



Heart Legacy

Robin D. Owens

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The award-winning author returns to her “wonderfully imaginative”* world of *Heart Fire* and *Heart Fortune* for an all-new Celta novel about a young woman’s destiny, and the one man whose love could be her downfall.

After the death of GrandLord Yew years ago, the Yews withdrew to their self-sustaining estate and disappeared from Celtan society. The current head of the household is believed to be eighteen-year-old Lorida. To find out, Draeg Blackthorn has been sent to the estate to spy, undercover as a stableman for the stridebeasts—beautiful creatures that hold a place in Lori’s heart no member of her family ever could.

Bullied by her family, Lori has decided to abandon her bloodline and live on her own with her true family—her animals. When Draeg discovers she’s rejecting her heritage, he’s appalled. He’s come to love the land as much as the woman, even spinning small fantasies of marrying Lori and becoming Lord and Lady of the manor. Draeg wants her to stay and fight her elders. For Lori, it’s an alternative that could render her absolutely powerless to pursue her own destiny, and drive her further away from her perfect dreams and the man she loves, Draeg.

**Romance Junkies*

Heart Legacy Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2015 by Berkley Books

ISBN : 9780425263976

Author : Robin D. Owens

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal, Paranormal Romance, Science Fiction, Fantasy Romance,
Science Fiction Romance, Magic

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From Reader Review Heart Legacy for online ebook

gremlin says

Oh boy. While I'm a fan of this series, this one just didn't work for me nearly as well as the others.

Lori's home environment is grim, and when she and Draeg get together, it's not much better. He even tries to add to her problems at one point wanting to make her do what he thinks she ought to. Plus all the buildup leads to a very abrupt ending.

Even the Fams weren't much fun in this one.

Krissys says

Heart Legacy (Celta's Heartmates #14) by Robin D. Owens

After the death of GrandLord Yew years ago, the Yews withdrew to their self-sustaining estate and disappeared from Celtan society. The current head of the household is believed to be eighteen-year-old Loridana. To find out, Draeg Blackthorn has been sent to the estate to spy, undercover as a stableman for the stridebeasts—beautiful creatures that hold a place in Lori's heart no member of her family ever could. Bullied by her family, Lori has decided to abandon her bloodline and live on her own with her true family—her animals. When Draeg discovers she's rejecting her heritage, he's appalled. He's come to love the land as much as the woman, even spinning small fantasies of marrying Lori and becoming Lord and Lady of the manor. Draeg wants her to stay and fight her elders. For Lori, it's an alternative that could render her absolutely powerless to pursue her own destiny, and drive her further away from her perfect dreams and the man she loves, Draeg.

My Review:

Once again Owens is at her best with her world building. Fantasy/Paranormal merge for a continued exploration into her creative mind. "I like our connection" is a sentiment I can agree with as a reader loving this authors talented work and wonderful cast. Draeg and Lori are a perfect couple together. I love how Draeg is just the right amount of mind and heart (despite being a spy) to support Lori through her emotional struggle due to the way her family treats her. When there is no where to belong among your kin there is much lost within you because its such a fundamental part of who she is. I really loved Heart Legacy its a beautiful story from beginning to end.

My Rating:

5 Stars

Reviewed By: Krissy's Bookshelf Reviews

<http://kkmalott.booklikes.com/>

Note: I received a print copy in exchange for an honest review from Berkley/NAL/Penguin

Lorien says

I think I would have enjoyed this much more if I had read ANY of the previous books in the series. I had to spend too much mental energy making sense of the different language uses, and aspects of world that (I'm guessing) were explained a bit more in earlier books. But that's all on me.

I will definitely be checking out more from this author and probably the first book from this series.

*I kept pronouncing the name of the near by city Druida City as Druidia which give it a whole different spin.

Mary says

Continuing the Celtan series but this book would be harder to read as a stand alone I think, unlike most. Loridana is D'Yew in waiting, the leader of the Noble Yews of the First Families of Celta. But the Family and the Residence are not behaving in the accepted manner. Not only have they cut themselves off from society but they are actively holding the rightful power back from Loridana and attempting to control her.

