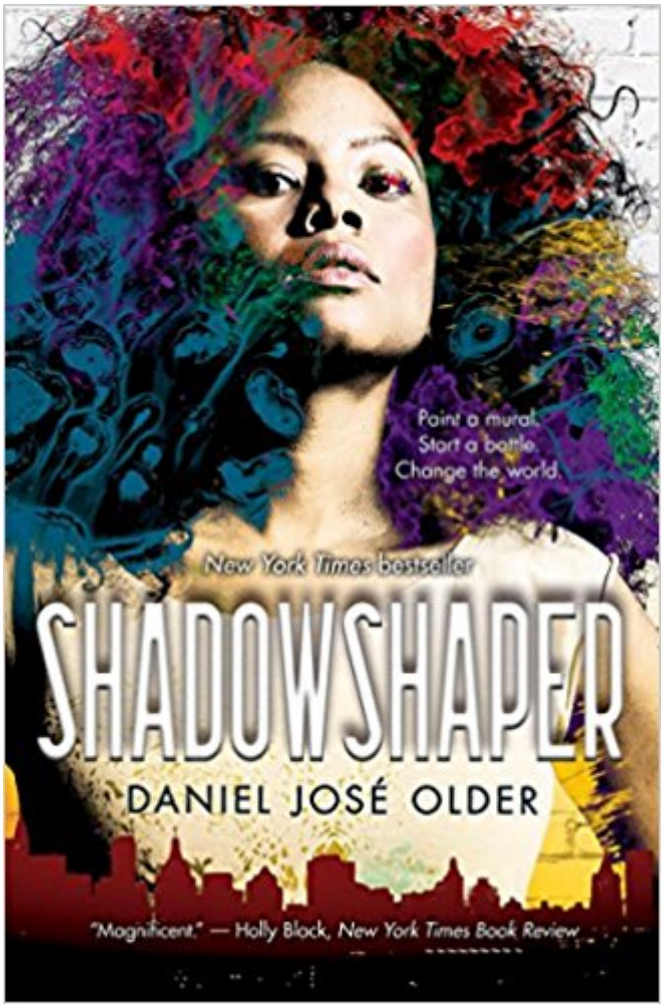
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Shadowshaper (The Shadowshaper Cypher, Book 1)



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Synopsis

The joyful, bold New York Times bestseller. Look for the sequel, Shadowhouse Fall, out 9/12/2017! "Magnificent." --Holly Black, New York Times Book Review "A must." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Exceptional." --Publishers Weekly, starred review Sierra Santiago planned an easy summer of making art and hanging out with her friends. But then a corpse crashes their first party. Her stroke-ridden grandfather starts apologizing over and over. And when the murals in her neighborhood begin to weep tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn ruckus is going on. With the help of a fellow artist named Robbie, Sierra discovers shadowshaping, a magic that infuses ancestral spirits into paintings, music, and stories. But someone is killing the shadowshapers one by one. Now Sierra must unravel her family's past, take down the killer in the present, and save the future of shadowshaping for generations to come.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.; Reprint edition (August 30, 2016)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1338032475

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 155 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #29 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Contemporary #41 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Summer has just started, and Sierra plans to enjoy it, hanging out with her friends in their Brooklyn neighborhood and painting a mural at the local junklot. Then things start to get weird. While she is talking to fellow artist Robbie at the first party of the summer, a zombielike creature disrupts things, Robbie disappears, and she is left to discover that she lives in a world full of magic that she knows nothing about. As she slowly pieces together the mystery of her heritage,

