



Call of Kythshire

Missy Shel Drake

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The existence of the fairies of Kythshire is a secret kept for over a century...

Azaeli has trained from a young age in order to follow in her parents' footsteps and become a Knight of His Majesty's Elite. When she finally becomes a Squire, her name is mysteriously left off of the list for the King's Quest. Her parents set off without her, but the simple quest goes awry leaving tragedy in its wake. With the help of her lifelong friend, Rian, a Mage apprentice, Azaeli must unravel a sinister plot that threatens both the existence of Kythshire and the peace that her people have celebrated for generations.

Call of Kythshire Details

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Author : Missy Sheldrake

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From Reader Review Call of Kythshire for online ebook

Chess Desalls says

Quite possibly my favorite read this year. On to the next in the series!

Sam (Rescue Dog Mom, Writer, Hugger) says

This is a well-written story to be enjoyed by all ages. When I took a "Look Inside" this book, I saw beautiful drawings of maps and scenes. I purchased the e-book and was pleasantly surprised to find them included, along with many more. The world building is detailed and colorful. The story played out like a movie in my head. The characters have distinct personalities, including the fairies, which I think are very cute. There's one who likes sugar cubes and often touches Azi's face with her sticky hands. Azi and Rian are the best of friends, but also share something more. They are both courageous, honest, and protective of each other. I like that their families have always been close friends, like family to each other, and they work hard together. If I had read this as a child, I would have concentrated on Azi's bravery and her friendships with the fairies and the Princesses. Reading this as an adult, I also enjoyed reading about the love Azi and Rian have for each other. Though I am very happy with how this story ended, I look forward to reading the next book.

David Brooks says

Disclosure: I received a free copy of Call of Kythshire in exchange for an honest review of the book.

I really wish I could give this 3 and a half stars. There are plenty of good things about this book, which I will get to a bit later, however, there are some drawbacks that make me iffy about giving this book a four star review. Overall, this was a good read that is worth a look by anyone who is interested in the Fantasy genre. Especially those who are fans of strong female characters.

Pros: The major pro for me, especially since this is a fantasy genre book, was that this book had some good world building. It doesn't simply build a story over traditional fantasy ideas, but instead creates ideas of it's own which play important roles in the plot. This includes a very interesting twist on magic and the origins/impacts of magic.

The characters are another good aspect of this book. As for the main characters they are interestingly developed and though somewhat predictable, still quite lively. There is also a rich grouping of secondary characters that add another layer to this novel. This is especially true of the fairies.

The last pro that I feel should be mentioned is that this book had nice readability and should appeal to a wide range of audiences. Too often fantasy is written far too mature, or too childish. The author does a good job of not talking down to her audience, which leads to this readability range.

Cons: The biggest problem that this book suffers from is pacing. There are parts which go by far too quickly, where they really could have been drawn out a bit more for the experience of the reader. Then there are parts which seem to drag on forever seemingly without adding anything to the story. Many fantasy readers expect for lots of information or sometimes a slow start, but there are times when this goes beyond this.

While the characters are a great part of this book, some are also a con. This is not due to the character themselves but the lack of development that goes along with them. I found myself in the beginning having trouble keeping many of the characters straight, and then once I got used to the myriad of people, it seemed like they faded into the background.

Lastly, I felt like this could have been developed so much more, and not just some of the characters. There was so much more world building that could have been put in place where the book drags. This in some ways makes me want to read the second book in the series even more. However, it also makes me wary that some of my major questions (about abilities, magic, etc) as a reader may not be addressed.

Neither pro nor con: I wanted to also mention that there are pictures throughout the book (not at the end of every chapter oddly enough), which may add a dimension for some readers. For me, however, this was fun but didn't add much to the experience of reading this book.

Owen O'Neill says

I found this to be a quite enjoyable fantasy novel with an engaging main character and an intriguing plot that developed nicely. The world was introduced in enough detail to keep me informed without being burdensome, and the story is a good mix of lighthearted elements with more serious action. The prose is uncluttered and avoids straying into otiose verbiage in an attempt to achieve a “fantastical” effect.

The story is told in first-person, present-tense, which is not my favorite narrative style as it often leads an author into distracting circumlocutions to overcome this style's inherent limitations, but it works here. For me, this choice did not add a great deal to the story; I think it could have been told as effectively in another style, but it flowed well and kept me engaged. The only drawback—and it is a minor one—is that as the narrative progressed and the cast of characters grew, the limitations imposed by the POV resulted in me finding some of the secondary characters a bit indistinct, which made them a little hard to keep track of at times. But I wasn't unduly bothered by this, and I feel this was probably better than introducing potentially awkward elements to give additional context and background.

