



The Path to the Sun

Kimberli A. Bindschatel

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You do not question The Way. Every Toran knows this, even Kiran, a lowly orphan. But at age sixteen, he's still tormented by doubt. So when he and six other teens embark on a quest to save their drought-stricken village, for Kiran, it's a chance to seek the truth. With only an ancient scroll to guide them, they must navigate a world of shamans and witches, headhunters and slave traders, as they journey across flatlands rife with wind demons, raft a river whose spirit rages in a fury of whitewater, and cut through a jungle inhabited by cannibals, all the while evading the demon Mawghuls that lurk in every dark crevice. Lost and struggling to survive, Kiran must decide whether to remain faithful to The Way or trust in the wisdom of the so-called heathen savages. His revelation forces him to question everything he was taught to believe. For, in the quest for truth, one must ask: what is truth?

The Path to the Sun Details

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From Reader Review The Path to the Sun for online ebook

Nicole says

I received this book free from the author, it took me awhile but I was finally able to read it. Once I started it was hard to put it down, at times the writing seems naive and childish but a moment later it matured; the two are woven so finely together that I don't mind the areas of naivety. I'm guessing (because I didn't check) that this is a young-adult novel, so I shouldn't get peeved at the sections that read that younger naivety, but after it reverts back to a more "adult" voice it dawns on me that, the character are still "kids." This type of Voice is totally normal.

There were a few areas, that I wish had been expanded on, but for about the same reason as above, it didn't bother me as much once I kept reading. I love the realizations Kiran makes, it is like "faith in humanity" ... well until you meet Elder Morgan through and through. I'm not totally clear on things but I think he did that to Aldwyn, and Elder Wregan.

The ending didn't leave much of an opening for a second book, but i'm looking forward to it to see where the story goes.

April Parker says

What an excellent book. It takes you on a journey to differnt places, religions, ideas, thrills, heartache, pretty much what we all must face at some point in our lifetime. If you have ever traveled to another country and are trying to learn a new culture and be open to it, then you can identify with the main character. Often people are not open to change and want others to change to meet their needs. We are all close minded in some respect and this book was very enlightening about that journey of self discovery.

What we find in the end may or may not be what we expect. Kimberli did an excellent job of keeping me engaged in this book and wanting to know what was going to happen next to the main characters.

This is a must read.

Erin Fanning says

In a story that literally takes the reader in a full circle, Kimberli Bindschadler blends a page-turning adventure with a thoughtful message about leadership, authority, and tradition. It's an impossible-to-put-down mixture of gorgeous prose and imaginative plotting that takes the reader through jungles and wild rivers, encounters with head hunters and cultists, and tests the main characters survival skills to their limits. I'm looking forward to the sequel!

Bernie says

I enjoyed the book very much. The characters were well developed and a pleasure to get to know. I look forward to the next book.

Susan says

The story is full of action and adventure. the characters seem so real. My heart want out to kiran. great job

Eliza Leone says

An 'everything but the kitchen sink' novel!

#fantasy

3 Stars!

Series: book 1: The Fallen Shadows Trilogy

Characters: Kiran

Setting: fictitious world

Mature Themes: violence, murder, death & sex

Recommendation: This is a tricky one. Fantasy and epic quest readers will absolutely enjoy this novel.

Politics, religion, personal interplay, all of these themes are present and not for the lover of "fluffy" reads. If you can get past the high religious content this is a wonderful, fully realized epic adventure.

What a full read this was. Kiran is a young orphan from a small village set in its ways and traditions. When he's chosen to go on an epic quest to save his village he's confused and filled with self doubt. Kiran and his six other companion set out across the world in search of something they know nothing of except a single legend and an old scroll given to them in secret. Their journey is filled with hardships, the need for blind faith, and great loss.

The plot was long and complicated. Kiran and his friends meet so many different cultures and religions along their journey that the middle of the story seemed to drag when compared to the urgency of the beginning and excitement of the end. The main plot driver of this book almost landed it on my did not finish shelf, religion, a LOT of it. Every culture had a different one, and each was victimized by at least one of the seven travelers, including their own. While the struggles the young travelers experience with regard to religion feels accurate, it's also not what I enjoy reading, especially close to four-hundred pages of it.

The setting of the novel is epic...really epic. There are so many places they travel to and all are described in exquisite detail. This was the highlight of the novel. More than once I found myself re-reading passages so I could re-visualize the scenery and bask in it's depth. Each of the indigenous people in these areas are so well written to match their surroundings they make you feel as if they are real and the author has first hand knowledge with them all.

Last but not least, characters. Kiran and his friends are an interesting bunch. The scholar, the brute, the beautiful girl, the religious man, etc. Each personality was developed well and enough to satisfy the need their role hand for the larger plot. The dynamic between characters was real and at some points heart wrenching and made you want to scream at them.

Alysa H. says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Like many other reviewers, I was a little concerned at first that this would be a religious book. But while of course belief, faith, and spirituality are among its central themes, this novel is actually an impressive coming-of-age adventure travelogue that ultimately shows the importance of questioning what one is told, respecting different ideas and peoples, and understanding that all systems of belief are just different ways that humans have developed of trying to explain "What Is", as one of the characters puts it. I'm not the least bit religious (I generally identify as an atheist) so I can definitely get behind this message.