The Yews have a long history of dishonorable behaviour and some of the First Families are suspicious that they are at it again. Draeg Brettony-Blackthorn is sent in undercover but soon finds himself wanting to protect Loridana. What is really going on here? And can these two learn trust before irretrievable harm is done?

Bronwyn says

I've read all of the previous books in this series and I will admit the last couple have really disappointed me and I nearly didn't purchase this book.

Thankfully Heart Legacy has restored my enjoyment in this series. While not a perfect book, it was certainly more reminiscent of the books at the beginning of the series. Maybe that was due to the repeat story of the Yew family. It did feel a little similar to the previous book of the Yews.

While this one touched on the fanatical group it didn't get bogged down in politics/religion like the previous book did, which bored me almost to tears.

I felt the last quarter of the book was rushed and would have liked more detail of Lori's re-acquired roll of D'Yew, and maybe less of the animals and prep for travel.

Lori had a hidden strength I found admirable considering her childhood and training and I'm sure many would find her leaving as weak but I get she wanted to start somewhere where she had control over her life, that takes courage to leave all you have known for something completely different and by herself.

Draeg wasn't perfect but I still liked him anyway and thought he was good for Lori. Liked his FamRaven, I'm not a huge fan of cats so something different was good.

Though I address a couple of negatives I still feel this one is deserving of the 4 stars I've given, it was great getting glimpses of previous characters, seeing how their families have grown. Will continue with this series now that my faith has been restored.

Gloria says

Oddly, I liked the hero more at the beginning of the book than I did at the end, mostly because he was in some ways he was part of the group putting pressure on the heroine to resume a life she didn't really want. Despite my 4 star rating, I confess that the ending left me vaguely dissatisfied. Liked the Fams, which always add to the charm of a Celta book.

Bungluna says

[I thought the author would take the chance to explore the death of an ancient residence. The subject was brushed upon in a previous bo

Nibrock says

I can't believe that we're into the second generation of characters (I know it started last book with Anten, or maybe even before with Vinny), but the plot/history flows very well.

Neither Lori nor Draeg can admit to the other exactly who they are. They can't "allow" the other to see who they are because of circumstances that surround them.

Like the way that previous main characters have cameos. Feel really sorry for T'Ash and his testing stones...

Barb Lie says

Heart Legacy by Robin D. Owens is the 14th book in her wonderful Celta series. This story belongs to Draeg Blackthorn and Lorida (Lori) Yew. The Yew's have been distant and separated from the rest of the first families in Celta for many years, not trusted or well liked due to their villainous past. Lori is only 18, but she should have been given the title of D'Yew to run the estate. However, Lori has been bullied and ignored by the other Yew family members, as well as residence. They are mean to her, and she has no say as to the estate, which rightfully is hers to run.

Draeg has been sent to spy on the estate, as a stableman, to discover what is happening in the Yew household and uncover who is behind the villainous attacks against the first families. Draeg meets Lori's famcat, Baccat, who fiercely protects her, and warns Draeg to stay away from the mean house. Once Draeg meets Lori, he knows immediately that she is not the one behind the attacks.

In a short time, both Draeg and Lori find themselves attracted to each other. Draeg tries to fight the attraction, but Lori is desperate to act on her feelings, which worries Draeg, as he knows she is a virgin. Slowly, their romance heats up and the chemistry becomes very hot. Draeg feels guilty that he cannot tell Lori the truth about him being a spy on the family, even if he knows she is innocent. Between Lori's actions, and Baccat's comments (in this series, fam's do talk), Draeg discovers that the family treats Lori as a distant relative, not allowing her any control.

