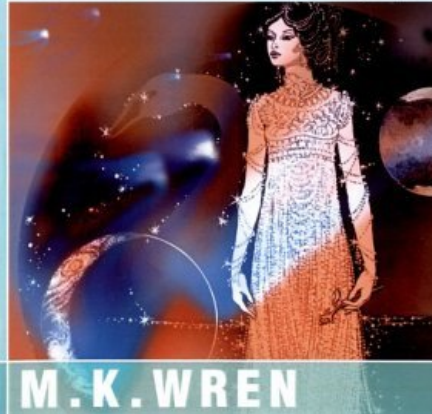


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Shadow of the Swan

Book Two of The Phoenix Legacy



Shadow of the Swan

M.K. Wren

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Shadow of the Swan

M.K. Wren

Shadow of the Swan M.K. Wren

The Lord Alexand DeKoven Woolf was born destined to lead the Concord, the Two System's ultimate empire, but to prevent it from imploding into a Third Dark Age, he surrendered his birthright of power to become Alex Ransom, leader of the outlawed Society of the Phoenix, and in the process, he surrendered the one woman he has ever loved, the Lady Adrien Eliseer. But the Lady Adrien proves her love for Alexand with unexpected and breathtaking courage in Shadow of the Swan.

Shadow of the Swan Details

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Author : M.K. Wren

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Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy, Space, Space Opera, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review Shadow of the Swan for online ebook

Ariana says

I have read the books in this trilogy every few years and have always enjoyed them. There are some standard science fiction tropes in them: corrupt, classist civilisation about to get its come uppance, enslaved volitile populace and cool technology, but Wren shapes these tropes into an emotionally interesting plot with deep character development.

billy burley says

A true classic series that has yet to get the credit that it deserves.

Deborah says

Book 2 of the Pheonix trilogy.

Karen says

This is one od the best 'unlnown' trilogies around. I have not seen it listed in articles on great sci fi but that is what this is. Terrific, adult story lines and characters. When I read something like this, I feel sorry for all those people whoavoid sci fi becasue they think is it an inferior genre.

Scot Eaton says

SERIES REVIEW: The Phoenix Legacy

5 Stars

Every once in a while, I will find a book at a used book store, buy it, and decide to bump it to the front of my reading list. See, most of the books on my list were recommended to me, and I like to have the joy of discovery, occasionally reading a book that I come into with no expectations. Books like the Phoenix Legacy trilogy are why I do it! I had never heard of this series or the author, and knew nothing about the books except (A) I could get them for \$1.25 apiece, and (B) The covers were the kind of deliciously bad that could only be accomplished in the 80s. What I found is a series that will likely go down in my top 5 sci-fi series of all time. I now need to track down everything M.K.Wren has ever written.

First off, you should know that these books are not perfect. While the prose is excellent throughout, there are some decisions the author makes that I can't imagine ever getting past an editor. There is a trend that pervades the books of skipping key emotional scenes or action scenes and telling about them in flashback. For example, at one point, a character gets captured by the police. Instead of showing that scene though, the

story jumps from a rather serene scene in a chapel featuring that character to a scene in a police station where an officer observes a random prisoner brought in. You must infer that the character brought into the station in this scene is the same character you left in the chapel on the last page, and you don't get confirmation until later. The scene of him being arrested is conspicuously left out. Writing decisions like this pop up throughout the series. I found myself wanting the "extended version" of the book that had all of the missing scenes.

So with that, how can I give the series 5 stars, especially when none of the individual books got that rating? The answer is simple: this is a story worth telling about characters that you can respect. Alexand, Rich, Adrien, Jael, Erica... these characters found their way into my heart almost instantly, and I found myself reading for hours past when I should have stopped because I needed to know what happened to them. The overarching story is also great, and asks a question that you could only get away with in Sci-Fi: Can a society be changed by peaceful evolution, rather than violent revolution? The way that theme is woven throughout each page is masterful. The scene-to-scene plot is also excellent, starting in book 2. The story takes surprising twists and turns, and does not worry about "playing it safe". That may not seem revolutionary in post-Game of Thrones fantasy/sci-fi, but what sets this series apart is that it does so without having to resort to being gritty and depressing.

So overall, the series gets 5 stars. I will never sell my copy back; it has earned a permanent place on my shelf. Now, for this particular entry.

SHADOW OF THE SWAN (4.5 Stars)

For all of the things the first book got wrong, this book got nearly everything right. It had drama, romance, action, and a killer plot. The only 2 downsides of this book are the trend that I mentioned above (skipping key action scenes) and the fact that the last section of Book 1 was not the first section of this book.

Spoilers for the rest of this review.

The character development of Alex was excellent. At one point, he goes into a hypnotic amnesia. Prior to this, he lives almost a split personality: his life before the Phoenix, and his life after. When he is brought out of the amnesia, he comes out with both personalities melded into one. This sets up the central tension of the book: Alex Ransom and Alexand DeKoven Woolf are now the same person. Thus, Adrien can no longer be excluded from what he is doing in the Phoenix. This is why Section 2 of Book 1 belonged in The Shadow of the Swan: it set up his personality split, and his repression of memories of Adrien for the sake of creating "Alex Ransom".

Adrien shines as the best character of the novel though. She goes on a journey of mourning her dead betrothed, to being engaged to her hated enemy, to finding out that her betrothed is not dead, to setting up a gambit so simultaneously risky and clever that the readers and all of the characters in the book just stand in awe of her. While I wish I could have read the scene where she fled the wedding (see my main complaint about this series), I am amazed that Wren wrote a book where a woman's pregnancy saves the day.

Other characters, like Jael and Erica, are also excellent, and this book masterfully sets up Ussher as a threat to both the Phoenix and the Concord simultaneously.

priscilla ridgell says

Excellent continuation.

I really enjoyed this second book of the series....just keeps getting better. I love the synopsis at the beginning of each book.

Susanna says

While the story's compelling, the continual history lessons/lectures that come in between every fourth/fifth chapter are not helping. I understand the conceit, but it functions more as a speed bump than an extra layer of richness to the story.

Michelle says

This second book in the Phoenix trilogy had much more action than the first book. I especially liked the emphasis on Adrien who is a stronger female lead than one would have expected. Alexand also features prominently. Jael is an interesting supporting character who is Elite by birth from a mother who went into Exile in the Outside. The book leaves you in a cliffhanger with the lives of these two lead characters up in the air. I am delving right into the third one.

Justin says

The second installment of The Phoenix Legacy Trilogy. Waste no more time reading my reviews. Buy the book and experience it for yourself.
