



Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter

L.A. Miller

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Abducted...to an Alien World!

Logan and Mindy Oakes wake up to discover everything has changed. Wrong beds, wrong clothes, wrong house. And, worst of all, their parents are missing. When they go outside, they run into a friend whose parents are also gone. In fact, all the grownups in town have inexplicably vanished. Then along comes a spider a giant, monstrous, mechanical horror.

And that s the least of the nightmares that will befall the brother and sister in Shadowind, a dangerous, otherworldly dimension inhabited by ghostly creatures, cyborg animals and virtual humans a land where anything is possible, including being downloaded into a cryptic, evil role-playing game.

In order to survive, Logan and Mindy band together with other kids determined to find a way back to the life they knew and loved. Ultimately they must battle the sinister cyber-lord for the Staff of the Sky Shifter, a powerful weapon that could destroy the universe...but might also be the key to getting back home.

Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter Details

Date : Published March 4th 2011 by Millhouse

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Author : L.A. Miller

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From Reader Review Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter for online ebook

John Gunning says

I won this book (Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter Book 1) from the first read give-a-way on Goodreads. It's Every kids dream, to wake up one morning to find out all the grown ups in town have vanished . For Logan and Mindy Oakes it soon turns into a nightmare when they realize that they and their neighborhood friends have been abducted to a strange world where their parents are missing and giant mechanical spiders roam the streets. In this new land anything is possible , even being downloaded into a computer's role playing game with a killer virus. I found this book to be an enjoyable read, following along with this fun and an imaginative adventure. My only regret is that you have to be under the age of twenty to be transported to this alien world

Mary says

The author used to be our neighbor and it's kind of fun to read the work of someone you know. I thought it was a well-written work and it reminded me to some degree of Suzanne Collins lesser known series, The Underland Chronicles although geared to a slightly older audience. There were some slow parts in part two that made the story drag a bit, but the concept and storyline were riveting enough for me to want to read the next book in the series.

Konstanz Silverbow says

This book blew me away! Oh my goodness, the genius that went on in this book is something totally fresh, completely new. I don't even have another book to compare to. Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter just blew me away! Seriously, the detail, the story, the imagination it took to creature such an enjoyable book just swept me off my feet.

I definitely recommend this book! It took me on such a fun adventure, such a thrilling ride! I was completely take aback! Not often do you really get to see a brother/sister relationship these days but seeing these siblings come together to solve their problems was a very nice surprise!

I cannot wait to read the next book! This book is very genius, very enjoyable, very adventurous!

Underground Book Reviews says

Every child dreams of what the world would be like if all parents suddenly disappeared. The basis of Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter explores that idea. Fifteen-year-old Logan and his thirteen-year-old sister, Mindy, wake up one morning to find their parents gone. The teens have been transported to someone else's house and into someone else's pjs. Seeking a logical answer to this very strange situation, the two venture out, only to see other children in the same predicament. Things get stranger still when a local young adult, Preston, is captured by a giant metal spider. Continuing through this cyber rabbit hole, the pair soon learn that Logan

can enter his computer and play the games there.

Read the rest of this review at Underground Book Reviews (dot) com.

Chrissy (The Every Free Chance Reader) says

Did I enjoy this book: It's not really my kind of book, but it was cute. I liked the characters, and though I thought it was a bit overwritten, the story was good: a bunch of teens get transported to an alien planet that's populated with robots and creepy shadow guys, after which they've got to zap themselves inside their computers to complete a quest, save the planet (and their parents), and return to Earth. I felt like I was reading the literary version of a PC Adventure Game, and although it was a fun little storyline, I'm more of a Tetris gal myself. Miller did a fine job with this book (and I can only assume the others in the series as well), but it just wasn't my cup of tea.

Would I recommend it: I believe it would go over well with the pre-teen set, especially fans of Adventure Games (like Zelda, Super Mario Brothers, and Portal).

Will I read it again: No.

As reviewed by Melissa at Every Free Chance Book Reviews.

(I received a copy of this book for review purposes.)

