

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



"Original Cyn" Cynthia Vespia is a multi-award nominated author. She writes fantasy novels with bite including urban fantasy vigilantes and heroic adventure fantasy. It's escapism entertainment at its best keeping pages turning and hearts pounding.

Cyn's characters are outcasts and anti-heroes with depth and real vulnerabilities. Every plot is designed to give heroes a challenge and villains a purpose. Her books have featured a secret group of superhero renegades; the dark side of vigilante justice in Las Vegas; and a duo of demon hunters fighting supernatural beings. Cyn's latest novel is the first in an exciting new fantasy adventure series about a dragonslayer who has a change of heart.

She received a "Best Series" nomination for her fantasy trilogy Demon Hunter. Her novel Karma ranked #1 on Amazon twice in several distinct categories including superhero urban fantasy; science fiction adventure; paranormal & urban fantasy. She has been published in anthologies such as Skelos Press and Dark Eclipse.

The worlds Cyn creates are a gritty mix of fantasy, magic, and the supernatural while exploring the theme of "success through struggle." She's expanded this theme into personal development books and guides.

Cyn has also written content for Microsoft, UFC, WWE, HBO, Netflix, and more. As a former fitness competitor she still enjoys keep active through training but can also be found getting lost in a good story. Cynthia is available for conventions, interviews and workshops.

Cynthia Vespia

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/01/23

Local Author Uses Fantasy Series to Showcase How 'Slaying Your Dragons' Can Lead to a Path of Redemption

Las Vegas, NV: Today local author and Las Vegas native, Cynthia Vespia, has announced the second instalment in an exciting new fantasy adventure series *A Time of Dragons*. Titled *Rayna the Dragon Warrior* it will be published on October 13th 2023.

Rayna the Dragon Warrior will continue the story of Rayna, a beautiful slayer and sellsword, who finds herself as the defender of a dragon species she once swore to destroy. In all her years of hunting dragons never did Rayna expect her best traveling companion to become one. But with a bounty of blood on their heads that bond will be tested.

Rayna the Dragon Warrior is a beautiful, harrowing story about revenge and redemption. Though rooted in fantasy, the overarching theme of the *A Time of Dragons* series is one that explores how choices impact destinies.

"When we set out to slay our proverbial dragons," explains Vespia, "it can lead down an unexpected path."

A Time of Dragons is set to culminate in a full trilogy. Its message of compassion, redemption, and a struggle for power will resonate with fans of blockbusters like *House of the Dragon* and *The Mandalorian*.

"A tough female protagonist is what drew me to pick up Rayna, by Cynthia Vespia...She is portrayed as being physically and mentally strong, yet still emotionally vulnerable, which makes her relatable for just about everyone. Though tough and hard, Rayna also reveals a side that is very human, one perhaps even she didn't know was there. Rayna is one heroine who I look forward to reading more about." - Kaye Lynn Booth, Writing to be Read

Rayna the Dragonslayer is available through Ingramspark and Amazon

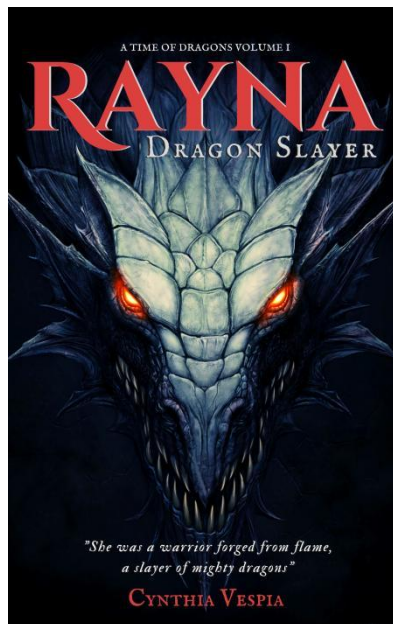
Rayna the Dragon Warrior will be available on October 13th, 2023

Cynthia Vespia writes fantasy novels with bite including urban fantasy vigilantes and heroic adventure fantasy. Cyn received a "Best Series" nomination for her fantasy trilogy *Demon Hunter*. Her novel *Karma* ranked #1 on Amazon twice in several distinct categories. Cyn has also written content for Microsoft, UFC, WWE, HBO, Netflix, and more.

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Title: Rayna the Dragonslayer (A Time of Dragons book 1)

Author: Cynthia Vespia

Publication Date: January 2023

Available through Ingramspark and Amazon

ISBN-10 : 1737692724

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ASIN : B0BRWZY8KY

Paperback: \$13.24

Hardcover: \$17.09

E-book: \$4.99

Page Count: 351

Genre: Dragon Fantasy

Sub-genre: Sword & Sorcery

Description:

She was a warrior forged from flame, a slayer of mighty dragons, until one final quest changed everything

Rayna had been hunting dragons since the day one burned her family to ash. Her skills, enhanced by a massive broadsword, made her a legendary dragonslayer. Marred by a mysterious stigmata labeled “the dragon’s curse” she was both revered and feared as she hunted down the dragons across Atharia.

