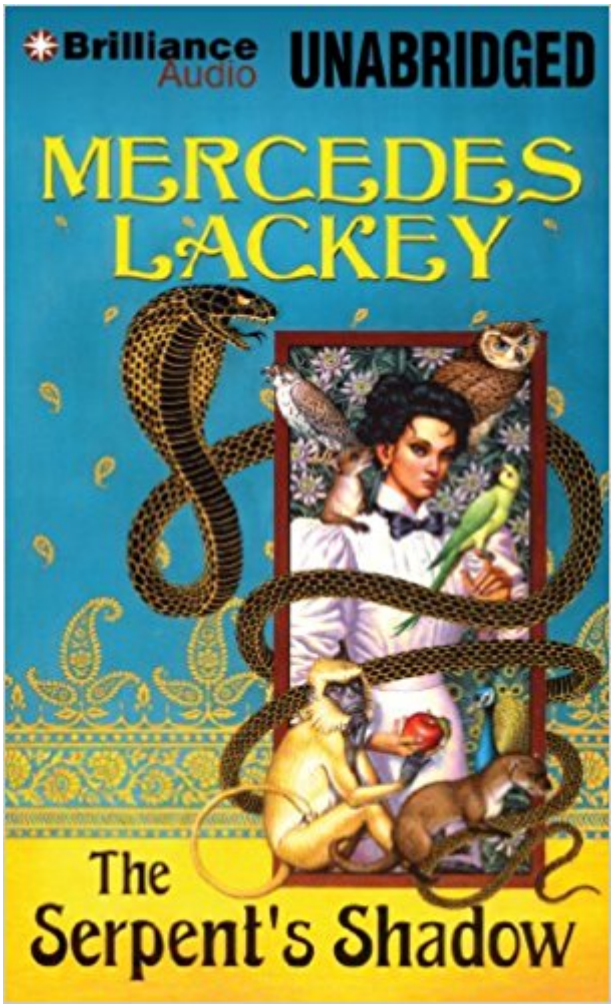
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The Serpent's Shadow (Elemental Masters)



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Synopsis

From the magical mysteries of India to the gaslit streets of Victorian London, Mercedes Lackey's unique departure from her Valdemar series follows a young woman doctor as she searches for the secret behind the sorcery in her blood.

Book Information

Series: Elemental Masters (Book 2)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (March 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1480592218

ISBN-13: 978-1480592216

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,549,433 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (L) > Lackey, Mercedes #2264 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction #2669 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Mercedes Lackey returns to form in The Serpent's Shadow, the fourth in her sequence of reimagined fairy tales. This story takes place in the London of 1909, and is based on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Lackey creates echoes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, pays affectionate homage to Dorothy Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey (who plays an important role under a thin disguise), and turns the dwarves into seven animal avatars who masquerade as pets of her Eurasian heroine, Maya. Some of Maya's challenges come from the fact that she is not "snow white," and she has fled India for her father's English homeland after the suspicious deaths of her parents. Establishing her household in London, she returns to her profession as a physician, working among the poor. Her "pets" and loyal servants stand guard, and Maya herself uses what bits of magic she managed to pick up in childhood to weave otherworldly defenses as well. But the implacable enemy who killed her parents has come to London to search for her; if Maya can be enslaved, her enormous potential powers can be used to the enemy's ends. Fortunately, English magicians of the White Lodge have also noted a new, powerful presence in their midst, though

they’re having trouble locating her, too. They send Peter Scott, a Water Master, to track her down. He finds Maya beautiful and benign, and is determined to teach her to use the Western magic she is heir to, before her enemy discovers her. Some will find the author’s Kiplingesque descriptions of India and Hindustani culture offensive. Lackey describes Maya’s enemy as a powerful devotee of the goddess Kali-Durga, though she carefully shows that the avatars of the other deities will not attack her, and has Kali-Durga repudiate her servant in the climactic confrontation. And, though the story is layered, its surface is as glossy and brightly colored as an action comic. But readers who enjoy late Victorian London, Sayers, Sherlock Holmes stories, and a page-turning tale will want to take this one home. --Nona Vero --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

