

Quest for the Source of Darkness Book Reviews

You won't be able to put this down, and you won't be able to forget it, either. Your mind will delight in taking the adventures into which this writer leads you. The mental images evoked are beyond your control and your imagination. If you dream, if you read, if you love, if you enjoy fantasy, don't just sit there, order this book and for that matter, order two and give one to someone you really like a lot.

A trip into the imagery of a master story-teller, October 16, 2005
by Jerine P. Watson

Quest for the Source of Darkness, Patricia Perry's first novel, has an action fantasy story line with a strong mystery theme and an interesting romantic twist. This is no short novel, at 422 pages you'll be kept entertained for quite a while.

The main hero character is a strong and gifted woman who is stricken with a form of memory loss. Little flashes of memory come to her, but she is frustrated with not knowing who she is and what her origins are. All she can remember is her name, Ramira.

Baffled in a tumultuous world of elves, dwarves and desert nomads, whose inability to co-exist peacefully could spell doom for all. They are forced to work together to battle the evil Mahn and his minions, a variety of demons from the low demons called Kreetch to the terrifying Vox, who are capable of possessing a body and torturing its soul for centuries.

The Elf Kings, Alyxandyr and Gard, and their royal peers - the Dwarf King, Seven, and the rulers of the Herkahs, Zada and Allad - converge together at the gates of grand city of Bystyn. Together their people find solace in numbers while they prepare to battle the sourcerous evil. Ramira discovers her power and learns that she is not meant to be alone. There is also a powerful seer and the hidden elf magic to aid her - but they all must grow in strength if there is to be any hope at all.

Patricia does not explain things in this novel. Instead, the book expertly unfolds little tantalizing bits to the reader at just the right pace. Quest for the Source of Darkness is a larger-sized book that will take the reader on fantasy adventure for many days.

An action-fantasy... with a strong mystery theme, September 30, 2005
by Lillian Brummet (Canada)

Ultimate good battles ultimate evil in a land inhabited by elves, dwarves, powerful nomads, soul-stealers, and other wicked and whimsical creatures in the fantasy adventure Quest for the Source of Darkness. The action revolves around the mysterious character,

Ramira, whose origins are unknown to even herself. She awakens to discover herself taking shelter from a great storm in a rugged and dangerous land, tending to a handsome elven stranger named Danyl. Ramira struggles to discover who she is, why she is there, and how she can fulfill her central role in the great war between Good and Evil.

Ramira finds solace living among Danyl and the other elves under his rule, but terror seems to haunt her. Until her arrival, most communities in the land lived relatively peacefully together, but as Ramira arrives a terrible evil force is gaining strength, and attempts to overtake the coexisting inhabitants. This evil force contains no fewer than three levels of demon -- the Kreetch, the Radir and the Vox -- each more formidable and horrific than the other, who all seek the potent "Source." On the side of Good, the elves, dwarves and nomads have their own mighty force, the "Green Might." Not surprisingly, these two great influences clash in an all-or-nothing effort to become the final ruler of the land. Ramira finds herself in the middle of it all. Her heart fights for the side of Good but does the Evil inhabit her soul?

This book contains a plethora of major literary themes: good vs. evil, a voyage of self-discovery, a Romeo and Juliet romance, and a search for true unification of communities. These themes also battle it out in this book, often to the demise of the story. It seems as though the author poured much rumination and thought into her first novel, which unfortunately suffers from an over-abundance of riches. *Quest for the Source of Darkness* contains just too much of, well, too much. Too many complicated types of creatures, too many different forms of evil, too many competing story threads. I found myself cringing every time a new race or character was introduced, overwhelmed by details, convoluted names and unnecessary sub-plot lines. A good editor should have advised the author to combine many of the races and characters for clarity purposes, simplify the plot, and pare away the less vital details. Perhaps there are two or three good books hidden in this 422-page saga.

Nevertheless, I found myself compelled to persevere through the mire of details, motivated by the strength of the primary characters and intriguing nature of the land created in *Quest for the Source of Darkness*. The author creates absorbing characters that seem to stick with the reader long after the book has been closed. Ramira is a terrific heroine. She is smart, strong, and savvy. The battle between Good and Evil takes place not only in the land but also within her very soul. The charm of her character make us root for her throughout the book. Her love interest, Danyl, also proves to be an appealing character. I enjoyed spending time with him, and remained interested in his path and place in the story. Indeed, there is a mirror struggle within his soul as well. Also, the elf's town of Bystyn is an enchanting land populated by sympathetic, lovely characters. In the end, I just wish there had been more coloring of the main characters and primary plot lines and less of the minor elements of this story.

