

↶ [Reading] → Troubled Waters By Sharon Shinn ↷ – Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co

Posted on 02 December 2017 By Sharon Shinn

The Author Of The Twelve Hours Series Welcomes Readers To A New Fantasy World, Where The Elements Rule Zoe Ardelay Receives Astonishing And Unwelcome News She Has Been Chosen To Become The King S Fifth Wife Forced To Go To The Royal City, She Manages To Slip Away And Hide On The Shores Of The Mighty River It S There That Zoe Realizes She Is A Coru Prime Ruled By The Elemental Sign Of Water She Must Return To The Palace, Not As An Unwilling Bride For The King, But A Woman With Power In Her Own Right But As Zoe Unlocks Of The Mysteries Of Her Blood And The Secrets Of The Royal Family She Must Decide How To Use Her Great Power To Rise Above The Deceptions And Intrigue Of The Royal Court Although I liked Archangel, I believe Troubled Waters has been the last Sharon Shinn novel for me At the moment new authors sprout out of the ground like grass or nettles so it relieves me a great deal to cross one off my observation list I know that this decision is probably a harsh one after just one and a half tries, especially since Troubled Waters is not a bad story There is nothing blatantly wrong with the writing or the characters or the setting Really It is rather the other way around The heroine is a kind of smooth uebergirl Zoe calmy mourns her father, she levelly decides on the right things, she does this at the right time the reader should not try to look into her head it is a useless endeavor and does that correctly and smiles benignly Her actions, like the actions of the other inhabitants of this fantasy world are solely determined by her biologically given character set she is coru, which means water and blood , which results in both an affinity also

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the means elemental manipulation to real water and in the walter like urge to wander, to go with the flow ecetera and by the three random blessings bestowed on her at birth by three strangers Beauty, Love and Power The constant reminder of who was supposed to act so and so because he or she was wood or stone or air or fire left little room for letting characters just be themselves Apart from that I had the feeling that during the first 160 pages not much had really happened although that is objectively seen not true Zoe s father dies On the next day she is fetched by a messenger of the king She is driven across country in a kind a steampunk camper She flees the vehicle, she settles among the homeless although she has plenty of gold sewn into her shawl She quickly acquires lovely friends and a fulfilling job and draws the random blessing of change at a temple which certainly changes her life oncein a major kind of way, which again felt completely eventless unimportant to me The plot did have notable turning points, but no drive, no compelling force If I had not encountered some specimen of excellently captivating fantasy fiction recently I would have said high fantasy and I should just go our separate ways for a while As it is I just kick the book out Shoo Teccc, do you want to give the paperback a new home ETA I think I enjoyed this book eventhan when I read it first 2 years ago Lovely story writing, perfect world building, great characterisation Sharon Shinn is a fantastic writer Original review If you are looking for bloody wars on immense scales with mythical creatures of the apocalypse, sword fights, violent deaths, foul conspiracy, fast pacing this may not be the book for you to read But if you are open to something different, you may end up enjoying this novel.I decided to give it a try upon reading the superb review of Tadiana Night Owl I am happy to say I was not disappointed at all I just loved reading it now consider it as one of my favourites of the Fantasy genre Background story The society of the Kingdom of Welce is built around the balance of the five natural elements with related character traits blessings water blood , fire mind , air soul , earth flesh , wood bone people s resonance to one of them.Besides the King, the country is ruled by five great families with a particular affinity to one of the elements, especially embodied in the heads Primes of the families water coru Family Lalindar, air eelay Family Dochenza, fire sweela Family Ardelay, earth torz Family Frothen , wood

Creek

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Blueberries for Sal

The Princess and the Pea

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

A Raisin in the Sun

The House on Mango Street

Strawberry Girl

The Catcher in the Rye

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

The Cherry Orchard

Each Peach Pear Plum

If Life Is a Bowl of

hunti Family Serlast The story is about Zoe Ardelay Lalindar, how, instead of marrying the King as his 5th wife, she comes into power as the new Prime of the Lalindar her mother s family, how she is growing into her role and how she navigates the troubled waters of high society court intrigue. Things I loved Sharon Shinn managed to create a story that flows simply naturally without great fuss, pointless grandiosity forced BIG revelations Every detail seems to be in its place fits naturally into the greater picture She did indeed achieve BALANCE The concept of the world building is based on the 5 elements loosely on numerology The author builds up her world slowly, but surely, with lovely, interesting intriguing details of geography, religion, politics, social customs without being over or underwhelming The magic, if it can be called magic at all, is understated It is like natural powers coming to characters, in synch with their intrinsic elements, with greater power being concentrated in the Primes of the 5 houses It is an important feature, but not the actual drive behind the story The heroine, Zoe she is not your typical kickass one not that I have anything against them in general , but still has a solid inner strength to her in perfect harmony with her natural element water that is very appealing She IS actually lovely, likeable easy to relate to She is not perfect has no false humility about herself either And that, my Fellow Readers, is no mean feat considering how many authors seem to miss the point entirely by creating these oh so very speshul snowflakes whose specialness lies in being insufferable oh, please don tell me I am special, for I know I am not, though everyone else keeps telling me I AM , spoiling the whole reading process, even if the story is a good one It is also a refreshing change that Zoe upon learning that she is heir to her Coru grandmother Prime of the Lalindar family instead of denial and running away from her fate in the usual fashion of chosen ones of most fantasy novels, actually takes to her role like a duck is taking to water pun intended , flowing into filling in the space she needs to occupy naturally without any needless rumpus The characters in general main as well as secondary characters are well drawn There is no black white characterisation The love affair is also understated part of the story, without events having to evolve around it all the time There are no earthquakes, fireworks all screaming HE SHE is the ONE It is still believable how the 2 characters are

