



Ammey McKeaf (The Chronicles of Azulland, #1)

Jane Shoup

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At nineteen, Ammey McKeaf is a golden-haired beauty that is beloved and protected, not only by her father, the most revered General in Azulland, but also by five elder brothers, all champions of the games that are held in the medieval island country. Her brothers have trained and challenged her all of her life, especially at swordsmanship, which will serve her well.

Trouble stirs when Marko Corin, the ambitious leader of Bellux-Abry, seeks to gain control of the country. His small bands of highly trained soldiers, known as 'wolf packs,' roam the country, reaping destruction and death. When a pack strikes close to the Forge, home to the McKeafs, Ammey is escorted to sanctuary -- but sanctuary is a thing of the past.

As violence reigns, Ammey is rescued and taken into the mystical Vihlae Forest, where she discovers strength she did not know she possessed, and learns the art of survival from one of her rescuers, sparking an undeniable passion. As Ammey travels from one end of Azulland to the other, battling to survive and protect those around her, she will be tried and tested beyond anything she could have imagined, but will her efforts be enough to save herself and those she loves?

Ammey McKeaf (The Chronicles of Azulland, #1) Details

Date : Published August 29th 2012 by Diversion Books

ISBN :

Author : Jane Shoup

Format : ebook

Genre : Fantasy, Business, Amazon

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From Reader Review Ammey McKeaf (The Chronicles of Azulland, #1) for online ebook

KelticKat says

Wow! this story had real promise - I really liked the character of Ammey and her strength and determination. Thought the world was very detailed and complex. It had a taste of a real mythic adventure with even a prophecy thrown in. But for me it felt a bit short...

Love the slow build of the story of Vincent & Ammey. Definitely felt they had a connection and spark. Marco is a complex, both likeable at moments and hate-able at others. Yes, he fell to the famous ploy and advice of "evil" advisors - but my main dislike of him came from his treatment of Ammey - he kept her prisoner and then raped her - then when she seems to have amnesia - instead of facing the truth he lied to her and built this elaborate world for her and still keeps her prisoner. Granted she really didn't believe the lies - but I'm concerned that he says he loves her during this time and in my mind love involves trust and honesty. Just saying.

My other concern is about Ammey and her feelings towards Marco - I get that she sees behind the facade that the advisors have built - but can't buy her feelings for him so quickly after the abuse - even at his own hand. Maybe in time - but seems to happen fairly quickly - she feels "safe" with him and yet all this happens under his watch.

Definitely. Tabling the sequel on this one for now - not sure if I will continue - I do however, care about some of the other players and may read it eventually just to see their fates.

Deborah says

LOVED IT!! This book is an amazing mix of the action of the war that is brewing, personal disaster, romance (love triangle no less!) and strength of family and friends. I couldn't put this book down and I can't wait to buy the next one to see what is to come next as though many of the questions were answered by the end of this book there are still many I am asking and problems that need resolving.

Griffin S Alexander says

Loved it

Great blend of intrigue, dry wit, and dialogue. I cannot wait to get my hands on the next book to watch the complex plot unfold. The main heroine is special because she is strong but with a sweet innocence about her, fitting her age and temperament

Melissa says

Laura says

SPOILERS

I felt like this book could have been one of my favorites, but as I reflected on all I had just read I realized that there was a certain aspect that has almost completely ruined this for me.

Amme, despite being irresistibly beautiful is a strong female character who for the most part, demonstrated strength and backbone. She lives in a country divided by war with her well known army general father and her brothers.

After the brutal murder of her best friend at the hands of the enemy, her family sends her into hiding, to a place deemed secret and safe only to find it in the process of being attacked. Her escorts are killed but she is saved by a group of assassins, thus beginning her journey and introducing readers to love interest number one.

At this point, I didn't realize there was going to be a love triangle, although I should not have been surprised, as they just keep popping up everywhere. Amme spends time with them and they teach her to be strong and basically how to kill, before enlisting her help in the assassination of a key player for the other side.

Shortly thereafter based on the prophecy of some divine fey-like women, Amme goes on without them. Her pre-destined path is different than theirs and she is to be essential in bringing peace to their nation. I loathe pre-destined paths but this isn't what got me so irritated. Amme eventually gets captured by the enemy, the same enemy responsible for the destruction of her intended safe haven and also for the brutal murder of her best friend. The king of these evil men is Marko Corin who doesn't have any idea of the brutality of their methods basically due to his own gullibility and turning a blind eye.

He stops Amme from getting killed and takes her to his castle where he orders his physicians to nurse her back to health.

