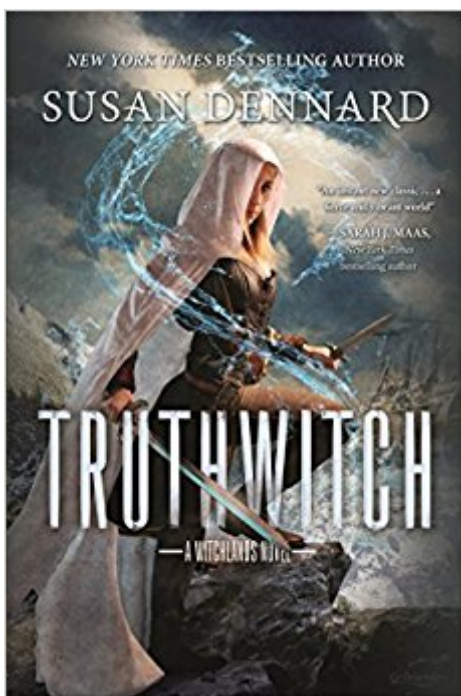


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Truthwitch: A Witchlands Novel (The Witchlands)



Synopsis

Two best friends use their magic to save the world from war and corruption in Susan Dennard's New York Times bestselling YA fantasy, *Truthwitch*. On a continent ruled by three empires, some are born with a "witchery," a magical skill that sets them apart from others. In the Witchlands, there are almost as many types of magic as there are ways to get in trouble. As two desperate young women know all too well. Safiya is a Truthwitch, able to discern truth from lie. It's a powerful magic that many would kill to have on their side, especially amongst the nobility to which Safi was born. So Safi must keep her gift hidden, lest she be used as a pawn in the struggle between empires. Iseult, a Threadwitch, can see the invisible ties that bind and entangle the lives around her, but she cannot see the bonds that touch her own heart. Her unlikely friendship with Safi has taken her from life as an outcast into one of reckless adventure, where she is a cool, wary balance to Safiya's hotheaded impulsiveness. Safiya and Iseult just want to be free to live their own lives, but war is coming to the Witchlands. With the help of the cunning Prince Merik (a Windwitch and privateer) and the hindrance of a Bloodwitch bent on revenge, the friends must fight emperors, princes, and mercenaries alike, who will stop at nothing to get their hands on a Truthwitch.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Susan Dennard Make room on your all-time favorites shelf: "Truthwitch" is an instant new classic. It reminded me of why I started reading fantasy in the first place: its fierce and vibrant world,

richly-drawn characters, and dazzling intrigue harken to the best of Megan Whalen Turner, Robin Hobb, and Jacqueline Carey. And while it pays homage to the epic fantasies that have come before it, it also lays the foundation for a bright new chapter in the genre. I haven't been so enthralled and inspired by a book since I first read Lloyd Alexander's "The Book of Three." Do not miss out! "Sarah J. Maas, New York Times bestselling author of the Throne of Glass series" "Truthwitch" has all of the elements I savor-a richly imagined magical world, ruthless politics, steamy romance, and characters who grab you and won't let go. At its heart, a partnership between two strong young women who might change the world. "Cinda Williams Chima, New York Times bestselling author of The Seven Realms series" Featuring vibrant characters and an innovative system of magic, Susan Dennard's "Truthwitch" is a fast-paced adventure and a wonderful tribute to the power of the binding ties of friendship. "Jacqueline Carey, New York Times bestselling author of the Kushiel's Legacy series" Sometimes, from not even halfway through a book, you know that you're going to make everyone you know read it. It's a book that, by the time you get to the end you crave the next book as if it were the most addicting chocolate on the planet. "Truthwitch" is that book for me. Gorgeously written, elegantly built, and perfect for ANY reader-"Truthwitch" is something you will not want to miss. Seriously. "Rachel Strolle, Andersons Bookshop" Full of magic, unbreakable friendships, and purpose, "Truthwitch" is absolutely everything I look for in a fantasy. Dennard's stunning prose weaves a lush and wonderful adventure tale that has already hooked this reader and will utterly enchant everyone else. "Gaby Salpeter, Books of Wonder""

SUSAN DENNARD has come a long way from small-town Georgia. As a marine biologist, she got to travel the world—six out of seven continents, to be exact (she'll get to Asia one of these days!)—before she settled down as a full-time novelist and writing instructor. She lives in the Midwest with her husband and two dogs, and is extremely active in social media. You can find her on her blog, Twitter, or Misfits & Daydreamers, a weekly newsletter on all things books and writing. She is the author of the Something Strange and Deadly series.

