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The Exiled Queen: A Seven Realms Novel



Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author Cinda Williams Chima has been crafting riveting novels since her days in middle school. In *The Exiled Queen*, 17-year-old ex-Ragmarket street lord Han Alister is pursuing an education in magical arts. To stand up to the haters at the academy, he joins forces with a mysterious wizard-but soon discovers the price may be more than he's willing to pay.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *The Exiled Queen*, Cinda Williams Chima takes her two main protagonists and the readers away from all they had known before and sent to the neutral city of Oden's Ford. However, the journeys there and their experiences are not without hazard or excitement which keeps the reader very much engaged. Chima continues the growth of her main characters as well as several secondary ones which helps develop the story, nor do Raisa (aka Rebecca) and Han really meet once again until over halfway through the book giving their story arcs independence from one another even as they interact. Through both character's stories, the world and history of the Seven Realms is further explored without taking away from the narrative flow of the book and putting in building blocks for later in the series. Although a few things aren't exactly explained to satisfaction given their importance or revelation in this book, I can't really complain. The events of the last 100 pages not only were a pay off of what developed since page 1, but also left me wanting to see what happens in *The Gray Wolf Throne*.

I was really excited to get into the magic part of this series. I've seen some comparisons to Harry Potter, but other than they go to a school to learn how to harness magic, it reads nothing like J.K. Rowling's books. Nor is the school anything like Hogwarts. It took a while to get to Oden's Ford (wizards/military school) but the book was fast-paced and chock full of awesomeness. Chima is an incredibly talented writer and creates a world that I can't wait to escape to. The only thing that disappointed me was that there were too many gaps in the schooling. I wanted to see more of the classroom, whether it was with Han learning to use his amulet or Raisa learning to be a soldier. I was so excited to see what would happen next that I burned through the book. I would definitely recommend this series to anyone who loves a good YA fantasy. I can't wait to start the next book!!

I am honestly really love this series. Although some elements are quite predictable (at least to me) everything remains entertaining just the same. I like that we got a change in setting for this novel. Call it the old Harry Potter lover in me, there is just something nostalgic about wizardry and school. Additionally, I am happy that we got to learn more about the many of the characters we were already introduced to. The protagonists continue to be flawed but root-able. The world they live in on course becomes far more complicated and interesting. I like Han and Raisa both are individuals and together. I like their friends and their struggles. Han and Dancer continue to be a great dynamic. They are very two very different people, but their friendship balances them. As for Amon and Raisa, despite being a big supporter of Han and Raisa, I truly feel for these two. In another life, under different circumstances they could have been really happy together. I like Amon, and honestly if there were some other girl that I could picture Han with I might not have minded if the author put Amon and Raisa together.

I've never been a huge fan of young adult novels, but I was looking for a quick read like the Hunger Games. One of my friends recommended this series, and it was about what I expected. It keeps your attention for the most part, and I was surprised by how I liked the female lead in the first book and still in the second (She gets more annoying later on in my opinion). Sure she has a lot of the YA genre cliches, but I liked that she actually seemed liked a princess. Speaking of cliches, like most YA books, this series is full of them. It's the perfect book if you are trying to relate to what I guess is the "normal" problems a teenager would have, and if you can relate to that. Personally, I grew up having to read nonfiction, and any fictional stories I read were older like *Les Misérables* or *Great Expectations* so I don't think I fit the target audience. I found myself being entertained enough to ignore the vast number of times I rolled my eyes at the cliches, and this sequel is as good as the

first book. Basically, if you are a fan of young adult books with a bit of old fantasy flare, this is the book for you. I haven't finished the series yet (I started the 3rd book but I haven't been able to force myself to finish it yet), but overall I think it is worth a read and most people I know who liked Divergent and the Hunger games really liked this book.

At the end of book one, the lineage of Hayden Fire Dancer and Han Alister (Hunts Alone) was revealed. The clan had sent them to Oden's Ford to enhance their wizard abilities. Raisa and Marianna (a.k.a. Rebecca Morley) was on the run as well avoiding marriage to Micah Bayer, but fate had intervened to turn the tides and redirect events. Once again, these three main characters would cross their paths in Oden's Ford. While studying in this academy, Han would meet someone in Aedion who would play an important role in his life. In summation, this second installment just an entail of their time in school that started the courtship of Han and Rebecca. Frankly, I was impressed with the great thinking of this author. The development of the story was spectacular. No dull moments at all. Love it!

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