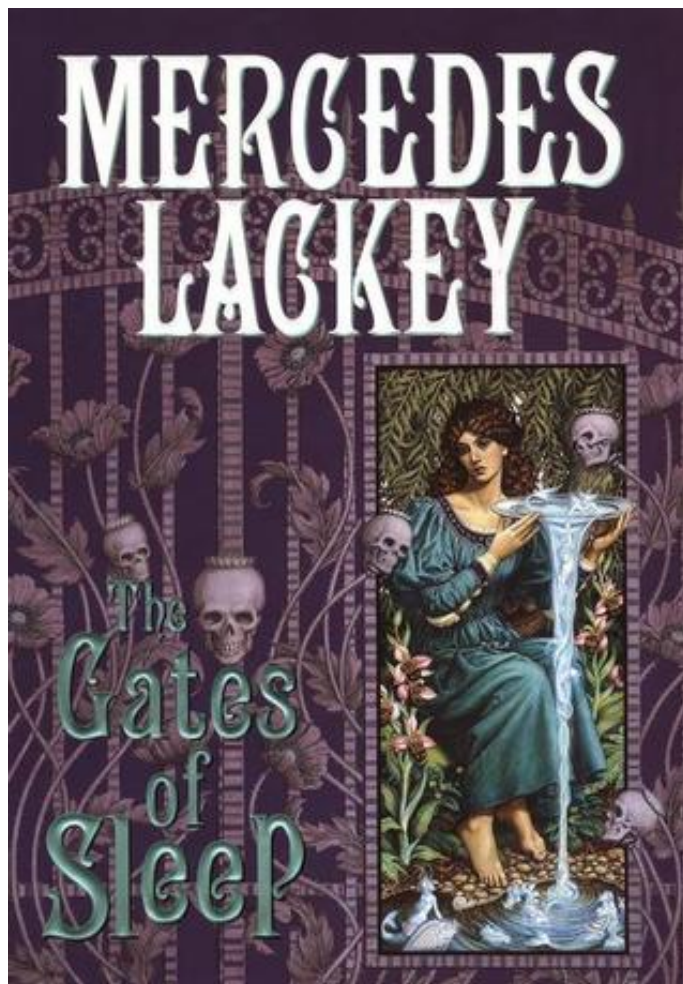

Mercedes Lackey

The Gates of Sleep (Elemental Masters #3)



Title: The Gates of Sleep (Elemental Masters #3)

Author: Mercedes Lackey

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Description

Marina is the cherished daughter of the wealthy Saverson family, practitioners of Elemental Magic. But all is not well in this elegant, aristocratic household. Evil portents have warned her father that Marina will be killed before her eighteenth birthday—by the hand of her own aunt. And no one is sure if the family magic is powerful enough to overturn the prophesy.

Insightful reviews

Fantasy Literature: *The Gates of Sleep* by Mercedes Lackey, part of her ELEMENTAL MASTERS series, is a fun, harmless read based loosely on the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale.

Growing up, I had always been drawn to Mercedes Lackey books, mostly because of the lush cover art, usually drawn by Jody Lee. But then, unfailingly, I'd read the blurb and decide not to read it; they usually sounded too involved, too conspicuously "high fantasy," or otherwise cheesy and formulaic. (I love high fantasy, but I must have been a hipster when I was a kid because I couldn't stand it if the book seemed like it was trying too hard.)

So I was pleasantly surprised by how engaging I found this book. Lee's artwork is the perfect companion to Lackey's prose, which is rich and descriptive. The world she creates ... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

Jill Furedy: Not as good as *Fire Rose*, better than *Serpent's Shadow*; this is another one where's she spent too much time building the settings, forgot about creating suspense or romance, and then wrapped everything up in a hasty and ridiculous conclusion. Even through the slow build, I was enjoying the book and for some reason that I can't pinpoint, connected better with Marina than I did with Maya in *Serpent's Shadow*, even though Maya had more potentially interesting aspects to develop as a character. The love interest didn't appear until about 200 pages in, only appears a couple times, and while I liked him, there was no chemistry and no time to develop it. I also found it odd how we were introduced to the vicar, and spent some time with him and then he becomes a nonentity. The servants who side with Marina instead of her aunt also had potential to add to the story, but instead hover in the background. Marina's guardians are ridiculous. I liked them at first, but after her evil aunt abducts her, they just shrug and hope for the best. So by the time they reappear, I was annoyed at them and didn't care if they could contribute anything at that point. I also realized at some point that this book mimics it's fairy tale better than *Serpent's Shadow* did, and that was the only reason I felt any suspense...because I knew what had to be coming. I actually liked Archane as a bad guy, but there was no sense of urgency as far as the curse's deadline, though they discussed it occasionally. Reggie, on the other hand, was just along for the ride up until a point where they implied there may be a rift between mother and son, which seemed very intriguing. And then totally fizzled out. And Marina visits a pottery, which holds potential for conflict and further development of the storyline of the painters and Ellen. Which also goes nowhere. Such a shame that the book rushes to an ending right when things could have gotten interesting. But as usual with Lackey's books, she does enough right to keep me hoping that the next book will be the one where all the potential will come to fruition.

