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In The Shadow Of The Dragon King



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old, Eric, is a kick-butt squire to the most revered knight in Fallhollow. Well he would be if Sir Trogsdill allowed him to do anything even remotely awesome. Determined to prove his worth, Eric sets out to find the mythical paladin summoned to protect the realm from the evil lurking nearby. Sixteen-year-old, David, spends his days collecting school honors, winning archery tournaments, and trying not to fall in love with his scrappy best friend, Charlotte. Right when things start to get interesting, he is whisked away to the magical realm of Fallhollow where everyone thinks he's some sort of paladin destined to fulfill a two-hundred-year-old prophecy. He's supposed to help kill a dragon with some sort of magic key. The same key that happens to adorn the neck of an annoying squire who's too wrapped up in proving himself to be much help to anyone. With egos as big as the dragon they need to destroy, Eric and David must get over themselves, or watch everything they know and love, burn.

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Customer Reviews

Original Post: In the Shadow of the Dragon King at FLYL'F Book Reviews (reviews.flylef.com)

SUPPOSE I can't love them all. Though, I was taken by surprise that I didn't love In the Shadow of the Dragon King, by J. Keller Ford. The cover, synopsis, and genre were spot on a trifecta of sorts. And, did I mention dragon? I thought (or hoped) I would be reading about a coming-of-age story where the deep bonds of camaraderie between Eric and David are forged, as they set out on an epic dragon adventure. In actuality, David and Eric, never meet until the end of the book some 400 pages later. While two concurrent timelines between alternating perspectives aren't a deal breaker for me by any means, I did struggle with other elements. The world build was conflicting. When I read the word "germs" in the magical world of Fallhollow, it blasted me right out of fantasy and into the modern marvels of medicine. Can germs and magic co-exist? I imagine it could; however, Fallhollow had such a medieval and old-world charm to it that the use of microorganisms, though practically insignificant, was disruptive to the overall atmosphere. The characters were overly generalized. Seventeen-year-old, Eric, is a noble squire with a good heart, but his temper and compulsiveness have a way of putting people and missions at risk. Sixteen-year-old David, is a configuration of worry and self-doubt. He denies his destiny as the paladin, as much as, he doesn't understand it. David's crush and best friend, Charlotte, is a damsel in distress. Inasmuch as she is the positive force to drive David's actions, she is more easily seen as a handicap to his growth.

My mind is blown with how completely magnificent this book is! And I'm super grateful Ms J is making it a trilogy. And though the blurb is good it really doesn't do this book justice because there's just so much... MORE! So there's two major places this book takes place, our normal world, and Fallhollow. Davis lives here in our world but he is a lot more than just human. His parents sent him here to be safe from the threats at home. And then Eric is from Fallhollow. He's a knight's squire. He's a good guy but he just wants more and has ambition for things he's not ready to hear. There's a lot of secrets being kept from both of them and when some of those secrets start coming out, they react so differently. David kinda shuts down until he has no choice. Eric lashes out and has a few immature choices he made. I loved the characters so much. They are all so well developed and each one feels real! Like a person I just talked to. It's hard to do that well, but Ms J did it with ease! You're gonna not only fall for Eric and David, but for Charlotte, whom is David's human best friend that he's secretly in love with. And you'll fall in love with Eric's sneaky best friend, and Sir T as I called him, and the other Knights. You'll even love the king and queen, and the crazy magical sorcerers, sorceress, and even the bag guys. And there's more than one dragon, one I adore and one that needs to not live for too much longer. There's a lot of good things happening between

characters but there's also betrayal and secrets and some not so savory happening as well. Now on to the world building. Holy crap on a cracker batman, this is one of the BEST world buildings I've ever read!!!

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