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The Exiled Queen (Seven Realms)



Synopsis

Haunted by the loss of his mother and sister, Han Alister journeys south to begin his schooling at Mystwerk House in Oden's Ford. But leaving the Fells doesn't mean that danger isn't far behind. Han is hunted every step of the way by the Bayars, a powerful wizarding family set on reclaiming the amulet Han stole from them. And Mystwerk House has dangers of its own. There, Han meets Crow, a mysterious wizard who agrees to tutor Han in the darker parts of sorcery-but the bargain they make is one Han may regret. Meanwhile, Princess Raisa and Marianna runs from a forced marriage in the Fells, accompanied by her friend Amon and his triple of cadets. Now, the safest place for Raisa is Wein House, the military academy at Oden's Ford. If Raisa can pass as a regular student, Wein House will offer both sanctuary and the education Raisa needs to succeed as the next Gray Wolf queen. Everything changes when Han and Raisa's paths cross, in this epic tale of uncertain friendships, cut-throat politics, and the irresistible power of attraction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up—Seventeen-year-old Han Alister was once the Ragmarket street lord, skilled in thievery and lies. But now he's traveling to Oden's Ford to earn an education in the magical arts, and it will not be without peril. Despite the fact that the academy is known as "the great leveler," there are students who have reason to hate Han, specifically the Bayar twins, Micah and Fiona, because he stole the Demon King's amulet from their father, the High Wizard. To gain the upper hand on them, Han joins forces with a mysterious wizard he met in the dream world,

but what this wizard asks in return may be more than the teen wishes to give. Meanwhile, Princess Raisa has fled from an arranged marriage with Micah Bayar. She and her loyal and beloved soldier, Amon, are also making their way to Oden's Ford so that Raisa might receive a military education in order to become a stronger ruler. Raisa's and Han's paths have crossed in the past, but when they meet again their connection is more powerful than before. Chima has created an intricate world with a rich history, cultural prejudices, and complicated political dynamics. Her characters are multifaceted: no one is either completely evil or insidiously perfect – each has shortcomings as well as redeeming traits. Readers would do well to pick up the first book in this series before tackling this one, as there are some details that will be lost without knowledge of what transpired in *The Demon King* (Hyperion, 2009), but those who love a well-thought-out fantasy will enjoy this novel.

Heather M. Campbell, formerly at Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO
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Praise for *The Exiled Queen*: 'Vividly drawn and lusciously executed, the Seven Realms series continues to grow in breadth and detail with this sequel to *The Demon King*. The story lines are intricately plotted and the characters fully realized, even as questions about truth, loyalty, and power are explored.' VOYA 'Duty, love, expedience and revenge fuel the labyrinthine intrigues of this second entry in an epic fantasy series...Seven Realms fans will pore over every detail and beg impatiently for the sequel. Riveting.' Kirkus Praise for *The Demon King*: 'The *Demon King* is a page-turner for any reader, regardless of age.' Robin Hobb 'Dozens of characters, complex and distinct in personality, are placed with jewel-like precision, set off by dark glints of villainy... [readers] will clamor for the sequel.' Publishers Weekly Praise for Cinda Williams Chima: 'Centuries of wizardly scheming, slavery and slaughter reap apocalyptic fallout in this final volume of Chima's trilogy... Heroes and villains alike are swayed by achingly human motivations into disastrous choices with devastating consequences...The resolution is-like the end of childhood itself-tentatively hopeful, if not triumphant. A superlative accomplishment.' Kirkus. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In *The Exiled Queen*, Cinda Williams Chima takes her two main protagonists and the readers away from all they had known before and sent to the neutral city of Oden's Ford. However, the journeys there and their experiences are not without hazard or excitement which keeps the reader very much

engaged. Chima continues the growth of her main characters as well as several secondary ones which helps develop the story, nor do Raisa (aka Rebecca) and Han really meet once again until over halfway through the book giving their story arcs independence from one another even as they interact. Through both character's stories, the world and history of the Seven Realms is further explored without taking away from the narrative flow of the book and putting in building blocks for later in the series. Although a few things aren't exactly explained to satisfaction given their importance or revelation in this book, I can't really complain. The events of the last 100 pages not only were a pay off of what developed since page 1, but also left me wanting to see what happens in *The Gray Wolf Throne*.

I was really excited to get into the magic part of this series. I've seen some comparisons to Harry Potter, but other than they go to a school to learn how to harness magic, it reads nothing like J.K. Rowling's books. Nor is the school anything like Hogwarts. It took a while to get to Oden's Ford (wizarding/military school) but the book was fast-paced and chock full of awesomeness. Chima is an incredibly talented writer and creates a world that I can't wait to escape to. The only thing that disappointed me was that there were too many gaps in the schooling. I wanted to see more of the classroom, whether it was with Han learning to use his amulet or Raisa learning to be a soldier. I was so excited to see what would happen next that I burned through the book. I would definitely recommend this series to anyone who loves a good ya fantasy. I can't wait to start the next book!!

I am honestly really love this series. Although some elements are quite predictable (at least to me) everything remains entertaining just the same. I like that we got a change in setting for this novel. Call it the old Harry Potter lover in me, there is just something nostalgic about wizardry and school. Additionally, I am happy that we got to learn more about the many of the characters we were already introduced to. The protagonists continue to be flawed but root-able. The world they live in on course becomes far more complicated and interesting. I like Han and Raisa both are individuals and together. I like their friends and their struggles. Han and Dancer continue to be a great dynamic. They are very two very different people, but their friendship balances them. As for Amon and Raisa, despite being a big supporter of Han and Raisa, I truly feel for these two. In another life, under different circumstances they could have been really happy together. I like Amon, and honestly if there were some other girl that I could picture Han with I might not have minded if the author put Amon and Raisa together.

I've never been a huge fan of young adult novels, but I was looking for a quick read like the Hunger Games. One of my friends recommended this series, and it was about what I expected. It keeps your attention for the most part, and I was surprised by how I liked the female lead in the first book and still in the second (She gets more annoying later on in my opinion). Sure she has a lot of the YA genre cliches, but I liked that she actually seemed like a princess. Speaking of cliches, like most YA books, this series is full of them. It's the perfect book if you are trying to relate to what I guess is the "normal" problems a teenager would have, and if you can relate to that. Personally, I grew up having to read nonfiction, and any fictional stories I read were older like Les Miserables or Great Expectations so I don't think I fit the target audience. I found myself being entertained enough to ignore the vast number of times I rolled my eyes at the cliches, and this sequel is as good as the first book. Basically, if you are a fan of young adult books with a bit of old fantasy flare, this is the book for you. I haven't finished the series yet (I started the 3rd book but I haven't been able to force myself to finish it yet), but overall I think it is worth a read and most people I know who liked Divergent and the Hunger games really liked this book.

At the end of book one, the lineage of Hayden Fire Dancer and Han Alister (Hunts Alone) was revealed. The clan had sent them to Oden's Ford to enhance their wizard abilities. Raisa and Marianna (a.k.a. Rebecca Morley) was on the run as well avoiding marriage to Micah Bayer, but fate had intervened to turn the tides and redirect events. Once again, these three main characters would cross their paths in Oden's Ford. While studying in this academy, Han would meet someone in Aedion who would play an important role in his life. In summation, this second installment just an entail of their time in school that started the courtship of Han and Rebecca. Frankly, I was impressed with the great thinking of this author. The development of the story was spectacular. No dull moments at all. Love it!

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