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Shadow Run



Synopsis

Firefly meets Dune in this action-packed sci-fi adventure about a close-knit, found family of a crew navigating a galaxy of political intrigue and resource-driven power games. Nev has just joined the crew of the starship Kaitan Heritage as the cargo loader. His captain, Qole, is the youngest-ever person to command her own ship, but she brooks no argument from her crew of orphans, fugitives, and con men. Nev can't resist her, even if her ship is an antique. As for Nev, he's a prince, in hiding on the ship. He believes Qole holds the key to changing galactic civilization, and when her cooperation proves difficult to obtain, Nev resolves to get her to his home planet by any means necessary. But before they know it, a rival royal family is after Qole too, and they're more interested in stealing her abilities than in keeping her alive. Nev's mission to manipulate Qole becomes one to save her, and to survive, she'll have to trust her would-be kidnapper. He may be royalty, but Qole is discovering a deep reservoir of power--and stars have mercy on whoever tries to hurt her ship or her crew.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0870 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press (March 21, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399552537

ISBN-13: 978-0399552533

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #707,857 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Alternative Family #1133 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Science Fiction #4221 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Praise for Shadow Run: "An explosive debut! Shadow Run is a high-octane space tale that brings back everything there is to love about classic science fiction--I can't wait to see what these

two come up with next!"--Lindsay Cummings, NYT bestseller of ZENITH "A grand space adventure, chock-full of action, battles of good and evil, love, and betrayal. The world-building is excellent...Fans of the 'Lunar Chronicles' by Marissa Meyer and the 'Starbound' series by Amie Kaufman will especially enjoy this strong debut in the YA space opera genre." --School Library Journal"Readers will want to join Qole's crew." --Kirkus Reviews

ADRIANNE STRICKLAND AND MICHAEL MILLER met in their hometown of Palmer, Alaska, where they agreed on books 99% of the time, and thus decided to write together. Michael grew up off the grid in a homestead in Alaska and ironically now works very much on the grid in IT and Web development. AdriAnne grew up in Nevada and now spends her summers as a commercial fisherwoman in Bristol Bay, Alaska, and the rest of her year writing. This is their first book together. You can find them on Twitter at @AdriAnneMS and @begemotike.

SHADOW RUN is an action-packed adventure from the very first page. Intrigue and mystery are the name of the game, leaving you on the edge of your seat and flipping pages even more rapidly with every passing scene. While some plot may have been a tad predictable, it did not detract from how enjoyable the overall story was, and in fact, these instances lull you into a sense of complacency, thinking you know where something's headed, before coming at you with a wallop of a twist. Also, this book has essentially everything I love: ragtag group of people forming a found family; space travel; a cinnamon roll boy and a badass, strong, intelligent girl falling for each other; snarky banter; slow burn romance; morality battles; a genderfluid babe and his queer lover; inexplicably strong supernatural abilities; and more! I'm so intrigued by the Shadow and Qole's ability to access the energy's power, and I cannot wait to see how Strickland and Miller will expand on the characters finding answers. Basra and Arjan are my everything, individually and together. Telu is my small child that I want only good things for, and I'm looking forward to more of grumpy Eton and his endless cache of weapons. And Nev, my prince, I am excited and nervous to see where he'll go from here, after the events of the last few chapters. I want to know everything.

I absolutely devoured this book. I've been hungry for characters with more diverse backgrounds and perspectives - just something NEW with my favorite style of space adventures. Shadow Run totally delivered for me. Qole is one of my favorite new characters in a while, I really wanted to spend more time in her head. The way the crew balanced and conflicted with one another, the intelligent ways the authors created distinct cultures with disparate wealth and reach, and the gender-fluid character

of Basra - I totally loved it. The pace starts off somewhat deliberate, but it's a straight sprint to the end that had me biting my nails. I'm so glad to learn that more books are on the way.