During her captivity, he coddles her, he tortures her, he falls in love with her and he eventually rapes her. It's not a violent rape, he actually has the gall to try and make it romantic. Soft music, candles, drugged wine to make it easier. She also gets a gift from those fey like women who sent her down this road, she gets to experience the ordeal as if it was the sweet and consensual act of losing her virginity with love interest number one. I don't care how you dress it up, a rape is a rape. He never gave her any choice. He just told her it was going to happen eventually and then one night instructed the maids to get her prepared. I was cringing and disgusted but I had no idea he was going to become love interest number two. At that point I would have stopped reading.

A significant amount of time goes by and he doesn't touch her again. He begs her forgiveness, he tries to talk to her but she won't speak. Eventually he wears her down and befriends her. In the eyes of his evil advisors he is becoming obsessed and they don't like it, but it's not until he catches them torturing her for her true

identity that he puts his foot down and stops listening to them. However he too wants to know who she really is, but her injuries give her the perfect opportunity to fake memory loss, but it also gives him the opportunity to fake a marriage and a history with her. So now she's been outplayed and has to go along with it. During this time he becomes a better man, he withdraws troops and stops the attacks. Word spreads that it is due to his new wife, the lady jade who is responsible for the change, yet no one outside his court has seen her or knows who she really is. His former evil advisors cannot allow this to stand and devise a plan to have her murdered, placing blame on his cousin Mehr, the other thorn in their sides. Nothing goes according to plan, she escapes but they fake her death, and soon he becomes bitter and gullible once again and the attacks resume.

This probably seems like a recap of the entire book but it's not. Loads of other things happen and the details were necessary in trying to illustrate what a terrible love interest Marko is. It wasn't until the end of the book that I was even clear that he was a contender but it's stated very clearly that Ammey has developed feelings for him and cares for him. I could have forgiven this if it was faked, a sacrifice she would make to establish peace, or to ensure her own survival but it's not, and thus the love triangle and Ammey's choice get a lot more significance in a story that didn't need a love triangle and would have been extremely good without it.

Charity says

Umm... This started out very well. Action right at the beginning. Honestly, the book kept me hooked the entire time. But it also irritated me. This may be because it is about a girl who is stunningly gorgeous and everyone falls in love with her. What does that mean? Yes. A friggin love triangle. And the book just STOPS. No ending. Carries right on into the second book. I know this because it has the first chapter at the end. Anyway, I think I could have given it a 4 if the silly girl would pick the right guy and stick with her choice. Uncertain girls with more than one perfectly decent guy (and an obvious CORRECT choice) ruin books for me. If you don't mind that, it is a pretty cool story to get lost in.

Hallie Coates says

Captivating, thrilling, romantic. I haven't read anything similar to that of Jane Shoup's writing in quite some time! I can't wait to start the second book.

Kayla Anderson says

It was a good story, better than I expected. It was a quick read until about 3/4 the way through then it started to slow. For me that was because I wasn't aware that there would be a sequel. Once I realized there was a book two I finished it quickly. I liked all the characters including, at times, Marco corin. I felt that there flaws and strengths made them both likeable and relatable. I was often cheering when something good happens and indignant on their behalf when things weren't going well for them making it a heartfelt read.

Kelly says

Wow! What a fantastic and engaging read! I love it and can't wait to read the next book!

Bob Platypire says

Okay, my true rating for this is more like a 3.5, and it's for the audio version of the book.

Now, the plot was great, and I loved Ammey. I don't think everyone loved her for her looks, but for her heart and courage, her loyalty. She is an amazing character! I don't mind the love triangle, I'm very interested to see how things develop. I'm am solidly #TeamVincent.

What got to me was the rape. I could never even pretend to care for someone who did that to me, and it continued to niggle in the back of my mind whenever she thought fondly of him and seemed to completely forget the horror of what happened to her. I know this is just fiction, and even in reality, I suppose some women could SOMEHOW get past it. But it really bothered me, and so it had to affect my rating.

I wasn't really fond of the narrator at first, but I grew accustomed to her voice and actually quite like her now! Her tension doesn't always feel right for the scene, but in general, she was pretty good. One thing DID bother me, though. At one point she pronounces Amaris, "AM er iss", and another time, "uh MARE iss". And now I am confused lol. It's not a big thing, just one of those things that caught the attention of my weird brain and wouldn't let go.

In general, I would recommend this to those who like fantasy with a strong female lead. I definitely will be continuing this series.

Bob says: 3.5 Platypiress

Angi says

A lot of stuff happened in here, which was a bit much, but it was still very nice to read. I wished it was resolved in one book, as I heard the 2nd one isn't that great.

Megan says

Review to follow. I've read this book 3 times now because I love it so much. I want to read it one more time before I give a proper review.