Sierra discovers her own powers of ancestral magic and battles the evil professor who is trying to steal them. Robbie is a clear love interest, but he isn’t there to rescue Sierra. Sierra is a tough, confident, body-positive female protagonist of Puerto Rican descent, proud of her ’fro and curves. The fact that she and Robbie seem to be connecting romantically is portrayed as more of a happy coincidence than the culmination of a lifelong dream of romance. Dialogue is fast paced and authentic to Sierra’s Brooklyn neighborhood, which is vividly described. Readers will find someone to whom they can relate in her diverse group of friends. VERDICT Excellent diverse genre fiction in an appealing package.Ã¢â ¬â •Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for Shadowshaper: A Top Ten YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults Selection A Top Ten ALA Quick Pick A Kirkus Prize Finalist An Andre Award Nominee A New York Times Notable Children's Book An NPR Best Book of the Year A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year "In the best urban fantasy, the city is not just a backdrop, but functions as a character in its own right . . . That is certainly true in Daniel JosÃƒÂ© Older's magnificent Shadowshaper, which gives us a Brooklyn that is vital, authentic, and under attack. . . Older is able to infuse Shadowshaper with the spirit of Brooklyn in the summer, where the possibility of magic hangs shimmering in the air. This is a world that readers cannot help wanting to live in and, as with all great urban fantasies, harboring a suspicion that perhaps we already do." -- Holly Black, New York Times bestselling author of The Coldest Girl in Coldtown and The Iron Trial, in The New York Times Book Review "Older's book is a first-rate example of how representation, diversity and themes of social justice and identity can be skilfully woven into a narrative -- not so that they disappear, but so that the story pivots on them in a way that is authentic, exciting, and ultimately satisfying." -- Cory Doctorow, Boing Boing "The strength of Older's tale is in his meticulous attention to the details of the life of a brown-skinned, natural-haired Puerto Rican teenage girl. Older's storytelling is rich enough to warrant such treatment, because this is a world that will stay with readers long after the last page." -- Los Angeles Times * "Warm, strong, vernacular, dynamic -- a must." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review * "Excellent diverse genre fiction in an appealing package." -- School Library Journal, starred review * "What makes Older's story exceptional is the way Sierra belongs in her world, grounded in family, friends, and an awareness of both history and change." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review * "Smart writing with a powerful message that never overwhelms the terrific storytelling." -- Booklist, starred review "Older not only gives readers a diverse cast, but he stays true to their background, language and community, lending an authenticity to his work... If

you're a YA urban fantasy reader looking for something creative and different, try Shadowshaper on for size." -- Romantic Times Book Review "Exactly the kind of title Walter Dean Myers charged his peers to pen at the onset of his career and the kind of narrative he was still imploring publishers to fete in the twilight of his life, one that takes young readers, their unique needs and their racial and cultural realities seriously. Shadowshaper would make him proud." -- The Washington Post "Joyful and assertive and proud, and makes me want to read everything else of Older's, for more of these voices, connections and lives." -- National Public Radio "Sierra Santiago is the type of character we've all hoped we could have in YA." -- Bustle.com "Daniel JosÃƒÂ© Older is one of my favorite new voices, and I can't wait to see what he (and Sierra) come up with next." -- Anika Noni Rose, star of Dreamgirls and The Princess and the Frog "I highly recommend Shadowshaper... it is exceptional in a great many ways." -- Debbie Reese, American Indians in Children's Literature "One of my favorite books of the year, period." -- Rebecca Schinsky, BookRiot "Shadowshaper is a game changer." -- FlavorPillAdvance Praise for Shadowhouse Fall: "Older takes the idea of fantasy as metaphor and smashes it to bits, bringing us to a Brooklyn steeped in magic that feels utterly real and punch-to-the-gut perilous. A powerful adventure that blurs the line between the real and the imagined in daring, breathtaking ways, Shadowhouse Fall is not only a thrilling hero's journey, but a magical revolution on the page." -- Leigh Bardugo, New York Times-bestselling author of Six of Crows and Crooked Kingdom "Brilliant. . . . A novel about Brooklyn, love, spirituality, family and something else. Something I can't even explain but am enthralled by and want more of. This is the beauty and magic of Older's writing--he leaves us openmouthed and speechless, asking 'What just happened to me?!' Loved this book." -- Jacqueline Woodson, New York Times bestselling author of Another Brooklyn and Brown Girl Dreaming "Shadowhouse Fall flips and reshuffles principles of light and darkness in stunning revelation after revelation. Older's vivid ink and prose deftly obliterates any bounds between a tangible and a supernatural Brooklyn. I am still under its spell." -- Rita Williams-Garcia, three-time Coretta Scott King Author Award-winner "Here is the real Brooklyn: myriad cultural communities caught in the squeeze and pressure of gentrification, and of course, the shadows and perils of the undead -- and the tough, wise, and lovable Sierra Santiago is there to navigate us through it all. Older is a brilliant storyteller, and with sharp, smart, and hilarious dialogue and prose, Shadowhouse Fall is a fresh, enthralling speculative novel for readers of all ages." -- Brendan Kiely, award-winning co-author of All-American Boys, and critically acclaimed author of The Last True Love Story

