



The Lesser Kindred

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The stunning sequel to Elizabeth Kerner's *Song in the Silence*, *The Lesser Kindred* continues the story of Lanen Kaelar, a young woman who embarked on a search for the great dragons of legend and discovered not only the reality of the myth but her own true love. The course of happiness is not an easy one, however, and Lanen must make some hard choices. Her decisions could spell the salvation of an entire race--but at the cost of all she holds dear.

The Lesser Kindred Details

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Author : Elizabeth Kerner

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Tina says

This book moved kind of slowly. It was told from many different viewpoints, which was interesting since several times we got to hear the story from a minor character and even the antagonist, but this divergence from the traditional storytelling method of describing the events from one perspective and revealing the whys as the main character discovers them hardly worked to keep my interest. I cared much for Lanen, her new husband and (her soon to be) children, though, and had to find out what was going to happen to them. With a big cliffhanger at the end of The Lesser Kindred, I'm so glad that I have Redeeming The Lost on hand ready to read!

I'd rate this book a PG-PG13 for mild innuendo, "fade to black" sex and swear words.

Dianna says

Slightly better than the first book, as the romance is already established and the male love interest is now in human form, which were some of my problems with the first book. However, now that we're introduced to even more characters whose POV is used to tell the story, it's starting to get a bit confusing to follow along. I often forget which character is narrating, and have to go back a couple pages to remind myself.

Lanen and Akhor have now returned to her home farm in the remote wildness and spend some time there, but the arrival of mercenaries sent by Berys to kidnap Lanen shakes them out of their complacency and gets them on the road quickly. The story here is a little bit more formulaic, as a lot of the book is spent further developing the relationship between Lanen and Akhor, including his feelings of regret towards his former life as a dragon.

We meet new characters such as Will and his hatchling Salera that he raised, or the powerful student healers Vilkas and Aral who are chosen by Berys to be pawns in his game. They become more instrumental to the story the second half as Lanen's body has problems reconciling itself to her pregnancy and she is almost to the brink of death until her body is convinced to accept the half-Kantri, half-human life within it.

In other parts of the world, the Kantri are forced to leave their home of the last 5000 years after increasingly stronger earthquakes start occurring and soon the whole island is covered in lava. Left with no other options, the Kantri head to their old home of Kolmar to hopefully start living in peace with the humans who live there.

Meanwhile, our demon master friend Berys has been keeping himself busy. I didn't realize he was still hiding under a good facade as the Archmage of the college of healers, while keeping his demon summoning activities separate. If the healers are really as good at detecting the presence of Raksha as they say they are, I have no idea how Berys has managed to get away with his demon summoning for 20+ years.

All in all, a decent book, and I'm looking forward to seeing how all this plays out.

Yogesh Jain says

The book started slow but as we went on it just turned out to be the best book of the series so far. It crosses

the mark set down by the book 1 and I was not able to wait to reach the end.

The book is written with pov of many characters. And when it was happening from pov of 4-5 persons I can hardly wait to reach when all of them fall together. Right from Will, shirkar, berys, varien and Sarah. When all of them fall together then it just rocks..

I couldn't sleep without seeing the story to an end and yet it left with a cliff hanger. I can't wait to see this story reach its happy ending.

I would recommend this book to all those who like fantasy with dragons.

Jeffrey Grant says

This volume is just as enjoyable as the first; a nice mix of action and meaningful character development with some romance built in, and genuine romance not just "action movie relationship" level dalliances.

This volume is a bit more formulaic than the last; the plot developments are easy to anticipate and some of the discussions involve characters agonizing over decisions that you already know the answer to.

Two other things that I didn't mind but might throw some off:

1. The constant first person narrative wasn't too much to deal with in the first book, but there are a lot more characters that get the spotlight this time around, so following it can get confusing at times.
 2. Every so often, there will be passages where the characters make reference to recalling the story from some time in the future, which obviously takes a lot of the sting out of the tense moments, since you know those characters can't possibly die. I didn't mind it because I find reading about the circumstances exciting apart from the possibility of anyone dying, but people who are annoyed at a clear "star character/redshirt" delineation might be put off by it.
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Zaryna says

Brilliant read!

Kron says

Alas, after loving the first of this series, I was let down by this story. It progressed slowly and jumped around. The plot didn't start coming together until halfway through the book which made the first half a slog. I enjoyed the end. It had me on the edge of my seat and I remembered what I liked about Kerner's writing. Unfortunately, the slow beginning turned off my attention.

I would have liked more Lanen. Way more.

For some of the character's, their point of view became a retelling of scenes rather than showing the reader the actual scene. How easy it would have been to switch from telling us to showing. Perhaps that's why I was so disengaged.

I will probably continue, only to find out when Lanen does "become a heroine" as the description promised me. If anybody, I would think that Rella and Alar are more deserving of the 'heroine' description for this

book.

Chip Hunter says

The story and characters of this series are awesome, Kerner's writing style is top-notch, and when these books reach a climax they are nearly impossible to put down. However, in this second book of the series, Kerner has failed to impress. The first 3/4 of the book is spent recapping the first book or wallowing in unimportant details that don't progress the plot at all. Only in the last hundred pages or so does the story really pick up steam and some action finally come into play. I really wouldn't be surprised if a lot of people start reading this book and quit half-way through (which is not what I recommend, because the last bit of this one is extremely exciting).

As far as the multiple first-person narrative writing style, I think it is a cool idea and works very well in most regards. It allows for an intimate look into all of the characters minds, providing a deeper understanding of all that happens. However, because the story is told as if the characters have written the book to tell a story that happened long ago, it doesn't really make sense that a character could be telling his story right up until the point when he dies. That's a petty complaint though, and it doesn't take away from the story.

I can't wait to read the last book, this one sets it up for a spectacular ending.

