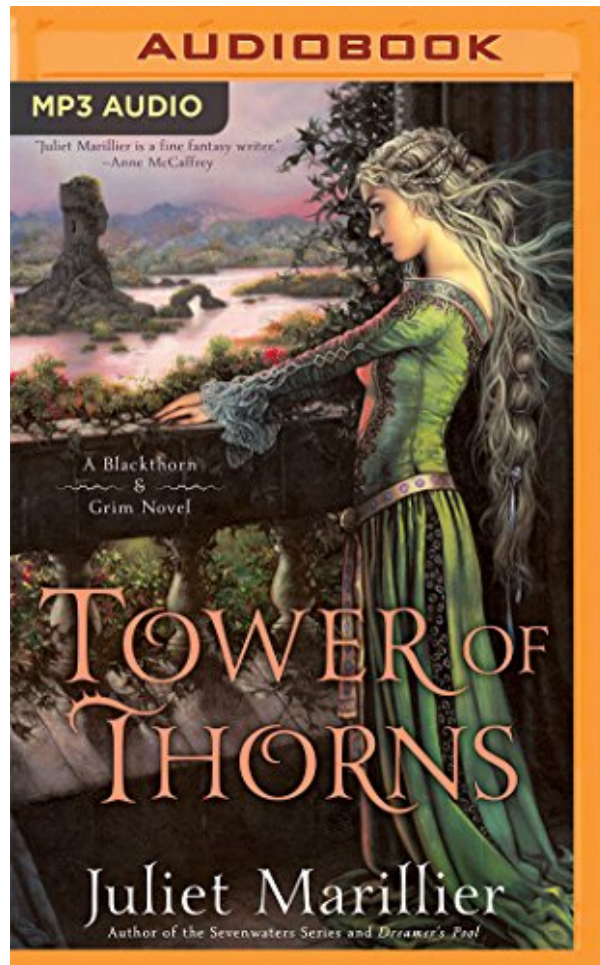


TOWER OF THORNS (BLACKTHORN & GRIM) BY JULIET MARILLIER



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"Juliet Marillier is a fine fantasy writer."
—Anne McCaffrey

A Blackthorn
&
Grim Novel

TOWER OF THORNS

Juliet Marillier

Author of the Sevenwaters Series and Dreamer's Pool

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From School Library Journal

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About the Author

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TOWER OF THORNS (BLACKTHORN & GRIM) BY JULIET MARILLIER PDF

Award-winning author Juliet Marillier's "lavishly detailed" (Publishers Weekly) Blackthorn & Grim series continues as a mysterious creature holds an enchanted and imperiled ancient Ireland in thrall.

Disillusioned healer Blackthorn and her companion, Grim, have settled in Dalriada to wait out the seven years of Blackthorn's bond to her fey mentor, hoping to avoid any dire challenges. But trouble has a way of seeking out Blackthorn and Grim.

Lady Geiléis, a noblewoman from the northern border, has asked for the prince of Dalriada's help in expelling a howling creature from an old tower on her land—one surrounded by an impenetrable hedge of thorns. Casting a blight over the entire district, and impossible to drive out by ordinary means, it threatens both the safety and the sanity of all who live nearby.

With no ready solutions to offer, the prince consults Blackthorn and Grim. As Blackthorn and Grim begin to put the pieces of this puzzle together, it's apparent that a powerful adversary is working behind the scenes. Their quest is about to become a life-and-death struggle—a conflict in which even the closest of friends can find themselves on opposite sides.

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About the Author

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Most helpful customer reviews

19 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

Even better than *DREAMER'S POOL*. Maybe the best book I've read this year.

By Jessica@RabidReads

Last year in *DREAMER'S POOL* we met Blackthorn and Grim, who quickly became two of my new favorite characters.

They were both woefully broken, but that mutual brokenness (aided by a promise made to one of the folk) was what made them so compatible.

As friends, as cohorts, as travel companions.

Blackthorn, fueled by her implacable hatred of the man who took everything from her, quickly stole the spotlight--not only is she a healer, a position regarded with respect, she is more forthright. She may be surly and taciturn, but if something needs to be said, Blackthorn is the one one to say it.

Grim was a strong back for lifting heavy objects. He took odd jobs, performing manual labor for various

townspeople, and when he spoke, he used as few words as possible.

Obviously, there was more to him than that, but he was firmly established in Blackthorn's background.

And he's perfectly happy there. Or as happy as a man like him is capable.

This time around, Grim, still silent, still steady, burrowed so deeply into my heart that he's still there, months after I first read this book.

I can't think of him without a corresponding ache.