Ward Bond:

For seventeen years, Marina Roeswood had lived in an old, rambling farmhouse in rural Cornwall in the care of close friends of her wealthy, aristocratic parents. As the ward of bohemian artists in Victorian England, she had grown to be a free thinker in an environment of fertile creativity and cultural sophistication. But the real core of her education was far outside societal norms. For she and her foster parents were Elemental Masters of magic, and learning to control her growing powers was Marina's primary focus. But though Marina's life seemed idyllic, her existence was riddled with mysteries. Why, for example, had she never seen her parents, or been to Oakhurst, her family's ancestral manor? And why hadn't her real parents, also Elemental Masters, trained her themselves? That there was a secret about all this she had known from the time she had begun to question the world around her. Yet try as she might, she could get no clues out of her guardians. But Marina would have answers to her questions all too soon. For with the sudden death of her birth parents, Marina met her new guardian- her father's eldest sister Arachne. Aunt Arachne exuded a dark magical aura unlike anything Marina had encountered, a stifling evil that seemed to threaten Marina's very spirit. Slowly Marina realized that her aunt was the embodiment of the danger her parents had been hiding her from in the backwoods of Cornwall. But could Marina unravel the secrets of her life in time to save herself from the evil that had been seeking her for nearly eighteen years?

Kate: i could have learn this fairly your time ago. the 1st bit appeared familiar, yet now not the remainder of the book. I loved it, even though no longer approximately up to Phoenix and Ashes (my favourite Lackey to date). it's a beautiful twist on slumbering Beauty, and the depraved fairy (who for this reason in an aunt who makes use of black magic) is really frightening, even supposing her motivations are nonetheless particularly unclear. In fact, I loved many of the book, from the outline of Marina's early life and improvement of her Elemental powers to her later kidnapping by means of her aunt and fight to fake to be innocuous. yet i discovered the tip much less convincing. For one thing, the (view spoiler)[black magic is odd, and does not appear to healthy fairly good with the world. i may comprehend if Arachne used to be stealing the magic from others, however it turns out that she is doing it via a Black Mass, which has to be performed in stereotypical ways, and probably even by using demons. (hide spoiler)] I additionally did not deal with the romance angle, as (view spoiler)[it appeared forced. Lackey does not quite boost the connection among Marina and the doctor, so it shocked me that they're without notice engaged by means of the top of the book. apparently Lackey desired to maintain a dead ringer for the prince from the story, yet i do not believe it really works quite well. (hide spoiler)] Overall, I had combined feeling concerning the book. It used to be alright, yet I want it were better.["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

May: This booklet is a retelling of the sound asleep attractiveness fairy tale. i have been partial to the author's prior works (her Valdemar series--especially the early books--was excellent). i am a section ambivalent approximately this one. the writer does a bright and convincing activity of establishing the paranormal world, that's one in all her strengths. And the 1st 1/2 the book, describing how Marina (the heroine) is cursed and her lifestyles along with her guardians and the way she discovers and controls her magic is easily done. it is just after Marina is going to stay with the Maleficent similar that the publication deteriorates. You by no means get a very

good rationalization as to why Maleficent is so sour and hateful, and the affection tale with Marina is totally unconvincing. (In essence, there are numerous interactions the place the hero behaves like a boor, after which Marina without notice realizes she's in love with him. Whatever.) it really is nearly as though the writer learned she hit her web page restrict yet could not undergo to chop any of the sooner tale (understandably) and simply rushed headlong into the climax and ending. I do just like the Elemental global that the writer has created with this retelling of fairy stories and am more likely to provide the sequence another try, yet this book, whereas I cherished it good enough, was once faraway from the authors' top work.

Elanor: i like Mercedes Lackey's Elemental series, the Victorian surroundings for fairy stories respun with magic from the 4 elements. yet this one... used to be filled with holes, and dragging on and on. Marina Roeswood's existence is cursed through her evil aunt Arachne on her christening day. Her different godfathers and -mothers cannot supply her extra magical presents to guard herself (why?)... yet they do whisk her away for her by no means to determine her mom and dad again. Huh? that is protection? someone may perhaps hint the programs Marina's mom and dad will ship her all her existence - specifically if you can get right into a lawyer's place of work and break their will via magical means!! additionally there isn't any preventive action, no maintaining with the would-be murderer, no having a look into her causes in any respect after that. all of them simply forget about her. (??)Marina is pointed out by way of her godparents, with the dire curse placing over her - but they by no means inform her approximately it, nor who it truly is from, nor tips to guard herself - the latter whilst the time is nearly up, and whaddya know? She is found, actually and legally abducted and taken to her aunt, who has no perceptible whiff of evil approximately her although she's a black magic practitioner... And her guardians - who comprehend both Marina or her aunt needs to die from the curse - simply remain of their backcountry and it appears wring arms and do NOTHING!? Please! Too many holes! i want a narrative to be a minimum of a bit believable!Also stressful is Lackey's tendency to justify issues after the fact. Example: The younger health practitioner is worked up to have an outstanding butler simply because he can be residing in an inhospitable a part of the rustic - which he really does not, considering that his buddies are very type - even if they can be demanding still - that's why it is a great point he has a superb butler. Huh? Always, great things - which may be very bad! - yet are not. the writer attempts to elevate the stakes after the fact, nearly as an afterthought. It feels she's justifying herself, and provides up stuff simply because she did not imagine to set the degree effectively in advance. this can be truly in keeping with Lackey's inconsistency (sorry;0) along with her entire universe; she organize ideas in hearth Rose and The Serpent's Shadow that preserve contradicting themselves. and she or he justifies them badly, and again, too late. the foundations of Magic are consistently used as a wild card to provide an explanation for why anything 'can't' happen, yet they modify an excessive amount of to be believable. I want i'll be extra confident approximately it, actually :0(i suppose i'm not easy simply because there are various issues i admire concerning the universe. The Serpent's Shadow was once my favorite...

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