

The Riddle (Pellinor, Book 2)

By Alison Croggon



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Maerad is a girl with a tragic past, but her powers grow stronger by the day. Now she and her mentor, Cadvan, hunted by both the Light and the Dark, must unravel the Riddle of the Treesong before their kingdom erupts in chaos. The quest leads Maerad over terrifying seas and glacial wilderness, until she is trapped in the icy realm of the seductive Winterking. There, Maerad must confront what she has suspected all along: that she is the greatest riddle of all.



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The Riddle (Pellinor, Book 2) By Alison Croggon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Maerad, who was rescued from slavery and became a Bard in Croggon's *The Naming* (Candlewick, 2005), has her hands full here. Along with her tutor Cadvan, she has been charged with finding the Treesong, a source of power so ancient that nothing but the barest of rumors remain. Their journey is hounded by agents of a treacherous Bard professing to act in the name of the Light and by an enigmatic entity known as the Winterking, an ally of Maerad's adversary, the Nameless One. At the same time, the protagonist struggles to understand the light and darkness within herself. Deep currents of sorrow, loneliness, and love run through this haunting epic fantasy; Maerad's feelings of alienation and self-doubt will resonate with many adolescents. Appendixes help to further flesh out the characters and cultures of Croggon's Edil-Amarandh, an engrossing world that fantasy aficionados will be eager to revisit.—*Christi Voth, Parker Library, CO*

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From **Booklist**

The second volume of the Pellinor quartet, this fantasy tells of Maerad the Fated One, a bard whose destiny is to defeat the Nameless One by using the mysterious Treesong. Young Maerad embarks on a long quest to discover more about the Treesong while eluding, fending off, and (usually) escaping the agents of the Dark who pursue her. Sometimes accompanied by allies, sometimes alone, she continues to learn about herself and her magical powers as well as the world she must try to save. Croggon's respect for Tolkien's trilogy shows clearly in the book's conception, structure, and long, appended backstory notes, but the vulnerable heroine, the language, and the vision are all her own. Although the dramatic tension lags a bit in the middle of this lengthy novel, that won't deter series fans or others who long for high fantasy with a young woman in the spotlight. *Carolyn Phelan*

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Review

"I live," said Arkan with a peculiar arrogance as they walked. "And I do not die. The wind lives, the snow lives, the ice lives, the mountains live. Rick and ice have their own voices, their own lives, their own breath, their own pulse. Do you deny them that?"

"No," said Maerad, unable to conceal the sadness in her voice. "But I like flowers."

"I will make you flowers if you desire them."

"They would be flowers of ice. Beautiful, but cold. It wouldn't be the same. But thank you."

They walked in silence for a time through the endless, beautiful corridors, and despite herself Maerad found she was admiring the beauties of Arkan-da with different eyes. The design of the pillars had changed subtly, she thought; she saw flowers within them, all with six petals, but infinitely various and intricate. She was always conscious of the man pacing beside her, although she did not look at him.

"Why do you wish to please me?" she asked, breaking the silence. "You could just as easily cast me into some dark dungeon. What difference would it make to you?"

"It is better if you do not hate or fear me," said Arkan. "Song cannot be made out of hatred and fear. That is

what Sharma failed to understand."

"What is needed to make Song, then?"

Arkan turned and looked her full in the face, and Maerad's heart skipped a beat. "Do you not know?" he asked.

Maerad looked down at the floor and watched her feet. She did not want to answer.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Georgetta Watson:

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Curtis Dugan:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love The Riddle (Pellinor, Book 2), you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Jacqueline Gore:

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Ann Conley:

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