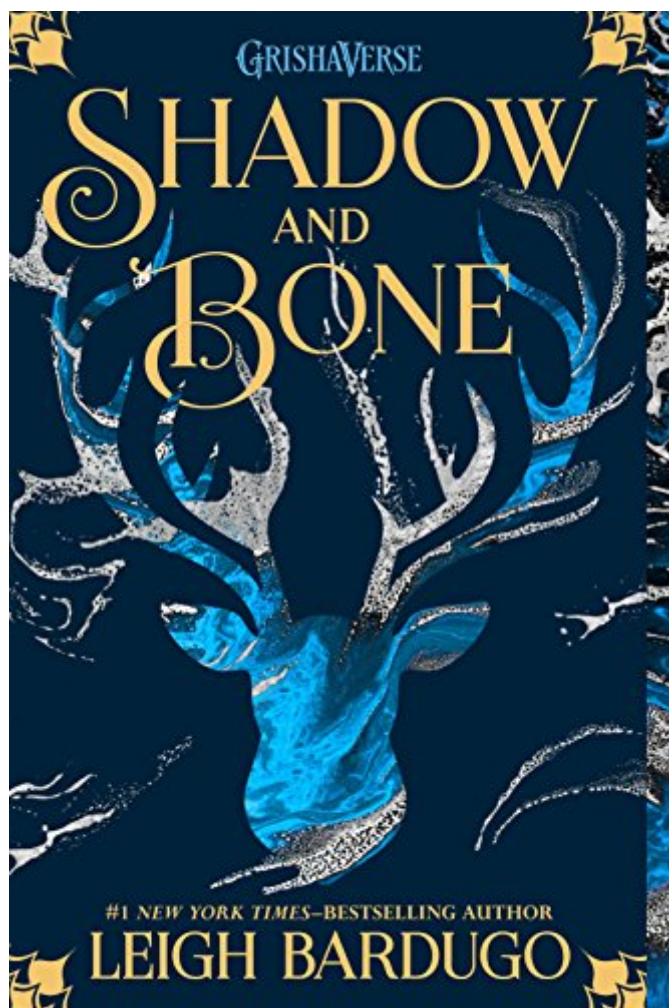


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Shadow And Bone (The Grisha Book 1)



Synopsis

Enter the Grishaverse with Book One of the Shadow and Bone Trilogy by the #1 New York Times “bestselling author of Six of Crows and Crooked Kingdom. Soldier. Summoner. Saint. Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold—a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country’s magical military elite—and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift. As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation. Welcome to Ravka . . . a world of science and superstition where nothing is what it seems. A New York Times Bestseller A Los Angeles Times Bestseller An Indie Next List Book This title has Common Core connections. Praise for the Grishaverse • “The Huffington Post • “Utterly, extremely bewitching.” • “The Guardian • “The best magic universe since Harry Potter.” • “Bustle • “This is what fantasy is for.” • “The New York Times Book Review • “[A] world that feels real enough to have its own passport stamp.” • “NPR • “The darker it gets for the good guys, the better.” • “Entertainment Weekly • “Sultry, sweeping and picturesque. . . . Impossible to put down.” • “USA Today • “There’s a level of emotional and historical sophistication within Bardugo’s original epic fantasy that sets it apart.” • “Vanity Fair • “Unlike anything I’ve ever read.” • “Veronica Roth, bestselling author of Divergent • “Bardugo crafts a first-rate adventure, a poignant romance, and an intriguing mystery!” • “Rick Riordan, bestselling author of the Percy Jackson series • “This is a great choice for teenage fans of George R.R. Martin and J.R.R. Tolkien.” • RT Book Reviews Read all the books in the Grishaverse! The Shadow and Bone Trilogy (previously published as The Grisha Trilogy) Shadow and Bone Siege and Storm Ruin and Rising The Six of Crows Duology Six of Crows Crooked Kingdom The Language of Thorns: Midnight Tales and Dangerous Magic