Rayna thought she'd slain them all. But when the royal house sought the slayer they told her of another. One more dragon plagued the land...the very same beast which burned Rayna's home years before. Fueled by vengeance Rayna takes up the quest to fulfill her life's purpose and purge the beasts from the world. But as she gets closer to the kill, Rayna learns a bitter truth that will drastically alter her path and turn the hunter into the hunted.

Painful, pivotal memories surface as Rayna races to find the culprit behind the mayhem, recover a lost child, and get to the real target to set things right.

Rayna the Dragonslayer is the first in an exciting dragon fantasy adventure series A Time of Dragons. It's a symphony of sword & sorcery, high fantasy, and a heroic quest that is like The Mandalorian merging with Game of Thrones.

SPECIAL EXCERPT

RAYNA THE DRAGONSLAYER

A Time of Dragons Volume I

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Endless night held the mountain peaks in its grip, causing shadows to fall over every inch of land. The dark sky proved more relentless up north than further south towards the ocean shores.

There, the warmth of the sun caressed the sands, and those that walked them. The north knew only the bitter cold. Perhaps that's how the Graven Peaks earned their name. Bleak lands touched only by shadow and death often earned names to match.

Whatever the reason, the soldiers cared not. Concern only lay with the thick of the night and frigid winds, making an already treacherous climb far more challenging.

Inching along the ravine in single formation, one man lost his footing in the dark. He stumbled from the ledge and fell down into a pit of darkness, taking his scream with him. The depth of the pit was so great the rest of the soldiers could not hear his body hit below.

Fearing their own tumble into the great void, they pressed their backs against the wall of the mountain. With shuffle-step, they moved in unison at a much slower pace.

Around the next curve of the mountain they found surer footing. The remaining five men dropped to their knees and kissed the solid ground, happy to have lived through the climb. But the true danger of their mission still lay ahead.

The leader, a stout man with a twisted mustache that reached his belly, motioned them to their feet. Swords in hand, they silently marched again through the thick snow. The deeper they moved towards the mouth of the mountain, the darker it became. Not even the moonlight shone down to guide their path.

These warriors were part of the king's elite army. They held enough skill to mark their own path without a compass or map. Still, a bit of torchlight would help the eyes adjust to the heavy night. But they didn't dare spark up torches knowing what lay ahead.

The firelight came anyway, though not by their hands. As the party moved deeper into the mouth of the cave, they saw only a spark at first. Then, as the great jaws grew wider, the fire flooded over them in a torrent.

Each man was ablaze in seconds. Armor melted to skin and hair burned from body. The elite soldiers tumbled from the mouth of the cave one after the other. Their screams echoed on the night sky and throughout the chasm below until the last of them fell dead.

With its sleep interrupted, the great beast crawled out from the cave. Arching upwards, it took

to the sky on large, leathery wings. Routing a circular pattern around the area, it sought any other fools encroaching on its territory. The darkness didn't hamper its sight. It welcomed the night as a prime feeding hour.

Satisfied that no others mounted an attack, it returned to the fallen soldiers. One-by-one it plucked the charred remains of the men from the ground and swallowed them whole. Belly full and content, the creature returned to its slumber.

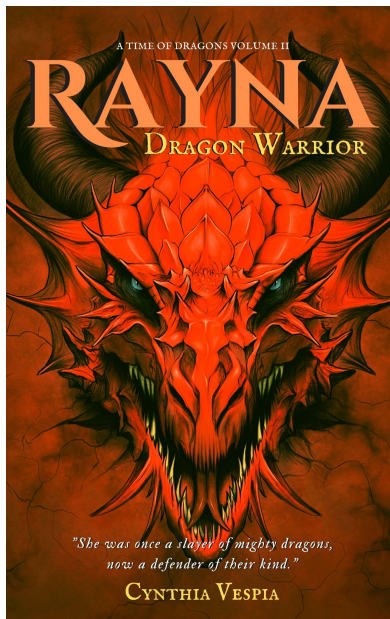
With a swipe of its massive tail, the soldiers' weapons were shattered and swatted away into the snow. Not a trace of the men remained. No one would ever know a party of elite soldiers came this way, daring to face a dragon.

Editorial Review

"A tough female protagonist is what drew me to pick up Rayna, by Cynthia Vespia. (Plus, it has a kick butt cover.) I've talked a bit about making strong female protagonists believable and relatable, and Ms. Vespia did not disappoint.

Rayna is strong, agile and tough enough to slay dragons, which I hear can be rather tricky. She is portrayed as being physically and mentally strong, yet still emotionally vulnerable, which makes her relatable for just about everyone. Though tough and hard, Rayna also reveals a side that is very human, one perhaps even she didn't know was there.

