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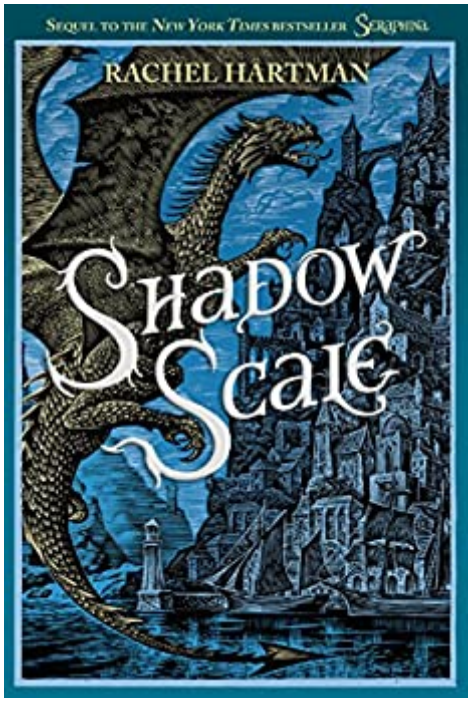
Shadow Scale: A Companion To Seraphina



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Synopsis

Seraphina took the literary world by storm with 8 starred reviews and numerous Ã¢â ¬Å“Best ofÃ¢â ¬Â• lists. At last, her eagerly awaited sequel has arrivedÃ¢â ¬â •and with it comes an epic battle between humans and dragons. Ã Â The kingdom of Goredd: a world where humans and dragons share life with an uneasy balance, and those few who are both human and dragon must hide the truth. Seraphina is one of these, part girl, part dragon, who is reluctantly drawn into the politics of her world. When war breaks out between the dragons and humans, she must travel the lands to find those like herselfÃ¢â ¬â •for she has an inexplicable connection to all of them, and together they will be able to fight the dragons in powerful, magical ways. Ã Â As Seraphina gathers this motley crew, she is pursued by humans who want to stop her. But the most terrifying is another half dragon, who can creep into peopleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s minds and take them over. Until now, Seraphina has kept her mind safe from intruders, but that also means sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s held back her own gift. It is time to make a choice: Cling to the safety of her old life, or embrace a powerful new destiny? Ã Â Praise for Seraphina: Ã Â A New York Times Bestseller An Indie Bestseller Winner of the William C. Morris Debut Award Winner of the Cybil Award for Teen Fantasy and Science Fiction An Top 20 Teen Book of the Year A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year A Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of the Year A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Library Journal Best Young Adult Literature for Adults Selection A Booklist EditorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Choice An ABA New Voices Pick A Publishers Weekly Flying Start Author An ALA-ALSC Notable ChildrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Book An ALA-YALSA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults Book Recipient of 8 Starred Reviews Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Beautifully written, well-rounded characters, and some of the most interesting dragons IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve read in fantasy for a long while. An impressive debut novel; I canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t wait to see what Rachel Hartman writes next.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Christopher Paolini, New York Times bestselling author of Eragon Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A novel that will appeal to both fans of Christopher PaoliniÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Eragon series and Robin McKinleyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Hero and the Crown.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Entertainment Weekly

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read Seraphina back in 2013 and was thrilled last year to learn there would be a sequel. I was lucky enough to get approved for the ARC of Shadow Scale on Netgalley just days before its release earlier this year. I put off reading it. Seraphina was one of my top reads in 2013, I was worried that I wouldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t remember much of the complicated world and that the sequel wouldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t live up to the first book. To prepare myself, I checked out the audiobook of Seraphina and immersed myself in the world of Goredd again.Re-reading Seraphina helped me become familiar with the world and odd language again. Upon initial examination, I can see how the immense size of Shadow Scale (608 pages!) can be overwhelming, daunting even. And once I finished, I can understand how some might be disappointed in how SeraphinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s journey came to an end. Personally, I adored Shadow Scale.Shadow Scale gets a thumbs up from me. It goes against the typical young adult tropes of love triangles and end of the world extremes. I was mesmerized by SeraphinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s journey. I was delighted by some of her grotesques and terrified by others. There are some wonderful revelations that are deftly handled. In the end, IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m happy I decided to read Shadow Scale. I hope my library gets the audiobook version soon!Shadow Scale wraps up SeraphinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s journey of self-discovery. After years in near draconic isolation, she is forced out in the world encountering situations and feelings she has been denied because of what she is. I was fascinated by how the different countries treated Seraphina and others like her. It was a reflection of how the actual world often treats people who have real or perceived differences. I often asked myself, as I was reading, if I was more like the people of Porphyry or the citizens of