Overall, I found this story to be an superior effort, especially for a debut novel, and I would recommend it as an enjoyable fantasy that leans to lighter side. I will be reading the next book.

Cynthia A says

I won this book in a goodreads giveaway. The basis of the story is about Azi who has trained from an early age to become a Knight of His Majesty's Elite. She won her battle and is expecting to go on the quest required to become a knight. That doesn't happen.

This book has a magic realm of fairies, a land that needs protected, evil mages, friends, and enemies.

Kayti Raet says

Reviewed for readers favorite

In Call of Kythshire, the first book in the Keepers of the Wellspring series by Missy Sheldrake, Azaeli Hammerfel is a young girl training to become a Squire and join His Majesty's Elite. After a hard fight to earn the honor she is shocked to discover that her name is left out among those going on the King's Quest. Her parents and the rest of her guild are going, even a rival she soundly managed to beat has been bestowed the honor.

Despite the slight, she doesn't get a chance to dwell on the injustice long, as tragedy befalls the party. Her mother is missing and her father is gravely injured, raving of mysterious creatures.

Determined to find out what happened, Azaeli enlists the help of her best friend Rian. Together they discover the existence of fairies as well as the plot to wipe out the mysterious creatures and steal their magic.

Now, Azaeli must not only find out what has happened to her mother but save the kingdom whose fate lies on the balance.

Call of Kythshire by Missy Sheldrake is an engaging young adult fantasy novel. The text is enhanced by bright and lively illustrations that detail many key scenes and characters.

Sheldrake unfolds the plot at just the right pace, doling out mystery and intrigue in such a way that Call of Kythshire is nearly impossible to put down. The romance is light and sweet, as most of the focus is on Azaeli's personal growth as opposed to romance. Still, Rian and Azaeli work well together, sacrificing and helping each other achieve their goal which is a big theme in Call of Kythshire.

An enjoyable read for fans of young adult fantasy.

G.G. says

First, I want to say that I'm not a fan of 'fairy tales' and when I started this book, I didn't know what to expect. Now? I want a fairy friend! "Wanna play?" YES!

I loved how the author brought the fairies to life, with each having their own personality. I loved their world, how everything was so different in Kythshire. I think I'm in love with the fairies. That's the only real way to put it. Another thing I found fascinating was how the magic was explained: what it did to the mages if they drew in it too much.

The beginning ceremony put me in a good mood for the book. I learned to know Azaeli, and it was fun to read. After that, it seemed to slow a bit. I'm thinking that I may have been too anxious to learn more, because as soon as Flit made her first apparition, it pulled me in. From there, I entered the charming and alluring world of fairies. The plot advanced at a steady pace and soon I discovered the lurking threat along with Azi, Rian, and Flit.

I'd recommend not only for fans of fairies and pure fantasy, but also for the world building.

Sam (Rescue Dog Mom, Writer, Hugger) says

This is a well-written story to be enjoyed by all ages. When I took a "Look Inside" this book in Amazon, I saw beautiful drawings of maps and scenes. I purchased the e-book and was pleasantly surprised to find them included, along with many more. The world building is detailed and colorful. The story played out like a movie in my head. The characters have distinct personalities, including the fairies, which I think are very cute. There's one who likes sugar cubes and often touches Azi's face with her sticky hands. Azi and Rian are the best of friends, but also share something more. They are both courageous, honest, and protective of each other. I like that their families have always been close friends, like family to each other, and they work hard

together. If I had read this as a child, I would have concentrated on Azi's bravery and her friendships with the fairies and the Princesses. Reading this as an adult, I also enjoyed reading about the love Azi and Rian have for each other. Though I am very happy with how this story ended, I look forward to reading the next book.

Joanne says

I am completely, irretrievably, delightfully hooked.

Holy moly. I started this book with absolutely no idea what was going to happen to me as I read it. Now that I have finished it, I find that I am completely in love with the characters and places that I encountered in this magical, mystical fantasy tale that has woven its tendrils around my heart.

It's taking most of my will-power to write a review before I pick up the second book. And that's not the worst of it. I have work to do. And there are other things I have committed to read. Drat you, Missy Sheldrake! Because of you, I am in the clutches of a bona-fide "I don't want to adult, I want to stay in the world of the book" dilemma.

