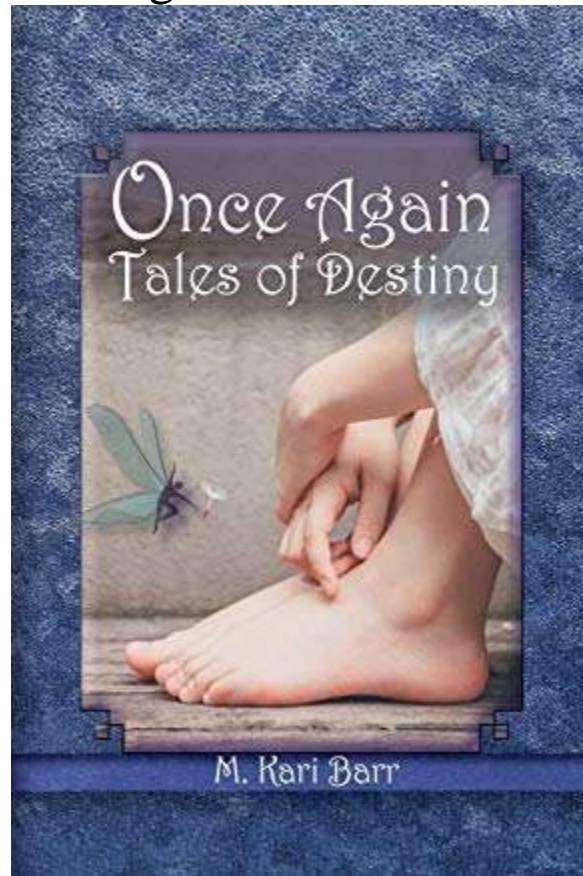


Once Again: Tales of Destiny



By M. Kari Barr

Reviewed by Betty Deuber

Kari Barr's novel, *Once Again: Tales of Destiny* is for anyone who believes in magic, as well as those, who do not. The plot takes many turns as it winds through the lives of humans, *Fair Ones*, and ogres, mixing the worlds of fantasy and realism. The point of view changes in this novel from character to character. The many characters featured in this novel originate in *Faire Realms* (fairy kingdoms). Kari refers to them as *Fair Ones*.

MARA, the main female protagonist, is first introduced as a human. She's a college student studying photography in Seattle, Washington, who has felt different from her classmates since she was a small child. She does and sees weird things no one else experiences. After attempting to tell others about them, she is rebuffed, and learns to keep quiet about her whimsical encounters.

AERRVIN AP ROSEWIN, the main male protagonist, is a *Fairy Prince*. His mother is about to give up her throne, then his sister will be Queen, so he is asked to go to America and create his own kingdom. He's reluctant, until the

Wind Sprite, Mirri Sihee, his constant companion and he, all six inches of him, rest on a star fish beached by the tide pool. There she advises him. “My Lord, I do agree ‘tis time for you to put aside your childhood... Go make a legend of your search, worthy of the bards of olden time.” At 124 years old, he thinks, — *yes, it is time enough I make my own realm.* After making his decision known, other *Fair Ones* tell Aerrvin, he needs a wife to do that. Paying no heed to the advice, he transposes to America, as a human, and unmarried. He settles in Seattle, Washington, and buys an old laundromat.

MORVAYNE AP STEWART, the villain is an evil elf. Since elves good or bad rank higher in the domain than all the Wee people, he can do anything he wants. For centuries and centuries, he has been bound and determined to marry Mara.

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In this novel, unbeknownst to mortals, many *Fair Ones*— good elves, goblins, brownies and sprites, as well as evil elves, ogres, and trolls, inhabit the human world.

At twenty, Mara studies photography at the university. On weekday mornings, she waits at the bus-stop at the corner, near the Victorian home she inherited, for the ride to the university. One day, in 2009, she notices the old laundromat across the street is getting a new face; unfamiliar young people are renovating it. It’s starting to look like a quaint gift and antique shop, and she thinks it will spice up the neighborhood. A slight wind ruffles the long blonde hair of one of the young male workers. A glow encircles him and she names him Mr. Sunshine, a golden boy. A split second before she boards the bus her stare meets his, and a strange force sweeps through her body.

That morning, while working on the building, Aerrvin rests a moment, wipes his brow, and looks across the street. He sees a girl, a girl with an aura about her, when suddenly the bus pulls up. For a second, before she boards it, the *Fairy Prince* feels the girl’s emotions brush against his soul, and he’s able to flash his “Purple and Gold Brilliance.” He stands in awe. *Did she feel It? Would he see her again?*

Later in the day, Aerrvin and his workers meet other humans. Jill, a human, a baker and Mara’s roommate, immediately plans a block party for the new neighbors.

Still, in 2009, Morvayne lurks and waits for his chance to marry Mara.

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Only some characters in Kari’s story have the power or magic to change from *Fair Ones* to humans and back again. When Mara discovers she has that

power, she accepts she is one of few who inherits the genes of magic. Suddenly, she understands why she feels fulfilled in the morning, after waking from the dreams she has had of dancing in the magic kingdom with fairies, brownies, sprites, and all Fair Ones, and why those night fantasies were not dreams at all. Mara unknowingly penetrated the void into the land of fairies and had actually danced all night. Whilst falling in love with Golden Boy in both spheres, Mara seems to have little concern with destiny. The evil elf, Morvayne, seems to dwell on it.

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Throughout the book, Kari's prose often sounds like poetry. She understands the Wee-people's life style so well; she makes the unbelievable, believable. Who knows, she may be a *Fair One*.

Once Again: Tales of Destiny deserves five jingles from Tinker Bell.



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