



Shadow Weaver

MarcyKate Connolly

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Fans of *Serafina and the Black Cloak* and *The Night Gardener* will devour *Shadow Weaver*, the first in a dark middle-grade fantasy duology that's filled with shadows, danger, magic, and has the feel of a new classic.

Emmeline's gift of controlling shadows has isolated her from the rest of the world, but she's grown to be content, hidden away in her mansion with Dar, her own shadow, as her only company.

Disaster strikes when a noble family visits their home and offers to take Emmeline away and cure her of magic. Desperate not to lose her shadows, she turns to Dar who proposes a deal: Dar will change the noble's mind, if Emmeline will help her become flesh as she once was. Emmeline agrees but the next morning the man in charge is in a coma and all that the witness saw was a long shadow with no one nearby to cast it. Scared to face punishment, Emmeline and Dar run away.

With the noble's guards on her trail, Emmeline's only hope of clearing her name is to escape capture and perform the ritual that will set Dar free. But Emmeline's not sure she can trust Dar anymore, and it's hard to keep secrets from someone who can never leave your side.

Shadow Weaver Details

Date : Published January 2nd 2018 by Sourcebooks Jabberwocky

ISBN : 9781492649953

Author : MarcyKate Connolly

Format : Hardcover 320 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Shadow Weaver for online ebook

Riley Redgate says

Ohhh, this book is so wonderful. Vivid yet spare, with children's-story creepiness abound.

Hold your breath for 2018, folks. (But like. Figuratively.)

Jessaka says

Enchanting. A play of shadow and light.

Children have always been fascinated by their own shadows. When I was young I made shadow puppets on the walls of my bedroom. My teenage friend, Paulette, invited me to spend the night at her house once, and the full moon came streaming into her bedroom window, lighting the wall opposite it. Paulette positioned herself in front of the window and began to mimic Peter Pam's climbing into a bedroom through the window. Like Peter Pam her body cast a shadow on the lighted wall. What an imaginative young woman Paulette was.

The writer of this book goes many steps further than Paulette, as she spins a tale about a girl named Emmeline, who could weave shadows into toys, bridges, and just about anything. She even wrapped them around her in order to hide from others when needed.

Her own shadow she called Dar. I couldn't help but believe that Dar was short for Dark. I even began to think that Dar was not good for her, for Dar reminded me of our own shadow self, the part of us that we wish to hide, the part that is not so good at times but is mysteriously interesting. Her own parents didn't care for this side of her either and had decided to send her away where she could get help, where she would lose her shadow self. She decided to run away instead and was hunted by men on horses.

This book was so enthralling that I couldn't put it down. And I wondered if Emmeline would be able to continue to weave shadows or if she would be caught and her magic, along with part of her personality, would be taken away from her.

As I have aged I don't really pay any attention to my own shadow. I don't even make shadow puppets on the wall, but last night the light came into my window, and I looked at my shadow, and my legs were so mysteriously long that I laughed.

How delightful to have read a book that brings back memories and made me realize that there is an adult, the author, who still thinks of shadows and light and can weave them into a story for young teens that even draws in adult readers.

I wish to thank NetGalley for allowing me to read this book; otherwise, I would have never found it since I don't search out this genre of books.

Montzalee Wittmann says

Shadow Weaver by MarcyKate Connolly is a fantasy kids book that is absolutely thrilling. Emmeline can control her shadows and she has a companion, her own shadow, Dar. She talks to Dar and Dar talks to her. Dar plays tricks on people which gets Emmeline in trouble and shunned. People are afraid of Emmeline. Then some people want to take Emmeline away, she and Dar run away...I can't spoil it but there is more to her life than she knew, and she just made it worse for everyone on her trip. Very exciting, mysterious, a little suspense-filled in spots, and great fantasy. Great imagination at work! Thanks NetGalley for letting me read this awesome book.