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Customer Reviews

I felt that this book started off slowly. It took a while to get into the storyline, but after a few chapters I was completely involved in the story. I wasn't sure that I was going to like the story, but I ended up falling in love with the concept and can't wait to read the other books. The world and character building was a little sparse considering that the reader is going into these novels without any idea about the world, the rulers and rules, or the Grisha. I do wish we were given a chapter or so to really explain the Grisha as they are the most fascinating part of the novel. There are these people with powers and you're introduced to what they can do as you see them, but I feel like a reader would connect with the novel more if you understood the hierarchy of the Grisha, the way they categorize powers, and what those powers could entail before we are introduced to the multitude of abilities and fringe characters. The novel progressed at a good pace until it came to the end and then it seems like a number of plot points were just jammed into the conclusion. It felt like the author wrote 87% of their novel and then said, "Shoot. We need the bad guy to accomplish x by the end of the novel, mess up the good guy's life, and then have the good guy come up with a plan that allows them to segue into the next novel... and I've only got 13% of the book left to accomplish it." It just seemed to jump around too much and I would have preferred it if the book was lengthened so that the storyline could be fully fleshed out. Other than those concerns, I did really enjoy the book and look forward to reading the rest of the series. Definitely give it a chance if you like YA and unique magic series like *Sword of Truth* or *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*.

5 outstanding stars!!! One of the more original and fresh books I've read in a long time. Shadow and Bone is the story of two orphans, childhood friends, who only had each other in the world. Now semi-grown up (hence the young adult genre) Alina and Mal are traveling across their country when something happens that will change the course of their lives forever. "I pressed my forehead to Mal's and heard him whisper, 'I'll meet you in the meadow'." Alina is whisked into the world of the Grisha, where she meets the mystifying Darkling. Alina learns she contains the ability to save the world and to help her country win a war that has lasted for over a hundred years. She now has this grand new life presented to her, but Alina wishes to return to her old one with her best friend Mal. This new standing in life has Alina confused as to where she belongs, despite everyone around her insisting they know she is among the elite. "It would have placed you high above the others." "Well, I don't want to be high above all the others." The Darkling is a mystery to Alina, and she does not know what to think of him most of the time or understand his motivations. Despite this, the Darkling wants to and tried to gain Alina's trust. "You're the first glimmer of hope I've had in a long time." Not to spoil too much, but as could be guessed, not everything in Alina's new world is as great as it seems. The court at which she resides is full of secrets and lies, yet surprisingly Alina does not let this ward her off, but just withstands it (in my opinion). What I liked best was the development of Alina's character over time and how she began to understand she needed to unlock secrets and fears within herself to truly grow into what she needed to be. Alina went from being a timid sickly girl into someone who was strong and willing to work hard to obtain great things. Laced with wit and a little humor, Shadow and Bone is easily one of those books where I am mentally kicking myself for not having read it sooner. "Where did you learn to fight like that?" "Grisha training," I whispered dramatically. "Ancient secrets of the groin kick."

This book was better than I expected! I heard mixed reviews, but after finishing I can say that this is undoubtedly a fun read. The story opens with Alina and Mal, both growing up together in an orphanage. They are tested for Grisha abilities, but are deemed normal and join the army. The Grisha are basically magic wielders, although they explain it more like manipulating elements rather than creating magic. I personally love reading anything to do with magic and abilities, so I enjoyed learning about the different types of Grisha. Some summon elements, some manipulate matter and some can even change their appearance. Alina lives in a world where the Shadow Fold has split Ravka in two. The Shadow Fold is basically this huge area of complete darkness that breeds some pretty evil creatures. When Alina is in the Fold she finally discovers a dormant Grisha power. Alina,

unfortunately, bothered me at first. She was so insistent on denying her Grisha abilities that it became annoying. She constantly reminds us how unattractive and unremarkable she is. As the story progressed I did like her more, but never felt a strong connection to her as a character. I do wish the world-building was more developed. We did not get to see much of Alina's world other than the fold and Os Alta until the last 20% of the book. Although I did enjoy the scenes after Alina left Os Alta and we got to see more through her travels. I don't know much about Russian history and culture, but I didn't feel the Russian influence in the book other than the fact that everyone had a Russian name and they drank a lot of kvas. That is just my opinion! From my perspective, it didn't feel different than any other YA novel. I keep thinking of another favorite series- The Girl of Fire and Thorns. In this series, the Spanish influence in the language and culture was obvious to me and gave the book a different feel. I really enjoyed some aspects of the book. Alina has some great sarcastic and witty dialogue. I also love the scene when Alina finally recalls the memory of her being tested for a Grisha ability as a child. This is a great scene and helped me better understand her character. There are also some exciting fight scenes- I loved seeing Alina utilize her training. I also loved watching Mal's character progression. I hope to see more of him in the series. The ending was honestly very abrupt for me. I was starting to think, "Wow this is getting good!" Then it ended. I will read the next book eventually, but for now I will move on to other books. A fun read, but I didn't love it.

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