

The Ways of Winter – The Hounds of Annwn volume 2 Karen Myers

Paperback: 362 pages Perunas Press (31 Dec 2012) ISBN 978-096353843

For those of you who have already seen Bailys review of the first book in this series (“To Follow The Horn”), this is the sequel that was promised for release in the spring.

The main character, George Talbot Traherne, has now fully moved into the fae otherworld as permanent huntsman to the Great Hunt. As with the first book, this is a story where hunting happens to be one element of the background, not the main focus. Indeed, there is very little mention of hunting or hunt management in this book at all, although the aspects that do appear are handled with delicacy so that it enhances the story instead of being a distraction.

There are many instances where a sequel fails to deliver on the promise shown in the first book. Happily, this is not one of those. The quality of the writing has been maintained at the highest levels, making this as absorbing as its predecessor. Relationships with old friends from the first book are further explored with sensitivity and wit, while new characters are introduced and developed with great skill.

The plotline of this book is significantly darker than the first, and there are some chapters which the squeamish might find difficult to read. That said, the narrative is well-paced and flows smoothly. At one point there are serious fears for the health and survival of one of the major characters, but, in the best traditions of fantasy writing divine intervention, although reluctant, saves the day.

This is fantasy writing at its best, and I would definitely recommend Karen Myers’ books to any fan of the genre. There is already a promise for a third book later this year, and I for one will be looking forward to getting it at the earliest opportunity.

Dr H Brook

2013