



Reign of Shadows

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For over nine hundred years, the Emperor Kostimon has sat upon the Ruby Throne. He bargained with the dark gods for his immortality-and now he and his kingdom will have to pay the price.

Reign of Shadows Details

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Author : Deborah Chester

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From Reader Review Reign of Shadows for online ebook

Susan Tietjen says

I liked the Sword series better, and I had a hard time going back and forth between what I suppose will be the two main characters. This was also a more brutal series, which I have personally grown tired of. I understand making the characters face challenges, work hard to overcome them, and pay the price. But this was a little uncomfortable for me. I still liked it and I may read the others, but this is the best rating I can give it.

Amber says

It had good elements, complex characters, but the plot seemed tied to a kite string -- it swung wildly without pattern or meaning.

Mark Nielsen says

This is one of my favorite books. It is very hard to find. Its very well written and I love the gladiator part. I just read it to my kids and they loved it!

Claire says

Abandoned

I read the first four and a half chapters of *Reign of Shadows* and decided that was enough. The character presented as a protagonist/hero, Caelan, was thoroughly obnoxious. I couldn't tell if the reader is supposed to dislike him - as an antihero sort of lead character - or if the reader was supposed to sympathize with his situation. In either case, I wasn't interested in continuing.

Nina Ann says

To be completely honest, I was very generous in giving this book two stars. For the sake of full disclosure, I did not finish this book. I couldn't. It was an e-book, so I'm not sure of the page number but I stopped reading at 66% of the way through.

First of all, I am SO sick of this fantasy character/story. Boy is misused/mistreated. Boy has some strange magical power. Boy does not understand the power and ends up putting others in danger because of it. Boy is immature and refuses to learn from others and is annoyingly blind to his own mistakes. Meanwhile, the world is in grave peril and the boy's magical ability just might save it if he could only grow up and stop being a petulant imbecile. Blah, blah, blah.

Moving on, I'd like to talk about the magic in this book. Chester has some really cool ideas, but way too many of them. I like my magic subtle. Mysterious. I like magic that woos my interest. Chester's magic hits you in the face with a bat. Over. And. Over. Too much magic makes the world unbelievable and it makes you lose interest. Just like I did.

Patti says

Woo Hoo! I picked up just the first book of this trilogy, and regretted it about 10 minutes later. The story is fast moving and entertaining, with characters that I related to almost immediately. A great read...I can't wait to get started on the next one.

Angela says

Caelan was a spoiled, rebellious, and fool hardy boy who could not understand his father's way of life or his pacifism which would ultimately lead to his families downfall and would leave Caelan a slave. Elandra on the other hand follows along an almost Cinderella quality but she catches on to the political environment quickly and accepts early on that her future and life is never to be of her own choosing. By the end of the first book neither of the main characters have met but I'm guessing that they will eventually meet. Either way a strong and intriguing world and great first book.

Cristine says

Reign of Shadows

It was very intriguing, especially for a free kindle book. The Ruby Throne's first book offers a fascinating world with magic in the strangest of places and extremely likable, relatable characters. I'm excited to see the main characters come together and understand their abilities, having a grand adventure at the same time.

Kylie says

I read this book so many years ago, I can't really remember what happens. Although I remember loving it and wanting to read the next book, but could never find it anywhere. I finally own the trilogy and this is on my read again list!

Definitely better than I remember, changed my four star rating to five. I enjoy Deborah's writing style and wish I could find more of her books in stores. I can't buy the books new online either, I had to buy them second hand on eBay. Can't wait for the next book... to bad I have to work tomorrow...

Angela says

12 February 2015: \$0.00 FREE on Kindle

Courtney says

3.5

This book surpassed my expectations a bit which is always a good thing. It starts off pretty slow with Caelan being in his teens. I got annoyed by him at times because of his immaturity and the decisions that he made. I was waiting for him to grow up and also to meet the heroine which took until halfway to get to. But once you reach the second half, which is four years later, it gets better.

The world building and character development were well written, as I would expect from a good fantasy author since the setting is one of the more important aspects of the genre.

I was upset that there was no romance at all but I know it'll be present in the second book. Caelan and the heroine don't even meet at all in this book which is a bit frustrating but it does make me want to continue the series.

Joy says

It's the first time I've been able to just sit and read in forever--yeah the long weekend. This book was a gift, and luckily, I got the other two as well. I've read a couple of other books by Chester, and I find her writing really intriguing. She's good at world-building and magic, two skills essential for a fantasy author, and her characterization is sophisticated too.

This story is set in a sort of alternate Rome--and if you like gladiators, fire-breathing dragons, intrigue and witchcraft, this is the trilogy for you.

Alicia Huxtable says

Great story

Great story, great writing. Really enjoyed reading this first book in The Ruby Throne Trilogy. Loved Caelan, the underdog in this series

Hollie Zunun says

Excellent Adventure

This isn't usually the genre I read, but I thought I'd give it a try anyway. I LOVED this book and couldn't put it down. The story is very well-written with amazing imagery and detail. The entire story with all its twists was definitely not what I anticipated. I can't wait to get started on the next!

Rachel says

Initially this book can be hard to get into, but as with every fantasy book, once you know all the terms (eg severence, seversain etc) everything falls into place. This is the first book in the Ruby Throne trilogy so of course, the first book focuses on getting the foundation of the series set up. We meet our two main characters Caelan and Elandra, and learn about their current lives which are thrown from one extreme to the other for both characters. Caelan, who has always had it easy has been forced into slaver, while Elandra goes from being a slave in her own house to marrying the emperor.

Here's a quick background on both characters:

At the beginning of the book, Caelan and his cousin Agel are attending a school to train them to become healers. While Agel is happy with his future as healer, Caelan is not. He constantly fights against the rules of the school eventually getting himself expelled. From there, it doesn't get much better for him. He witnesses the horrific murders of his father and their household staff. Caelan then goes into slavery and becomes a gladiator.

Elandra starts off as being a slave in her own home. Her sister, Bixia is being prepared to marry the emperor. However, Elandra finds out that her destiny is to marry the emperor - not her sister. Her aunt is furious that Elandra has taken Bixia's destiny, and inflicts spell blindness on her.

From there, the foundations of the story are laid and we jump down the track to four years later. That's when the story really begins!