Alexis says

* I received this as an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review*

I have to say I was really surprised with this book. I thought it was going to be an okay read, but I loved it. The last half of the book is amazing! Plus a plot twist I didn't even see coming. We have the main character Emmeline who has special powers to manipulate the shadows. Her parents are afraid of her and want her "cured", from there everything spirals out. I really enjoyed this book and I'm excited for the next one!

Melanie (TBR and Beyond) says

Loved this cool, dark little adventure. I'm excited to read the sequel next year.

RTC

Fafa's Book Corner says

Mini review:

DNF

I received this E-ARC via the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. I saw this book on Netgalley one day and decided to request it. I enjoy Middle Grade and thought it would be right up my alley. Unfortunately it wasn't for me.

Something about this read very shallow. The writing style wasn't any good. And the main character was really annoying me.

As this was a personal thing I still recommend. Others might enjoy this.

Zainab says

I received this as an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

All I have to say is that this was an awesome fantasy book! Also it's a pretty light read so I'm sure everyone would enjoy this even if you don't read any fantasy.

Carina Olsen says

Reading this book for the second time made me like it better. And I am so very happy about that. I adore MarcyKate. She is amazing. And I have enjoyed all her books so far. Simply can't wait to read more by her. When I first read this book a year and a half ago, it was a three star for me. This time, it is a four star.

I'm so thrilled that I decided to re-read Shadow Weaver before reading the second book. As there were things I had forgotten. And I'm so happy that I ended up liking the book even more this second time. I had some issues with connecting to a few things, but this time I loved so much of it much more. Thrilled about it.

This book tells the story of twelve year old Emmeline. She has magic in her. She can shadow weave. Making shadows move, and talk to her own shadow. There is a story about why she has magic, along with other children born the same year she was. I found that to be all kinds of interesting and I so wanted to know more. Emmeline has lived with her parents since she was born. A house full of servants. Her whole life she has been all alone. Her parents fear her, the servants do too. No one cares for her. And that broke my heart so very much. I felt so badly for Emmeline. And I simply loved reading about her and getting to know her. She was a little innocent and naive, but with good reason. She makes some bad choices, but I still adored her so much.

Although no one living cares for her, and she has had no real friends, there is one person that she has always been with. Her shadow, Dar. Whom she has talked to since she was born. They are best friends. At least, Emmeline thinks so. Dar changes a lot in this book, and Emmeline is not so sure anymore that she is the kind shadow she has known her whole life. Reading about Emmeline and Dar together was pretty interesting. Dar is everything Emmeline has ever known, until now. Such a complicated friendship.

This book is about Emmeline and her magic. How people fear her because of it. Some of the fear is for good reason. But Emmeline did not deserve to be treated the way she did for all those years. It breaks my heart that no one took care of her, that no one loved her. She deserved so much more. Her parents are planning on sending her away. To have her be cured of her magic, for her magic to be taken away from her. Emmeline does not want this. And Dar says she can help her, for a price. It does not go well.

And so Emmeline has to run away. She is only on the run for a day before she runs into someone else with magic. Lucas. Whom was the cutest boy and I loved him beyond words. Sigh. He has the magic of the sun. And it was so awesome to read about. I loved reading about their powers together, what they could do together. And reading about their growing friendship and how his parents cared for him. It was amazing. But gosh, Emmeline kept so many secrets from them. Which was not okay. But I still loved her.

There is so much going on in this book. It's easy and fast to read, which I loved. The writing was a little bit awkward at times, but not bad. I loved it a whole lot more this second time. And I cared for Emmeline so

much. I loved reading her story. And her friendship with Lucas. It was the cutest. The story is a bit creepy and so awesome. I shall not share more about it, just that it was interesting and different and pretty great. I'm so very excited to read the next book, which is also the final one. Must know everything that happens.

I'm not sharing too much about this book this time. Only that this second read was all kinds of amazing. And I enjoyed *Shadow Weaver* very much. It was a fast and stunning and exciting adventure. I adored Emmeline and Lucas so very much and I cannot wait to read more about them in *Comet Rising*. If you have not read this gorgeous middle grade book yet, then you really must do so. Because it is awesome. And it's a book that I think everyone should read. As is every book by MarcyKate Connolly. Go buy them.

