

# crown duel by sherwood smith

**\*\*Exploring the Rich World of Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith\*\***

**crown duel by sherwood smith** is a captivating fantasy novel that has enchanted readers since its release. This book is not just a story but an immersive experience that blends political intrigue, adventure, and well-crafted characters into a seamless narrative. For anyone interested in young adult fantasy or tales of heroism and growth, Crown Duel offers a compelling journey that stands out in the genre.

## What Makes Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith Stand Out?

When diving into Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith, one of the first things that strikes readers is the depth of the world-building. Sherwood Smith has created a vivid kingdom called Sartorias-deles that feels alive and complex, complete with its own history, culture, and political tensions. The novel's setting is a tapestry of medieval-inspired landscapes, from bustling castles to quiet villages, each described with a richness that transports readers right into the heart of the story.

But beyond the setting, what truly distinguishes Crown Duel is its strong, relatable protagonist, Meliara Astiar. Meliara's journey from a sheltered noblewoman to a determined and skilled leader provides an empowering narrative about resilience and self-discovery. Her growth is not rushed or superficial; instead, it unfolds naturally as she faces challenges both physical and emotional.

## The Blend of Fantasy and Political Drama

One of the appealing aspects of Crown Duel is how it balances traditional fantasy elements with intricate political drama. Unlike many fantasy novels that focus solely on magical battles or mythical creatures, this book focuses heavily on the nuances of power, loyalty, and monarchy. The "duel" in the title isn't just a physical confrontation but symbolizes the larger struggle for control and justice within the kingdom.

Sherwood Smith's expertise in crafting believable political intrigue is evident. Readers experience the tension between rival nobles, the complexities of allegiance, and the weight of leadership decisions. This layer of sophistication elevates Crown Duel above many other young adult fantasies, making it a rewarding read for those who enjoy stories where brains and diplomacy are just as important as bravery and swordplay.

## Characters That Resonate

One of the hallmarks of Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith is the memorable cast of characters

who feel three-dimensional and authentic. Meliara, often called Mel, is far from a stereotypical fantasy heroine. She's intelligent, witty, and determined, yet imperfect, which adds to her appeal. Readers are invited into her mind, experiencing her fears, hopes, and doubts, which makes her triumphs all the more satisfying.

Supporting characters also contribute significantly to the story's richness. For example, Kethry, Mel's loyal friend, and Rhelim, the enigmatic and skilled swordsman, provide contrasting perspectives and aid Mel in different ways. The relationships between these characters are nuanced and evolve naturally, showing the importance of trust and friendship in the face of adversity.

## Character Development and Reader Engagement

The growth of characters in *Crown Duel* is carefully paced, allowing readers to form strong emotional connections. Sherwood Smith doesn't shy away from exploring complex emotions such as fear, grief, and moral ambiguity, which adds layers of realism. For young adult readers, this makes the story not just entertaining but also relatable, as it mirrors the challenges of growing up and finding one's place in the world.

## The Writing Style and Narrative Flow

Sherwood Smith's writing style in *Crown Duel* is both accessible and beautifully descriptive. The prose strikes a balance between lyrical and straightforward, making the story easy to follow without sacrificing depth. This approach helps maintain a steady narrative flow that keeps readers engaged from start to finish.

What's particularly effective is how the author uses dialogue and internal monologues to reveal character motivations and advance the plot. The pacing is well-managed, with moments of high tension seamlessly interspersed with quieter, introspective scenes. This rhythm allows readers to breathe and reflect, deepening their investment in the story.

## Tips for New Readers of *Crown Duel*

If you're approaching *Crown Duel* by Sherwood Smith for the first time, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Pay attention to the political landscape:** The nuances of Sartorias-deles' political situation are key to understanding character motivations and the story's stakes.
- **Take your time with character interactions:** Many important revelations come through dialogue and subtle character moments, so savor these scenes.
- **Embrace the blend of genres:** Whether you enjoy fantasy, adventure, or political drama, *Crown Duel* offers a rich mix that rewards open-minded readers.

- **Explore Sherwood Smith's other works:** Fans of Crown Duel often find her other novels equally engaging, as they share the same attention to world-building and character depth.

## The Legacy and Impact of Crown Duel

Since its publication, *Crown Duel* by Sherwood Smith has maintained a loyal fanbase and received praise for its originality and mature storytelling. It has been recognized as a standout example of young adult fantasy that respects its readers' intelligence and emotional depth. The novel's influence can be seen in how it inspired other writers to combine fantasy with political intrigue and strong female leads.