Quill says: Devoted fans of the fantasy genre will enjoy the characters, mystery, and adventure in this tale of good vs. evil.

A battle of good vs. evil, November 19, 2008

by Feathered Quill Book Reviews (Goshen, MA)

The main crux of this book and the ensuing tale that unfolds is a wonderful story about the classic fight that results between good ultimately reigning in victory over evil. The author has done an excellent job portraying the basic premise of this age old conflict in a book that chronicles the events in a setting wonderfully reflecting a medieval time period.

Not only does the book do a superb job of relating the details leading to a positive outcome for good, the author is also able to splendidly describe the ensuing relationships that are formed by groups having a past history of animosity toward each other. By working together and using the combined strengths of the various individuals, there is a much greater opportunity for all to succeed within this enormous endeavor. Like the old saying about it not mattering who gets the credit as long as the job gets done, this book provides a great example of the truth contained in that assertion.

The book is very well written and Patricia Perry does a marvelous job of allowing the reader to actually "be" in the era that is described. Her characters are extremely realistic. It is easy to become entrenched in the challenge that is at hand and "needing" to read further. The reader wants to see what actually evolves while being completely immersed in the surrounding situations affecting both the people and the locale.

Although the main characters are perceived as fictional (elves, dwarfs, and evil spirits), the story proceeds in a believable fashion as the saga unfolds. Just like many similar widely held beliefs (e.g. Santa Claus), the ideas that are being related offer comparisons between knowing something will happen in a certain way and proceeding to do whatever needs to be done -- or in simply desiring it and accepting whatever outcome results in any situation.

The continuing emphasis runs as a common thread throughout the book and reminds the reader of the real issues the book is addressing – the struggle over evil and the magnificent gains that are made when people unite in a unified vision. The direct quote from the book says a great deal about what this story is all about. "Ultimate evil had forgotten how truly powerful the spirit was."

Insightful words that most people confront in their lives are stated here to remind that "Fate was not always fair or kind." The truth of that statement is portrayed but the significant message also affirms that although at times things do happen that make one question the outcomes in any particular situation, often the human spirit contains a vast amount of ability in overcoming any unforeseen dilemma that appears. This book is truly a great example of the triumphing of human spirit over any possible unexpected evil that arises to test that strong faith we hold in ourselves and personal resolve to go forward.

I highly recommend Patricia Perry's, *Quest for the Source of Darkness*.

by Steven Manchester (author of 'Pressed Pennies' and many other fine novels)

A truly soulful novel of good versus evil, Quest For The Source Of Darkness, will take you on a fantasy thrill ride. Ramira and Danyl could be contemporary characters despite their Herkah and Elven backgrounds. Uniting with unlikely partners, the dwellers of the land must fight to keep the evil Mahn from obtaining the Source Of Darkness.

This first novel by author Patricia Perry is descriptive and deep with amazing imagination on part of both the writer and the reader. Despite the intimidation of 400+ pages, you will not be sorry you picked up this book or surprised when you can't put it down.

Reviewed by: C.C.

Rating: 5 Beacon Review

He was impressed with the woman's beauty, kindness, and fighting skills. She had protected him from the storm raging outside, and from the wolves that were constantly a threat, all the while nursing him back to health. Yet the Elvin prince knew nothing about her. And when she disappears right after returning him to his people, he finds himself even more drawn to her, compelled by the strong sensation that had occurred as they lay close together those nights in the cave. "Quest for the Source of Darkness" is an exciting adventure about an evil that has come to the land, that necessitates the coming together of old enemies and long time friends in order to overcome it. The beautiful and mysterious Ramira, stricken with amnesia, happens upon the Elvin prince, Danyl, during a violent storm. She keeps him safe while he heals, using her equally mysterious and formidable fighting skills. The two feel a unique and intense bond, one that, when they meet again, has the opportunity to blossom into something akin to love, and of immense value in the impending battle against the coming darkness.

