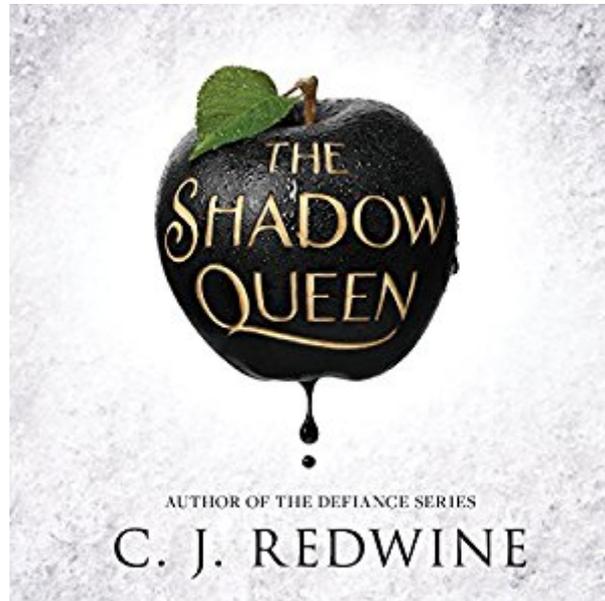


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The Shadow Queen



Synopsis

Lorelai Diederich, crown princess and fugitive at large, has one mission: kill the wicked queen who took both the Ravenspire throne and her father's life. To do that, Lorelai needs to use the one weapon she and Queen Irina have in common - magic. She'll have to be stronger, faster, and more powerful than Irina, the most dangerous sorceress Ravenspire has ever seen. In the neighboring kingdom of Eldr, when Prince Kol's father and older brother are killed by an invading army of magic wielding ogres, the second-born prince is suddenly given the responsibility of saving his kingdom. To do that, Kol needs magic of his own - and the only way to get it is to make a deal with the queen of Ravenspire, promise to become her personal huntsman - and bring her Lorelai's heart. But Lorelai is nothing like Kol expected - beautiful, fierce, and unstoppable - and despite dark magic, Lorelai is drawn in by the passionate and troubled king. Fighting to stay one step ahead of the dragon huntsman - who she likes far more than she should-Lorelai does everything in her power to ruin the wicked queen. But Irina isn't going down without a fight, and her final move may cost the princess the one thing she still has left to lose.

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Customer Reviews

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blogThe Shadow Queen by C.J. RedwineBook One of the Ravenspire seriesPublisher: Balzer + BrayPublication Date: February 16, 2016Rating: 4 starsSource: ARC sent by the publisherSummary (from Goodreads):Lorelai Diederich, crown princess and fugitive at large, has one mission: kill the wicked queen who took both the Ravenspire

throne and the life of her father. To do that, Lorelai needs to use the one weapon she and Queen Irina have in common—magic. She'll have to be stronger, faster, and more powerful than Irina, the most dangerous sorceress Ravenspire has ever seen. In the neighboring kingdom of Eldr, when Prince Kol's father and older brother are killed by an invading army of magic-wielding ogres, the second-born prince is suddenly given the responsibility of saving his kingdom. To do that, Kol needs magic—and the only way to get it is to make a deal with the queen of Ravenspire, promise to become her personal huntsman—and bring her Lorelai's heart. But Lorelai is nothing like Kol expected—beautiful, fierce, and unstoppable—and despite dark magic, Lorelai is drawn in by the passionate and troubled king. Fighting to stay one step ahead of the dragon huntsman—who she likes far more than she should—Lorelai does everything in her power to ruin the wicked queen. But Irina isn't going down without a fight, and her final move may cost the princess the one thing she still has left to lose.

What I Liked: I adore retellings! Especially fairy tales ones. Redwine's Defiance trilogy is one of my favorite trilogies, and as soon as I saw that she was working on a "fairy tale project", I knew I would love it. This book was delightful to read!

Queen Irina has taken everything from Lorelai. She's lost her family and her home and she and her brother have been hiding for many years already. The queen uses magic to make the people of Ravenspire obey. She usurps the land and poverty and hunger are the result. Irina wants to have what she thinks is rightfully hers. Power is what she craves. Kol is from Eldr, a neighboring kingdom. After a terrible incident he's responsible for saving his country all of a sudden. He's got a dragon form and a human form, but no magic. Because vicious ogres are attacking his country by using magic he has to find help. He wants to make a deal with Irina, but he doesn't know what she's capable of. He makes a huge mistake and Lorelai is the only one who can fix it... The Shadow Queen is inspired by Snow White. There are some similarities, but mostly the story is original. I liked the world building. There are several kingdoms, there's magic and there are all kinds of interesting creatures. There are three different points of view, Kol's, Irina's and Lorelai's. These main characters have their own distinctive voice and background and being able to see inside their heads makes the story versatile and interesting for the reader. I loved the result, wonderfully organized chaos. There are so many fighting scenes and both magic and battle skills are being used. The Shadow Queen is an action packed rollercoaster, something I definitely enjoyed. Irina is the typical bad queen. She's found a way to have power and she isn't afraid to use it. There's a reason behind her behavior, but I don't think anyone will have much sympathy for her. She's cruel and ruthless. It was fun to see part of the story from the point of view of the villain. I liked Kol as well.

I'm a glutton for three things: fairy tale retellings, beautiful covers, and high fantasies that come with maps. So, obviously, I couldn't help myself when it came to *The Shadow Queen* — also since this is an author who gets quite a bit of hype but I had yet to read. There were parts of this book that I enjoyed, but overall it wasn't too impressive. *The Shadow Queen* is a retelling of *Snow White*, where the princess — Lorelai — kicks freaking butt. In this version, the princess and her brother escaped from the evil queen after she took over the kingdom, and they've been on the run for 9 years. Lorelai, being the only other person with magic in the land, has been training her physical strength, endurance, and magical abilities like crazy, so that one day she can take back her kingdom and kill the queen. So yeah: in theory, Lorelai is awesome because she is a fighter, a strategist, and a genuine inspiring leader. She doesn't only want to defeat the queen to get her revenge — she actually wants to save all of the people who are suffering because of Irina's rule. But, to be honest, the characters all kind of lacked a spark for me. I am such a character reader that having a strong connection and getting sucked in by a character's voice is crucial for me to truly enjoy a book. But that never really happened with Lorelai or Kol (the other POV character). Though I admired her drive and her strength, maybe her voice was just too pure and good for me to truly be interested. I need some complexity! The same goes for Kol. In theory Kol is cool because he's also a devil-may-care prince suddenly thrust onto the throne after his parents and brother are killed in the war.

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