He finally realizes that Lori and Baccat are planning on leaving the estate, and take the horses with them. Lori is tired of being treated so badly, and just wants to give it all up. She plans to secretly escape to a small country estate that her father left her. Draeg tries to convince her that she should never give up the

inheritance that rightfully belongs to her. What follows is not only a beautiful romance, some fun with Baccat, as well as Draeg's new crow fam; and an exciting finish that will find the true culprits within the family, who are part of the attacks, and hurting Lori.

But before he can tell her the truth, Lori discovers that Draeg has been spying and pushes him away in anger, and mistrust. It was nice to see many of the Celta families that we have met from previous stories. Will Lori forgive Draeg or will she leave it all behind? Will Draeg tell Lori she is his heartmate?

Once again Robin D. Owens gives us another wonderful story of two unlikely people, who find their true love. I am a big fan of this series, and cannot wait for the next one.

Barb
The Reading Cafe

Darcy says

There is so much about this one that made me mad. I hated how Lori was treated by her family and the Residence. Hated how they marginalized her, how they beat her down with their words and actions, when she should have been the head of the family, not the least of them. I didn't like what Draeg was doing, mostly because he was being dishonest to Lori, much like her family. Yes, Draeg had good intentions, was trying to help her and her standing within all the Families, but still, you knew this was going to come back to bit him big time.

I loved how when things started to unravel, the other Families saw what a good person that Lori was, how she was mistreated and how they stood by her to help in the small ways that they were able to when Lori made her final choice. At that point I thought Lori made the right choice for her. She needed to find herself away from everything. But she made another right choice after the call she received. It was nice to see the Yews finally realize what family should be like.

Marlene says

This joint review was originally published at The Book Pushers

Marlene: Owens' Heartmate series has been an autobuy for me for quite a while. Even when I don't entirely love that particular story (ahem, Heart Fire last year). I always enjoy a trip back to Celta. Owens has created a world with a fascinating history and an exciting present. This is a place I might want to live.

However, I'm very pleased to say that Heart Legacy is back to her old form. I swallowed this one the very afternoon in which I received the ARC, and it was marvelous. Sometimes fricking heartbreaking, but a wonderful way to spend a weekend afternoon.

E: Like Marlene I autobuy this series. I have become captivated by her world, the families, their struggles, and Owens lyrical method of writing. As the series continues I enjoy seeing the younger generations start to make their mark as they struggle with their past, expectations, and their own personalities. I haven't loved each story equally, and some I reread while others just stay on my keeper shelf but the overall impact is one that I look forward to each installment with the same level of anticipation as when I first started the series.

Also like Marlene I found this story both enjoyable and requiring tissues. The payoff however was well worth the tears.

Marlene: The central story in Heart Legacy involves some long-standing family feuds, and also provides a bit more information and closure to the story Heart Fate. In that story, Tinne Holly's heartmate Lahsin escapes from her horrible marriage in the Yew household by killing her wacko husband in self-defense and running away. We knew something was wrong in Yew House, but it isn't until now that we discover just how deep the rot goes. And it is rotten all the way down to the core.

While Lahsin was abused by her husband, it is clear in Heart Legacy that there is something awful in the legacy of all the Yews, including the sentient residence. It is oh so clear that Lorida D'Yes is being bullied and abused by every member of her immediate family, including the Residence. In spite of her being the titular head of household, she is preyed upon by everyone in it, while being ritually drained of her flair at every turn. It's no wonder that she is planning her escape. The only wonder is that she didn't try it sooner. Also a whole lot of wonder that she has emerged from this cesspit even half sane, let alone reasonably functional.

E: The Yew household was a seriously ill one. The people and the Residence seemed to infect and feed on each other as they went after those who had a decent nature and who cared. I was very glad to see some closure because the Yews had harmed so many, yet were left alone to continue to fester. I did grow a bit exasperated with Lori's goodness, sweetness, and light until she started to let other elements of her personality show during her time with Draeg and when she began to openly rebel. I really couldn't blame her for not wanting anything to do with her heritage because it was never a source of comfort, love or respect.