Cherries What Am I
Doing in the Pits?

Watermelon

Oranges Are Not the
Only Fruit

The Five Orange Pips

Five Little Peppers and
How They Grew

Dandelion Wine

The Orange Girl

influencing are slowly being drawn to each other without the author having to hit us on the head every other page with how much they are in love, describing every move look facial expression thought feeling in excruciating detail. Be warned again that the story takes its own sweet time to gather real momentum, so if you want a quick action fix, choose something else. I just wrote a great review of this and Goodreads ate it GODDAMNIT Ok, let me try to duplicate SOo, I really like this author's other books, but this one I kinda enjoyed but also didn't, especially as it progressed to the end. First, let me say, I have a weird attraction to books with worldbuilding that brands people at birth with personality attributes I know it goes against my whole independent philosophy, but if I can identify myself as a Hufflepuff or a Green Ajah or, like here, a Firey sweela I'm usually like, SIGN ME UP Problem is, in this book, people refer to it SO MUCH, their elemental heritage, that there's almost nothing else to them It got a bit annoying. ALSO, double ID whammy, you get three blessings at birth pulled from a barrel, like power, love, time, beauty etc that FURTHER define your life And if you're in doubt, go pull something out of the barrel and the word will tell you what to do People in this world live WITH NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER It got seriously confining after a while Ok, that's that So, the plot meandered I wanted to slap the main character a lot Her family situation was interesting, but her actions were lethargic, at best And then, ALL OF THE SUDDEN towards the end, she starts doing something INSANE and then NO ONE PUNISHES HER Like, they should totally kill her, she acts like a psycho, and she GETS HER WAY It's so weird to me PLUS, she has all this insane power, but none of the other powerful Primes step forward to help her manage her powers at all They just string her out No wonder she acts like a crazy terrorist at the end, which has no real repercussions, so it was fine all along Grr. And I didn't get the main love interest, he was ok, but he didn't display a lot of redeeming qualities except maybe stalking. Bottom Line I'll probably read the next one But I might rant about that one too, haha. This is what I would call a fantasy lite story and, as such, is an easily accessible tale for those who may usually shy away from fantasy stories, believing them to be too dense and foreign feeling to make for non-stressful reading This is the story of how 23 year old Zoe

Ardelay grows out from under the shadow of her larger than life father whom she joined in banishment from the royal court some ten years earlier It s a nice story, easily processed and digested, and Zoe makes for a likable main character There is a small romance angle at work but if romance is your bread and butter, look elsewhere The romance here is presented in drips and drabs I actually would ve liked a little so there is no danger of it overwhelming the rest of the story If action is your thing, again, look elsewhere because this is of a late bloomer story with an emphasis on how Zoe moves through her new circumstances I would have liked a deeper dive into the world of the Five Families and their Primes As it is, it feels like the story skimmed over and just hit the highlights See what I mean about fantasy lite But it was an enjoyable story for all that and I m curious to see how subsequent books go since it looks like each one will showcase a different character. Audiobook re read April 2018 This is probably my favorite book. Audiobook re read February 2017 Comfort read 3 Audiobook re read October 2015 I love this book soooooo much. Re read January 2015 Still love this a lot, although this time I think the rest of the book worked better for me than the ending And I got my sequel That I just started last night Oooh, and GoodReads is listing a third book Yes Original review Ahhhhh This one of those books where it took me forever to get through the first half and then I didn t want to put it down Zoe s an awesome character And the romance ends up being lovely and wonderful The world is really interesting and refreshing. And I would really love a companion novel to this I don t think I want a direct sequel, but I m very interested in finding out what happens to some characters. While this is not quite a OMG I m in LOVE 5 star book for me it came pretty close to being at least a loved it 5 star er However, in the end, sadly, I went with 4 stars because it was just missing that spark that would have pushed it from good to brilliant You know, that spark, that connection, that emotional bond you feel when reading something you find truly fantastic I d hoped I d find it somewhere in these pages In fact when I started this one I felt sure that I would but it just wasn t in there for me Don t get me wrong this is a really good book If you like light fantasy with a romantic component give it a try at least You may find that elusive spark I missed To begin with, it has most elements I look for when reading a fantasy romance,