Moreover, *Crown Duel* has sparked discussions about themes such as leadership, courage, and the complexities of war and peace. Its portrayal of a young woman navigating a patriarchal society to claim her rightful place resonates with contemporary audiences, making it both timeless and relevant.

## Why Crown Duel Remains Relevant Today

In today's literary landscape, where fantasy often leans heavily on spectacle, *Crown Duel* by Sherwood Smith offers a refreshing return to character-driven storytelling. Its exploration of identity, power, and morality continues to appeal to readers of all ages. The novel encourages thoughtful reflection on what it means to lead and the sacrifices that leadership demands, themes that never lose their significance.

For educators and book groups, *Crown Duel* provides ample material for discussions about gender roles, political ethics, and the hero's journey. Its layered narrative makes it a valuable addition to reading lists that aim to foster critical thinking alongside enjoyment.

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Whether you're a longtime fan or new to Sherwood Smith's work, *Crown Duel* is a remarkable fantasy novel that delivers adventure, heart, and thought-provoking themes. Its richly imagined world and compelling characters invite readers to lose themselves in a story where every duel—whether of swords or wills—matters deeply.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the main plot of 'Crown Duel' by Sherwood Smith?

The main plot of 'Crown Duel' follows Lady Meliara Astiar as she navigates political intrigue,

war, and personal challenges to reclaim her family's throne and protect her kingdom.

## **Who is the protagonist of 'Crown Duel' and what makes her character unique?**

The protagonist is Lady Meliara Astiar, a strong-willed and intelligent noblewoman skilled in swordsmanship and strategy, which sets her apart in a male-dominated society.

## **How does Sherwood Smith portray the theme of power in 'Crown Duel'?**

Sherwood Smith explores power through political maneuvering, battles for the throne, and the personal growth of characters like Meliara, highlighting the complexities and responsibilities of leadership.

## **Is 'Crown Duel' suitable for young adult readers?**

Yes, 'Crown Duel' is often categorized as young adult fantasy, featuring coming-of-age themes, adventure, and a strong female lead that appeals to teen and adult readers alike.

## **What role does sword fighting play in 'Crown Duel'?**

Sword fighting is central to the story, showcasing Meliara's skills and independence, and it serves as a metaphor for her struggle against oppression and her quest for justice.

## **Are there any sequels or related books to 'Crown Duel'?**

Yes, Sherwood Smith has written a sequel called 'Court Duel,' which continues the story of Meliara and expands on the political and personal conflicts introduced in 'Crown Duel.'

## **What inspired Sherwood Smith to write 'Crown Duel'?**

Sherwood Smith was inspired by classic fantasy literature and her interest in strong female protagonists, as well as her desire to create a richly detailed world with complex characters and political intrigue.

## **How does 'Crown Duel' address gender roles and expectations?**

'Crown Duel' challenges traditional gender roles by presenting Meliara as a capable leader and warrior in a patriarchal society, highlighting themes of empowerment and equality.

## **What is the setting of 'Crown Duel' and how does it enhance the story?**

The story is set in a fictional medieval-like kingdom with a detailed political landscape, which provides a vivid backdrop for the drama, battles, and character development.

throughout the novel.

## Additional Resources

**\*\*Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith: A Timeless Fantasy Tale of Intrigue and Courage\*\***

**crown duel by sherwood smith** stands as a distinctive work within the realm of young adult fantasy literature. Since its initial publication, the novel has attracted readers who appreciate intricate world-building, complex characters, and a narrative imbued with political intrigue and personal growth. Sherwood Smith, an author known for her skillful storytelling and elaborate settings, crafts a tale that transcends conventional fantasy tropes, making *\*Crown Duel\** a noteworthy study for enthusiasts of the genre and literary critics alike.

## In-depth Analysis of Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith

The novel *\*Crown Duel\** unfolds in the fictional kingdom of Marloven Hess, a setting that Smith meticulously constructs with detailed geography, social structure, and political tensions. This world-building is not merely a backdrop but an active participant in the story, influencing character decisions and plot developments. The central narrative follows the young noblewoman Meliara Astiar, who transforms from a sheltered aristocrat into a determined leader. Smith's portrayal of Meliara challenges traditional gender roles often seen in fantasy novels, offering a protagonist whose strength lies as much in intellect and diplomacy as in courage.