I first read this book on May 25th 2017. See my review here: <http://carinabooks.blogspot.no/2017/0...>

I read this book for the second time on November 25th 2018. See my review here: <https://carinabooks.blogspot.com/2018...>

Mischenko says

This review can also be seen @ <https://readrantrockandroll.com/2018/...>

Shadow Weaver is a middle-grade fantasy with a gripping plot that reads like a fairy tale. The main character in the book is Emmeline, a 12-year-old girl who has a magical ability to mold shadows into different forms and manipulate them. She uses these shadows in different ways, but the most important shadow is her best friend Dar.

Emmeline is hidden away from the outside world for multiple events that have occurred in the past, including a devastating accident with a little girl she was once friends with. Her parents won't let her have a normal life because of the danger she poses to society. They've lost patience with her and all she has now is Dar, her shadow who is always there. Dar has been connected to Emmeline since she was born and they are the best of friends. Dar loves Emmeline and will do whatever she can to protect her.

“Emmeline, we ought to run off and play in the woods. I can hide you so that they never find you...”

When a noble family comes to visit Emmeline's parents to discuss a treaty, Emmeline can't help but wonder what they're really doing there. Something doesn't seem right and she begins to feel unsafe. It appears they've come to take her away and rid her of her magic. Dar is willing to help her, but only if Emmeline will do something for her in return—something that could change their friendship forever.

“I can help you, Emmeline. I can ensure you will never have to go anywhere with that man. But you must agree to help me in return.”

Once the story took off there was no telling what the outcome would be and the suspense with Dar was gripping. I loved that tension and curiosity with trying to figure out Dar and what her intentions were. Is she good or is she evil? Emmeline starts to question her and begins to lose trust, but she's very unsure and wants to give her the benefit of the doubt. She learns life lessons about honesty and the true meaning of friendship. I wasn't sure how I felt about the secondary characters as they entered the story or the direction everything

was going, but it came together well with just enough magic to keep me engaged until the end. For a middle-grade book, I'd say this met my expectations, but I wanted to feel more for all the characters which was pretty much lacking throughout.

I read this with two of my younger children and even though I enjoyed it, they sort of lost interest a third of the way through and it became more of a chore to read. I personally thought the plot was very unique and interesting, but I think the issue with my younger readers was the pacing as it was slow at times and really didn't pick up until the second half. Also, when we read the details about this book, the lower end of the recommended reading level was third grade (which is where my two younger children are with their reading level now) so I might recommend this for fourth or fifth grade and up depending on your child's interest and reading capabilities. In my opinion, 320 pages is a lot for a child who is still reading chapter books like *Captain Underpants* or *Beverly Cleary*. Obviously, this is a book that some adults will enjoy as well.

Overall, I'm glad we bought this for our home library. I can't wait to find out what's going to happen in the next book, *Comet Rising*. 4-stars

Age Range: 8 – 14 years

Grade Level: 3 – 9

Series: *Shadow Weaver* (Book 1)

Hardcover: 320 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 1492649953

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[Shai] Bibliophage says

This book of MarcyKate Connolly is a fantasy fiction novel that tells about the story of Emmeline, one of the lucky people who was bestowed by the Cerelia Comet to possess a magical power within them. She can mold shadows around her into anything she would like it to appear, thus she's called a shadow weaver; a certain shadow also always accompanies her and its name is Dar.

Emmeline was born and grew up with Dar who is always beside her; she treats it like as her only friend because her parents and the people within their estates avoid and fear her because of her power. Because of certain events, Emmeline and Dar decided to run away from home to avoid the soldiers who want to capture them. Along the way, they met Lucas, a boy who possessed the light magic, and his family; Emmeline was welcomed into their cottage and through her stay, she learned a lot on why they were being pursued by the soldiers and who is behind it.

This first book in the series is a little bit short, so anyone could be able to finish reading this within a day or two. In spite of that, it has a riveting story that will make readers look forward to what will be happened to Emmeline. I know that it will be quite a while before the second installment will be released, but I'm already excited about how will they defeat the villain.

