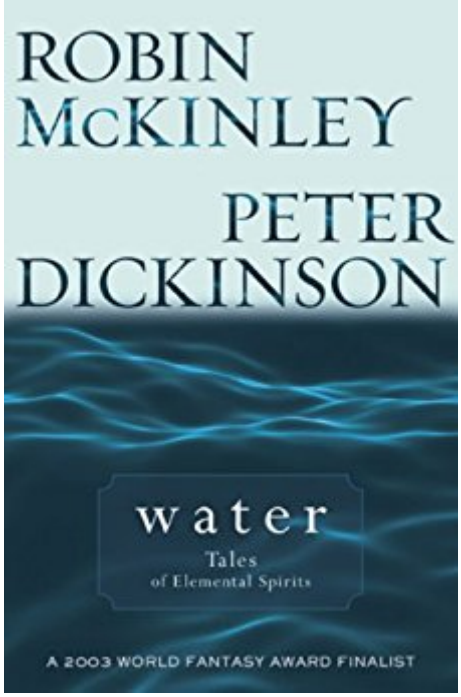
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Water: Tales Of Elemental Spirits



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Synopsis

Master storytellers Robin McKinley and Peter Dickinson share tales of mysterious merfolk and magical humans, all with close ties to the element of water. From Pitiable Nasmith's miserable existence in a seaside town whose inhabitants are more intertwined with the sea than most people know, to Tamia's surprising summons to be the apprentice to the Guardian who has the power to hold back the sea, each of the six stories illuminates a captivating world filled with adventure, romance, intrigue, and enchantment. Robin McKinley fans will recognize one of the worlds included-Damar, the setting of Newbery Medal winner The Hero and the Crown and Newbery Honor Book The Blue Sword.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This six-story anthology focuses mainly on waterways, water creatures (such as mer-folk), and the people who interact with them. But the last story was different. Remember The Blue Sword? Did you dream of finding your own way to Damar, and having a hill pony and a wild life of formality and

feudalism all your own? Well, in "A Pool in the Desert," Hetta starts dreaming her way out of the drudgery of her life, and finds out that maybe, with hard work and hard belief, she could win the dream as reality.I picked up this book because I loved Fire. While Water does not have the same strength in its stories, they are still good, interesting, entertaining, and sometimes even haunting. I recommend it to people who enjoy McKinley's wandering words and spiral stories.

Its a book either you like it or you don't

I am a major Robin McKinley fan. What I love best is her facility with the English language. For someone who reads with an internal ear to the music of the written word, her prose is rich with melody and grace.If you expect Peter Dickinson's writing to be like McKinley's, you will be disappointed. His voice is very different - a sparer cello & oboe melody compared to her dancing flutes and trumpets. It's not better or worse, but it is different. His stories are more stark. The themes are darker. But they have their own beauty.I also really enjoyed the one Damarian tale. As McKinley's writing has matured, her female heroines have become less fairy princesses, and more survivors who find it within themselves to meet challenges and endure. Her heroes also have a few more realistic warts. This story is about a survivor. A woman who keeps her soul intact against all odds, and ultimately finds it within herself (with her sister's encouragement) to follow her dreams and change her destiny. I also liked that it was set in the present day. Perhaps there's just to much realism in it for some - we all know creeps like Hetta's parents - but I think that makes it even more satisfying. Who needs dreams more than those whose reality is a prison?In any case, if you read the book, read it one story at a time, and enjoy the changing voices.

I really enjoyed this book, it has great stories, some of them have stayed in my mind since I read them, so I have this book near my bed to come back to them.It has seven stories:1. Prologue: The Water Sprite2. Mermaid Song3. The Sea-King's son4. Sea serpent5. Water Horse6. Kraken7. A pool in the DesertThe stories are mesmerizing, so if you like mermaids and ocean tales, this is a MUST!

I am not a short-story reader, but I am a long-time fan of Robin McKinley. I enjoyed how each story in this book was very interesting and complete in themselves. I felt the two authors blended their stories together well and added more perspective and interest. If I'd've known there were mermaids, I might have picked up this book sooner... and if I'd realized McKinley had thrown in a new one from

Damar, well... now you know! I'm definitely getting Fire.

This is a book of short stories by Robin McKinley and her husband Peter Dickinson. She submits four and he submits four. I like her contributions a bit more than his; his are a little darker, as short stories often are. They're still all worth reading. At any rate, I would buy this just to read the McKinley stories. Enjoy!

The water stories are even better than the "Fire" stories.

I generally dislike short stories, because in general they aren't stories. These are stories, with believable characters who manage to solve their problems in believable ways, always remembering that the framework of magic requires a suspension of belief on the part of the reader.

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