5 stars! The world, the magic, the story. And most importantly, the characters! I loved everything about this book. If you love YA fantasy, if you love female friendships, this is your book. What is Truthwitch about? Truthwitch follows two main characters, Safiya and Iseult. Safiya grew up as a domna, expected to eventually rule her uncle's estate. She's a truthwitch who can tell a truth from a lie, a fact she keeps hidden to avoid being used politically. Iseult is of the Nomatsi tribes. She left her tribe to apprentice in the city but can't escape the

persecution that she faces because of her culture. She is a threadwitch meaning she can see the connections between people. The two best friends want nothing more than to live a simple life, though for them a simple life involves a bit of conning and thievery. But a failed robbery involving a Bloodwitch, and her uncle's involvement in the possible end of the twenty-year truce, throw that plan into chaos.

What I Liked Basically everything? This book is as much about the characters as it is about the story. Safiya and Iseult have such an amazing friendship. It is so refreshing to read a book where the friendships are so much more important than the romance (not to say that there isn't some great romance!). They are also very different people which makes it easy for any reader to find one of them you can identify with. I LOVE the magic in this book. While every witch falls into a category, they may have different strengths and weaknesses in that category. It is a very practical take on magic with witches joining trades based on their talents. So much of the technology is magic based which is awesome. It is just so cool seeing new types of witches and seeing the creative ways that they each use their power and that the world has adapted to the power existing.

What It's About: Safi and Iseult are best friends live in a world where some people are born with a witchery that gives them a special skill. Iseult is a Threadwitch which makes her see invisible bonds between people. Safi is a Truthwitch, which is super rare, and she can tell the difference between the truth and a lie. Iseult, whose heritage makes her not always welcomed where they live, and Safi have worked hard to keep that a secret because if any of the three empires caught wind of it they'd want to scoop Safi up and use her for their purposes against the others. They just want to live free away from all the stuff they are fighting against and the things people want them to be/not be especially as war is on the mind of the empires. Their plan is screwed up when people find out their secrets and they are pulled into things they don't want to be in and they find themselves on the run aboard Prince Merik's ship with his crew with the likes of nobility and dangerous Bloodwitches chasing after them. In short: If you call yourself a fan of high fantasy in any capacity, this needs to be on your priority list for this 2016! It's a must read filled with a compelling world and magic system and characters whose journey will make you crave a reread as soon as you put it down. I was lucky enough to pick up a copy at the Book Expo of America this past June and I devoured it immediately upon returning home. And I have to say....I'm 6 months since my first read of the book and pretty much every month since I just had this very strong urge to reread it already. And I'm not a person who feels that way often. I think Truthwitch is perfect for people who have been reading high fantasy

for 10 years+ and crave some of those classic high fantasy type stories just as much as it is also perfect for readers who are newer to the genre. There's an elaborate world and magic system (which is incredibly enthralling and unique) and, while I found it a little slower for me to get REALLY into the world in the first 50-75 pages or so, I could NOT put it down -- I love the world, the magic, the action, the emotions, the struggle and most importantly the AMAZING characters. I'm honestly still in awe of how truly incredible this book is. So let's break it down shall we:

1. The world and magic system Susan weaves is incredible: I was so fascinated by all the different witcheries and magic! I loved learning more about how it all worked and specifically how all the witcheries were rooted within the elements. We've got Windwitches, Truthwitches, Threadwitches, Bloodwitches and more! As I said, it took me a little bit to get my bearings with it all in the first 75 pages but once you do it's like so absorbing and you will not want to come up for air. True story..I didn't.
2. Truly unforgettable characters: I love the main characters so much it's probably borderline a problem. I love books where I can 100% feel the characters struggles and emotions. This was entirely one of those kinds of books. These characters are all fighting for something or really grappling with something big in their life and you can FEEL it. You understand it. They are just characters who have so much heart. They are so incredibly complex and you see that in their individual pursuits as well as the ones that they end up sharing. You can feel the conflict to protect themselves but also to work together. I really loved how well that was clear when Safi and Iseult meet up with Prince Merik and his crew. They all have different goals and things they are pressing matters and I could feel that tension pushing and pulling them in their actions. Even the baddies are compelling as much as the people you are rooting for!
3. Badass ladies abound: What I loved about Truthwitch is how badass all the ladies are in this book -- the main ladies and the side characters alike. And it's not all physical shows of badassery -- they are smart and brave and cunning. I loved seeing all sorts of badassery represented because there were some seriously inspiring ladies.
4. FRIENDSHIP: This book is just rooted in friendship. It's a friendship story...nay...really it's #friendshipgoals. I'm serious though. I love good, solid friendships and this book had a really great friendship in Safi and Iseult as well as Prince Merik and Kullen. The friendships were real and honest and they made me quite emotional at times as you saw the pure love that flowed between each pair.
5. SO MUCH ACTION I CAN'T EVEN: SO MUCH GOES DOWN. SO MUCH. I don't want to give any of it away but there were so many scenes that made me flip out/gasp/sit straight up from my lounging position/die. Read it. This is a high fantasy series you are going to want to get into.

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