Marlene: Our hero is one of Straif T'Blackthorn's adopted children. (The beginning of Straif's thread to this story is in Heart Choice.) But unlike many of Straif's adopted kids, Draeg BetonyBlackthorn is one of Straif's cousins. While he is from a lesser branch of the family, with no direct line, Draeg might be a possible heir to Blackthorn. He also has some of the family's native tracking gifts. What he needs is a purpose in his life, and he has found it by working with investigators to solve crimes, and sometimes just trolling the nastier streets of Druida City and mowing down whatever miscreants try to rob him.

The chief investigator for Druida City, Ilex Winterberry, enlists Draeg's help in looking into the extremely reclusive Yew family as possible ringleaders for the Traditionalist political faction. If the Traditionalists were just a political faction, that would be one thing, but they have escalated their tactics into attempted murder. Attacks that specifically target children of people they think have been trumped up above their station.

But when Draeg goes undercover as a stockman at the Yew estate, he finds that Lorida D'Yew can't possibly be the head of a Traditionalist faction. Or any faction. Lorida loves her animals, and is obviously being victimized by her sadistic family. Now they, on the other hand, look like prime candidates for upper class terrorists.

The problem is that Draeg sees the estate through Lorida's eyes, and finds himself too attracted to her to think clearly about anything else. The deeper he gets involved with Lori, the more certain he is that she's as much a victim as anyone else. And that she is his heartmate.

And that she probably won't forgive him for the deceptive way he entered her life.

E: ***shakes head*** Poor Draeg, all he wanted was a Home and a Purpose. Despite having an adopted family he still felt somewhat rootless and antsy. He dealt with both of those by helping reduce some of the crime which was too minor to come to the attention of the Houses and yet was a concern to the commoners. When he was given a special assignment at first he was resentful but then he started to fall for the Yew land and for

Lori herself. The closer they became, the more uncomfortable he was with the role he played and his inability to openly care for and protect Lori not to mention how much she valued the truth.

Marlene: There's a continuing thread in many of the books in this series. For these to be romances, there has to be some impediment to the couple getting together. It can't be too easy. Frequently, that impediment is a "big lie". That's the case here.

Draeg is operating as an undercover spy, and one of the people he is potentially investigating is Lori. While he's easily convinced that she has nothing to do with the attacks, he is definitely investigating her family, and with damn good reason. And while she may hate them, they are still hers. And he's pretending to be a low-flair, low-class stableman. While Lori may not care about the class aspects, the fact is that he is a member of one of the "First Families" and is part of the ruling class that she should be part of and isn't. And his superiors in this investigation require convincing that Lori isn't the problem, which leads to further outright lying on Draeg's part even after he and Lori become lovers. She has a LOT to forgive him for.

At the same time, Lori is also lying to Draeg. He thinks she's going to fight for her place. He doesn't understand that she has no faith that she could possibly win such a fight, and that the consequences of losing would be devastating for her. Lori is planning to escape, with her animals, to her late father's remote estate. She's going to give up being D'Yew, just at the point where Draeg realizes that he has fallen in love with the Yew Estate, and is beginning to think of himself as becoming T'Yew, Lori's husband.

When all the shit hits all the fans, Lori accuses him of only being interested in her for what she can do for him, and not for herself. While she's mostly wrong, she's also partly right, and they both know it.

E: Oooh I loved that confrontation, even as I worried about its resolution. They were both forced to face some uncomfortable things about each other and what they wanted deep down inside. Did they love the person because of who they were or did they love the person because of what they were? In answering that question they had to see previously overlooked elements and decide to work with the Heartbond or to reject it. I really thought this part helped remind me how a Heartbond wasn't everything, the individuals also had to put forth the effort to connect on other levels.

Marlene: Overall, I loved this installment in the Heartmate series. While it does provide added depth to the background if you have read previous entries in the series, you don't have to have a photographic memory of everything that has happened in the past. While the Traditionalist faction has been brewing for a while, there is plenty of explanatory material to make the suspense part of the plot make sense.

