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Heart Of Ice (The Snow Queen Book 1)



Synopsis

Rakel, a princess by birth, has spent most of her life exiled on a barren mountain, despised because of her powerful snow magic. Though she longs to be accepted, she hides in her ice-castle and lives with the fear that her brotherâthe Kingâwill one day order her execution. Her empty life changes forever when an army of magic usersâled by the enigmatic Colonel Farrin Graydimâinvade her home country with plans to enslave its citizens. Swallowing her fear, Rakel joins forces with her jailers and tries to use her magic to save the people who scorned her. But does too much rest on Rakel and her strained relationship with her people? For if she cannot defend her homeland...the country will be lost. THE SNOW QUEEN: HEART OF ICE is a story of magic, distrust, and unexpected friendships. It takes place in the same world as the TIMELESS FAIRY TALES series, but occurs centuries prior. If you enjoy strong female leads, captivating magic, and humorous stories, download a sample or buy HEART OF ICE today!

Book Information

File Size: 3612 KB

Print Length: 287 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0692710337

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: December 17, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0191ZK60S

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #35,664 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #68 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Adaptations #93 inÂ Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Adaptations #101 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Epic

Customer Reviews

Oh, my goodness! So I have really liked K. M. Shea's Timeless Fairy Tales series, so much I bought them all, and this is supposed to happen centuries earlier. WOWZA! She has knocked my socks off with this series! Like her other books, her characters are fully developed, with great sass and humor thrown in, but it's her storytelling that has captivated me. I couldn't put it down, and read straight through the book in several hours, only to pick up the next. Unlike many other series books out there, Shea knows how to end a book in a series -- leave the reader wanting more, but able to close the book in a finishing spot, a complete novel in it's own entity, no cliffhangers! THANK YOU! For those who may think this is just a spin off of the Disney movie Frozen or the classic Snow Queen fairy tale, you are so wrong! The storyline and characters are unique and fresh, and only in the vaguest sense does the premise parallel the classic tale, most assuredly not a remake of Disney's version. Please, if you enjoy great stories, READ THIS! I highly recommend!

This is a bit different in mood than other books by KM Shea--a bit darker. In Snow Queen, Princess Rakel has been shunned--ostracized almost completely for the sin of being born with magic. She's a 22 and probably hasn't been touched by anyone since she was 3, and she is almost accepting of this because she has so internalized that having magic makes her a monster with an evil soul...and yet she also tries desperately to appear nonthreatening by keeping her hands clasped in front of her & her face a calm mask. It's almost like her life is on pause with only fear and paranoia about being finally executed as her constant companions until a little girl from the local village tells her about invaders & asks for her help. This series promises to be a hard look at prejudices, vengeance & overcoming self-imposed biases within the framework of a medieval magical world. It is a bit more critical than a typical fairytale because everyone here has the capacity to be cruel & being a noble hero is not an easy or instantly gratifying choice.

I loved this book from start to finish. I've read hundreds of books and few hold a candle to this one. It's so hard for me to find a book that fully captures my attention because I've read so many. But this book is a beautiful read that has so much imagery and details that are woven together in a harmonic way. I would recommend this book to anyone. The princess captures your heart as you watch her grow throughout the story - trying to do what she feels is right. The "Ice Queen" as the people say are not incorrect. But her snow and ice are not tainted in darkness - but power of knowledge and adventure.

Having read (and loved and waiting for the completion of) the Timeless Fairy Tales series by KM

Shea I had been wondering what was the Snow Queen's story? Would we ever get it? Thankfully yes!! I loved this story and its conclusion in part 2. It is an easy reading, but fun and adventuresome. The princess (who is the true heir to the kingdom) is locked away in a palace of ice of her making with only a few guards and feared by just about everyone because of her magic. However when armies invade with their own magicians, she must leave her sanctuary/prison and hope that the people will trust her enough to let her help them. She finds some unlikely helpers in two young children, a quirky (and entertaining) thief, and the head of her guard that knows more than she realizes. Her attractive magical nemesis doesn't help matters, or does he? Pros: Short quick read, clean romance, good story line, decent amount of adventure, loved the characters Cons: Short read, story was broken into 2 books - I wish it was all in one.

