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The Sharing Knife: Volume One: Beguilement (Unabridged)



Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 217 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I felt torn between a four and five star rating for this book but decided to round upwards, since I didn't skim even a paragraph of this engaging novel. It was skillfully written, with likable well fleshed-out characters and some interesting world building. I found the aspects of the "malice" creatures and the way the lakewalkers dealt with them particularly intriguing, as were the differences between the two main cultures presented. On the flip side, I found the disparity in age, experience, and abilities between the hero and heroine to be problematic. The fact he referred to her as "child" at times, and her littleness and youth were referred to so often, made some moments in their relationship feel a bit creepy. Despite that, I mostly appreciated the thoughtful and mutually respectful nature of their bond. The book's plot proved to be satisfying overall, with only a place or two that seemed contrived. Even if it was predictable, I still loved Dag giving the young village hooligans their comeuppance, near the end. It was so well deserved! I will probably read the next in the series, though I do hope the heroine gains more of a sense of maturity. I'll definitely look for other books by this author, as she is very good.

I love stories that not only have excellent plots and character development but that also examine current social issues. This book takes a good hard look at prejudices and the questions of clinging to traditions and superstitions despite evidence that those beliefs are dangerous. Fawn is a young 'farmer' (with no 'magic' and a desire to build and stay in one place) who has been ignored by her family and in her loneliness, finds herself in trouble. Day is a middle aged 'lakewalker' (with a nomadic lifestyle and a lot of 'ground sense') who lost his wife in a brutal battle that left him maimed in body and soul. They find each other in violent circumstances, fall hopelessly in love, and seek to convince their respective families that their union is a great idea. Needless to say, because of

centuries of prejudice and superstition, no one is wishing them well. The dangers they face not only from their 'loving' families but from the evil, destructive 'Malices' are very daunting. The story of how they make their marriage work in the face of all this is heartwarming and thought provoking. This would be an awesome book for sci-fi/fantasy book club people who enjoy book club discussion. I found myself wishing for someone to talk about it with! I've now read/listened to several books by this author and looking forward to more

This series not perfect, but it is close. It isn't as exquisitely mastered as her Chalion novels, but it possess a unique charm and classically good story telling. There is a lot to love here but the things that stand out are the characters, the world building, and the very interesting topics it covers. Dag and Fawn are about the most enjoyable two characters you could get to know. They are likeable, genuine, and above all they are dynamic. Rather than your more commonplace world that gets shaped by the characters you have characters who are constantly evolving in response to the world around them. They grow together. The world itself is very absorbing. The story takes place in a world abandoned by the gods and plagued by dread creatures called Malices. The world is populated by two very different peoples, Lakewalkers and Farmers. Lakewalkers are mage-alike hunter gatherers whose lives are devoted to the eradication of the malices, monsters that their own mage lord ancestors unleashed upon the world and they do so by sacrificing their own. Farmers are agricultural people descended from common folk and without power. They are also completely vulnerable to the Malices. Because of the differences between the two societies and the mutually held distance between them, there is a great deal of suspicion towards the lakewalkers for their magic and a great deal of condescension towards farmers for their powerlessness. It all makes for a gripping and interesting plot with hidden complexity. Despite my five stars, it is not perfect. The problem is that the four books are not written in such a way as to have a true climax where everything is neatly resolved by the end of the book. Usually you would want a plot arc per book which leaves you satisfied at the end of the book but leaves some stuff escalating for the next. The first three books have climaxes but not necessarily taking place in the same book. For example this first novel has quite a bit of action in the first third or so and the rest is world building and romance. This is not ideal and I am pretty sure the story just got too powerful and winding to wrap up nicely in an orderly way. Another issue is that there are a few parts so sappy it feels corrosive. Some lovey dovey stuff is best left between the couple even in a novel because it is hard to take it seriously after that. But there are only a few times and the rest of the romance is top shelf. Normally romance is only fun to read about in the chasing but Dag and Fawn manage to be romantically

thrilling even after they have been together for some time. Its a very interesting and gripping story. It is the kind of story worth telling even if you can't be neat about it. You just really need to make sure you have all four of the books because by the end of book 4 everything is satisfactorily resolved. It is above all very enjoyable. To date I have read the series at least four times through and you don't come across something you love that much often.

Just read it. I'm going to add to this review because of some of the discussion about a romance novel genre or a fantasy genre or a fantasy romance genre. None of the above. All of the above. There is romance, people fall in love have problems and surmount problems. There is fantasy, in a world that is as real as the world around us with just a few fantasy elements added, like a touch of sage or garlic in a finely seasoned stew. Labeling these books does readers a disservice, they are tightly written, plotted like the engine in a steamship, with every part working with every other part to make a powerful whole. The language is perfect, you forget you are reading a work of literature, the authors "style" is completely transparent, not distracting from the story at all. I am certain that the author will not indulge us, but I would love to spend more time in this world, perhaps to see the beginning of it all. But I don't expect it, to take the last, gauzy veil off would spoil the effect.

I love this kind of romance. So sweet but also realistic, with the added bonus of adventure. Definite must read!!

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