'Call of Kythshire' is completely enchanting. It looked completely innocent while sitting on the shelf, but as soon as I opened it, my fate was sealed. Missy Sheldrake began to work her magic on me from the first chapter, drawing me in until I was fully invested in the journey that my imagination and emotions were being taken on. It's a beautifully crafted quest through faraway lands that become very real and much closer to our own world as one reads, accompanied by some of the most feisty and determined yet loveable characters I have ever met. I travelled with them, stood by them as they faced challenges from others who sought to misuse their powers, and encouraged them to conquer their differences and internal conflicts to overcome them. I'm not even sure I would have made all the same decisions, but then I remember Rian's words: " "Who are we to decide who's worth saving and who's worth punishing? What would you have done in such a desperate situation? Can you honestly say that you wouldn't do everything in your power to help the ones you love?" and I know he is right.

Reader, beware. You will get hooked, and there will be absolutely nothing you can do about it. Except read the next in the series, that is.

Ann Andrews says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I always get excited about a good fairy tale, and Call of Kythshire did not disappoint. I loved all of the characters and had no trouble getting caught up in the plot. But be forewarned, this is definitely a story that focuses on a lot of world building. It's easy to miss part of the plot if you're not reading carefully. But the plot moves at such a pace that it's easy to maintain a steady reading flow and catch all of the excitement that the author throws your way.

Very very enjoyable.

T.L. Clark says

I love this book (and I'm a lady over 21).
I love the illustrations (even on my old 4th gen Kindle).
And the story is really strong.

Azaeli is an awesome young lady; one to watch in the role model stakes.
She's a squire and all round good person.
But she becomes embroiled in a fierce battle of good vs evil (sorcerers vs fairies).

Excitement and intrigue are maintained throughout, in language suitable for the age bracket.
There's a clean romance involved along the line, but the main story remains focussed on Kythshire.

Fiona Tarr says

Missy has written a compelling fairytale with great characters and a smooth, quick pace. I had to make a little adjustment to the first person writing, but once I got used to the style, I really found myself lost in the story.

The dialogue was funny, crisp and well written. It takes a pretty fast paced story to keep me focussed and Missy managed it really well. There are some lovely philosophical ideals which Missy weaves into her narrative through building a beautiful make believe realm. I will be keen to take a look at the next book in the series.

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and unbiased review

Riley Amos Westbrook says

Fairy life, gotta love it.

An awesome tale for all ages. This is a good, fun, clean book. Perfect for sharing with Grandma or a young lady.

BTW, fairy life seems very hard and complicated.

Christina McMullen says

Right from the start, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The action and pacing was great, pulling me immediately into the head of the main character, which was both fun and frustrating. Azi is everything a strong female lead should be. She is headstrong, but not reckless, and has a solid head on her shoulders despite being a fighter. Although this is Azi's story, there are quite a few other characters, all of whom are well written and multidimensional. I had no issue with keeping the names and personalities straight, as can often be a problem with an ensemble cast, especially in fantasy settings. One particular character does try to steal the show. That would be Flit, the fairy who brings new meaning to the term colorful sidekick.

The story itself is an original take on the use and abuse of magic. For a light tale, it delves into some intriguing and dark issues. I rather enjoyed the fact that it handled the heavier subject matter without resorting as most fantasy does to the 'dark' or 'adult' realm, keeping the tone appropriate for a younger audience while still being interesting to an older crowd.

Also worth noting: the author is also an artist and has added illustrations to the book. While some say they don't add to the experience, I disagree. If anything, it brought me back to the chapter books of my childhood that often had a few illustrations interspersed. I'm glad to see that this tradition carries into the digital age and besides, the illustrations in this book are works of art. Truly beautiful.

I can't wait to see what happens in the next book.

M. Ray Holloway Jr. says

I received this book for free in a book promotion. There was no expectation or arrangement for a review. Having said that, I have to say that I enjoyed that book thoroughly. The characters were all well developed and the world that the author has built is full of exciting things to discover. Each fairy has its own unique set of characteristics and personality. I try to read for no more than an hour before going to bed, but this was one of those books that I truly regretted having to set down and turn out the light. In my younger days, I would have sat up until two in the morning just to see what was going to happen next.

The story moved at a pretty good pace, and the transitions from scene to scene were seamless, leading the reader flawlessly into the next part of the story. The story was good as a standalone story, but with plenty of foreshadowing about potential future stories to tell. Indeed, there are three more books and more to follow, so I am anxious to purchase the next books to watch the characters grow and develop with age and experiences.

I would recommend this book and the sequels to anyone interested in a well thought out fantasy tale.
