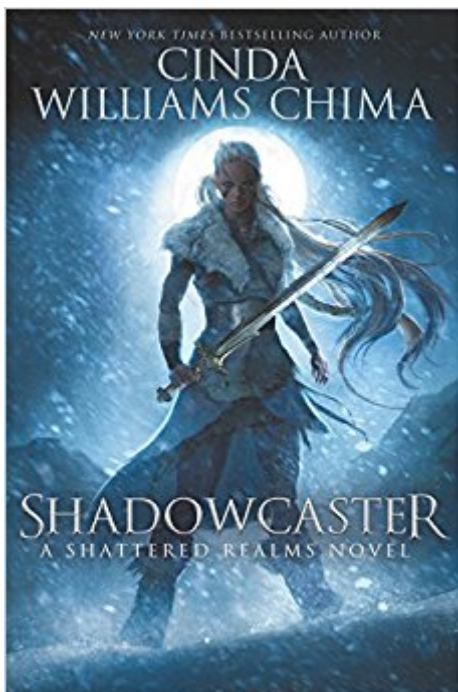


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Shadowcaster (Shattered Realms)



Synopsis

From New York Times bestselling author Cinda Williams Chima, this is a thrilling story of the unfathomable costs of war, the allure of dark magic, and two principled and conflicted characters drawn together despite everything they stand to lose. Alyssa, the reluctant princess heir to the Gray Wolf throne of the Fells, feels more comfortable striking with a sword than maneuvering at court. After a brush with death, Lyss goes on the offensive, meaning to end the war that has raged her whole life. If her gamble doesn't pay off, she could lose her queendom before she even ascends to the throne. Across enemy lines in Arden, young rising star Captain Halston Matelon is being sent on ever more dangerous assignments. Between the terrifying rumors of witches and wolfish warriors to the north and his cruel king at home, Hal is caught in an impossible game of life and death. Lyss and Hal's intricately linked fates become inseparable when they fall under the shadow of a new enemy—a force that threatens to extinguish the last rays of hope in the Shattered Realms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Essential for any epic-fantasy collection and catnip for lovers of the genre. (Kirkus Reviews)

A LIFELONG WAR Alyssa, the reluctant princess heir to the Gray Wolf throne of the Fells, a queendom embroiled in a seemingly endless war. Hardened by too many losses, Lyss is more comfortable striking with a sword than maneuvering at court. After a brush with death, she

goes on the offensive, meaning to end the war that has raged her whole life. If her gamble doesn't pay off, she could lose her queendom before she even ascends to the throne.

A LIFE IN PERIL Across enemy lines in Arden, young rising star Captain Halston Matelon has been fighting for his king since he was a child. Lately, though, he finds himself sent on ever more dangerous assignments. Between the terrifying rumors of witches and wolfish warriors to the north and his cruel king at home, Hal is caught in an impossible game of life and death.

THE SHADOW OF DEFEAT Set in the world of the acclaimed Seven Realms series, this is a thrilling story of the unfathomable costs of war, the allure of dark magic, and two principled and conflicted characters drawn together despite everything they stand to lose.

First of all spoilers bellow: I want to start by say I still liked the book I was great as is all of Chima's work. With that said there were a few things that I was hopeful for but got let down. I liked that they came back to the fells and the queendom we love. This book gave us some really good new characters like Alyssa, Captain Maelston, Shadow, etc. I liked them all and I added some awesome new color. But this book felt less like a second book and more like a parallel to the first book. I disappointed me that Ash wasn't given even a single P.o.v. . Even though he was mentioned a few times I felt a little empty without him. It did occasionally make me happy the Jenna had a P.o.v. but there was only a single mention of him from which was confusing because I thought they had a deeper connection than that. The ending started with a cool siege at the Chalk Cliffs. I was really cool until all of a sudden the book was over and I thought there could have been much more. For the next book/last book I would love to see something that is up ward of 700 pages to tie all the characters together.

This is a great book, good writing and character development. HOWEVER I do dislike how many characters that have been killed off, gone insane or simply aren't around anymore. I won't say any specifics to avoid spoilers but I as a lover of the first series I would of liked to of seen some of the older characters make it to this new series. There was so much violence and heartbreak back in the first series that I was relieved to find out mostly everyone eventually made it through to the end (that you wanted to at least). However in this series the author definitely is not holding back in terms of keeping our old beloved characters alive with close to what I'd estimate is at least half of the old characters are dead/unknown. While I understand this is needed to be able to properly develop new characters with their own personality's losing so many of the characters in only 2 books has been rough. So many deaths basically had me dreading the turn of each page because I didn't know who

would die next. However, I loved this book and its mix of new/old characters, for me personally though I would of liked to see more new(and old) characters actually survive, the final book in the last series ended on such a positive note then u read these books and their like "well okay, sorry but half the people from the last series are dead or MIA". Not sure if I'm excited or dreading to see who bites the dust in book 3. Overall though this book deserves a 5/5 stars and is definitely worth the read. I know I am still trying to figure out that plot line where Han's ancestor was trapped in the amulet and stuff yet we've heard nothing about him in either of the 2 books, I am wondering if we will in book (3) or not or if that story line has just been told in full. He was basically a wizard king that was still alive after 2,000+ years so I do wonder if he'll make an appearance! Good read, should buy it.

So I am torn with this book. I have never rated a CWC book lower then 5 stars because I love her books so much but this one right here just wasn't. The characters and the story were not as great as Flamecaster. The characters just didn't hit home, I never felt anything for them. Now the story as it continues from Flamecaster following new characters had some pacing issues. I would be reading the book and wonder how we ever got here almost having to backtrack and see how we got from point A to B. Shadowcaster is most definitely a filler novel for the Shattered Realms series and I just hope Stormcaster improves where this book failed for me. On the plus side though I still love this world and that we are exploring more and more with every book. Also a character from the first book appears and I enjoyed her story arc, though it was short.

Great addition to the new series. Love how the world is progressing and we are getting an even bigger picture of what is going on outside the war between the kingdom and queendom. Characters are fun to read about and keep the story engaged.

Chima is such a wonderful writer. When she creates a world, she has committed to it. There is unique language even, that is used to seamlessly it doesn't feel made up. I admit this one was less of a favorite to me than Flamecaster, but only just a little. I still loved the characters and the plot, and the overarching plot. I'm excited to see what happens to the characters she's made me love!

The plot is building and characters and relationships are developing. It's hard to see the earlier generation sometimes eliminated to make way for this one. I'm ready now for the next in the series because now it had built to a level to get excited about.

For the most part the story was good and I enjoyed it once I was almost to the end. Kinda slow in the beginning. I think it would have made more sense to include this with the first book since both stories occurring in tandem to an extent. I understand it would leave Ash out of the last third of the book. Can not wait for the next book to come out due to the cliff hanger at the end.

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