Dr susan says

The Lesser Kindred continues Lanen's story. This series is a good, solid fantasy with some awesome characters that stand out (the dragons!). Although I have seen it labelled YA, there is nothing that makes it particularly that genre. The world building is fantastic, I enjoyed the series, but I do not think I will reread it.

Ellina says

I really loved this, probably more than I liked the first one--if that is possible. This one had more action and more of different elements and characters I loved such as: Jamie, Rella, and Shikrar. And even new ones such as Vilkas, Aral, Will, and Salera. Idai was not so much of a jerk in this one--her character is developing nicely.

Jamie, Rella, Shikrar, Will, and Salera are my favorites in a lot of ways. I loved that they were more a part of it and that the hero did not embark by themselves on an errand to save the world. I love that they go with Lanen and that they are as rich in thought and character as she is. They are full-fleshed, not flat and it gives the story dimension.

The way the story changes perspectives a lot (every chapter) is wonderful and not something I had ever seen done before. Not since Eragon, and even then only between him and Roran in the later books. And it went smoothly because the characters were introduced before they narrated which aided the transition from person to person, perspective to perspective and made it that much smoother and fuller in breadth of the story and plot. I found that we could learn and be engaged so much more as readers this way.

The perspectives switched through are that of: Lanen, Varien/Akor, Kedra, Shikrar, in the first book and

grow wider in this one. To be: Lanen, Varien/Akor, Shikrar, Kedra, Idai, Rella, Jamie, Maikel, Berys, Will, Vilkas, and Salera (I can't remember if Aral had one or not). It switches effectively through about 12 to 13 perspectives which is extremely unusual for a book or any novel for that matter. We're taught not to do this, but I found this to be a wonderful breaking of the rules and one which I was enacting even before I read this.

Berys is sinister in the most amazing way. He makes a very good villain--a complex one. The way he says and thinks things are reminiscent of some of the villains and darker characters of Salvatore's work...though I know not who came first. It may have well been inspired by him and his work. And the way Makiel fights until the bitter end, makes him one of the most redeeming characters of the entire series. The two of them have given me inspiration to run with--of the intangible corrupt villain and the villain seeking redemption.

The character development between Lanen and Varien/Akor is coming along. They are growing as people and as a couple in their first struggles since marriage. But I have new thoughts that I didn't before. In the first book, I accepted their relationship and how they viewed and described each other without qualm. I accepted and expected that their relationship was new, and a novelty at that, between races and that they were enamored and I was willing and able to ignore a lot of things because it was fresh and I saw no problem with it. I do not have an issue with it still, but they view each other through rose-colored glasses still and the second book has just ended.

I was hoping, in a small way, for it to go and delve deeper than that. Their relationship is new but I was expecting it to develop and expand and gain deeper purpose quicker than it did. Their relationship is beautiful and complex, and not like any normal relationship--but I guess I was expecting more trials and tribulations, more error in the ways of love, and touch more realism. And yes, I know that they can't exactly be held to our standards--it's not a normal human relationship and there are precedents for everything but still. I do not think it a detriment but I want more depth with this one.

Still, I loved it and I have high hopes for the next one.

Tracy says

Was even worse than the 1st book. I really disliked Lanen's attitude to her pregnancy and that just put me off her totally.

Jamie says

It took years to realize the first novel in this series was in fact part of a series and I loved the first one and have read it multiple times over the years. I finally stumbled across this one and immediately picked it up and was not disappointed. Though, in true fashion, I should have perhaps then investigated to see if there were more in the series, which there are. As I was closing in on the final chapters it quickly dawned on me that this was likely the case. So, now I gladly have another installment to look forward to finding a copy of and seeing how the whole story ends.

Jade Sanders says

Hate the cliff hanger at the end! Other than that it is a wonderful continued story of the days after the wedding and the future trials that Lanen and Varien must face together as well as the Kantri. I'll be honest, it's not as awesome as the first book, but it's still great.

Lesley Bailey says

Jumping pov is something that can get very confusing but the story hangs together well.

Jessie says

As I wrote in my comments about the first book in this series, *Song in the Silence: The Tale of Lanen Kaelar*, the Lanen Kaelar series has gotten a lot of great reviews. The author has an interesting and original take on dragons, demons, and gods. She depends heavily on the writing technique of changing P-O-Vs.

I prefer a book which contains a balanced mix of descriptive narrative and both external and internal dialog. Kerner fills the pages with unending, redundant dialog using bold and italic text to indicate levels of communication. There is little narrative, except one character telling another what happened. Although the land and geography are important to the story, there is little sense of the land or the vast distances. Journeys across continents are reduced to little more than "We got on a horse and rode for days and got there."

I read this second book hoping that as the writer matured in her craft, the story would as well. She doesn't, it doesn't, and I don't care about the rest of the series enough to read it.

Laura says

I had no idea that *Song in the Silence* even had a sequel. One of my friends mentioned it in passing, and I nearly fainted because the first book was absolutely amazing. Usually, sequels don't match up to the first book.

This one does.

The Lesser Kindred focuses on Varien and Lanen's relationship and Berys' desire to become all-powerful. New characters, such as Will and Salera, are introduced and their importance does not become evident until later. The Kantri experience a crisis that (view spoiler).

Now, it's been a long time since I've read *Song in the Silence*, so some of the details about what happened were a bit fuzzy in my brain. However, this did not hamper my enjoyment of the book whatsoever, as it came back to me pretty quickly. The characters drop hints here and there without summarizing it in blocks of dialogue, and I appreciate that. Despite the multitude of POVs, the plot flows smoothly and I love seeing how different POVs react with each other. The end of the book leaves a cliffhanger, which I usually dislike in books, but it works here.

MUST. READ. NEXT. BOOK!!!