<http://everyfreechance.com/2013/11/re...>

Grampy says

"Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter" by L.A. Miller is Book #1 in a new, tantalizing and enchanting young adult science fiction series. Book #2 is called "The Grounding Stone" and Book #3 is "Veil". I cannot wait to get my hands on those next two books, because "Shadowind" is the most mesmerizing YA series it has ever been my pleasure to read.

In "Sky Shifter", an entire neighborhood of young teens and pre-teens wakes one morning to find themselves in a strange place – both the houses and the geographic setting – with all the adults missing. Early in the story, one of the teens mentioned it was his twentieth birthday, but no sooner had he said it than a gigantic mechanical spider approached from out of nowhere and "beamed" him aboard!

Logan and his younger sister, Mindy, were the only two others who actually saw the giant spider, and not everyone believed them. Consequently, the neighborhood was quickly split into two factions. Renowned bully, Kyle, commanded one faction, ruling by use of fear. Kyle had always disliked Logan, so the stage was set for a showdown between the two, owing to the lack of adult supervision or intervention.

In conceiving Shadowind, L.A. Miller has blazed a trail into virgin territory. Shadowind exists inside a computer. All the characters, buildings, events, etc., are various sub-routines developed by a software designer. Logan, quite by accident the first time, is able to enter his computer, where he finds himself in the middle of a war game.

Without a clue what to do or how to do it, he finds that he is “Captain Action”, with a Sargent Pagel awaiting his command. In short order he loses the game, and is “rejected and ejected” by the computer. Completely baffled, he finds himself back sitting at his computer desk.

After a few more trips into the computer, during which Logan learns a little more each time, Logan suddenly discovered Mindy has joined him inside. Sadly, Kyle has chosen that moment to sneak up behind Logan’s friends, who are gathered around the computer watching him.

Kyle breaks the interface device that allowed Logan to enter and exit the computer, effectively trapping him inside without hope of returning home. But, alas, Logan has learned the Staff of the Sky Shifter is hidden somewhere in the virtual world, and it is his mission to locate it before the evil Spirit Being, a computer virus, finds it, or the entire world of Shadowind will be destroyed.

Even as the evil virus spreads, more and more sub-routines are failing. With Mindy to help him, along with a virtual police officer, “Danby the Manby”, Logan needs to find the Staff in order to locate his missing parents.

This story is captivating, fascinating, enchanting, original, fresh, and all sorts of other good adjectives. I repeat: “Sky Shifter” is THE BEST young adult sci-fi series beginning that I have ever encountered. Move over everybody... there’s a new Sheriff in town.

Charline Ratcliff says

I've just finished reading my copy of “Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter” and I found it to be a very enjoyable read. The story was fun, it captured, and held, my interest from page one and best of all? It was a nice, fast-paced read. The book’s author, L.A. Miller, has been writing for more than four decades and his mastery of the written word clearly shows in this book.

Logan and Mindy Oakes, the book’s two main characters, go to sleep after celebrating a friend’s birthday. When they wake up the next morning they discover the world they now reside in is not the same as it was when they went to bed. They are in the wrong house, they have been sleeping in the wrong beds and...Logan is wearing pajamas with pink elephants while Mindy’s have tanks and artillery. Where are they? Where is home? More importantly, where are their mom and dad?

Once Mindy and Logan have sort of come to grips with this disconcerting situation, they leave the house in an attempt to locate their missing parents. Who knows, maybe this is just an extremely over-the-top prank gone horribly, horribly awry. Unfortunately, when they step outside, they are disheartened to immediately discover that there are other children from their neighborhood who are also looking around; seemingly as confounded by their whereabouts as Logan and Mindy were a few moments ago.

Spotting Preston, their next door neighbor who turns twenty today, Logan and Mindy hurry over to him; hoping he has the answers. Sadly, he is just as confused as they are. As the three of them stand on the lawn, attempting to figure out what happened while they were sleeping; they are interrupted by odd, rhythmic, clanking noises. Looking toward the noises they are shocked to see a large metal spider marching directly at them. Terrified they try to run and...if you want to know what happens next - you’re going to need to get your own copy. *chuckle*

In summary, “Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter” was an interesting tale. Miller provides the reader with an

entertaining story, realistic character interactions and attention to detail. A good book choice for anyone that enjoys science fiction / adventure and also a great young adult read. Four stars...