Kiran is a great protagonist, because it's easy to see through his eyes at different points in the story and at different points in his personal development. He and the six other youths with whom he's set out on his epic quest are all pretty well drawn, too, though some more than others, which largely (and understandably) depends on the amount of time they spend in Kiran's tale.

Bindschatel obviously has a talent for descriptive writing that doesn't feel overblown, even when she goes on for many pages about the jungle, the river, the desert, and what have you. She also shows sensitivity when trying to depict people of different races, tribes, etc., although I do wonder whether she'd be able to pull off the same trick in a novel with a more modern context (this book takes place in a kind of imagined ancient past). I have similar feelings about how sexism is implied here to be a bad thing, but not in a way where the narrative tries to hit you over the head with it. The female characters are all great; Kiran doesn't seem to have a sexist bone in his body, but plenty of other male characters do and are shown to be in the wrong.

This is a long and absolutely finished work. So I'm a bit perplexed that Bindschatel has planned a trilogy. I'm kind of hoping that, rather than continuing Kiran's story, the trilogy will be more abstract. Perhaps two more books on the same theme or set in the same world, but with different characters or places entirely? I feel like too many authors feel pressure to write series when a stand-alone novel can be even more powerful.

Aubrie says

When a group of chosen teenagers set out on an adventure no one else was thought to have ever experienced, they can't help but believe they are destined for something great, something fate has selected for them. Determined to find the Voice of the Father, the only thing that can save their destitute village, the young group quickly learns what a large world survives outside the boundaries of the only home they have ever known. Facing devilish storms, foreign friends and foes, a sea at the end of the world, or possibly even the startling discover that the world never ends, just begins again, some eyes will open to truths that were always there, but never seen.

Let the next great odyssey begin.

High Notes: Kimberli Bindschatel is a beautiful wordsmith. The combination of dialogue and prose is just enough to always keep you thinking, wondering if the narrative the young protagonists are delivering can be trusted. Are their beliefs and perceptions accurate, or have they been deluded by the traditions, religion, and

storytellings of their forefathers?

Equally as interesting is how the relationships between these teenagers change as power shifts, romances flair, friendships are tested, and pasts are unearthed. Characters are equally as important as plot and underlying philosophies, which I find rare.

Low Notes: Currently, there is no known date for the release of the second book! What could be more ominous?

Dalena says

Before I begin, I'd like to thank the author for giving me a chance to read this book.

So the review.

I don't even know where to begin, in all honesty. I'm just hoping that my thoughts will clearly be expressed in the review, but I know it won't. I don't think anything can really express how I feel about this book; you just kind of have to read it and see for yourself. That's just the kind of book it is.

When I first started this book, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know who the main character was, what to expect, or even what the story was about.

I do now, of course. But the thing is, you see, I don't think I can look at things the same way.

I didn't read this book. I was a part of it. I learned things the same way the characters did, and the things I've learned from this experience will remain with me for a very long time, just like with the characters. The characters were new to this whole world, like I was, because they never ventured outside of their town, and I think that played a huge role in my relationship with the characters. I was experiencing new things and seeing everything in a whole different light each time they did because the characters and I were all in the same boat. We were all just kind of working our way towards the truth with each other.

The characters were all pretty well-written. You got a sense of their personality really quickly, and even though I didn't really like most of them in the beginning, towards the end it didn't really matter. I felt connected to them in a way so strong after this book was over that it didn't really matter how I felt about them anymore. It was like entering a lion's den with somebody I didn't like, but coming out of it, with the sense of relief, I realized that I didn't really hate that person--that we were both victims to the same thing and survived together. Bonds like those are hard to break and forget.

As much as I would like to ramble on about each of the characters though (like my beloved Roh), only one gets an honorable mention in this review.

Kiran.

When you look from his journey from the beginning of this novel to the end, you don't see the same person. He's very naive and foolish in the beginning, but towards the end, his experiences have changed him in a way that has forever altered his mind. He's wiser and much more knowledgeable about the world and sees it in a different way than he did in the beginning. He has learned so much throughout his journey and has suffered through too many losses for them to not take a hold of his mind.

He learned that believing wasn't really seeing.

He learned that faith is the hardest thing you can break.

He learned that others couldn't tell him what to think, or what to believe, and that only he had the power to do that.

And I came out of this book learning these things too, knowing these things before reading, but not really fully understanding them until reading this book.

This book taught me things I don't really think I can forget, and I think that's one of the most important things a book can really do to you.

So, basically, you should try reading this book. You might not like it, you might do, and it's cool either way, but I feel like everyone should at least give this book a try. You never know what you might learn from this story.

And give it at least halfway through. I promise it gets a lot better after halfway. It just takes time, just like Kiran's journey into the truth did.

