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The Broken Kingdoms



Synopsis

The gods have broken free after centuries of slavery, and the world holds its breath, fearing their vengeance. The saga of mortals and immortals continues in *The Broken Kingdoms*. In the city of Shadow, beneath the World Tree, alleyways shimmer with magic and godlings live hidden among mortalkind. Oree Shoth, a blind artist, takes in a homeless man who glows like a living sun to her strange sight. This act of kindness engulfs Oree in a nightmarish conspiracy. Someone, somehow, is murdering godlings, leaving their desecrated bodies all over the city. Oree's peculiar guest is at the heart of it, his presence putting her in mortal danger - but is it him the killers want, or Oree? And is the earthly power of the Arameri king their ultimate goal, or have they set their sights on the Lord of Night himself?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I am, you see, a woman plagued by gods". This is remarkable in its originality. The creation of a world in a genre which is perhaps overly trite, is truly beautiful and fantastical. I would recommend this to you if you are burned out on the predictable fodder of sword and sorcery fare. If you've read the first of the series and were dying to hear more about Yeine and the end of her story you won't find it here. This is truly Oree Shoth's own and in my humble opinion a far truer read. In this book, one of the godlings explain how Sieh is more powerful because he is truer than the rest of them. Truer because he has the ability to truly be a child (his true self) everyday of his life for centuries. Where as I felt Yeine was an interesting and strong character, it felt too much that she was a

character where her life was predestined to be and she simply had to make the right choices for the whole world to fall into place for her. Oree is blind to all but magic. She is able to see godlings and the paths of life they weave in the city called Shadow. You view the world through her eyes where the supernatural takes precedence over the natural and her heightened sense of perception that really defines her character of compassion. She is vulnerable, kind and is not one of those characters who have a secret weapon buried beneath piles of teenage angst and tragedy which pulls itself out at the perfect opportune moment, but surprise, surprise she needs help and its alright (as she later tells the most powerful being in the universe). The plot reads itself strong and there are only a few draggy parts in the book. I must admit the characters unpredictability was refreshing, although the end didn't finish in the typical euphoric climax.

Like the first book, this was a richly realized world with characters who did nothing without a future goal in mind. Set ten years after the end of Book 1, we follow Oree Shoth, a blind artist with a unique magical gift that draws the attentions of the wrong people in the city known as 'Shadow'. The ending is no less bittersweet than the first book, nor does it not come without a form of sacrifice. Familiar faces appear from time to time, mostly with unfortunate tidings or actions, but Oree is a different girl from Yeine. Oree is certain of herself, of what she will and will not do. She falters only when that belief is tested because she feels guilty for a wrong-doing not committed at her hands, but came about because of her. She changes, she brings about change. There was times when I thought that she was being too passive, too willing to let things just happen and content to wait for a better moment to act. She made bad decisions, or she made decisions too late or too in the heat of the moment. She forgot important details and motivations. I liked her for her flaws however. Liked that her blunders didn't always translate into perfect action. Yeine sometimes irritated me because even her mistakes became useful. Shiny, who anyone who read the first book will certainly guess his true form, was damaged and arrogant and stubborn. Whatever he was he could no longer be and whatever he could become he refused. Everything is a plot within a plot. Everyone is someone they're pretending at. Even Oree does this, to moderate success, from time to time. Sieh shows up, mischievous and cruel, all emotion and no control. I love him; he is my favorite kind of character. He acts without real thought, but is loyal when you earn his trust.

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