Oh my goodness, this was so much fun!!!! I can’t remember the last time I read an urban fantasy that was this authentic in that it wasn’t following a bunch of white people in an urban setting. Maybe actually this is the first time. And it was glorious!It was diverse in more ways than one, with a cast of characters with different races and sexual orientations. It was true to the reality that we live in, a real mirror and that was so awesome to see. I know that if I had this book when I was a kid, I would champion it so hard (and I mean be super annoying about it like I used to be - maybe still am - when it comes to things that I love)!I loved how rich the characters were and how present their culture, their upbringing, their reality was because it’s not a footnote or something to checkoff a character list, it’s just as important as the story. Music, hair, skin tone, family expectations (dating, etc...), and other relatable POC cultural marks were so, so wonderful to see, especially since we so rarely see this in books. This book champions POC kids in the city and I love it.This is the first novel by Daniel JosÃƒÂ© Older that I’ve read (read it in two sittings, it’s easily a day read) and I cannot wait to read more from him. His writing is so much fun. This is such a fast paced and thrilling magical adventure and if you love ghosts and all things off kilter like me, you’re in for a real treat.All of the characters are fun and relatable and really engaging. I love that it’s set in New York. Not Manhattan. The real New York. In this instance, it’s Brooklyn. I love that the setting really comes alive and incorporates not just the good like art and family in small communities but the bad as well, like street harassment and it does so seamlessly.I love how action packed the story was as Sierra was thrown onto a supernatural roller coaster of a journey. I thought that Sierra and Robbie, who goes on the adventure with her, had great chemistry and that was also fun to follow. I loved how humorous the writing was at times as well. Really, everything about this book was simple great fun and I am so glad that I finally read this.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœShadowshaperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ by Daniel JosÃƒÂ© Older is a fast-paced and page-turning fantasy tale set in present-day Brooklyn. The storyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s main character is Sierra Santiago, a teen-aged girl who is a talented painter of wall murals. Right from the get-go, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœShadowshaperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ launches us into SierraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s world, as she is painting a big, colourful dragon on the wall of a new and unwanted apartment tower. Sierra has recently noticed that several of the neighbourhoodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s older wall murals are not only fading, but changing in subtle yet significant ways ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ though strangely, no one else seems to notice this.This story had me hooked from page one, and kept me hooked throughout. Older keeps the action moving at high speed, ducking and weaving through the streets of Brooklyn, SierraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family-life and friendships, as well as the new strange world of

magic and spirits that opens up to her as she learns more and more about the powers ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ both good and evil ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ at work around her, and inside her. The cast of characters is fantastic throughout, and Sierra is a terrific heroine: smart and tough and strong, but also flawed and conflicted enough to feel absolutely real. Her circle of friends adds another great layer to the story, with friendships that feel like theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re taken from the real world, and dialogue that captures both the friendsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ quippy banter and more touching moments.The magic universe that lurks just beneath the surface of everyday life in ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœShadowshaperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ is both fascinating and original, with old and new powers mixing in unpredictable ways. Some scenes blew me away with their visual power ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ especially towards the end when SierraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s fight scenes, and her moments of revelation, are particularly strong. There is also one breathtaking fight scene that gave me a new appreciation of tattoos!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœShadowshaperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ reminded me that setting a fantasy story in a contemporary, real life setting (as opposed to an alternate universe or fantasy world), can be extraordinarily powerful and effective.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœShadowshaperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ is pegged as Young Adult, and it would be a great read for teens, but itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s also a great read for anyone else who is looking for a gripping and original fantasy tale.

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