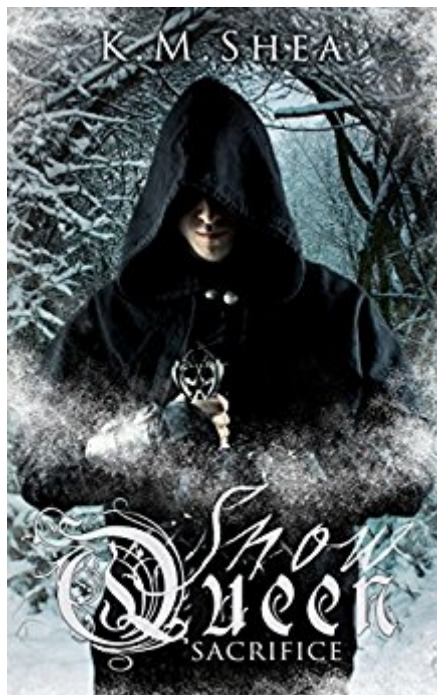


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Sacrifice (The Snow Queen Book 2)



Synopsis

Sacrifice: the thrilling conclusion to the Snow Queen series! RakeL, once feared and exiled for possessing magic, is now hailed a hero. Leading resistance forces against the ChosenÃ¢â¬âan army of magic users that invaded her homelandÃ¢â¬âshe is granted everything she has longed for: acceptance, a home, and the love of her friends. But the battle for her country has just begun. The ChosenÃ¢â¬âs powerful leader, Tenebris Malus, has come north to aid his army. His troops pillage the villages and cities they cannot hold, and RakeLÃ¢â¬âs brotherÃ¢â¬âthe KingÃ¢â¬ârefuses to rule. Most troubling of all, RakeLÃ¢â¬âwho has always loved her magicÃ¢â¬âsees great similarities between herself and the deadly Tenebris. However, not all is lost as the Chosen Colonel Farrin Graydim questions his loyalties to his leader, and the attraction he holds for RakeL. Can RakeLÃ¢â¬âs overcome her doubts and defeat Tenebris? Will Farrin choose to follow his heart or his loyalties? THE SNOW QUEEN: SACRIFICE is a story of magic, love, and friendships. It takes place in the same world as the TIMELESS FAIRY TALES series, but occurs centuries prior.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was so excited for this to come out and I was not disappointed at all! I was a little skeptical after the first Snow Queen book (Heart of Ice), not because it wasn't also good, but because the h was a little awkward and stiff in the first book and I was surprised that the H had fallen for her so quickly. HOWEVER, Sacrifice not only was a great ending to the story, but it nicely rounded out all of the characters! The H's affection was much better explained in this story--you could see that he was more drawn to her principles on the battlefield (and probably her pretty face), but he wasn't foolishly in love with her--it was more that he admired her morals and cause and that admiration grew to love...partly because he was so honorable himself. The h's character also rounded out well in book 2-her aloofness was well explained (and reasonable) and Shea did a great job gradually drawing her out socially. I also LOVED the twist on the story of Kai and Gerta-super well done and imaginative. This book is definitely not stand-alone; it is more like the second half of the first book. I honestly wished for a little more to the ending--the wedding, the starting of her school, Oskar & Phile's stories--but I am hoping that Shea finishes all of the loose ends in her freebies that she offers on her blog. Overall, a great story and lots of great background info for her Fairytale Series. I cannot wait for even more of these to come out!

tl;dr version of review: This book is pretty great. All of the threads from the first one are tied up satisfactorily (and some of them have AWESOME payoffs), there's some really neat character growth, cool battles, and the romance is. Um. The most adorable thing I've read all year. I think it's slightly weaker than Heart of Ice, particularly in its pacing, but considering how much I loved Heart of Ice, that's much of a knock. Sacrifice is incredibly entertaining, charming, and enjoyable, and I would definitely recommend it. Longer version of review: Okay. So, Sacrifice picks up shortly (a couple of weeks, maybe?) after Heart of Ice left off, and it follows Rakel, the Snow Queen, as she and her merry band of soldiers (and lone Robber Maiden) fight Tenebris and the Chosen army and try to stop their invasion of Verglas. The story actually starts from Farrin Graydim's POV, which I thought was pretty neat; he gets more screen time, this time around, and I enjoyed to get to see the Chosen army's leader, Tenebris, from Farrin's perspective, rather than just hearing about him. Tenebris was a fun villain; although he is kind of a cliché power-hungry baddie, there are a couple of scenes where he interacts with his underlings that give some further insight into his character and