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

Shadow Weaver is an **atmospheric, haunting story** that immediately ensnares the reader. This may be written for a middle grade audience, but it **begs for adult readership as well**. MarcyKate Connolly weaves a tale that keeps you trapped in her world until the very end.

Emmeline is a child that's easy to like and want to protect. Also, like most children she's also easy to manipulate and scare. Throughout the story **I continually wanted to step into the pages and mother her**. To whisper in her ear the truths that she needed to hear. To watch her story unfold, knowing that she had to discover things for herself, was almost painful. But her *Shadow Weaver* journey was exquisitely told.

Shadow Weaver is a book that will draw me back to it for more than one read. And when the second book comes out (for this is part one of a duology), I'll be reading it as well. Emmeline and Lucas could be extremely powerful together and **seeing these two kids take on the evil introduced in this first book will be well worth the wait**.

One of the other things I liked about *Shadow Weaver* (not that there was anything I *didn't* like) was the resolution with Dar. I'm not going to say what it was, but the author handled it very nicely. She could have went a few typical routes but she didn't. **And while I'm almost positive the solution will come back and bite them in the butt, I'm still happy things ended the way they did**.

Well-written, with **believable dialogue, nicely paced action, and fantasy kept on a level easy for middle-grade readers to understand**, *Shadow Weaver* is an exquisite example of how to write darker fantasy for kids. MarcyKate Connolly did a phenomenal job, and I will be shocked if *Shadow Weaver* doesn't make it onto the best seller lists for middle grade fiction. I loved it!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from Netgalley for review consideration.

Angelica says

When I first saw this book cover on NetGalley several months ago, I knew I simply had to get it. Much like the cover, *Shadow Weaver* is creepy, and eerie, and dark. Sadly, it was not enough to keep me hooked or make me love it.

While the story itself is interesting, I the writing style didn't fully do it for me. It seemed too simplistic at times, even for a middle-grade novel. There was something about it that never fully got me fall into the

world of the story. It's a tale of magic and shadows and yet, the writing lacked some magic, at least, in my opinion.

Plotwise and characterwise, the book actually did very well. The plot was interesting and engaging, especially in the second half of the novel. I also really enjoyed the characters, especially Lucas whom I would like to see more from.

As for Emmeline, there were moments I liked her and moments I didn't. She was always lying and eavesdropping and whining about one thing or another. Her thoughts were also a bit repetitive at times, which I guess ties back in with the writing style. Lastly, it was frustrating to see how blindly Emmeline trusted her shadow, Dar, and how oblivious she was to its dark nature, despite all the signs.

Still, in the end, I actually liked reading through her adventure and watching her come into her own.

The book is a battle between light and dark, and dealing with our own shadows and it displays this very clearly and very well. Despite my problems with it, I highly recommend it. I have doubt that had I read it at a younger age, I would have probably loved it.

I received an advance copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

debbicat ?~Traveling Sister says

4 Stars! Emmeline's best friend is her shadow, Dar, and, actually, her only friend. In the book, a handful of children are blessed with magic talents every 25 years when a comet passes over. Those that can do magic are often viewed with fear. Emmeline's parents want to send her away to "cure" her of magic. Her gift is controlling shadows. To prevent her parents from sending her away, Emmeline strikes a deal with Dar, which will make her human again. Will it work??

Read on to see! I really enjoyed this little treasure. Emmeline and Dar are great characters. Once they run away to escape a certain punishment...We meet a few others. Lucas, who Emmeline is immediately drawn to, even tho his talent is the opposite of her own.

The book opens up a great discussion for parents or teachers to talk about fear with students. I honestly can't wait to use this book with my class. There is another part where Emmeline has to perform some difficult tasks so that she can collect the ingredients for a ritual she has to perform to make Dar human again. She is uncomfortable with some of these. So, I love her courage and tenacity. Again...another place for educators to open up a discussion about possibly getting out of one's comfort zone.

