



The Shadow World

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Ben Arnold had hoped that exposing Mr. Dodds's vile Pet Emporium -- a business that stole magical creatures from Eidolon to sell to England's rich and curious -- would prevent the Secret Country from fading away into ruin. However, it soon becomes clear that the evil, dog-headed Dodman's reign of terror has only just begun. Ben's mother, Queen Isadora, returns to her homeland to lead its creatures against the Dodman. Unwilling to be left behind, Ben's sister, Ellie, crosses into the Secret Country and walks straight into a trap. Ben and his father follow close behind, and soon the entire Arnold family is scattered across Eidolon's magical and dangerous terrain. The Arnold children are destined to save the Secret Country, but first they must save each other.

The Shadow World Details

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Author : Jane Johnson

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From Reader Review The Shadow World for online ebook

Nate says

Have you ever bought a book because it had a shirtless centaur on the cover? No, only me? Oh well.

It's true, though. I did buy it only because of the halfnaked (or entirely naked? Is fur considered to be clothing?) longhaired man who adored the pocketbook.

Before I bought it, I knew nothing of the book, or the series it belonged to, or the author who wrote it. I found it in a €1 bin in Malta, and as I had forgotten my pile of books to read by the pool that summer, I had to acquire a new pile in shabby tourist shops around the island. This one caught my eye because it was quite honestly the only book which didn't look like it had been sold and resold to countless other tourists before me - and, of course, the centaur - so the fact that it was quite obviously targeted at children, I bought it. €1 isn't that much of a deal anyways.

And I liked the book, that much I remember. But I don't remember much more, sadly enough. It's been over 4 years since I read it, and while I do remember that I enjoyed the book in the shadows by the sea a week into our vacation, I cannot for the love of me even remember the handsome centaur's name. Oh well. It's definitely okay, though.

Jono Mcdermott says

The thrilling sequel to The Secret Country, following the fun, exciting and original adventures of Ben Arnold—Prince of Eidolon—and his friends Iggy the cat, Darius the centaur, Silver the selkie; his sister Ellie, and his mother, the Queen, as they battle the notorious Dodman in his evil quest to absorb all the magic in the world and rule Eidolon forever!

Perfect for children of all ages, The Shadow World is everything the middle book in a trilogy needs to be: fast, original and hugely entertaining!

Indah W says

This is actually a pretty nice story but dunno why it took me ages to finish reading it, ahahahaha :p

But it's always nice to read something about the other world, or in this case, the shadow world where the people you see "here" where we live might seem different "there" in the shadow world, they might become monsters-look..

Ahahaha.. guess that I didn't share anything of what the book is all about, eh? :p

Brian says

An excellent continuation of the story, taking the entire family into the magical world to fight the Doddman (Anubis). Great characters and good plot twists.

Heather says

Intriguing fantasy, book two in the series. It was a little flat for me. I was invested enough in the story from book one that I wanted to see where it would go. And the ending was sufficient for me to want to read the next book. However, it is a child's book and not particularly riveting for most adults. There is a little humor in it, though it's subtle.

I was reading to approve it for my son, who is 7. I did let him read it, but I would caution other parents of sensitive children that there is a little unexpected violence against fairies. Most kids who would be interested in this level of reading probably would not have a problem with it, but if you have a younger reader, you may want to read it first. The bad guys are obviously bad, but there is a character who seems good, but a paragraph in the book calls him into question and it is not resolved in this book.

Parts of it just don't make sense, but again, for children who aren't bothered by certain inconsistencies in a supposedly magical world, it's a fine book.

Karen says

The story wasn't bad, if entirely predictable (even for a child), but it still wasn't bad. I do have to wonder why so many prophecies in books have to be written in doggerel.

Loralee says

This is very cute! I don't read as many MG novels anymore as YA, but this one had a good plot and characters, and painted a well-detailed, enjoyable picture both of an English town and the secret magical world it connects to. The boy Ben from book 1 is a great character, and his fashion-conscious sister Ellie is great here as well as she stumbles into a magical kingdom, loses her favorite sandals, offers an ogre some lipstick, flatters her way past various monsters, and works with her brother to save their family. I'm into book 3 now, and grateful that the librarian recommended these when I was hunting for books for my daughter!

Zachary says

Spectacular in the utmost way.

It shows that no matter how hard evil tries, it will always have to give way to good.

EAL says

Humor and action mixed uneasily. Caricatures instead of characters. Astonishing carelessness with the Book of Names (that was what it was called, right?).

Shirleyh says

The shadow world , I personally did not really enjoy the book that much. I say this because it just did not really like many parts of the book for example “ben had been vainly hoping that maybe , just maybe, he had missed his sister among the crowds and that he would somehow find her back by the car even though he knew deep down that he would not “ i did not get why he did not just go and look for her if she was that important and I guess I was just a little confused in some chapters. I do not really recommend this book unless you really like books that are of fantasy and mythical/magical genres.

Katy says

This is the second book in this trilogy (I'm pretty sure it will only be a trilogy), but I'm not really sure what the point was. Other than one event at the *very* end (like the last 2 pages) it didn't feel like the story that started with *The Secret Country*. That said, overall, it was an enjoyable read.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Carrie Spellman for TeensReadToo.com

Time has passed since Ben Arnold ventured into The Secret Country. He's hoping that what he did there was enough to save what is left of its creatures, and land, and his mother. She's doing so much better now! But, Ben knows in his heart that eventually his mother will have to go back and assume her rightful role as Queen of Eidolon.

Knowing, and hoping against it, can't possibly prepare Ben for how quickly that day comes. Even though part of Ben hopes that he might be able to go, too. Imagine his surprise, and the rest of the family's shock, when Isadora announces that she's taking baby Alice with her, and that Alice is destined to be Eidolon's next queen! Ben is speechless, big sister Ellie is jealous, and Dad is more than a little bit concerned.

Isadora and Alice are escorted through the door to Eidolon by a centaur, with good old Iggy in tow, but not before discovering that baby Alice has suddenly started talking, and seems to know everyone's name. And Ellie forms a little crush on the centaur. Ellie sends her father and Ben back to the car so she can be alone for a minute. Presumably she is upset, but what she really wants is a chance to explore the entrance. When she disappears through it, Ben and his father have no choice but to follow.

Suddenly everyone seems to be in a huge mess! Ellie is captured by the Dodman and locked in a dungeon. Ben has to rescue her, without letting his mom find out -- she has enough to worry about. Isadora is trying to form alliances and put her country back together. And Dad, well, it's easier to just put him in an enchanted sleep.

Ben seems almost worse off than before. Not only are there a whole bunch of new creatures who may or may not be friends, there are old enemies that he knows enough to be afraid of, plus his big sister to rescue, and his parents and baby sister to worry about! With the help of new and old allies, and a mysterious prophecy, they should be able to make it out alive and relatively unharmed. Right?

The characters from the first book just get more and more interesting as the story continues, and the new ones are great fun, too! The adventures continue almost non-stop as well. And everything has just the right edge of humor mixed in. If you liked THE SECRET COUNTRY, you won't be disappointed in THE SHADOW WORLD. And if you're anything like me, you'll be waiting very anxiously for the next book to find out the fate of the Arnold family and Eidolon.

Grace says

I love this sequel, I thought the Secret Country was interesting and suspenseful, and full of mystery, but this book just about tops it.

Sara says

Not as good as I would have hoped..

Kimberly says

Cute story. Great for children getting into fantasy.