make him come off as more interesting than your average fantasy bad guy. Speaking of bad guys, I had a lot of fun seeing all the kinds of magic that Shea came up with for the Chosen army. One of my favorite things about the first novel was seeing snow/ice magic used in inventive new ways, with real thought behind every trick Rakel pulls. Although there is less detail about the magic here, it's cool to see different applications of the stuff--from golems to rope-wrangling. Due to the fact that Farrin shares a lot more screen time with Rakel, as well as several new(ish) characters, there was less of a focus on the minor characters; Oskar and Snorri feature in fewer scenes, as does Halvor, though their presence is still felt. Phile, fortunately, still provides some wacky hijinks, though there's a little less of that too; however, that's not due to less Phile, but rather a deepening of the friendship between Phile and Rakel, which was awesome. :D. Speaking of humor, there's a bit less in this one than in other Shea novels; *Sacrifice* follows *Heart of Ice* in being a bit darker than the average *Timeless Fairy Tale*, and it is also notably bloodier--which makes sense, since every character's fighting in the middle of a war. The violence is never gratuitous, but it is definitely present. There are several other things I would love to talk about but can not, as The Big Thing that happens halfway through the book means half the book is spoiler territory. Suffice to say that the romance that comes up in *Sacrifice* was actually quite lovely, as well as adorable (adorable. Oh, the awkward, blurdy moments). A lot of Shea's romance moments in other books are the result of banter and sarcasm, but I kind of dug the change of pace, as this one, like the rest of the novel, is a little more serious and, sort of as a result of that, just so adorably earnest. That doesn't mean there wasn't humor about it: I really, really hope one of the extra short stories is going to deal with that thing Phile kept reminding that one person about, and several moments actually made me LOL. The one (teeny tiny) issue I had with this novel was that the pacing, especially in the latter half, felt a bit off. Battle, rest, battle, rest--at a few moments, it felt like we were just doing the requisite talking in between two battles. However, that's a minor nitpick, and it really didn't keep me from enjoying this novel at all. The only disappointing thing about it is that it ended at all :P.

I've been a fan of K.M. Shea's books for almost a year now and have read most of them. I was eagerly anticipating this sequel release, and read it in a matter of hours because I was so excited to read it. The characters continued to develop in an organic way, and the plot moved along at an easy and well-worked pace. The characters are engaging and relatable. I love Phile and through her friendship to Rakel she really pushes her to accept the love of the people around her. Rakel has such a sensitive heart and I think her acceptance of Farrin's past is monumental. It is what clearly (in the minds of the readers) sets her apart from the bad guy, even though she has similar qualities.

Her tenderness to the children endears me to her and I think she flourishes around them. Potential spoilers: I kind of saw where things were going in the story. It never seemed "too easy" or anything like that, but I figured what the sacrifice would be. I also figured that it wouldn't be the end. I like happy endings and the anxiety I felt during the heated and emotional moments was not nearly as bad as it would have been if I hadn't thought it would all turn out okay in the end. I want to know what happened with Phile. What happened??????? Did she end up convincing anyone to fall in love with her? I'm hoping that the extras solve this one for me :) It's a good book, and so well written. It was funny and sad and it tore on my heartstrings. We get to learn about loyalty and hope, and about how sometimes children are the ones who demonstrate those qualities the most. You must read this book! It is lovely and you'll want to read all the timeless fairy tales after :)

This book was beautifully written just as the first book was. I loved it so much that I've read both the first book and this one several times over. Most of the time a book second in the series doesn't hold a candle to the first but this one surprisingly does. It's very detailed and intricate. All the characters grow before your eyes especially the main female who grows out of her carefully ice-guarded heart and learns to love. A lovely story, worthy of saying that in this book you see the frost melt and turn into spring.

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