



Ravenheart (Rigante Book 3)

By David Gemmell

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Eight hundred years have passed since King Connavar of the Rigante and his bastard son, Bane, defeated the invading army of Stone. Now the Rigante have lost the freedom and culture so many gave their lives to preserve. Only one woman remains who follows the ancient ways—the Wyrd of Wishing Tree Wood—and she alone knows the nature of the evil soon to be unleashed. But the Wyrd pins her hope on two men: a giant Rigante fighter, a man haunted by his failure to save his best friend from betrayal; and a youth whose deadly talents will earn him the rancor of the brutal Varlish. One will become the Ravenheart, an outlaw leader whose daring exploits will inspire the Rigante. The other will forge a legend—and light the fires of revolution. . . .

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The third book in Gemmell's popular heroic fantasy saga, the Rigante series (The Sword in the Storm; Midnight Falcon), puts a host of characters through a load of action without much resolution. Centuries ago, after the capture of the Rigante hero, Connavar, Varlish troops subjugated the Rigante highlanders. In recent times the great-hearted warrior Jaim Grymauch promised to care for the infant son of his best friend, Lanovar, who was betrayed by the local lord, the Moidart. Now with Lanovar's son, Kaelin Ring, on the verge of manhood, the highlanders once again chafe under the Moidart's rule. While even the Moidart's son, Gaise Macon, can see the injustice in the situation, he has little influence over his single-minded father. Then the rape and murder of a young Varlish woman stirs up violence and raises questions. Kaelin and Jaim find the murderer with the help of the sorceress known as the Wyrd of Wishing Tree woods, but when Kaelin gives in to his bloodlust and kills the criminal, his aunt Maev sends him away to distant Black Mountain, near the mighty Rigante clan lord Call Jace. As each man accepts the fate laid out for him by the Wyrd, it's hard not to notice how Gemmell seems more intent on setting up the plot for his next book than on telling a balanced story. Plenty of loose ends most notably the future of Gaise clamor for expansion, but this novel seems mostly to be a place-keeper in the series.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Kaelin Ring (*Ravenheart*) is growing up in a society torn by hatred. The proud Rigante are subjugated by the equally proud Varlish, and neither group sees much of value in the other. A series of atrocities, graphically but not gratuitously described, sharpen Kaelin Ring's hatred. He kills two Varlish soldiers who are about to escape justice for raping a young Varlish woman who dared to associate with him. The scenario will be familiar enough to anyone who sees the news reports of ethnic strife around the globe. In Gemmell's hands, the tale evolves into something more complex, and members of each group slowly recognize the nobility present in members of the other, and come to terms with some of their own weaknesses. Kaelin's awkward relationship with a young woman he desires, Chara Jace, adds to the cauldron of emotions. Gemmell gives readers heroes with deep flaws and antagonists with surprising moments of virtue, as well as a few entertainingly black-hearted villains. The frequently bloody action is interspersed with epiphanies about the value of human life, and Kaelin's experiences are balanced with those of a Varlish boy, Gaise Macon, aka Stormrider. (A sequel to *Ravenheart*, *Stormrider* is due out in February, 2002.) This fast-moving book will appeal to fans of action and adventure. The book uses material from *The Sword in the Storm* and *Midnight Falcon* (both Ballantine, 2001) for background, but since those books were set 800 years earlier, this one doesn't seem at all like a sequel.

Paul Brink, Fairfax County Public Library System, VA

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From Library Journal

In a world ruled by Varlish conquerors, the highlanders of the Rigante clan live for the day when they can reclaim their rightful lands. Kaelin Ring, the son of a dead Rigante hero, struggles to live up to his destiny, led by the spirit and example of a living Rigante warrior. Gemmel's "Rigante" series (The Sword in the Storm, *Midnight Falcon*) creates a fantasy world with Celtic overtones in which to explore the lives and

fortunes of a people engaged in a battle for freedom and honor. A good choice for fantasy collections.
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stephen Conway:

Now a day people that Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information especially this Ravenheart (Rigante Book 3) book as this book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Herman Pruitt:

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Laura Buscher:

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Lorraine Vargas:

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