Rayna is one heroine who I look forward to reading more about. Dragon slaying in a land of castles and Kings, with lots of sword play and a bit of magic thrown in makes this tale a must for high fantasy lovers. I give Rayna five stars." - Kaye Lynn Booth from Writing to be Read



Title: Rayna the Dragon Warrior (A Time of Dragons book 2)

Author: Cynthia Vespia

Publication Date: October 13th, 2023

Available through Ingramspark and Amazon

ISBN-10 :

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ASIN : B0BRWZY8KY

Paperback: \$

Hardcover: \$

Ebook: \$4.99

Page Count: 351

Genre: Dragon Fantasy

Sub-genre: Sword & Sorcery

She was once a slayer of mighty dragons, now a defender of their kind

Rayna's vow to protect the last dragon on Atharia has been beset by danger. In all her years of hunting dragons never did she expect her best traveling companion to become one. But with a bounty of blood on their heads that bond will be tested.

Now, as they continue the journey towards the Isle of Dragons, Rayna is challenged by mercenaries, monsters, and a mysterious figure who follows wherever they go. Will the odds become too great or will Rayna rise up as the dragon warrior to quell the evil armies that seek to destroy her?

A beautiful, violent story about revenge and redemption. Rayna the Dragon Warrior continues the exciting fantasy adventure series A Time of Dragons.

SPECIAL EXCERPT

RAYNA THE DRAGON WARRIOR

A Time of Dragons Volume II

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As a slayer of dragons, Rayna counted only upon her skill and speed to win the day. That she was a woman in body seemed less important than that she was as skillful a swordsman as most warriors the world could bring forth.

That mindset changed as a pack of heavily armed mercenaries chased her down. As the number one threat to the King of Atharia, a heavy bounty lay on her head. That fee doubled for any man in the land who could abscond with the precious cargo Rayna traveled with.

The words on the bounty scroll were ambiguous. If any knew that Rayna carried a small dragon with her there would no doubt be more would-be hunters on her trail. Entire towns would empty at her passing just to catch a glimpse of Ryu the red dragon.

Having the notorious group the Righteous Wardens galloping up behind her was trouble enough. Their leader, Coraise Kennethgorian, lusted for more than just the massive bounty or even the small dragon Ryu. Coraise wanted Rayna for himself. She sensed his desires the first time they tangled only then to be rescued by a man who bedded then double-crossed her. Since then, Rayna made it a point of not getting into bed with strange men by choice or by force. Coraise had other ideas.

Rayna managed to steal a swift horse from a small farm on her path to take Ryu towards freedom. It gave Rayna a chance to rest her feet from an arduous journey. But a bit of bad luck brought her right across the path of Coraise and his men.

As Rayna routed her way towards the city of Valeuki, Coraise and the others were heading away from that direction. Rayna almost brought her horse headlong into the pack of them. Too late did she recognize his square jaw and long, dark mane of hair. He was handsome enough but Rayna knew that under his striking features lay a special type of malice reserved for women.

She pulled back on the reins of her horse causing it to rear back and whinny. The commotion caught Coraise's attention and when he saw it was Rayna his face broadened with a disgusting grin. Rayna turned her horse around ready to gallop all the way back to where she'd left a trio of human-wolf hybrids dead on the battlefield if she must. Anything to get as far away from the Righteous Warden as she could.

It seemed Coraise had hired new men to replace the last that fell by Rayna's broadsword. The

massive weapon she called Bhrytbyrn sat in its cradle on the horse's saddle. Rayna would need to stop in mid-gallop to retrieve her sword. But once she had it in hand, her special connection to the blade would light it up in flame.

Looking over her shoulder, she debated taking the chance. The Righteous Wardens grew close enough to make out their scowled faces and missing teeth. If Rayna stopped now they would all crash into each other. Thrown from her saddle any number of things could happen that would not favor a victory. So, she pressed the horse into a faster gallop.

The chase seemed endless. Many times Rayna tried to thwart their pursuit by moving in and out of dense forests. She maneuvered her horse with spectacular precision around large pine trees. Her hope that it would knock a few of the mercenaries off balance proved pointless. They remained in the chase without any hindrance.

Rayna's horse began to tire and her legs ached from the rough ride. Soon she would have to stop and face the men head on. If she fell to this pack of fools the embarrassment would hurt more than anything Coraise had in mind for her. Worse still, Ryu would be taken and all would be lost for his kind. But the little dragon decided his own fate.

As the Righteous Wardens inched ever closer to Rayna, one of them reached out and caught her cloak. He yanked it free from her shoulders to reveal Ryu in his papoose at her back. The mercenary gasped in delight then screamed in terror.

From her vantage point, Rayna couldn't see the encounter but she knew what happened to the man. The warmth across her shoulders and the chaos of scared, stumbling horses told the tale...

OTHER BOOKS BY CYNTHIA VESPIA

SILKES STRIKE FORCE

(superhero urban fantasy)

Karma

Kobra

Kaged

Khaos

VEGAS VIGILANTES

(dark urban fantasy)

Casino Empire

Lucky Sevens

Vegas Valkyries

Sin City Assassin

DEMON HUNTERS

(heroic adventure fantasy)

Demon Hunter Saga

Demon Huntress Legends

OTHER BOOKS

The Crescent

Theater of Pain

Sins and Virtues

SELF IMPROVEMENT

Be Your Own Superhero