One of the remarkable features of *\*Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith\** is its blend of political intrigue with personal narrative. The story is propelled by a struggle for power, with rival factions vying for control of the crown, but it also deeply explores themes of loyalty, honor, and identity. Smith's approach to these themes is nuanced; rather than presenting clear-cut heroes and villains, she crafts characters with layered motivations and moral ambiguities. This complexity invites readers to engage critically with the narrative, making the novel a subject of interest for literary analysis within young adult fantasy literature.

## Character Development and Thematic Depth

Meliara's journey is one of the novel's most compelling aspects. Initially perceived as naive and compliant, she gradually emerges as a strategic thinker and resilient figure, embodying leadership qualities that resonate with contemporary readers seeking strong female protagonists. Smith's writing style facilitates this transformation through internal monologues and detailed descriptions of Meliara's interactions with other characters and the political landscape.

The theme of identity is interwoven with Meliara's evolution. Her struggle to reconcile personal desires with public duty mirrors larger questions about the nature of power and

governance. This thematic layer adds depth to the novel, distinguishing it from more formulaic fantasy stories that prioritize action over introspection.

## World-Building and Political Intrigue

The political landscape in *\*Crown Duel\** is intricate, involving alliances, betrayals, and a nuanced portrayal of monarchy and rebellion. Smith's attention to the mechanics of governance and diplomacy adds authenticity to the story. The kingdom's social hierarchy and cultural norms are elaborated through vivid descriptions and character interactions, which enhance the reader's immersion.

From a comparative standpoint, *\*Crown Duel\** shares similarities with other political fantasy works such as Robin Hobb's *\*Farseer Trilogy\** or Tamora Pierce's *\*Song of the Lioness\** series, particularly in how it centers on a young protagonist navigating court politics. However, Smith's narrative distinguishes itself with a more focused examination of the responsibilities that come with noble birth and the personal cost of leadership.

## Writing Style and Narrative Structure

Sherwood Smith employs a prose style that balances descriptive richness with narrative momentum. The pacing is deliberate, allowing for character development and world-building without sacrificing the tension essential to a political drama. The dual focus on external conflict (the crown duel itself) and internal conflict (Meliara's personal growth) creates a dynamic reading experience.

The novel's structure supports its thematic ambitions. Divided into sections that reflect shifts in the political climate and character arcs, it helps maintain clarity amid complex plotlines. This organization benefits readers who appreciate layered storytelling that rewards attention to detail.

## Pros and Cons of Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith

- **Pros:**

- Strong, well-developed protagonist who breaks traditional gender norms.
- Rich world-building that enhances immersion and credibility.
- Nuanced political intrigue that elevates the narrative beyond typical fantasy conflicts.
- Exploration of themes such as identity, power, and duty that add literary depth.
- Engaging writing style with balanced pacing.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the deliberate pacing slow compared to action-driven fantasy.
- The intricacy of political details might overwhelm those new to the genre.
- Limited secondary character development in certain parts, focusing heavily on Meliara.

## **Impact and Reception in the Fantasy Genre**

Since its release, *\*Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith\** has garnered a dedicated following and critical acclaim for its originality and depth. It is often recommended within young adult fantasy circles for readers seeking stories with strong female leads and sophisticated plots. The novel's influence extends to contemporary fantasy writers who cite Smith's work as an inspiration for character-driven narratives set against politically charged backdrops.

Additionally, *\*Crown Duel\** holds educational value for discussions about narrative structure and character arcs in fantasy literature courses. Its emphasis on political strategy and personal responsibility offers a distinct perspective that enriches the genre.

## **Comparative Insights: Crown Duel in the Context of Sherwood Smith's Oeuvre**

Sherwood Smith's broader body of work includes multiple fantasy novels that showcase her talent for creating immersive worlds and complex characters. *\*Crown Duel\** stands out as a seminal piece that encapsulates many of her signature strengths. Compared to other novels by Smith, it presents a more focused narrative with heightened political stakes, making it a pivotal read for those interested in the evolution of her storytelling style.

Fans of Smith's other series, such as *\*Inda\** or *\*The Tala\**, will find thematic and stylistic continuities in *\*Crown Duel\**, particularly in the portrayal of leadership challenges and ethical dilemmas. However, *\*Crown Duel\**'s tight narrative and strong central character provide a uniquely compelling entry point into her literary universe.

Exploring *\*Crown Duel by Sherwood Smith\** offers valuable insights into how young adult fantasy can address mature themes through engaging storytelling. Its blend of political intrigue, character growth, and richly constructed settings ensures its place as a significant work worthy of continued attention from readers and scholars alike.