Maisa Hamdan says

Okay, first I want to say that I won an ARC of this book from Goodreads. And I won it a long time ago. I don't know what to say about this book. I started it a long time ago and I'm no longer able of conveying all my feelings and thoughts about it. But still, I'll try. I had a couple of chapters left in the book before I weirdly just dropped it months ago. I got so far in it I should have finished it then, but here I am. One year later.

This book, when it started, I didn't really know what it was going to be about. I thought it was some adventure novel that dealt with survival and an awesome heroic journey. It was clear that the Torans were living from long ago, so their beliefs did not faze me. They believed in the Voice of the Father and attributed a drought to their sins. So off these seven (7? I actually don't remember) kids go to find the voice of the father at the edge of the sea. Yes, they don't know the earth is round. This is where the book has awesome moments, and not so awesome moments. I could describe the writing like that as well. The writing at times seemed formal to match the tribal sense of everything, but then seemed conversational and modern. Still, that wasn't a big deal. What was a big deal was how much things dragged on and I think it was just too long. I mean, cool stuff happens when they meet all these new people, the nice and the not-so-nice, and try to get themselves out of dire situations. People die, which was fine with me. Some of the parts were exciting but most of them were boring, which in the end caused me to drop the book several times.

Now, characters and character development are some of my favorite things in novels. I can't say I was too crazy about these characters. I liked Roh the most and was disappointed at first that he wasn't the protagonist and that Karin was. Karin seemed too boring and unwise to me, if that makes sense. But in the end, his character traits proved to be essential for the ending of the book. Even though everything dragged on and got boring, it was kind of worth in the end. I just found the end so satisfying, with Karin realizing the truth and growing as a person. It was like a religious person turned atheist. I am an atheist and I could relate and feel satisfied when Karin saw that everything presented in the holy scrolls provided to them by the elders was just metaphorical and that he shouldn't be told what to believe. Really, his journey was not a quest to reach the great Father and receive his blessing, but it was a quest for the truth. But in the end, everyone believes whatever he/she wants to, and the truth matters no more.

Oh, and rest assured. Karin does indeed find out that the earth is round.

Amanda says

Honestly, I was a bit concerned at how religious this book was clearly heading. I am not religious and feared I was being drawn into another religious story masqueraded as something else. Luckily, I persevered and found myself quite pleasantly proven wrong.

While the story is about teens and their unquestioned devotion to blind faith (the Way), we are taken along for the journey that allows them to see the world through unblinded eyes. And we learn that skepticism is a necessity if we want to have a happy and fulfilled life; A life led by your heart, not by arbitrary rules that

force unnatural behaviors.

I look forward to reading more of this story.

Chris Norbury says

I was wary when I started to read "The Path to the Sun" because I'm neither a big fan of, nor an expert on, YA and fantasy stories. But a few pages into the first chapter I became engrossed in the story, and genre was forgotten.

Kiran is a devoted but confused young man yearning to belong in his society (Who hasn't felt that at least once in their lives?). He is thrust into the adventure of his young life when he's chosen to go on a quest with six other young men and women from his village to find the Voice of the Father and gain His blessing/wisdom in hopes of ending a devastating drought.

Along the way, Kiran quietly grows into a confident young man as he survives one serious test after another, and emerges a strong leader of his people, although he's still humbled by self-perception and doubt about the belief system that cost the lives of some of his comrades in what ultimately seemed to be a futile quest to him.

The writing is clean, clear, well-paced and woven with subplots and themes that reflect each of our lives: love, faith, friendship, humility, courage. The author's style is just formal enough to imply an old, mythical, primitive world, but modern enough for today's younger readers. It's an excellent start to a promising trilogy.

Linda Smith says

Path to the sun was an exciting read. The characters were very well developed with all their quirks and shortcoming right out there for the reader to see. They were also noble and brave, willing to do what ever necessary to save their village. Some I loved and some...well not so much. And that was the beauty of it; even the characters I didn't like were fun to read about and multidimensional.

This story was full of action with the characters facing real danger frequently. The author did a good job showing how the characters grew and changed while on the quest. She also did a magnificent job creating the setting. Once I started reading this I couldn't put it down. I look forward to the next book in the series.

John Watt says

*****Spoiler Alert***** Do not read if you do not want to find out about events in the book.

I really like this book. It stirred many emotions in me which is always a good sign.... I felt myself aggravated, sad, dumbfounded, happy, excited and many more emotions at various points in the book. I find

this review tough to write... I am smugly satisfied with the fate of several of the seven "pilgrims" and found myself thinking "About time!!" when Deke met with his fate. The symbolism, allegory, and cultural comparisons in this book were well done and I found myself able to relate each group to some culture I have have read about or come across. I could go on and on about various comparisons, but I will try and keep this review to the point of the book and I don't want to influence anyone's comparisons. Very well thought out!! The growth of the three surviving characters was written well as the struggled with their narrowminded faith. The unknown fate of Roh and the end of the book with Kiran left me wanting to know more. It just left me hanging ... I can't imagine Kiran staying with the knowledge he gained and it will be interesting to see if there is more to come.

All in all an excellent story!!

Jill says

Just won a free e-book of this and can't wait to read it! Thank you :D