The book was everything the Snow Queen was: beautiful, powerful, and concise. Our Ice Queen, Rakel, was perfect. She was cold but not untouchable, misunderstood but this didn't stop her from striving to work through the alienation of others and of herself. She was everything I wanted in an ice queen. Her powers weren't superficial and exaggerated-throughout the novel it was clearly and CREATIVELY expressed how powerful she was. Rakel didn't just throw around ice: she built, sculpted, and did incredibly clever things with it. She was beautiful and reserved, but she didn't wince and complain, instead she made strides and leaps of character growth. And hers was not the only character whose growth was well done. The fear and resentment of others because of her magic was handled well and naturally. Her character was simply the perfect misunderstood, reserved, compassionate, clever, and insanely powerful ice queen that I've ever read. Well done K. M. Shea!

The book was an exciting adventure. It didn't drag or get bogged down in the military campaign being run throughout the book. I've read several books set during war times where I had to skim over the lengthy discussion on war strategy in order to get back the action. But here, K. M. Shea doesn't just tell her reader, she gives concise action by showing the mentioned plan being acted out. The message that actions speak louder than words was worked throughout the novel well. Not only was there action, but also humor. Not necessarily the kind that would make you laugh out loud until your sides ache, but the kind that makes you smile and feel the kind of joy inside that there is goodness in life. And of course romance. A REALLY good book is one that has a great adventure with a strong romance running through out it with out feelings and relationships stalling the excitement of the plot, but rather propelling the story along on and even more exciting and positive trajectory. I can tell you that this was a REALLY good book. I wasn't stranded, wading through painful love triangles and unrequited love. There was no insta love. Every thing developed

in a way that felt entirely organic. Characters acknowledge their feelings and faults and moved forward. Honestly I was bit unsure on who the love interest was in the beginning, but as the story progressed, I was extremely pleased with who Rakel's love interest was turning out to be and I'm really excited to see where it will go next! I'm grateful that Rackel had both female and platonic males friends she can rely on. Speaking of Rakel's female friend. The Robber Maiden nearly stole the show, as she's apt to do. Sweeping in with her ugly dagger of suspect origins and her charming honesty and general lack of care for other's prejudices--she was that person who is annoying in their candidness but whom you secretly want as your best friend. She was the perfect foil to Rakel and her unswerving loyalty and charm easily made her indispensable to the story. To my unending relief and surprising joy I wasn't left sifting through tells and subtle nods to try to figure out who liked whom and what was going throughout the book. It was so incredibly refreshing compared to so many novels I've read recently. Everything was clearly and often humorously expressed. The small gestures of each character gave the novel an added depth, like another layer of ice, strengthening the over all story. "ÅçÂ ÂœIdiot. ÅçÂ Â• He head-butted him, and the man went down, held up only by his arm." After reading that I knew I was going to enjoy this story. A good length novel, the story ended leaving the reader satisfied without any bitter cliff hangers, but with enough questions to fill the sequel. As much as I love a good sequel, often times I just want my story wrapped up and concluded, but here I'm grateful that not only do I have this complete adventure with the Snow Queen, I also get a sequel that will hopefully delve deeper into certain questions and characters. The only issues I had with the story were the minor-ish characters. I would have loved to gotten inside their heads and seen what they were up to off scene, or just simply to understand them better, outside of Rakel's general impersonal perspective. Also, beyond getting the initial action going, and being a relic from the original story, I would have liked to seen more purpose in Greta and Kai. They were entertaining kids, but I just didn't really see a point in them. Ages would have been nice. I had a hard time discerning beyond Rakel's specifically mentioned age, how old her companions were. It's not super important, but my view of several these characters kept shifting by the way they were described, and I was little frustrated. All in all it as an incredible story. Not only am I greatly looking forward to the sequel in February, I'm simply looking forward to rereading it! Young adult and adult alike, this story was sophisticated enough to appeal to anyone. I would highly recommend this to everyone, but especially to those who love fairy tales, adventure, stories with substance and meaning, humor, and a hearty, clean romance without the usual fluff and angst. Thank you K. M. Shea for writing this!

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