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The Shadows (Fianna Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

Grace Knox is about to turn seventeen, and the world of Victorian New York society should be opening to her—â• a time of dances and parties and boys vying for her heart and her hand. Instead, Grace’s world is closing in: the family business is gone; her brother is drinking and gambling away whatever is left; her widowed mother cannot cope; and her grandmother is slipping into madness. And now Grace is having disturbing dreams of ancient battles. Grace’s only hope is to marry Patrick Devlin and let his fortune save them all. But she isn’t sure she loves Patrick, and she doesn’t share his passion to free Ireland from British rule. Why look to Ireland when there is so much poverty and despair here? Then Grace meets Diarmid, an Irish stableboy. Being with him means losing everything. But the secrets and mystery surrounding him are too compelling to ignore. Soon Grace is drawn into his world of legend and heroes, magic and prophecy—the world of her dreams—â• where her own choice between faith and fear holds the greatest power of all.

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Customer Reviews

I have never read this author before but I am a big fan of YA historical fiction/fantasy and Celtic Folklore. This book is breathlessly compelling, I was frantically turning the pages to see what would happen. There was almost a Gothic tone to the story which I love. The narrative is told by three characters :Grace- a 17 yo girl whose family is newly impoverished. She has mysterious dreams and flash backs and holds together her family. Although she doesn't know it, she is a descendant of a Druid priestess and tied to the Fianna (a group of ancient Celtic warriors).Patrick- One of Grace's love interests. He is passionate about supporting the Irish cause against British rule.Diarmid- an ancient Celtic warrior who along with his co-warriors, the Fianna, was put into eternal sleep by a Druid and a priestess. They have awakened after being called by Grace's horn at the hands of Patrick. This is a very simplistic summary for a wonderfully complex plot steeped in Celtic folklore.I couldn't put the book down!Be warned, the book ends on a big cliff hanger- I can't wait to get my hands on the sequel.Although I am definitely not in the YA age group anymore, I really loved it!

After reading Megan Chance's adult novel "Bone River" and finding it a good read, I decided to give "The Shadows: the first book in the Fianna Trilogy" a go. The read, although not intriguing enough to be deemed "un-put-downable" is a page-turner and will appeal to those who enjoy the supernatural interspersed with the dreams and aspirations of a young unprepared girl.Main character, Grace, or Grainne, lives in the New York of the late 19th century; of Irish descent, she and her mother, grandmother and brother have fallen on hard times. Grace's first person voice explains their circumstance and their hopes that she will make a good marriage with wistful sentiment. The object of her attraction is the handsome Patrick Devlin, another Irish-American who has interest in freeing his once homeland from British oppression. Passionate, attractive Patrick is a dream come true--that is until Grace lays eyes upon the dynamic Derry--the hot stable boy--with whom her friend, Patrick's sister, Lucy, has fallen madly in love.Thinking her life and its problems had reached a happy settlement, Grace struggles with her feelings, and her sense of propriety, vacillating between both men without realizing that behind the headaches and nightmares that have plagued her since childhood, an explanation emerges--one that is ludicrous and phenomenal in its implication."The Shadows" is only the first chapter in the trilogy--it does not stand alone with complete resolution, so, readers, be prepared to indulge in the entire trilogy if you like the author's style.Chance tells her tale from Grace's first person perspective, but also from Derry or Diarmid's and Patrick's third person view. Her juxtaposing of Irish legend with the world of late 19th century New York ripples with fun, especially since Grace cannot help but be a young romantic girl that while intent on her duty is nevertheless caught in the middle of events she cannot quite grasp, yet

plays an intrinsic role. Bottom line? Megan Chance's young adult novel, "The Shadows" is an entertaining read that will introduce its readers to Irish mythology while entitling them to a view of a young girl's heart. G-rated, it reflects the propriety of the Victorian era and although does not grab the reader with the emotional impact of Chance's adult novel "Bone River," it still prompts the reader forward to discover the next installment -- the second book in the trilogy -- The Web (Fianna Trilogy). Those expecting a complete story, look elsewhere. "The Shadows" ends with everything in chaos with little resolution other than Grace's choice of man--which can, of course, change at the author's discretion.:) Recommended. Diana Faillace Von Behren "Buzzard's Eye View"

Grace Knox's life has its challenges- her father's bankrupt business during a depression, her brother's gambling and boozing away with the family's resources, lawsuits, sick grandmother and absentee mom. Her hopes for herself and her family lie with marrying a rich man. Her childhood sweetheart, Patrick Devlin, who has just returned from Ireland, may be her answer. Patrick has seen the overwhelming despair in Ireland with the English landlords, who cared little for their tenants and all aid was virtually cut off. Patrick uses some Irish relics to bring the Fianna's warriors to life. Fianna's warriors, an Irish tale from the Middle Ages, who fought beside a druid to conquer against another faction, the Fomori. The Fomori is another Irish legend of supernatural race that wreaks havoc, chaos and mayhem was also called by Patrick, when he did not hear from the Fianna's warriors. This story is written well and the characters are great. I was surprised to see it was written for young adults, but then some of these authors are great unknowns. I rushed to the next book.

I enjoyed this slower paced story with its more subtle magic than what I'd been reading. The earlier time period and gentler manners are refreshing, too.

trilogy

I don't typically read YA but I love historical fiction and sometimes read fantasy. I also enjoy reading about Ireland and traditional Irish culture and legends. This book has all of that!! The Shadows is the first in the Fianna Trilogy. I simply devoured these books, and even now, months later I keep thinking about the characters and the story. Definitely recommend!

I adored this book. It was well written, interesting, and, a major plus in my book, had me wanting to go home as quickly as possible at the end of the day so I could keep reading it. While I'm not so well

versed with the Fianna as a whole as I am with Diarmuid and Grianne, I honestly enjoyed the perspective the author gave us in this novel that reintroduced these fairy-tale like characters to us. I'm really excited for the sequel to be released!

This is the second book I've read by Ms. Chance. Definitely different than Bone River, but excellent all the same. I was, however, taken aback by the ending, which is why I didn't give it five stars. However, once finished, I discovered it's the first book a trilogy, so I guess I'll read on and may return to give it five.

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