



# **The Singer of All Songs, The: Chanters of Tremaris, Book One: Chanters Of Tremaris Book One (Chanters of Tremaris Trilogy)**

*By Kate Constable*

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Through the clamor and din of Potter-wannabes comes the clear, true voice of a wonderful new writer, using the language of fantasy and music to tell her thrilling tale.

Calwyn has lived all her life behind the high ice-wall that guards the sisters of Antaris from the world of Tremaris. The sisters practice ice chantment -- one of the Nine Powers of chantment, a form of magic worked through music. But when Calwyn finds an Outlander man fallen, wounded, through the wall, she is drawn to him ... and drawn into a wondrous, dangerous adventure that takes her outside the wall and to the limits of her own powers, as she, the Outlander Darrow, and others unite to defeat the sorcerer Samis, who seeks to claim all Nine Powers and become the Singer of All Songs.

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## **The Singer of All Songs, The: Chanters of Tremaris, Book One: Chanters Of Tremaris Book One (Chanters of Tremaris Trilogy) By Kate Constable Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Aussie author Kate Constable has brought a music inspired fantasy to the States that is on a par with celebrated works like Edith Pattou's *East*, and *The Golden Compass*, by Philip Pullman. In *The Singer of All Songs*, young Calwyn is a Daughter of Tarsis, an order of priestesses who have mastered the ice call--a singing power over cold and frost. She lives with her sisters behind an enormous wall of ice that separates their small valley from hostile neighbors in the tensely divided lands of Tremaris. This seemingly impervious barrier is breached by a wounded "Outlander" named Darrow, who comes to the priestesses with a wild tale about an evil Sorcerer named Samis who has sworn to learn the Nine Chantments of the separate lands of Tremaris so that he can rule them as the powerful Singer of All Songs. When the elder priestesses dismiss his rantings and ord! er his sacrifice to the Goddess, Calwyn becomes determined to save his life and join his quest. Together, the two new friends travel into dangerous territories, assembling a rag tag crew of comrades along the way who agree to help prevent Samis from mastering the Nine Chantments. Constable has bewitchingly reinterpreted pagan lore for a new generation, and *Singer* will easily find an appreciative audience amongst devotees of Tamora Pierce and Garth Nix. Although the pacing of the novel is decidedly measured in places, it only helps the reader appreciate the author's rich characterizations and imaginative settings. Young fantasy fans will find much to sing about in this first installment of a planned trilogy. --

*Jennifer Hubert*

#### From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 7-10. Tremaris is a broken world, whose peoples "were divided by the gods, each against the others, into their separate lands." It's also a magical world, but its magic has been likewise divided; each realm has been granted one of eight "chantments" (powers worked through song). Cloistered behind a wall of ice, Calwyn is a novice priestess in one of the last remaining realms to practice its ancient chantment: ice-call, the ability to control all things cold. When a man breaches the wall and brings news of a sorcerer who aims to rule Tremaris by becoming the Singer of All Songs, a master of every chantment, Calwyn becomes a key member of a small band determined to thwart his plot. The villain meets his end in a confrontation that is too swiftly resolved to be wholly satisfying, but Constable's detailed vision of her world, the precise way its magic operates, and her extremely likable cast help the story transcend the rather familiar parameters of its primary conflict. Fans of Ursula K. LeGuin will recognize echoes of Earthsea (especially *The Tombs of Atuan*) in Tremaris, but instead of objecting to the similarities, they will welcome Constable's respectful reinvention--and eagerly anticipate the next two installments in her Chanters of Tremaris trilogy. An impressive debut by an author who clearly has much to contribute to the fantasy genre. *Jennifer Mattson*  
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#### Review

School Library Journal  
(April 1, 2004; 0-439-55478-0)

Gr 6 Up-In Tremaris, a world with three moons, Chanters are sorcerers who can sing nine different types of magic. Calwyn, a soon-to-be priestess of "icecall" in the women-ruled Antaris, longs to travel beyond the wall that separates her country from the rest of the world. She gets her wish when she meets Darrow, a wounded ironcraft sorcerer who has somehow managed to enter Antaris. Darrow is in flight from Samis, an evil sorcerer who would control the world by learning all nine powers of Chantment. As Calwyn defies her

priestess sisters to join Darrow and other companions who would defy Samis, she begins to realize that her own powers extend beyond that of icecall. The story contains elements of many great fantasy novels, including handsome, tormented sorcerers and scrappy urchins who reveal potent powers of their own. The landscape is vivid and fully realized, but the characters are sometimes static. Some of the plot devices seem overly familiar, but others are reworked and have the appeal of variants of well-loved fairy tales. Fans of Tamora Pierce's "Lioness" books (Atheneum) as well as Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Mists of Avalon* (Ballantine, 1984) will welcome the first book in this new trilogy from Australia.-Farida S. Dowler, formerly at Bellevue Regional Library, WA Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

Voice of Youth Advocates  
(April 1, 2004; 0-439-55478-0)

Constable makes a solid debut in the United States with the first installment of The *Chanters of Tremaris* Trilogy. Calwyn, sixteen, is a novice ice priestess in Antaris, a land bound by an enormous wall of ice maintained by the priestesses through their sung chantments. Orphaned as an infant, her father unknown, Calwyn sings her chantments and tends bees; Antaris is the only world she has ever known. The routine of her life is disrupted when Darrow, an ironcrafter, makes his way over the wall while fleeing from Samis, a power hungry sorcerer-who happens to be his closest friend. Calwyn's life becomes bound up with Darrow's as they leave Antaris and set out across Tremaris to try to find a way to stop Samis. They acquire several companions along the way, each with a special gift. Constable's descriptive and detailed narrative is reminiscent of fellow Australian Garth Nix's writing but not quite as finely honed. The story carries itself well, although it occasionally slows. The plot does not founder, however, and it is compelling enough to keep the reader turning pages. Constable also is not afraid to let the story develop naturally, even where the fate of her characters is concerned. These characters are well rounded and complex, with authentic emotions and responses. There is a finished feel to the book, a sense of completion, even though the reader knows that there is more to come. This feeling of resolution is satisfying while piquing curiosity for more.-Donna Scanlon.

Publishers Weekly  
(March 1, 2004; 0-439-55478-0)

Constable's debut novel, the first of a planned trilogy, takes place in a world where the song of the human voice is the carrier of strong magic. In the secluded kingdom of Antaris, hidden from the rest of the world by an enormous ice Wall, 16-year-old Calwyn keeps bees and prepares to become a full priestess, learning the power of song-spell "chantments." She finds an injured Outlander inside the Wall, and although the women of Antaris are suspicious (could he be a sorcerer, chanting spells used by the desert-dwelling Merithurans? Or perhaps a worker of the winds from Firthana?), Calwyn befriends Darrow and learns that he is being pursued by the sorcerer Samis, who seeks to be emperor of all Tremaris and, indeed, to be the fabled Singer of all Songs, "as powerful as the gods themselves." Moving outside the Wall, the story turns to a fast-paced nautical adventure, leading up to an unexpect

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### James Furlow:

This The Singer of All Songs, The: *Chanters of Tremaris*, Book One: *Chanters Of Tremaris* Book One (Chanters of Tremaris Trilogy) book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this book incredible fresh,

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