## **Crown Duel By Sherwood Smith**

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**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Crown Duel* Sherwood Smith, 1997 To fulfill their father's dying wish, teenage Countess Meliara and her brother Branaric organize a revolution against a greedy king.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Court Duel* Sherwood Smith, 1998 Publisher Description

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *A Stranger to Command* Sherwood Smith, 2023-02 This prequel to *Crown Duel* is about the early life of Vidanric Renselaus, Marquis of Shevraeth, who as a courtly, well-mannered teen coached in the noble art of dueling, finds himself thrown into the infamous military academy in Marloven Hess. There, instead of reading theories about statecraft, he is forced to learn about command from the inside—and what it means to be king.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *The Trouble With Kings* Sherwood Smith, 2017-09-07 With music you can tell the truth about human experience. In this romantic fantasy set in the same world as *Crown Duel* and *Sasharia En Garde*, Flían is an ordinary princess who would rather be left with her music, but gets abducted not once, not twice-three times. What is a civilized princess to do? Especially when she can't tell which prince is the hero and which the villain!

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Firebirds Soaring* Nancy Farmer, Carol Emshwiller, Sherwood Smith, Laurel Winter, 2009-03-05 First *Firebirds*. Then *Firebirds Rising*. Now there is *Firebirds Soaring*, the third anthology of original stories by some of today's finest writers of fantasy and science fiction. These authors, including Nancy Farmer (*The Sea of Trolls*), Ellen Klages (*The Green Glass Sea*), Margo Lanagan (*Black Juice*), and Jane Yolen (*The Devil's Arithmetic*), have brought new worlds and Old Magic to life in nineteen remarkable pieces of short fiction. Mike Dringenberg, co-creator of *Sandman*, contributes decorative vignettes. *Firebirds Soaring* like *Firebirds* and *Firebirds Rising* sets the standard for short fiction for teenagers and adult fans of the genre.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Crown Duel* Sherwood Smith, 2002-06-01 To fulfill their father's dying wish, teenage Countess Meliara and her brother Branaric organize a revolution against a greedy king, but when the war is over, Meliara finds herself in the middle of royal politics.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Sasharia En Garde* Sherwood Smith, 2018-03-31 First published as two books--*Once a Princess*, and *Twice a Prince*--this romantic fantasy has been revised and published as one book. It is set in the same world as *Crown Duel*, to which Sasha's mother, Sun, was once swept away by a real prince. But not to happily ever after. Her prince vanished, and a wicked king took the throne. Since then, Sasha and Sun have been hiding on Earth, both training in martial arts until Sasha is tricked into going back to Khanerenth. She's more than ready to kick some bad-guy butt, but is the stylish pirate Zathdar the bad guy? Or artistic, dreamy Prince Jehan, son of the wicked king? Meanwhile Sun is determined to cross worlds to save her daughter. She might not have been a very good princess, but nobody messes with Mom!

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Sirens: Collected Papers 2009-2011* Hallie Tippetts, editor, 2012-09-01 *Sirens: Collected Papers 2009-2011* combines written versions of presentations from three years of *Sirens*, a conference on women in fantasy literature. During those years, presenters were encouraged to analyze women warriors, fairies, and monsters. Presentations for *Sirens* were chosen by vetting boards made up of scholars, professionals, and readers. Following each year's conference, presenters were invited to submit text versions of their presentations for the *Sirens* compendium; twenty-five of the nearly ninety presentations from 2009–2011 are represented in these collected papers.



**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Stranger* Sherwood Smith, Rachel Manija Brown, 2014-11-13 Many generations ago, a mysterious cataclysm struck the world. Governments collapsed and people scattered, to rebuild where they could. A mutation, the Change," arose, granting some people unique powers. Though the area once called Los Angeles retains its cultural diversity, its technological marvels have faded into legend. Las Anclas now resembles a Wild West frontier town... where the Sheriff possesses superhuman strength, the doctor can warp time to heal his patients, and the distant ruins of an ancient city bristle with deadly crystalline trees that take their jewel-like colors from the clothes of the people they killed. Teenage prospector Ross Juarez's best find ever - an ancient book he doesn't know how to read - nearly costs him his life when a bounty hunter is set on him to kill him and steal the book. Ross barely makes it to Las Anclas, bringing with him a precious artifact, a power no one has ever had before, and a whole lot of trouble.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Atlantis Endgame* Andre Norton, Sherwood Smith, 2004-01-05 For the first time in paperback--a new Time Traders adventure in which Time Patrol stalwart Ross Murdock journeys back in time to find out what happened to the fabled civilization of Atlantis.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *The Ultimate Teen Book Guide* Daniel Hahn, Leonie Flynn, Susan Reuben, 2007-12-26 Covering such genres as fantasy, horror, chick lit, graphic novels, sci-fi, and mystery, an all-encompassing, must-have resource profiles more than 700 of the best books for teens, from the classics to the latest bestsellers. Simultaneous.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *The Spy Princess* Sherwood Smith, 2012-08-02 Just right for fans of Tamora Pierce and Patricia C. Wrede! When twelve-year-old Lady Lilah decides to disguise herself and sneak out of the palace one night, she has more of an adventure than she expected--for she learns very quickly that the country is on the edge of revolution. When she sneaks back in, she learns something even more surprising: her older brother Peitar is one of the forces behind it all. The revolution happens before all of his plans are in place, and brings unexpected chaos and violence. Lilah and her friends, leaving their old lives behind, are determined to help however they can. But what can four kids do? Become spies, of course!