from a smart, self sufficient heroine to a stoic, brooding leading man to an interesting and well developed quasi magical system in this case people being linked to certain elements and those traits reflected in their character The romance itself took a backseat to the actual plot which is another aspect I appreciated There was also an interesting cast of secondary characters, some developed than others and some I'd like to learn about My hope is a few of these will be found in future books of this series Now the plot, it was a little murky I wasn't quite sure what the author hoped to accomplish I felt the story just meandered at times, and there are moments I thought our MC acted too rashly and impulsively She seemed not to take her power seriously just as she seemed not to care how her actions affected others Honestly, there were times it bordered ridiculous and selfish Then again, maybe that is just her core nature However, even then, the story was crafted well enough to hold my attention, which is a feat unto itself these days, and the writing was really very good I was engrossed in every page, and I was sad when the story finally came to end That's really all there is to it I enjoyed almost every minute of the book and those small parts I didn't enjoy as much didn't do much to negate my opinion I have only read one other book by Ms Shinn but I can assure you, this will not be my last.

UPDATE

After taking the night to think about this, and in fact sitting here at work still thinking about it, I'm going to have to revise my immediate assessment Yes, I still liked the book, but the thought about it, the Zoe's crazy actions bothered me I'm going to leave the star rating alone but I'm mentally bumping this down to 3.5 stars.

3.5 Blessing Stars

This was a pretty decent book but I found myself getting caught up in figuring which blessing belonged to which house and what personality really meant whether it was blood, or water, or air etc. I also would have liked the story to revolve a bit around Darien.

Troubled Waters is a really lovely high fantasy novel I liked it almost as much as my favorite so far Sharon Shinn book, *Summers at Castle Auburn* Zoe is the daughter of a once powerful man in the kingdom of Welce, who lived in hiding in a small village for ten years after falling from the king's favor As the story begins, Zoe's father has just died, and the king's closest advisor, Darien Serlast, swoops into town with the surprise announcement that Zoe has been chosen to be the king's fifth

wife Yay Zoe, numb with grief and shock, allows Darien to take her to the capital city, but as soon as they arrive there she slips away from him at an opportune moment and goes into hiding once again. But life, of course, hasin store for Zoe, and she and the royal court and Darien aren't done with each other yet. And magic is, quite literally, waiting to manifest in Zoe's blood. There are five powerful families in the kingdom, each gifted with a particular affinity to one of the five elements: air/soul, fire/mind, water/blood, earth/flesh, and wood/bone. The leader of each family, the prime, is gifted with extraordinary gifts and powers relating to their element. Zoe soon discovers she is the coru, or water/blood, prime, since her grandmother died several years ago. Not a spoiler: this is in the book's blurb. It was interesting to read about a society tied so closely to the idea of the elements and their powers. Most people in this society doesn't have magical powers; it's mostly just the five primes and to a lesser extent their heirs. But everyone in Welce carries traits of one of these elements, sometimes with an aspect of another element as a secondary part of their personality, kind of like how we sometimes categorize people's personalities in our society by color. In Wence this is woven into the core of their culture. The story contains a heartwarming romance that develops slowly and believably, but doesn't ever take over the plot to the exclusion of everything else. She could not resist leaning into him just a little, just to feel his reassuring strength against her shoulder. But that is my point exactly, she said: "Who I am now and who I seemed to be then are two very different people. Not so different that I cannot recognize you," he said. "No matter how much you change, you will always be familiar to me." There's also quite a bit of intriguing and conniving once Zoe takes her place in high society. Most of all, this is a coming-of-age story even though Zoe is already about 23 years old as the story begins as she gradually discovers who she is as a person, and what she wants from life. Very highly recommended for those who enjoy romantic fantasy that's on the quieter side, and maybe even for those who don't normally read fantasy but appreciate well-told tales. The book was slow. There was so much time spent on what was of little value and it just had me getting frustrated and hoping the author would just get on with the story. The story might have been interesting, but I didn't at all like either of the two main

protagonists. Zoe I think I would have been able to understand her walking away from Darien in the beginning were any sort of reasoning provided There was no inclination from her about it one way or another She literally just gets up and walks away and, for quite some time, I was just bewildered as to what caused it Also, the things Zoe does with her powershe just never considers the consequences of what it ll do She just impulsively uses it and then feels no remorse for her actions afterwards view spoiler I m sure there was a much easier way of stopping the wedding than nearly flooding the whole city hide spoiler



