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The King's Horse (Shioni Of Sheba Book 2)



Synopsis

The King's Horse is mad! Kalcha plots a terrible revenge. Can a slave-girl survive this test of her courage? The King lies in a coma. Princess Annakiya must rule the castle in his stead. But Kalcha, witch-leader of the Wasabi, is far from defeated. Through scorpions and arrows, assassins and living nightmares, she seeks to destroy the Kingdom of Sheba. She will have her revenge. When General Getu orders Shioni into the Simien Mountains to track down the runaway King's Horse, she must grapple with treachery and peril amongst the wild volcanic peaks. Can she trust her companions: the troubled giant Talaku, and the ambitious, two-faced warrior Tariku? What of the rebels who would sell them to the Wasabi? Could mountain legends and the mysterious stele hint at the hidden presence of dragons? In this exciting new adventure, Shioni of Sheba must draw on all of her courage and ingenuity to thwart Kalcha's wicked plans, and return her companions and the King's Horse safely to the castle. But even the Sheban stronghold is far from safe... The second book in a unique African fantasy adventure written for middle grades readers set in the ancient Kingdom of Sheba! Includes original illustrations by the Ethiopian artist Senait.

Book Information

File Size: 3924 KB

Print Length: 198 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: December 22, 2013

Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00C1ESGD6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #625,417 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

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Customer Reviews

This book is the continuation of The Enchanted Castle, picking up on Shioni's adventures as she deals with the aftermaths of her confrontation with Kalcha, continuing threats from the Wasabis, and a runaway horse. I think the author did a fine job of seamlessly integrating events and details from the first book so that readers like myself who have not yet had the opportunity to read The Enchanted Castle can still be properly introduced to the main characters and follow along with ease. However, I did get the sense that this was a sort of in-between book in a series - something of an intermission, if you will. Things happened, yes, and the story did progress from point A to point B, but as far as I can tell, the events in this book was not nearly as exciting and fast-paced as what happened in the first book. Kalcha - though the main antagonist - barely makes an appearance; from the book description, I had thought she would be featured more prominently, though her presence is always there throughout the entirety of the book. The most exciting part of the book is Shioni's journey into the mountains, and we learn important details about the Wasabis and some character development for Tariku and Talaku, though not as much as I would've thought. Tariku especially seemed like a fickle character, and his actions and choice of words sometimes confused me; some more development of his character would have been welcome. Nonetheless, I loved Shioni - in less than 200 pages, I was able to learn much about her and the way she thinks. Not many authors can get me to connect with a character so much younger and different than me, set in a time hundreds of years ago.

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