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Spindle's End* Robin McKinley, 2002-05-13 The evil fairy Pernicia has set a curse on Princess Briar-Rose: she is fated to prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and fall into an endless, poisoned sleep. Katriona, a young fairy, kidnaps the princess in order to save her; she and her aunt raise the child in their small village, where no one knows her true identity. But Pernicia is looking for her, intent on revenge for a defeat four hundred years old. Robin McKinley's masterful version of Sleeping Beauty is, like all of her work, a remarkable literary feat.

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *Truth Lies Bleeding* Chris Dolley, 2025-03-18 A riveting crime thriller from a New York Times bestselling author. Mathew Sedley returns home to his isolated cottage to find a dollhouse in his hallway. It's a perfect replica of his home - inside and out - except that this dollhouse has a miniature figure of a woman lying in a pool of blood on the spare bedroom floor. A sadistic serial killer is terrorising rural Somerset. Each murder is heralded by the discovery of a dollhouse, an exact replica of the place where the body will be found. And every dollhouse is discovered by the same person - Mathew Sedley. The police are convinced he's involved in the killings. He may have an alibi for the first murder, but he also has history. Mathew Sedley is not someone to be trusted. The only person who appears to believe in him is Lauren, an out-of-work actress with a passing relationship with the truth. She inserts herself into Mathew's life, saying she's going to help him prove his innocence, but she seems as interested in publicity as she is in detection. Is Mathew Sedley a killer, a scapegoat, or the final victim?

**crown duel by sherwood smith:** *The Tropoholic's Guide to External Romance Tropes* Cindy Dees, 2023-10-12 NYT and USAT bestselling author and screenwriter, Cindy Dees, brings her formidable skills as a master storyteller and master writing teacher to this encyclopedic series analyzing the major tropes used in modern commercial fiction. In this volume, Cindy explores 35 iconic external romance tropes, the stories of people, situations, and problems around your hero and

heroine that pose obstacles to their happily ever after.. Written by a working writer for working writers, this is a comprehensive reference guide and brainstorming tool to help you quickly generate ideas, create characters and plot, revise and edit, brand and market your story. You'll write faster, cleaner, and deliver your audience a story they'll recognize and love. If you're writing a novel, script, play, comic, graphic novel, video game script, or any other story format, this book is for you. If you're writing a love story specifically, or you're writing any genre of fiction in which you'd like to include a romantic relationship, this book is for you. Each trope entry includes: · a detailed definition and analysis · descriptions of all obligatory scenes necessary to structure this trope correctly · lists of additional key scenes important to this trope · an extensive list of questions to think about when writing this trope · an extensive list of traps to avoid when writing this trope · reasons why audiences love this trope · a list of similar tropes · a list of examples of each trope in action taken from television, film, and novels ...every kind of writer in every genre of fiction is going to want these guides in their go-to reference books... ...a tour de force how-to on creating stories audiences adore... ...the books every writer has been waiting for—a comprehensive walk-through by an industry pro of everything to think about when building a story of pretty much any kind...

**crown duel by sherwood smith: New Magics** Patrick Nielsen Hayden, 2004-02 This brand-new collection of award-winning fantasy stories just for teens includes works by such notable authors as Ursula K. LeGuin, Jane Yolen, Neil Gaiman, Harry Turtledove, and Orson Scott Card.