Draeg and Lorida are a great couple. They begin a relationship with both of them keeping very important secrets for excellent reasons, so the tension between what they want from each other and what they want in their lives makes excellent sense. Instead of a ridiculous misunderstandammit coming between them, we have a real conflict that is completely necessary for both of their characters.

Lorida's family, while there is an element of bwahaha evil, are bad to the bone for reasons that make sense to them. While Lorida (and the reader) will disagree with everything they stand for, they are internally consistent, which makes the story more believable. I did find the catalog of their abuses hard reading, not because it was bad writing, but because I felt so much for the character that I hated seeing her beaten down over and over.

The happy ending for Heart Legacy feels earned. And I love that.

I give Heart Legacy an A-

E: While I enjoyed Heart Legacy I did have a pet peeve. Throughout this series problems have occurred in

Druida City when Greatly Flaired Families have been left separate and on the fringes. The older generation learned that painful lesson and while some of the youngsters have started banding together, there is still a certain sense of letting each Family operate independently to live or die even when they aren't participating in the required events. I hope this is addressed or acknowledged sometime even though it isn't an overnight change.

Draeg and Lori were fun to get to know. I felt for each of them as they struggled with the role they were playing, their growing emotions, and the escalating stakes. Draeg was trying to hold back the hotheads and get to the bottom of his investigation while falling for Lori and the land. Lori was trying to gain more freedom, scout a way out, hide her intentions from everyone, and try not to grow too close to Draeg. They both faced the opposition of her family and the very unwelcoming Residence.

Watching them grow and work for their happy ending was extremely rewarding. It really was work and made the ending very satisfying. I am counting down the months until the next installment.

I give Heart Legacy an A-/B+

Paraphrodite says

3.5 stars. Good start but sort of fizzled out at the ending.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

There are similarities to Tinne & Lahsin's romance in Heart Fate, and the occupants of the Yew Residence is revisited. I liked how events from Heart Fate came full circle. Old characters play unobtrusive roles. The revisit was pleasant. What Heart Legacy was missing was tension, as Lorida waiting for the weather to warm so she can make her escape with her beloved animals didn't provide substance to the plot. Also, absent was discussion about Heart Mates throughout most of the story. You would think this book could possibly missing *that* particular ingredient. (view spoiler)

If only the villains weren't peripheral. The best part is save for the last third of the book. Overall, mostly Celta Heartmate fans will enjoy revisiting old characters and getting definite closure on an old story arc.

Jennifer says

Rereading the series back to back has not been great for my opinion of the world building. There are so many issues here, and this was not one of the better books.

As D'Yew, the Residence should listen to her, not the other relatives. That's how crappy heads of households (T'Yew and later his daughter, and old D'Willow) were able to be so mean to their families. Though in this case, I guess the whole Yew family is mostly rotten. But I don't recall any other person needing a celebration of adulthood to gain adult status. I have to say that her plan is unnecessarily difficult. Rather than worry about additional animals, she can ask them to return to their previous home to be cared for. She could meet people and make alliances while she's out wandering around. Her Fam could help her with that. It's silly to say the other Yews wouldn't respect one that brought in outsiders, and she wouldn't either. Would they respect her more for running away? And since her family all seems to be crap, who cares if they respect her?

It's embarrassing that her family is so horrible. If they don't want outsiders in their business, they should obey the laws. Of course it's way better to have the guards threaten to break down your gates because your cousins are murderers. I'd like an explanation about her and Lahsin both developing unusually strong shielding abilities. Flair is supposed to follow family bloodlines, so it doesn't make sense. Does it even mention how her father died? If herbs and healers can help a pregnancy happen, why is the birth rate so poor? And why not have more than one child? The inconsistencies are maddening. First her cousins are easy to read, then they're sly, and apparently they know when she's talking to the Residence and immediately appear - of course teleporting which is always said to be reckless if not to a properly designated spot. The residence having old T'Yew's personality and then gaining a new one (with a name) is wrong also. The other residences speak with the voices of ancestors, but their personality is separate. Like cranky Balmheal and chipper TQ.

