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The Crimson Crown (A Seven Realms Novel)



Synopsis

A thousand years ago, two young lovers were betrayed-Alger Waterlow to his death, and Hanalea, Queen of the Fells, to a life without love. Now, once again, the Queendom of the Fells seems likely to shatter apart. For young queen Raisa ana'Marianna, maintaining peace even within her own castle walls is nearly impossible; tension between wizards and Clan has reached a fevered pitch. With surrounding kingdoms seeking to prey on the Fells' inner turmoil, Raisa's best hope is to unite her people against a common enemy. But that enemy might be the person with whom she's falling in love. Through a complicated web of lies and unholy alliances, former streetlord Han Alister has become a member of the Wizard Council of the Fells. Navigating the cut-throat world of blue blood politics has never been more dangerous, and Han seems to inspire hostility among Clan and wizards alike. His only ally is the queen, and despite the perils involved, Han finds it impossible to ignore his feelings for Raisa. Before long, Han finds himself in possession of a secret believed to be lost to history, a discovery powerful enough to unite the people of the Fells. But will the secret die with him before he can use it? A simple, devastating truth concealed by a thousand-year-old lie at last comes to light in this stunning conclusion to the Seven Realms series.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

4Q 4P J S When seventeen-year-old Raisa takes the throne, she inherits a queendom on the brink

of civil war. The thousand-year hatred between Wizards and Clans is boiling over; Raisa cannot trust her mercenary army or its leaders; neighboring countries are poised to invade; and each faction demands Raisa's arranged marriage or murder (preferably both). She cannot even trust her bodyguard and lover, Han Alister, the former streetlord turned wizard, because he constantly keeps secrets from her. Is he behind the recent wizard murders and the burning of the city? Meanwhile, Han does his best to keep Raisa and her kingdom in one piece, but powerful enemies attack him from every side, physically and politically. In the midst of everything, he discovers that the land's thousand-year-old feud is based on betrayal and lies. Is there any hope for the queendom, or Han and Raisa's love? Chima has built a complex world filled with equally complex characters, living out an expertly structured and balanced plot in which everything that can go wrong does. Lovers of the series will dive in headlong to learn the fate of the people and lands they love, eating up the devious political machinations, the wizard magic, and bloody battles and will tear through the pages to see if true love wins. Newcomers, though, will be hopelessly lost, so only purchase where the series is popular. This fourth book in the Seven Realms series is recommended for lovers of political and action-laden fantasy, though scenes of violence and torture make it more appropriate for high school.-Melissa Moore. Set in an incredibly written fantasy world full of political turmoil, *The Crimson Crown's* gripping action scenes, coupled with forbidden romance, will immediately pull readers into Han and Raisa's captivating story. This stunning conclusion to the Seven Realms series takes readers on a fantastic ride through a country on the brink of both civil and international war, but whose people possess the most important emotion of all-hope. 5Q, 5P.-Camille Birch, Teen Reviewer. VOYA"

In this concluding volume of the series, wizard, thief, and now bodyguard Han Allister longs to marry his charge Queen Raisa, but she's committed to a political marriage to save her quarreling queendom. The "jinxflingers" hate the native Demonai clans, someone is murdering wizards in the slums (and Han is the prime suspect), and the Ardenine army hovers on the border, waiting for an excuse to invade. Only by playing the multiple schemers off one another to heal the country can Han hope to win Raisa's hand. Here the promise of previous volumes is realized: the budding love story springs to full flower and the hints captured in thousand-year-old legends are borne out, while the stakes are ratcheted up to perilous heights. Betrayal, war, and the faith of lovers all come around to a glorious conclusion as Chima weaves together her geopolitical, magical, romantic, and even mythical themes on an epic scale. anita l. burkam Horn Book"

Torture and treasure, treason and trust, and the triumph of true love: All come to fruition in the stirring conclusion to this epic fantasy series. Raisa ana'Marianna has claimed the Gray Wolf throne, but her grip is tenuous: Every faction-clans, wizards, army, flatlanders-both within and without the Fells hates all

the others, and each pushes Raisa to accept its preferred candidate for consort. Meanwhile, Han Alister has taken his seat on the Wizard Council at the queen's command, but every other member secretly wants to use him or kill him. Furthermore, there are the mysterious murders of wizards, marked with Han's old streetlord sign; all this disarray signals a weakness that encourages invading armies from the South. Together, Han and Raisa seek the long-lost Armory of the Gifted Kings as the only way to avoid re-enacting a 1,000-year-old tragedy; but to wield such a weapon may well trigger an even greater catastrophe. Chima manages to resolve this impossibly tangled skein of politics, intrigue, history, prejudice and passion with style and grace. Grim scenes of shocking violence alternate with moments of tenderness and humor, and the high body count is balanced by the almost fairy-tale romantic conclusion. While some of the depth and complexities of the supporting characters-along with the nuanced subtleties of their conflicting worldviews-are sacrificed to help demonize (or valorize) their respective positions, nothing can overshadow the cathartic satisfaction for those caught up in this sweeping saga. Simply brilliant. Kirkus" --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Cinda Williams Chima is the New York Times Bestselling author of *The Warrior Heir*, *The Wizard Heir*, *The Dragon Heir*, and the four books of the *Seven Realms* series, *The Demon King*, *The Exiled Queen*, *The Gray Wolf Throne*, and *The Crimson Crown*. She lives in Ohio with her family.