(Reviewed in association with Rebecca's Reads).

Renee says

As I got sucked into this edge-of-your seat thriller, it became increasingly evident that, although we usually review books targeting children under the age of 13, this book is intended for an audience of 12+ years. And sure enough, when I flipped the book over and looked at the back cover, there it was: "Young Adult Science Fiction". So, why am I reviewing it here? Well ... because I thought it was FANTASTIC!

L.A. Miller has created a heart-pumping thriller that features a cross-over between science fiction and video gaming. Following a neighborhood block party 15 year old Logan and his 13 year old sister, Mindy, wake up to a parallel world where everything is different (i.e., their house and their clothes), all the grown-ups have vanished, and only some familiar peers are present. Then, the giant mechanical spider shows up! Then, they get sucked into a virtual world programmed into a computer. Then, the story really begins... Ooh, I just love it!

Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter assembles a memorable cast in characters in Logan and Mindy, as well as Kyle, the bully who plays a somewhat predictable role, and many other quirky and interesting characters found within the computer world such as Sergeant Leanne Pagel, Captain Aimery, Detective Danby, who are all a bit familiar. But of most interest are the hierarchy of shadowy creatures featured in the book such as silhouettes (aka, "sillies"), the Spirit Beast, Deep Shadows, and Dark Nights. All these created a suspenseful plot-line that kept me hooked.

The writing itself is very descriptive to the extent that I could visualize myself as one of the characters in the story. In some specific instances, I found the writing to be quite lyrical:

"In the distance, farther north and slightly to the east, a faint sound cut through the trees, carried on a breath of wind."

I think there are two positive messages (outside of the importance of loyalty and courage) that I would like to highlight. First, the story featured a few poignant statements about the respect kids should have for their parents and for grown-ups in general. For example, when the children first wake up to their unfamiliar surroundings with no grown-ups in sight, Mindy reflects on how her parents are usually the ones who provide advice:

"She hated to admit it, but without Mom's or Dad's advice, solutions came slowly if at all."

The second message centres around what transpires between Logan and Kyle (the bully). Kyle learns to be humble, to take responsibility for his actions, and to apologize for his wrong-doings. Logan extends an olive branch to Kyle despite the troubles he has caused, thus providing a model for forgiveness and the offering of a second chance. I thought the characters all demonstrated depth and the relationships among them were well developed.

My Bottom Line:

Quests of Shadowind: Sky Shifter is a science fiction, edge-of-your seat thriller that will captivate you with

its imaginary techno-world filled with spooks; its engaging and suspenseful plot driven by the race to find the powerful Staff of the Sky Shifter; and its endearing adolescent main characters who lead a brave and loyal group of children. Because there is some violence and some frightening concepts (e.g., the mechanical anibots, the various shadows), I would only recommend this book to kids 12 years and older who are into gaming and/or science fiction.

* This book was provided to us free-of-charge in exchange for our honest review.*

April says

I received a copy of this book free through Goodreads First Reads.

I really liked this book. Engaging characters and very creative story. It is a thrilling adventure and I can not wait to see more from this author.

I also lent it to my 12 year old nephew who loved it!! He thought it was a really cool idea and liked the characters and found the writing enjoyable. Perfect for his reading level and age group!

Diane says

I found this to be a interesting book received from the author L.A. Miller.

I have not read any of his books before and was very impressed with his writing. I did like his characters who where very believable.

Logan and Mindy are two siblings every sence of the word. They find themselves along with neighborhood kids dropped into a mysterious world They will all have to working together to find their parents who are missing.

Will they be able to find their parents and their way back home again.

A well done imaginative story for young adults who love adventure and mystery

John Carter says

This is one of the most unique novels that I have ever read. With giant mechanical arthropods, floating pink elephants, and a deadly computer virus, what more could you want in a book? The two main character's relationship reminds me of my own relationship with my sister.