Favorite Quote: "Shame. That was an exquisite dress." Let me just say, there is a biiiig chunk I just have to mark as spoilers. Keep that in mind before reading. I received an ARC of: Shadow Run via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. In my humble opinion, this isn't just a reminiscent of Firefly, it honestly ripped portions of it with some tweaking. If you've seen Serenity, you've read the end of this book if I'm being honest. It has them overpowering an army with drones they cannot control and rip ships to shreds. Just way less creepy than reavers. Then crashing their ship into the citadel, followed by lots of people getting shot/sliced up until some political maneuvering wins them their freedom, but just for now. There needs to be more books you know. Let me show you. With some direct quotes from the book. Let's start with my personal favorite. "Climbing, spinning, diving, Qole made the Kaitan dance like a kite in the wind." Ha. Familiar no? This is followed a few pages later by: "The Kaitan scatter a million sparks into the air as it slid across the floor of the decimated hangar." It even has the iconic River scene after she is standing in the carnage of the Reavers. "Near the battered, hulking shape of the Kaitan, Nev stood over Eton. Eton was on the ground, holding his leg in a puddle of blood. Blood was all around them. Nev was still for the moment, chest and shoulders heaving, swords held out in either hand. His jacket was in tatters, his arms covered in dripping cuts." And let's be honest. Eton is just Jayne. Angry, mouthy, tons of ammo, guns blazing, even down to pouring alcohol on his wounded leg instead of getting medical treatment. Now that's not to say I didn't enjoy the read. I really honestly did. I love Serenity and Firefly. I just felt let down that the ending was pretty much exactly the same as the movie. I don't mind homages to great stories. I just wanted it to come out more on its own. I honestly liked Nev and Qole. I honestly felt for Nev by the end. He pretty much had his whole world ripped apart and I like how Qole actually recognized that, even through everything she went through herself. Qole was a strong lead. I wish we saw more of some of the side characters like Telu and Basra. Though we got some interesting insights to Basra at the end that I'm curious how that will go from here. I really liked Solara and her attitude. We got so little of her and I found her quite interesting. I can't say I found the blurb for the sequel all that exciting. This book could probably stand on its own and yet I'll probably read the next one in hopes of more of the side characters to see if they get fleshed out. Honestly I'd like to see much more of his sister Solara. Though it just really didn't catch my

interest so it's more like if I get around to it. The writing was fluid and easy to read, the descriptions were pretty decent and I felt the romance was not too fast which was nice. I found myself enjoying the beginning but the more like Serenity it became, I just got a bit disenchanted. Perhaps the sequel will break more into it's own? It was pretty fast-paced and overall I did like it, just didn't wow me or anything.

This book is great and I can't wait to read the rest of the series! In addition to introducing complex, strong characters, the story takes us on a mindbending, hair-raising journey through space, filled with challenges to navigate and battles to win. The story raises complex political and economic issues as different kingdoms maneuver for dominance; introduces complicated questions about family and loyalty; and reinvents the age-old philosophical question about the extent to which sacrificing people is ever justifiable in serving the greater good. Oh, and along the way, there is a Cinderella-like ball gown; a romance involving a gender-fluid character; and fights involving specialized soldiers trained in a weapon called a Disruptor Blade. Bring on the next volume!

It started a bit slow for me. But once the story started to take on more character and the twists and turns started, I became riveted and couldn't put it down. The genre is hard to describe as it's part sci-fi, part mystery, part romance, part.... As the story continues you get more involved in the characters. In summary, a great read that I highly recommend.

The first of a trilogy I've heard and I'm looking forward to the next one. Excellent characters and plot development that combine to make a fun and engrossing story. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves a good sci-fi adventure written the way the old masters would've liked.

This was an excellent book! Sort of a reverse Han Solo/Princess Leia scenario meets Dune, the characters practically jumped off the page. It took me a few chapters to get fully immersed in the world and terms, but after that I couldn't put it down. Fresh voices, compelling world--very well done!

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