I would like to know why the guards, or at least at T'Blackthorn can't trace any sign on that button. The Traditionalists aren't really a political group at this point, though I sometimes feel Owens is trying to make a statement with them. It's one thing to not like something and even to try to legislate to bring about your vision; it's another thing to go along with secretly murdering children and such. If you tried for a public outcry denouncing the "mutant" powers or mixed commoner blood as threat that must be eradicated, that's kind of a legit path, but this is obviously just straight criminal activity. No subtlety and just villains who are arrogant and stupid. I have already read Heart Sight, and supposedly the death of the "head" is the death of the movement, but that's nonsense, it isn't how fanatical organizations work. Regarding the celtaroon possibly meant to kill a Walker and or his kids. If it killed the worker, didn't people notice the dead guy and realize it was loose? Why did the cats need to be there to sense it? Honestly Draeg should just tell Lori that her family is under suspicion and get her cooperation. What is the point of Tinne appointing him to investigate if he won't trust his judgment? And if the twins regularly travel in the city, won't they recognize him? Though apparently Lori is idiot enough that she believes her family is not capable of plotting to murder, despite the fact that they tried to kill her cat and she knows that they are capable of killing her other animals. Not strong on the logic. And why exactly can't the Holly kid just identify the cousins? Then her cousins straight out try to kill her out of nowhere, the residence won't help her (why would it want a lesser Yew in charge?), their father pretends it is normal, and her own power doesn't work worth a shit to protect her. WTF. Then they claim it started with her grandfather, who lived so long, blah, blah. No...he was her grandfather. Her mother wasn't that old when he died, so he was probably somewhere in his 60s or 70s, not exactly old for people that live 200 years. NONE OF THAT MAKES SENSE. As for the other conspirator, just ask Yew Residence who Folia's lover was, since he visited the house.

Draeg states that he didn't travel to Lugh's Spear because it was too far and dangerous to come back alone. What? Glyssa did it - there is public transport! It was unnecessary for Cratag to punch Draeg, when it was Cal that went to see him. Telling him to leave would have been good enough. The main issue I have with this pairing is that he is basically a fortune hunter, and that issue is never addressed. She is made to feel guilty for abandoning an estate and family that has never done right by her, and outright abused her. Other Residences have survived firebombing, explosions, decades of neglect and no people, but after a couple of months the Yew Residence is dying? Yeah right. Did anyone ever find out about her shielding ability? There's a brief moment where the bird says he was right and he wonders if that's true, but literally that's it for thinking he did wrong. In the end, he didn't even have to grovel, she came back to him out of nowhere.

I find it super frustrating that nothing is consistent. Teleporting, speaking mentally, healing flair (how did she heal herself at the end?), the abilities of the residence to monitor - all of that changes based on how convenient it is at that moment. So sometimes a loved one is in danger and that can be sensed and immediately teleported to save them. In this case, the Holly kid is struggling with murderers and a cat calls for help - Tinne doesn't feel his son's danger, nor does he cry out for help. Baccat hides his own near-mortal wounds from Lori.

Laura (Kyahgirl) says

3.5/5; 4 stars; B+

After reading about the horrible Yews and their demented Residence several books back, I was interested to read another story showing where they were at. Much of this story has a grim undertone because Lori, the main character has been abused by the family for many years and is essentially a prisoner.

I enjoyed her developing relationship with Draeg Betony Blackthorn, the investigator working undercover for Tinne Holly, trying to discover the Yews involvement with the violent Traditionlist Stance group. However, I really don't enjoy stories that have so much subterfuge and think Draeg went way too long without telling Lori the truth.

Again, the Fams were a high point in the story for me in terms of creativity, problem solving, loyalty, and humour.

Not as good as the last book but still an enjoyable entry in the series.