**crown duel by sherwood smith: I Am Morgan le Fay** Nancy Springer, 2002-09-16 Fans who love King Arthur's legend, Camelot, Merlin, and similar tales will love reading about Morgan le Fay. Morgan is a willful, mischievous girl with mismatched eyes of emerald and violet. A girl of magic, whose childhood ends when King Uther Pendragon murders her father and steals away her mother. Then Pendragon dies and, in a warring country with no one to claim the throne, there are many who want Morgan dead. But Morgan has power, and magic. She is able to change the course of history, to become other, to determine her own fate-and, thus the fate of Britain. She will become Morgan le Fay. Springer wields language like a sword, and both blood and flowers spring to these pages in vivid hues. (Booklist, starred review)

**crown duel by sherwood smith: Resonance** Chris Dolley, 2005-11-05 I have read a lot of science fiction and have gone through tons of plots, so when I find one that is unique I certainly take notice. Resonance is one of those books that has it all. Interesting plot with plenty of mysteries and twists, characters you care about, and solid writing that strings it all together. -- Jeffrey Miller Graham Smith is a 33 year old office messenger. To the outside world he's an obsessive compulsive mute - weird but harmless. But to Graham Smith, it's the world that's weird. And far from harmless. He sees things other can't...or won't. He knows that roads can change course, people disappear, office blocks migrate across town - all at night when no one's looking. Only by following a rigid routine can he lessen these effects. If he walks the same route to work every morning and catches the same train, and keeps himself to himself, then there's a good chance his house will still be where he left it when he returns home in the evening. Then he meets Annalise Mercado. Annalise Mercado hears voices. Sometimes she thinks they're spirit guides, sometimes she thinks she's crazy. But then they start telling her about Graham Smith, the danger he's in, and how only she can save him. So begins the story of two people whose lives appear fragmented across alternate realities. And how, together, they hold the key to the future of a billion planets... **REVIEWS:** Resonance is a tremendously accomplished book ... and immediately raises Dolley into the ranks of writers to watch. It's a head-over-heels romp through ever-changing realities, crammed with great set-pieces, excellent hooks and some nice one-liners. -- Keith Brooke, Infinity Plus This is one of the most original new science fiction books I have ever read. In fact, as an inspired new take on a familiar SF idea it's original enough to stand comparison with The Time Traveler's Wife or Memoirs of an Invisible Man. If it is as big a hit as it deserves, it may well be this book which becomes the standard by which SF stories about ... are judged. -- Marshall Lord ...you get carried along thinking the story is going one way and off it veers in another direction. I don't know about you but I like being surprised by a story. I enjoy having an author keep me interested in the story and caring about the

characters. Dolley does a great job of pulling all the elements together to keep you reading. Highly recommended. -- Gayle Surrette, SFRevu An exceptional first novel. -- Robert M. Tilendis, Rambles RESONANCE is outstanding, creating unique, believable protagonists and compelling readers to follow along in an outstanding adventure.-- Midwest Book Review I loved Resonance ... the writing is clever, the concepts are ingenious, and the characterizations are first class. Both Graham Smith and Annalise Mercado stick with you as people long after the book is finished. And with all the stories I read, that is amazing. -- Jerry Wright, Bewildering Stories

**crown duel by sherwood smith: Academy 7** Anne Osterlund, 2009-05-14 With a past too terrible to speak of, and a bleak, lonely future ahead of her, Aerin Renning is shocked to find she has earned a place at the most exclusive school in the universe. Aerin excels at Academy 7 in all but debate, where Dane Madousin?son of one of the most powerful men in the Alliance? consistently outtalks her. Fortunately Aerin consistently outwits him at sparring. They are at the top of their class until Dane jeopardizes everything and Aerin is unintentionally dragged down with him. When the pair is given a joint punishment, an unexpected friendship?and romance?begins to form. But Dane and Aerin both harbor dangerous secrets, and the two are linked in ways neither of them could ever have imagined. . . .

**crown duel by sherwood smith: The Boy Who Loved Rain** Gerard Kelly, 2014-11-21 The anger runs deep; from some untraceable darkness; and it is stealing his will to live. Colom had the perfect childhood, the much-loved son of a church pastor. Yet he wakes screaming from dreams in which his sister is drowning and he can't save her. Fiona turns to her husband, desperate to help their son. But David will not acknowledge that help is needed - and certainly not help from beyond the church. Then they find the suicide pledge. Fiona, in panic, takes Colom and flees... but when will she acknowledge that the unnamed demons Colom faces might be of her and David's own creation? This beautifully written and searching novel by poet Gerard Kelly explores the toxicity of secrets, the nature of healing, and the ever-present power of rain.

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