Marillier so brilliantly captured his patience, his selflessness, his calm acceptance of his perceived lack of any real usefulness and the inevitability of his belief that one day--it's only a matter of time--Blackthorn will get tired of him and send him on his way, worthless sod that he is.

It hurts. Ye gods, it hurts.

But it hurts the way it hurts to look at Chihuly glass in the sunlight or heathered fields in Virginia. It hurts b/c it's so damn beautiful.

In TOWER OF THORNS, Blackthorn and Grim are once more thrust into the strangeness that goes hand-in-hand with fey creatures and practitioners of magic.

A woman has come to court, begging Prince Oran for assistance. Her land and her people are plagued by a creature in a tower. It howls in agony from sunup to sundown every, single day. The tower is surrounded by impenetrable thorns, and all attempts to get through them result in injury and death.

Marillier spins her story so deftly that you wonder if you've heard it before, but, no, that's not possible--you have no idea what's going to happen, and yet . . . it feels so familiar. B/c it is the quintessential fairytale. There are secrets and selfishness, harsh truths and consequences.

But there is also peace and forgiveness and a road on a sunnier path.

You only have to step out of the darkness.

TOWER OF THORNS by Juliet Mariller is bloody fantastic. As much as I loved DREAMER'S POOL--and I did love it--this second installment of BLACKTHORN AND GRIM has taken up residence inside me, it's now part of me, and I will make a nuisance of myself, pushing it on everyone b/c you NEED to experience it for yourself.

Tied with Uprooted by Naomi Novik for my favorite book of 2015.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Marillier does it again!

By Cara H.

As much as I loved Dreamer's Pool, the first instalment in Marillier's Blackthorn & Grim trilogy, I cannot BELIEVE I didn't know this had been released last November! Within 3 days of finding out that it exists, I'd bought and read it, and was in no ways disappointed. I'm positive Ms. Marillier is incapable of writing anything but brilliant and beautiful prose, and the deep fantasy that is Tower of Thorns proves the rule.

Of course, plot is required to drive any story, but honestly, just spending more time with the two haunting characters of the wise-woman Blackthorn and her dedicated companion Grim makes this book worth reading. To see such broken people, both clearly suffering from PTSD as a result of their separate and yet mutually horrid pasts, continue to choose and protect the other in their platonic and yet soul-deep friendship -- it's one of the most moving things I've ever read in fiction. And the plot is no slouch either. Marillier has woven a brand new fairy tale using elements of older tales, but the details are fresh, surprising, and thrilling from beginning to end. I couldn't put *Tower of Thorns* down, and I am bereft that it's November of this year before the third book in this cycle comes out. Methinks it's time to revisit some of the other fine works in Marillier's extensive bibliography- even though I've already read them all. Long story short, any fan of high fantasy will find a shining gem in this gorgeous work about the power of true love.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

this book is a wonderful addition to her brilliant bibliography

By Ju Landeesse

An eARC of this book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Tower of Thorns is an exceptional follow up to the first book in this series! I've been a fan of Marillier's writing for the past couple of years and have been devouring all the books as I can, this book is a wonderful addition to her brilliant bibliography. Marillier's writing and characterisation is deft and subtle, it's easy to feel like you're getting to know the characters – even background characters through her writing. Settings and places from history and mythology come to life through her lyrical prose, it's just breathtaking.

Blackthorn and Grim are wonderful characters and I deeply appreciate them, their companionship, caring and respect for one another. I love how well they work together as a team and solve things. What I love about this series is that although there is an overarching story arc, so far each book also involves a self contained story that is complete within the book. I think that this approach allows the books to standalone reasonably but also allows me to enjoy the flexibility of the characters and their adventures, while also following the greater story across the series.

This story involving Lady Geleis and the curse was intriguing – from the first we know that she's an unreliable co-narrator, that she's trying to get Blackthorn to do something according to her own agenda, twisting the conditions to make it all fit. It was also interesting to see Blackthorn's friend from her previous life turn up – and it always did seem 'too convenient' that he was around and had this grand plan to avenge her past and the women she wanted to stand up for. I really appreciated the monks and their care and sharing, how they sought connection with Grim and to help him move past the grief from his own past. I also really enjoyed Lady Geleis telling her story within the story as part of the curse – that was fantastic and added a wonderful layer to the bigger story being told in the present. There were several lovely threads to this story and they were woven together so beautifully with the story overall so very satisfying. Reading this book for me, was like hearing it be told as stories were long ago, around a fire in the evening – changing with each telling and teller.

Tower of Thorns was a joy to read and is a pleasure for me to review. Here's to the next book in the series (and to everything else from Marillier too!)

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