of the universe, to ask her help. For mankind to survive he must protect an infant prince, whom he plans to hide in Gil's world. She is about to get much closer to evil than she ever imagined.

In *The Walls of Air* and *The Armies of Daylight*, Gil and Rudy know the world is no longer safe and there is nowhere to hide from the Dark. Since the Dark Ones returned, the world has been laid to waste. The land's wizards have been slaughtered, its cities destroyed, and its people scattered in terror. Few have witnessed more of the destruction than Gil and Rudy, and both of them will need all their strength to survive this final challenge.

Ingold, the master wizard, has devised a spell to hide the user from the deathly stare of the Dark, and he intends to use it to strike at their very heart. Finally, Gil, Rudy, and the rest of mankind's survivors will take the offensive, bringing an end to this terrible war, for better or for worse.

## The Darwath Trilogy: The Time of the Dark, The Walls of Air, and The Armies of Daylight Details

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Author : Barbara Hambly

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## From Reader Review The Darwath Trilogy: The Time of the Dark, The Walls of Air, and The Armies of Daylight for online ebook

**Greeneyes9999** says

### **An old friend revisited**

Great adventures relived again after many, many years. I forgot how easily it is to be lost in the worlds that she created.

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**Rindis** says

Barbara Hambly is a name I saw a fair amount of when I was haunting SF&F bookshelves as stores as a teenager, but I never got around to trying any of her books. I later found that I indeed had been missing out, and have been slowly going back and reading her books. In this case, I got a Kindle edition of her first work, *The Darwath Trilogy*, on sale; in all, the book was well put together, and I did not notice any glitches, though the few maps seem to be a bit extra small, and not well cleaned up from a scan.

*The Time of the Dark* starts as something of a standard Visitation Fantasy. Gil Patterson is a post-graduate student at UCLA, who keeps having disturbing dreams of a world under siege by creatures just known as The Dark. These become more than dreams when a wizard from that world, Ingold Inglorion, crosses over to visit her, hoping to find a temporary refuge, or short cut, for an escape plan. Things go wrong, Gil and Rudy Solis (who happened by) end up trapped in the fantasy world, as going home could lead to the Dark invading Earth.

Past the beginning of the first book, Gil and Rudy share viewpoint status for the rest of the series, which is a bit awkward at first, as the viewpoint shifts between the two inside the same chapter, which gets a little confusing. Past the first book, any viewpoint changes happen at chapter breaks, which works much better.

Rudy, a mechanic and artist in a biker crowd, discovers magic, and Gil... moves from scholar to swordswoman. This actually works well, and puts the two on different paths as the narrative grows in the second book. The two make their way through vastly changed circumstances, and stay central to, but not the mainsprings of, the plot.

That, of course, is the coming of the nightmare creatures of the Dark, and the destruction of the kingdom of Renwrath, with the ensuing fight for survival of the remnants of the human population. Things get creepy, things get scary, things get political, and things get tragic, and it all keeps up over the rest of the trilogy.

The series does get a good and satisfactory ending (though there are further books in the world written years later), and while all the central mysteries are brought to light, there is a small number of dropped threads. There are a very few places where I could see something the characters couldn't (most notably in the final climax, alas), but they were fairly beat up and tired by that point, and most of the time, the action stayed ahead of me. Well recommended; partly traditional epic fantasy trilogy, partly bucks the trends.

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## Liamp says

There was enough imagination in this trilogy to keep me going to the end but sadly there are also glaring flaws which hamper the overall experience. Some mild spoilers below.

The premise is a good one: A couple of modern day Californian's are magically transported to a parallel realm where swords and sorcery are the norm. Human civilisation in this fantasy realm is under grave threat from "The Dark" a menacing race of horrific creatures who rise up from the depths at night to devour humanity and all its creations.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this trilogy is the political interplay between secular authority (the King and later a regent), religious authority (wielded by a female bishop) and the wizards. Wizards are powerful due to their magic but the church has declared them evil incarnate and would condemn every mage to death if it got the chance. The always delicate balance of power between these groups is thrown into disarray when the capital city is destroyed and the King lost to the Dark. The pitiful survivors must flee to an ancient fortress in order to survive but they bring their politics with them.

A far less enjoyable feature of the trilogy is the apparent lack of thought put into the military aspects of the story. Some suspension of disbelief is always required for fantasy but the combination of a lack of basic research in to arms and armour and a complete lack of thought about what would make sense just wore me down. To give a few examples:

1. Why does no one use a spear? Spears have always been a more common weapon than swords and a damn sight easier for untrained troops to use in fending off a horrible acid excreting foe.
2. The entire fate of the human survivors depends on a single door to their fortress which "Keep Law" has decreed can never be opened at night while the dark roams. Common sense would demand a legion of guards keeping vigil on that door every night but in these novels there never seems to be more than one easily distracted guard and the security of the door is continually under threat from within and without.
3. On discovering that the nests of the dark are highly flammable the humans hatch a plan to invade and burn them. Given that the nests are a warren of twisting tunnels and caverns it would seem sensible to start at the edge and slowly but thoroughly burn your way in scorching all before you. The human plan however is to first find their way to the centre of the nest, start a conflagration there and then hope they can get out before the fire spreads to the exit tunnels behind them.

