

Apollo's Raven
(BOOK 1 CURSE OF CLANSMEN AND KINGS)
BY LINNEA TANNER

How Does the Relationship of Catrin and Marcellus affect the story?

Apollo's Raven (Book 1 *Curse of Clansmen and Kings*) is a sweeping historical fantasy in which a Celtic warrior princess must choose between love for a Roman hostage under her charge or her loyalty to family and kingdom. The epic tale is set in a politically volatile southeast Britannia on the brink of war with the Romans in 24 AD.



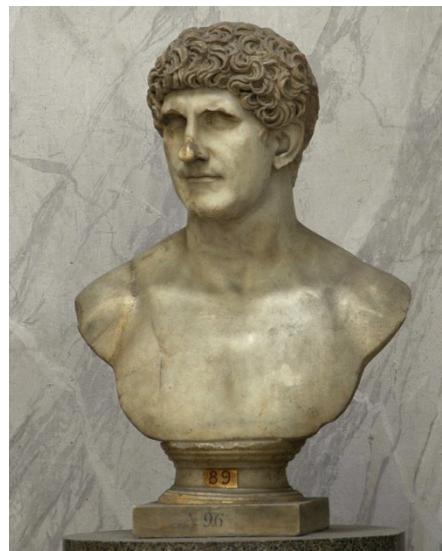
Dover Cliffs Southeast Britain

King Amren of the Cantiaci tribe is the father of Catrin whose birth signals a curse cast on him by his former queen, Rhan could be fulfilled. According to Rhan's curse that cast on the day of her execution for treason, the Raven and Blood Wolf will bring about the downfall of King Amren. As a young woman, Catrin has a psychic connection with ravens that marks her as a sorceress—the Raven foretold in the dark prophecy. Rhan's shape-shifting son and Catrin's banished half-brother, Marrock, is Blood Wolf. Allied with the Romans, Marrock now poses a threat to King Amren.



Catrin With Sword

Senator Lucius Antonius, a grandson of Marcus Antonius (Marc Antony) and a son of Iullus Antonius, has arrived in Britannia with a legion to exact tribute from King Amren. He has also brought his impetuous son, Marcellus, to mentor in diplomacy. The Antonius family legacy is cursed by the act of *damnatio memoriae* which erases the memory of Mark Antony and Iullus Antonius. Both of them fell on their swords in disgrace as a consequence of their liaisons with powerful women. After being exiled in Gaul for almost eighteen years, Lucius Antonius is determined to restore his family's legacy out of the ashes of what he considers are his maligned forefathers.



Bust of Mark Antony Wikipedia

And thus, the curses of both families set up a scenario for a tragic love story similar to Mark Antony, Cleopatra and Romeo and Juliet.

At a volatile meeting with Amren, Lucius Antonius declares his plans to investigate a rival clan's claims to the legitimacy of Marrock, Amren's banished son, as rightful heir to the throne. When the talks devolve into violence, Catrin impetuously orders the life of Marcellus be spared, incurring the wrath of her father.

Both sides reluctantly agree to a hostage exchange—Marcellus for Amren's eldest daughter—to ensure peaceful negotiations. King Amren charges Catrin, his youngest daughter, to guard Marcellus, though her true role is far more complicated—she's tasked with uncovering Rome's true interest and cajoling Marcellus into revealing their deeper intentions for Amren's kingdom and Britannia.

Marcellus receives similar instructions to spy on Catrin, using seduction if necessary. While Marcellus is retained as a hostage in Catrin's village, Kin Amren travels to negotiate with his rival and banished son.



Marcellus With Sword

Catrin has learned something secretive and dangerous about herself, which can lead to her people's success or their downfall. She is able to connect with ravens, which is seen as a bad omen. As she is struggling to understand this unnatural connection, she is romantically drawn to the captivating Roman hostage, Marcellus—her family's enemy. However, Catrin's growing feelings for Marcellus threaten her success.

Likewise, Marcellus is confounded by Catrin's mystical ability to travel to other worlds through her spirit guide, the Raven. She co-exists in the realm of mankind and in the Otherworld of the gods and the dead which empower her with the ability to see through the eyes of a raven, foretell the future, and hear Marcellus's thoughts. Nonetheless, he is intrigued that she is equal to him in horsemanship and skill in weaponry. His intimate relationship with the entralling Celtic princess could unravel the tense political negotiations.

Catrin and Marcellus inevitably fall in love, despite their cultural differences. As they become immersed in political intrigue and dangerous adventure, their love is tested. Torn between her loyalty to her family, her forbidden love for Marcellus, and her disturbing gift, Catrin must also break an ancient curse that was placed upon her family before she was born. Can she break the ancient curse and still embrace

her forbidden love for Marcellus? If she lifts the curse, can she stop the impending war between Blood Wolf and King Amren to save her kingdom?

"Political schemes . . . twisting on each other, [and] not what they appear at first glance," is a summation of this tale that combines the elements of sword and sorcery, Celtic mysticism, romance, and historical details which are based on historical accounts and Celtic lore and mythology. The book explores the pagan traditions of the ancient Celts and Romans. The Cantiaci's polytheistic and naturalistic deities (the animal warrior spirits of raven, horse, and wolf, and Mother Goddess) is juxtapose against the paternalistic hierarchy of Roman social and religious circles. Character development also champion feminism. The Cantiaci women show strength and unity of purpose in their actions and thoughts. Men in the story, while competent with their displays of physical strength, demonstrate an almost brutish impetuosity, and their "damsel-in-distress" nature requires timely women's interventions.

Author Linnea Tanner!

"Linnea Weaves Celtic Tales Of Love.
Magical Adventure & Political Intrigue Into
The Backdrop Of Ancient Rome and Britannia."

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