Add in mysterious sight-giving artifacts, the resilient and clever desert dwelling tribe of Herkahs, and the humorous and large-hearted Dwarves, and you have the cast of an unforgettable adventure. The plot is so interesting and well-weaved, it is hard to give an adequate synopsis of the book without giving away the best parts, and it would be a unforgivable shame if I should accidentally ruined even one moment of the suspense for those fortunate enough to read this book.

Patricia Perry has all the skill of a seasoned author. She uses some unique and memorable similes and metaphors, and she verbally draws ethereal pictures, without the exaggerations that might come off clichéd. The characters are endearing and unique- it is hard to pick a favorite as each has their fascinating qualities and talents. It is always a pleasure to see a strong and clever female lead, and it is extra impressive that this author gives the heroine these qualities, as well as a gentle refinement and an open heart.

I highly recommend this wonderful novel for everyone, young and old, whether you are a fan of the genre or not. It may very well open up a whole new group of books needing to be read.

Reviewer: Nancy Morris, Allbooks Reviews.

Quest for the Source of Darkness is an excellent and well-told story, one which caught my interest on the first page and maintained its grip until the last. The characters are well defined and come to life as the tale progresses - the reluctant and, for much of the narrative, unknowing heroine Ramira, the Elven Prince Danyl, Allad and Zada the dark mysterious Herkahs, the Dwarf King Seven and the evil Mahn. These and numerous other participants are skilfully interwoven as the plot leads you from character to character, situation to situation, changing rapidly as the tale develops. The action-scenes and landscapes are finely detailed, allowing the reader to envision clearly the events taking place.

Patricia Perry keeps the reader turning the pages, needing to find out what happens next. Will the forces of good outwit Mahn's evil followers and find the Source of Darkness first? Will the Elves discover their magic, the Green Might, before they and the rest of the world are turned into demons, doomed to slave forever under the rule of Mahn? To find out the answers to these questions you need to read Quest for the Source of Darkness. A very entertaining fantasy novel, one I thoroughly enjoyed. This is Patricia Perry's first novel and I believe she has a hit on her hands. I look forward to reading a great deal more of this author's work.

Brian R. Hill, (Author: The Shintae)

I must tell you how much I enjoyed reading your book "Quest for the Source of Darkness". Although I am not into sci-fi or fantasy books, yours held my attention from beginning to end! Your descriptions of sights, sounds and the prevailing atmosphere made it easy to visualize the scene and feel the emotions of the characters and even to believe the incredible things that were happening to them. Anyone can put words on paper but to make them come alive and weave an interesting story is a great talent.

V.B. - a reader, June 2006

As a reader and writer of mainly science fiction, I read this fantasy with an open mind. Immediately, I was struck with the colourful and vivid world and characters Patricia describes in this epic battle of good against evil. The settings are rich and intricate and the characters, strong and compelling. I quickly connected with the central characters and

found myself deeply caring for what happened to them. Intertwining with the good against evil central plot, there are a number of sub-plots, including romance and inter-cultural relationships.

This is a clever and intricate story with fast-paced action, tragedy and a deep underlying sense of humanity. I recommend *Quest for the Source of Darkness* and will look out for more offerings from Patricia Perry with interest.

Vivid and intricate...

A review by Rod Glenn, (Author of *King of America*), May 2006

Patricia Perry, the author of *Quest for the Source of Darkness* astounded me. She wrote in very long, descriptive paragraphs, which tend to lose my attention. I kept expecting that the farther I got into the book, the more difficult it would be for me to stick with it and finish it. Instead, I got drawn into the story to the point that I did not notice how long I had been reading. I not only wanted to know where and how the Source of Darkness was housed and how the leaders of the kingdoms would manage to overcome the evil forces that darkened the land, I couldn't help but care about the characters. I needed to know who survived and who died, and as the story drew to a close, I cried. I cried for the living and the dead.

Whether you like action adventures, fantasies, or character-driven stories, read *Quest for the Source of Darkness*.

An absorbing read...

A review by Betsy Gallup, (Author of *Psycho Psychic*), May 2006

You won't be able to put this down, and you won't be able to forget it, either. Your mind will delight in taking the adventures into which this writer leads you. The mental images evoked are beyond your control and your imagination. If you dream, if you read, if you love, if you enjoy fantasy, don't just sit there, order this book and for that matter, order two and give one to someone you really like a lot.

A trip into the imagery of a master story-teller, October 2005

by Jerine P. Watson, (Author of *In the Crosshairs* and *Texas Wildfire*)