As a physician operating among London’s poor in the early years of the 20th century, Dr. Maya Witherspoon has two strikes against her her gender and her status as the half-breed daughter of an Englishman and a Hindu woman. The magic she possesses, however, assists her not only in her work but also in fighting off an assassin bent on destroying her through the use of dark powers. The author of the popular "Valdemar" series turns her hand to historical fantasy in this intriguing and compelling re-creation of England in the waning days of its imperial glory. (This is also the first volume in a new three-book series inspired by classic fairy tales.) A good choice for Lackey’s large readership as well as fans of period fiction. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

This is a story of discrimination and discovery for a young woman in Victorian/Edwardian England. Maya Witherspoon is a half caste Anglo Indian who trained as a Doctor in India and has now come to England to escape the vengeance of her sorceress Aunt and her Thugee cult. It seems no one wants her to be a doctor and there is the added problem of her own magic inherited from her father. Her struggles to become accepted as a Doctor in an antagonistic medical milieu, the racial discrimination are handled well and there is good sense of the change in the air of England of that time. Maya also has magical helpers and a cast of characters straight out of Dickens to help and hinder her. A truly enjoyable read, I was swept along on this adventure, did not want it to end.

Enjoyable introduction to the Elemental Masters series, but not as compelling as her Valdemar books. It does give a good intro into elemental magic and the characteristics of the powers and magicians who wield them. There are many spaces, pages, where little action or story and plot development occurs. But overall it was an enjoyable read.

This one snuck up on me until the last few chapters! At first, I wasn't particularly excited upon reading the initial chapters. But this one snuck up on me!! I wasn't looking for an allegorical Snow White, the 7 "dwarfs" & even the apple!! Fun story that kept my interest to the end! Would recommend it to any with time to escape back to turn of the century London! Enjoy!!

All Maya ever wanted was to be a physician and to help people. Driven from her home in India after the deaths of her parents, she seeks her dreams in London. Unfortunately the prejudices of British society in 1909 are firmly set against her. As both a woman and a half Indian, she can finds herself the target of racist and sexist bigotry. As if that wasn't enough, it appears that the evil that drove her out of India has followed her to London.Once again Mercedes Lackey has woven an interesting tale of magic, love and intrigue. The Elemental Masters series never fails to bring the world of early 20th century Britain to life.

I've always been a fan of Mercedes Lackey's novels. I started reading her work when I was in the 5th grade, with the Valdemar series. I've read her books of elves and musicians, and a few of her random short stories. But when I picked up the Elemental Masters series I was in for a real treat. Especially with Serpent's Shadow, she expresses the difficulties for women during the late 1800's and 1900's. She brings forward what they had to put up with in these times, states boldly what they could expect from the men of the era, and drops it all in a story of magic and mystery. She then proceeds to write her stories in a manner that draws you in, hooks you so you can not put down the book, and when you finally finish leaves you feeling like you had just dined at a banquet with hearty foods and delicious sweets.

Lovely tale with twists and turns rooted in real world mythos. For those who might quail at abandoning valdemar or perhaps it's worth the leap to London.

Have you readÃ Â The Fire Rose? If yes, do not read this book. It follows the exact same formula and as soon as all the characters are introduced you can see the ending. There are no new twists or surprises.I was highly disappointed.If you have not read The Fire Rose, this would not be such a bad read. Simple, light story with simple, light characters. The good people are only good and the bad people are only bad. No gray areas. Still a little boring for me but nothing wrong with the writing.

My first introduction to Mercedes Lackey was Arrows of the Queen. I've devoured many of her books since then and I have also enjoyed the Elemental Masters series. Serpent's Shadow tells the tale of a young woman who has lost her parents and fled to England from who know what. This story is enjoyable and fun to read. This book is to be read for fun and enjoyment, not as a thought provoking work. Read and enjoy your trip to a world filled with magic.

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