The Crimson Crown completes Cinda Williams Chima's *Seven Realms* series in a wonderful, outstanding fashion that makes the reader not only appreciate the book by itself, but the series overall. Queen Raisa and Han Alister, friends and both distant descendants of the infamous Demon King and legendary warrior queen Hanalea, try to bring together the peoples of the Fells in their own ways. Raisa uses politics and her authority as Queen while Han uses his street smarts in an attempt to outmaneuver schemes of several Wizards, however both find themselves stymied or unintentionally ruining the other's plans. Then the mysterious deaths of Wizards on Han's home turf and everything points to him, things start getting really difficult. As Han attempts to keep his promise to the Clans, gain his revenge on the Bayars, and attempt to win Raisa's hand in marriage he continues to consult his magical mentor Crow, his ancestor Alger Waterlow and infamous Demon King, to learn his secrets and later the true events of a 1,000 years before. Even with all his plans falling apart, Han discovers the lost Armory of the Gifted Kings, only to fall into the hands of the Bayars just afterwards at the same time Fells is betrayed and invaded by Arden. Literally things go from bad to worse for both Raisa and Han, it looks like there will be no happy ending. However, it

was then that Chima showed her talent as a writer as she crafted a believable series of events that resolved the various storylines set up not only in the first half of the book but in the previous three books to a satisfying conclusion not only to the book but the series as well. Not everyone the reader has met survives, not many "villains" get redeemed or die, betrayal by friends or family occur that result in either deaths or loss of trust, and the external enemies are still a threat. It is because the Seven Realms series doesn't end like a fairy tale that makes this book so outstanding, it's about how two individuals from different backgrounds were able to confront a 1,000 years of history to be together and start changing their homeland in a lifetime of work. If you like good fantasy, or good storytelling, or good characters, or all three(!); I recommend this series to readers of all ages.

Amazing. Beautiful. Exciting. I just don't have the right words to describe how incredible The Crimson Crown was. It was the perfect ending to an epic series. I think one of my most favorite things about this book is that Chima didn't try to do too much. It seems that, much of the time, authors try to tie up every single loose end at the end of a series, and as a result, all the major plot points are hurried and less than they could've been. Chima's too smart for that, and thank goodness for that. Oh don't worry - all the main questions that had been dogging us for awhile now were answered. But, despite a very perfect ending, you're left feeling that there's still more story to tell. There's still problems and looming tensions. Not everything was tied up in a neat little bow. At the start of the book, there was so much going on - I'm so glad that Chima picked her battles (excuse the pun). If you have not read The Seven Realms yet, seriously - WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? I hate having to reduce myself to yelling at you, but honestly, you won't find a better high fantasy series out there anywhere.

Such a satisfying ending to a wonderful series!!! I have been with the series ever since the Demon King and so have had to wait painfully for a year in between each new novel. This last year long wait was not in vain. The crimson crown is a beautifully crafted novel, that is suspenseful and full of action from the beginning. Once again the novel switches between Han and Raisa, with each switch leaving the reader begging for more. This novel has it all, romance, intriguing politics, action, and mystery. Top it all off with a wonderful ending and you have a more than wonderful book to read!!

This book is by far the most fast paced in the Seven Realms series. The main focus character in this book was Han, as the third book (The Gray Wolf Throne) was Raisa. All the characters from the other books you loved and/or hated are still playing big roles. There are some people who have

surprising other motives, and dark sides. As in many YA novels, this book is largely based on the main characters' (romantic) relationship. This was one of the book's only flaws (besides the fact that Alger lived 1000 years ago. We don't even have accurate history from 1000 years ago. How many countries are still unchanged after all that time?), in my opinion. A common misconception that I find in (especially) YA: Marriage and long lasting relationships are entirely based on romantic love. I agree that love is a major factor in marriage, but you also have to trust the other person. Han's goal (as stated in the third book) was to marry Raisa, yet they never seem to get past the "hm, should I tell this person something VERY important to their survival? No, it will just worry them..." Or "Is that person really up to something? Are they really planning behind my back? Oh well, I just won't ask them to clear it up." Besides that this book is quite good. The pacing can be a little jumpy, as in the other books, but I never really felt bored. The characters have more complex personalities and ever growing problems. You finally get to hear ALL of Crow's story. And the world is still as clear as our own, and quite complex. And... Can you bear to see Han tread in the midst of the ruthless Wizard council? Find out in *The Crimson Crown*

I loved this series, and it has been a long time since I've been able to say that about books. It's not perfect as others have said, but the things that are questionable are so small compared to what's done right that they're not even worth mentioning. Case in point, I can't even remember them. I adored Raisa and Han as characters, particularly with how smart they consistently are throughout the whole series, and this book doesn't disappoint there. If you're here, you've probably read the other three books though, so just grab this one and know it'll be a great read just like all the others--maybe even better.

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