Many, many thanks goes to Sourcebooks Jabberwocky via NetGalley for an ARC to review. And thanks to the author MarcyKate Connolly. Highly recommended!

Shadowdenizen says

06-07-17: Pre-Read. More thanks to Netgalley for the ARC! The existing reviews have already gotten me

super excited for this!

First impression: Only a few chapters in, and I'm already enraptured by the authors lyrical prose quality, as well as being invested in both Emmeline & Dar already!

06-08-17: Full disclosure first... Thanks to Netgalley, as always, for the ARC, it's most appreciated, but this in no way impacted my review in anyway.

As with most bibliophiles, I read A LOT of books, with my acknowledged specialty being the Fantasy/Horror/Fairy-Tale genres. And in most instances, it's easy to tell within a few pages if the book will ultimately grab me or not. And I'm extremely pleased to say that with this upcoming title "ShadowWeaver" (the first in a series) by MarcyKate Connolly, that happened within the first few paragraphs!

The lyrical quality of the authors prose completely sucked me in from the opening paragraphs; coupled with an immediate vested interest in our focal characters Emmeline & Dar, I was able to push through this book in record time, quite unable to put it down!

What the author handles particularly expertly is capturing the mindset of Emmeline; I genuinely felt the "otherness" that was Emmeline, and her conflicted feeling over the Shadow-Powers she handled, and her relationship with her "other half" Dar. (Capturing this difficult aspect of moving from childhood to adulthood, and dealing with your own darker urges is crucial to the success of a middle-grade book or movie in this genre, and is something that was captured masterfully by books series like "Harry Potter" and films like "Frozen". [In many ways, Emmeline reminded me of Elsa from that aforementioned movie, and I mean that in the best possible way.]

All that said, be aware that this book does not tread any particularly new ground if you know the genre; there wasn't anything that particularly struck me an especially "New" or "Groundbreakingly Innovative, but I don't view that as a drawback; on the contrary! It allows for a solid read that allows the author to focus on the characters and settings, and to play a bit with established tropes just enough to make them fresh and engaging.

A solid 4-star read, highly recommended for fans of middle-grade fiction, but especially those who enjoy the Fantasy/Fairy-tale oeuvre. I eagerly await the next volume!

stardustreader says

I just finished Shadow Weaver by MarcyKate Connolly and it was such a quick, cute book. The twists and turns in this book have me wanting more. I can(and will) easily recommend it to anyone of any age looking for a short yet wonderful read. MarcyKate weaves a wonderful tale in just 163 pages, her writing strong and characters realistic, The book leaves on a cliffhanger and I hope the publisher picks up the next book.

The characters

Emmeline is a really nice character and her voice, like the other characters, is strong. Each character stands out on the page and I wish I could read just a bit more of them. I love how she and Lucas have a strong bond together and easily become friends. Lucas is another favorite character of mine, he is so happy and bursting with light(see what I did there?). While I can't say each character is complex(I don't have enough material to

really go into their character), I can say they are all different from each other and none of their voices blend together. 9/10

The Plot

The story is about a young girl name Emmeline who has been blessed by a special comet that comes around every 25 years and gives babies powers. Emmeline is a Shadow Weaver, meaning she can control shadows, talk, and play with them. Her family and servants fear her and hate her powers. When a woman comes to her home, telling her parent she can “cure” Emmeline of her powers, her parents agree to send her to this woman. Emmeline does not like this and runs away, found by a boy who has been blessed with powers as well. The story follows Emmeline as she realizes her true friends and tries to hide from the woman trying to take her away. The book is quick, but that doesn't mean it won't satisfy you. 10/10

The Writing

I love the writing of this book, it's descriptive but not purple prose. It's perfect and fits very well for this book. MarcyKate knows how to write, that's for sure!

Final Rating

10/10

I'm excited for the next book(if the author chooses to write one) and sincerely hope Shadow Weaver the best in the book world. I can't wait to see it in libraries and bookstores.

Thank you Netgalley and Sourcebooks for giving me this opportunity to read this book!
