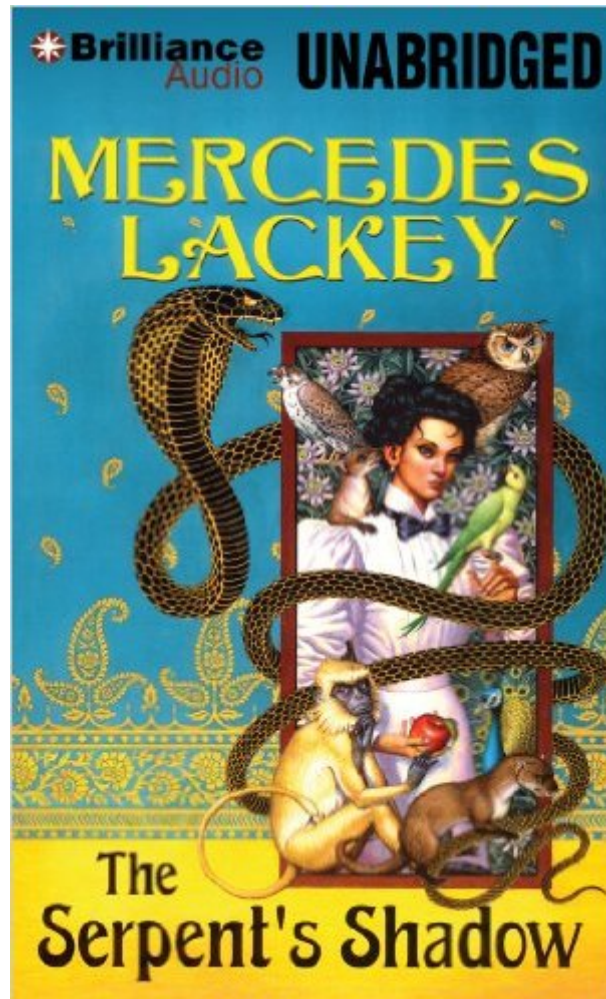


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# The Serpent's Shadow (Elemental Masters)



## Synopsis

From the magical mysteries of India to the gaslit streets of Victorian London, Mercedes Lackey's unique departure from her Valdemar series follows a young woman doctor as she searches for the secret behind the sorcery in her blood.

## Book Information

Series: Elemental Masters (Book 2)

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (122 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,020,635 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( L \) > Lackey, Mercedes](#) #498 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #587 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

The Serpent's Shadow is, disappointingly, a jumbled rehash of Ms. Lackey's past work, material that has already been stretched thin. Where *The Fire Rose* (the first of her attempts to rewrite classic fairy tales) is fresh in its approach and stands as one of my all-time favorite books, *The Serpent's Shadow* struggles through a pale, undeveloped plot, see-through characters, and a villain that's absolutely ridiculous in her motivations and mannerisms. There's no element of surprise in this book whatsoever, and while Ms. Lackey's prose occasionally shines, it's all in a scene of a kind we've seen before from her. (Example, from *The Serpent's Shadow*: "She liked his handshake; strong without being over-bearing, a warm, dry hand, neither too familiar nor too distant." And from *The Fire Rose*: "His grip was firm and quite strong, and she had the feeling that if she had not been wearing gloves, she would have found his hand to be warm, the skin of his palm dry.") Ms. Lackey seems to be running out of steam and interest in her own topic throughout *The Serpent's Shadow*. The 400-page book leads up to a climax that is resolved in two pages, as if the author is as anxious to get to the book's end as the reader. While her characters are not completely devoid of personality, they're too one-sided -- the good guys are Beautiful People, kind, thoughtful, intelligent,

witty, caring, etc, while the villains are motivated purely by greed or "evil"; after years of reading and admiring Ms. Lackey's work, I would very much like to see a villain that doesn't scowl and rely on "sex and blood magic" for his/her power.

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