SamSam when I encounter others? I hope I am like those living in Porphyry.I adored the others that Seraphina shared her journey with. Abdo was my absolute favorite. His joie de vivre poured off the page and was infectious. When Abdo graced a scene, my heart sang. I always seemed to have a smile on my face when he was bounced around the page. My heart broke when he faced the greatest villain. It was difficult to see someone so full of life suffer so greatly.Believe it or not, the dragons brought a bit a humor to the story. The Comonont is forced to stay in his saarantras for most of the novel. His bumblings and attempts to cope with human emotion brought me some laugh out loud moments. Later in the novel, the Comonot actually transforms back to his saarantras JUST to feel a certain emotion he had not experienced yet. It was quite an embarrassing moment for Seraphina!IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m sure that some readers were hoping for more romance between Kiggs and Seraphina. I was happy that it stayed in the background as they had planned near the end of book one. I was happy with how Hartman handled their relationship and didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t mind that not all the details were shared. After all, in my opinion, this is not a book about Seraphina finding love. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a book about Seraphina finding herself.

With its logic-driven shape-shifting dragons, arcane saint-filled religion, and music permeated, culturally rich, Medieval-like setting, Seraphina by Rachel Hartman is easily of my favorite books of all time. I love its sequel, Shadow Scale, almost as much.The world building continues to be among the most wonderful I've encountered. In Shadow Scale, Seraphina is on a quest to collect other half human/half dragons like herself, which takes her away from her homeland of Goredd and into the surrounding countryside. She travels around three human kingdoms, Ninys, Samsam and Porphyry, each with its own history, culture, landscapes, politics, traditions, and relationship with the dragons, and all so vividly imagined that I feel I've walked through those lands myself. Seraphina also spends time in Tanamoot, the mountainous home range of dragons, where the immense ash-scented reptiles soar through the skies and lumber on land in their natural forms.A lot of things introduced in the first book are explained further in Shadow Scale. During her journey around the kingdoms Seraphina discovers more about the origin of the saint based religion that all the humans have some connection to, though it's interpreted with interesting differences in the various lands she visits. She also learns more about the many forms and unique abilities of her fellow half dragons, and each of the curious beings in her mental garden plays some role in the story.Shadow Scale opens with a Prelude you can skip if you've recently read Seraphina. It goes over information from the first book that readers might have forgotten, but because it's written as if it's by someone living far in the future, long after the events of both books, there were a few bits of implied information

about how Shadow Scale ends that I would have preferred not to know, though they weren't major spoilers.My only complaint about Shadow Scale is I wish there was more. The resolution of the triangulated relationship between Glisselda, Kiggs, and Seraphina is bold but rushed over right at the end and not completely satisfying. I also felt that with a little more time some of the individual powers of half dragons could have been put to more use--I had hoped the soul or mind animated mechanicals shy Blanche surrounds herself with could have played more of a role in the plot. And at the end of the story I was left wanting to know more about what happens with the people and dragons back in Goredd after the resolution of the conflict, since we hadn't spent much time there or with any of them.Basically I love the series so much I greedily want another book, so I was very happy to learn Hartman is planning another duology in the same world--it's a world she's been creating stories about for many years, first in a series of comic books. For now at least we have these two books--both Seraphina and Shadow Scale are so rich and immersive I know I'll be re-reading them again and again.

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