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A Shadow Bright And Burning (Kingdom On Fire, Book One)



Synopsis

"Vivid characters, terrifying monsters, and world building as deep and dark as the ocean."--Victoria Aveyard, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Red Queen* "I am Henrietta Howel. The first female sorcerer in hundreds of years. The prophesied one. Or am I? Henrietta Howel can burst into flames. Forced to reveal her power to save a friend, she's shocked when instead of being executed, she's invited to train as one of Her Majesty's royal sorcerers. Thrust into the glamour of Victorian London, Henrietta is declared the chosen one, the girl who will defeat the Ancients, bloodthirsty demons terrorizing humanity. She also meets her fellow sorcerer trainees, handsome young men eager to test her power and her heart. One will challenge her. One will fight for her. One will betray her. But Henrietta Howel is not the chosen one. As she plays a dangerous game of deception, she discovers that the sorcerers have their own secrets to protect. With battle looming, what does it mean to not be the one? And how much will she risk to save the city and the one she loves?" "Exhilarating and gripping, Jessica Cluess's spellbinding fantasy introduces a powerful, unforgettably heroine, and a world filled with magic, romance, and betrayal. Hand to fans of Libba Bray, Sarah J. Maas, and Cassandra Clare." "The magic! The intrigue! The guys! We were sucked into this monster-ridden, alternative England from page one. Henrietta is literally a 'girl on fire' and this team of sorcerers training for battle had a pinch of Potter blended with a drop of [Cassandra Clare's] *Infernal Devices*." --Justine Magazine "Cluess gamely turns the chosen-one trope upside down in this smashing dark fantasy." --Publishers Weekly, Starred Review "Unputdownable. I loved the monsters, the magic, and the teen warriors who are their world's best hope! Jessica Cluess is an awesome storyteller!" --Tamora Pierce, #1 New York Times bestselling author "A fun, inventive fantasy. I totally have a book crush on Rook." --Sarah Rees Brennan, New York Times bestselling author "Pure enchantment. I love how Cluess turned the 'chosen one' archetype on its head. With the emotional intensity of my favorite fantasy books, this is the kind of story that makes you forget yourself." --Roshani Chokshi, New York Times bestselling author of *The Star-Touched Queen* "A glorious, fast-paced romp of an adventure. Jessica Cluess has built her story out of my favorite ingredients: sorcery, demons, romance, and danger." --Kelly Link, author of *Pretty Monsters* From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I FINALLY read Jessica Cluess' debut, A Shadow Bright and Burning and I must say it was quite enjoyable. It was different than what I was expecting, but still, that can be a good thing! I found the world Jessica built to be very interesting, filled with magic of all sorts and I am excited to see where this series will go!Henrietta has fire magic, she can wield flames and control the flames. But she has to keep it secret, for in her line of work, a teacher, having magic can be a quick way to die. But when she reveals her powers in order to save her best friend, Rook, the secret is out. But instead of death, a man named Agrippa offers to take her away and allow her to harness her powers, for he believes she the female sorcerer from the prophecy that says a female sorcerer will help out an end to the Ancients. The Ancients are basically a group of old, powerful people, and they are dangerous.Taking Rook along with her, for he is an untouchable one for he was scarred by a magical attack when he was young, Henrietta sets out on her new life determined to make a difference. But then she learns shocking news, she isn't the chosen one. If anyone knew her secret, she would truly be in danger, not only from the Queen, but her newfound friends as well.Which brings me to the boys! The boys are basically a group of teenagers who are also sorcerers. They are all training to one day help fight the evil of the world and keep their country safe. And goodness me, are these guys quite the characters! Though it seems we are partial to two in particular. First there's Magnus, who's the carefree and generally nice guy! He's a shameless flirt but seems

genuine in his kindness. Then there's Blackwood who is nearly the complete opposite. He's a bit cold and aloof and filled with mystery. You're thinking we're entering a love triangle, right? Well, it isn't as simple as that, because there's also Rook we need to factor in, Henrietta's childhood best friend. Now I'm sort of a sucker for that long time childhood friendships that turn into something more, but alas, I wasn't really feeling Rook. That's largely due to the fact that he doesn't get a lot of page time. I felt like we only saw him so briefly, and while those moments were charged with intensity, it was fleeting. Though I will happily say that the romance isn't a large part of the story. It's simply there. Also it doesn't really feel like so much of a huge love confliction (yes I'm making up a word since spell check isn't liking it!). Blackwood doesn't even seem like a huge contender for Henrietta's heart. It's possible he could truly just be new friend territory. The love triangle seems to involve Rook and Magnus more than anything! Parts of this book felt really dark. I can't quite get into those details, but know that there does seem to be some darkness to everything. Some of it is a little hard to understand at this time as well. But thankfully, I have the sequel at the ready! I like what I've read so far! Henrietta is definitely my kind of heroine! She's strong, yet not unstoppable. She's fiercely devoted to her friend Rook and gets along rather well with most of the new guys. And as I said, I can't wait to see where this story will go! Filled with magic and a good dose of suspense coupled with a sprinkling of romance and bouts of laughter, *A Shadow Bright and Burning* is a purely magical read! Overall Rating 4/5 stars

This book introduces us to Henrietta Howell as well as several other characters. Henrietta is a teacher at a local all female School slash Orphanage like *Jane Eyre*. She is discovered to have magical powers by a Local sorcerer named Agrippa. Agrippa is in search of the Prophet to end a war, that's been going on for centuries between Sorcerers and Demons. Agrippa takes Henrietta to London, to train to be the only female sorcerer. Along the way, Henrietta cares for a friend who she believes she loves. She also finds out many secrets and keeps many secrets that may have to do with the prophecy. She may not be who she thinks she will become. But in order to find out if everything turns out great for Henrietta, you need to go buy this book. Now onto my final thoughts about the book. I rated this book four stars out of five. I love the description of the Demons in this book, they reminded me of something from Dante's *Inferno*. Henrietta's life description really felt like a retelling of *Jane Eyre*. But the magic was epic in this book. When it came to the magical beings, you really didn't know who was a sorcerer or a magician. There was evil at every turn and you were so unsure of who you could trust. Henrietta herself was a very modern girl for the Victorian Age. She stood up against injustice, tried to always protect those who could not protect themselves and look

for the good in everyone. She was a strong female character. I also felt like Jessica as an author included a lot of diversity in her characters. This book had great magical scenes of fighting like Harry Potter and the half blood prince. Best of all Henrietta didn't need any man to save her, even though she was surrounded by her fair share. Even though this book is rated for middle grade, I believe everyone will love this book, just like they did Harry Potter. To me, this book just had everything in it and it was so well written. Also even though this book was descriptive, it didn't put things in, just to make the book longer. I am so happy with how well this story fit together, and I felt like nothing needed to be cut from the book. I will honestly recommend this book to everyone to read.

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