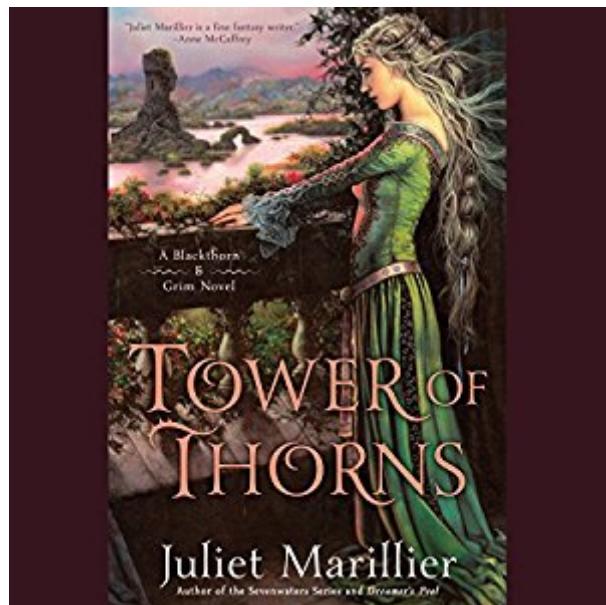


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# Tower Of Thorns: Blackthorn & Grim, Book 2



## Synopsis

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 Geilföinis, 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*  
**Tower of Thorns** by Juliet Marillier  
Book Two of the Blackthorn & Grim series  
Publisher: ROC  
Publication Date: November 3, 2015  
Rating: 5 stars  
Source: eARC from NetGalley  
**Summary (from Goodreads):** 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 Geilis, 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.  
**What I Liked:** WOW. This book was really great. It took me by surprise, to be honest. Rarely is one book in a series just as good as another book in the series. I LOVED Dreamer's Pool, and it would appear that I loved Tower of Thorns as well! In this sequel, Blackthorn and Grim set out to court, to attend Lady Flidais during her pregnancy. The prince is holding court while the king is away.

I fell in love with both Blackthorn and Grim in Dreamer's Pool but this series is honestly getting better and better with each new book. I'm not sure that I have enough words to do Tower of Thorns justice but I'm going to try because I really do want everyone to discover these wonderful books for

themselves. Although this book does work well as a stand alone I do think you'll be missing out by not reading the series in order, mainly because both books are excellent but also because it's been so brilliant watching the friendship slowly build between the main characters. Blackthorn and Grim have started to build a life for themselves in their new home, Blackthorn would deny it but even she has made a few ties within the community and I think she's enjoying practising her craft as a wise woman again. She still doesn't have much patience and doesn't have the best people skills but she is very good at figuring out what is going on and finding a solution to fix it. When Prince Oran is approached by a noblewoman who is in desperate need of assistance Blackthorn is the most likely person to be able to help her. You see Lady GeilÃ©is's lands are being badly affected by a cursed monster that's been trapped in a tower near her home. The monster howls from dawn to dusk without letup and it's driving the people and animals in the vicinity mad. This has been going on for nearly two years now and Lady GeilÃ©is is desperate for a way to make it stop. Blackthorn initially isn't keen to offer her services but an old friend convinces her to investigate, promising her it will get her one step closer to taking revenge on her greatest enemy.

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