My other major issue with the book is that I found one of the main protagonists continually annoying. They start out inept, ineffective and unsympathetic and they finish inept, ineffective and unsympathetic. This annoying character gets more page time than anyone else in the books but doesn't seem to develop or learn anything through the course of the story even though they become a wizard (who seems incapable of using magic to good effect) and have a love affair with a Queen (surprising given that she is a much stronger character than he is). Perhaps the reader is supposed to empathise with this hapless character but I continually wanted to shake him and get him to wake up and think about what he was doing for once.

## **Ruth Owen says**

The sign of an awesome book is that they stick with you. These books were written years ago, and they are a bit dated (heroine is a college medievalist, which was new at the time and commonplace now), but the world building in this blew me away. And the monsters. Hambly creates great monsters. If you want a fun read with no hidden agenda, give these books a try.

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## **Jaime says**

The Darwath Trilogy has been in my top five book series for as long as I can remember. I have read them so many times I could probably say the books from memory. The writing and the story are amazing. I highly recommend this to anyone who loves fantasy.

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## **Katherine says**

A well-written fantasy series. The settings were skillfully realized, better than some of the characters. I found the author's related novel (Icefalcon's Quest) almost as enjoyable to read as the trilogy.

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## **Elizabeth Du says**

### **Great other world dystopian adventure**

I was only familiar with Hambly's wonderful Free Man of Color series set in 1830's New Orleans which I had really enjoyed and recommend. I bought this trilogy as a bargain recommendation on one of my many daily email sites--and what a treat!! I've lived in another world for three days reading virtually round the clock. It has everything without being for!holistic. Marvelous characters you genuinely care about, two young California young people -- a painter of band and motorcycles who discovers a and developed his mage talents and a UCLA doctoral student who disappointed her rich parents by not wanting to marry a doctor who becomes -- no, that would be a spoiler. Just let me say there is excitement,quests, female heroes as well as male. A wizard who could challenge Gandolph for scene stealing, villains that super scary, wonderful romance at the highest level ..... And on and on. Everything you could ask for in fantasy Sic fi!! My highest recommendation

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## **Unni says**

It's strange how thoroughly I enjoyed these books, given how much I came to loathe Rudy Solis. For the life of me I can't see what the point of his existence was, except for one single thing: He probably kept Alde from withering. That guy just never got smart. The rest of the cast, though -- brilliant! This includes Politics, which does deserve to be its own character. I kept holding my breath through the continuous powderkeg confrontations between church, state and wizardry. Very satisfied with the final outcome, and well done for letting things fester until that late in the story!

Pity about the ice age, but at least they can follow the mammoth south?

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### **Eden Celeste says**

The Darwath Trilogy (Time of the Dark, etc.) is one of the best fantasy/horror mixtures I have come across. The basic premise of the story is a brilliant, tough young woman is drawn into an alternate fantasy dimension from our world by a Gandalf-like wizard named Ingold. There she discovers a talent as a warrior and she, the wizard and some other companions must battle horrifying shadow-spider creatures which are destroying the fantasy realm.

Sounds a bit silly, but it is a fun, well written adventure with some very horrifying monsters.

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### **Nancy says**

Not bad. It did seem to get mired down in over describing the bleakness of everything at times. While I love descriptive writing, it just seemed like it went too far. I noticed a few editing issues, but not a ton.

I wanted an escapist novel and this worked pretty well. The characters weren't 100% believable. I had a little trouble believing the relationship between the queen and the motorcycle gang guy. I would've actually liked to have gotten to know Gil a bit better.

All in all, a decent read.

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### **Doug says**

Without a doubt, this is my favourite fantasy trilogy. The books are not overly long, yet they are very original and gripping. Once you become part of the author's fantasy world, you honestly can not put the first book down. Upon completion of each of the first two books, you will want to start the next book immediately. The conclusion of the third book is riveting and quite satisfying.

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### **Fishface says**

A wonderful sci-fi/fantasy trilogy. A biker and a grad student of medieval history happen through a time portal and discover they are in a position to save the civilization they find on the other side.

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### **Rita Marie says**

Classic, vintage sword and sorcery (1982). It doesn't get any better. We have two Southern California residents taken across "the void" to an alternate, very medieval world and then trapped there because "the dark is rising." Ooooooh. Of course, they must battle the dark, as well as the bad guys, and meet lots of interesting new friends (bit of romance too). Will they ever get home? Do they even want to go home? Read

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and learn.

And Barbara Hambly gets extra points for finding so many different words to describe the creepy, slimy, horrible "dark."

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## **Marianne says**

### **Fantasy with a purpose**

Liked it all except for the cold weather. Great use of the language, characters that are real and gritty. A story that has so many twists it is knotted. But the forces of good do prevail as always. This lady can write.

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## **Alexandra says**

1/24/18 Three book set, the trilogy, on sale for \$2.99 for Kindle.

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