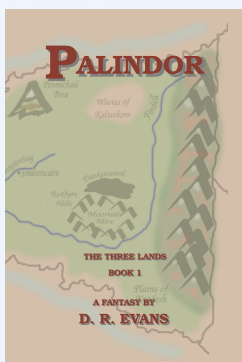




# ENGINE HOUSE BOOKS

## BOOK BITS #3



### ***PALINDOR*** by **D. R. Evans**

*PALINDOR* IS AVAILABLE IN A RETAIL EDITION (ISBN 978-0-6152-0663-9) AND IN AN ECONOMY EDITION.

EHB: Tell us a bit about *Palindor*.

DRE: *Palindor* was my second book, written in (as near as I recall) 1991 and 1992. It was originally published by Chariot Family Books, which was an imprint of the David C. Cook company.

EHB: What drove you to write a fantasy?

DRE: I have to laugh at that question. I had finished the thriller *Reflexive Action* and was wondering what to write next. For a couple of days I wandered around with the phrase “Queen Catherine of Palindor” rattling around in my head. I thought, “That would be a good title for a book; but it would have to be some kind of fantasy story.” So I started with just the title, and began to write. It was rather ironic that ultimately the book was given a different title than the one that gave it birth.

EHB: Who changed the title? You or the publisher?

DRE: I'm not certain. I think it was the publisher, although can't remember the reason. I still rather like the original title, although I suppose it makes sense to emphasize the land

of Palindor rather than the persona of Catherine.

EHB: It sounds like you didn't have much of the story worked out before you started writing.

DRE: I had *none* of the story worked out. All I had was the title. I had no idea at all how the story was going to unfold.

EHB: Are you pleased with the way it turned out?

DRE: I'm not sure that an author is ever likely to say that he's displeased with a finished novel. I certainly don't think it's my best book (although it's the one that has sold the most copies to date), but when I was editing it for the third edition I found myself enjoying the story much more than I had expected.

EHB: *Palindor* is currently in its third edition. Are there any substantive changes compared to the first edition?

DRE: For the third edition, I completely re-edited the book. None of the plot was changed, but I tried to tighten up some of the scenes.

Ultimately, all the changes were minor, but there were a lot of them. The most obvious change is that I just had to fix the name of Catherine's sword. In the original edition there were a number of painful typographical errors (beyond my control, I hasten to add) that were fixed for the current edition, of which the name of Catherine's sword is the most obvious.

EHB: *Palindor* is the first in a trilogy. Was it always planned that way?

DRE: No, although I did leave that possibility open on purpose (hence, for example, the reference to a prophesied “King of War”). In the months before *Palindor* was published, Chariot contracted for two more books (which are now in print as *Shadow* and *Phendric*), but they ceased publishing this kind of fantasy before those books saw the light of day under the Chariot imprint. Had they continued to publish the series I had plans for another two books, but those remain unwritten.

EHB: So *Palindor* can be read in isolation?

DRE: Very much so. Since at the time I wrote *Palindor* there was no contract for any more books, it was intended to be read as a single complete story.

EHB: What was the hardest part about writing *Palindor*?

DRE: The plotting is relatively intricate for a “simple” fantasy story; there are several threads that had to come together at the end, so getting the timing consistent so that all the characters were in the right places at the right times throughout the book was rather difficult. Also, keeping track of who knew what and when they knew it was problematic. Those are the only difficulties I recall.

EHB: Do you have a favorite character?

DRE: I don't think so, although I have to

admit being rather partial to the dablik. But I also enjoy the troll, Drefynt, and Iadron and Harsform.

EHB: Anything you'd change about the book if you had the chance?

DRE: I would keep Catherine's name the same in both worlds. Somehow the name change never quite worked the way I wanted it to. I can't think of anything else.

EHB: To conclude, can you tell us three factoids about *Palindor*?

DRE: One: Toldwyn's Quoit on Machrenmoor is based on Lanyon Quoit, just outside Penzance, in Cornwall. A picture of Lanyon Quoit is on the cover of the Economy Edition of *Palindor*.

Two: the dablik was a character I invented in 1980 for a computer game; the dablik in the book is essentially the same character as the one in the computer game.

Three: I designed the Palindoric typeface (used, for example, in the chapter *Forest Forge*) specifically for this book.

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