



The Darkening

Myndi Shafer

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As Aydan Fulbert settles into her new life in a new world, she realizes a few things: She's healing from losing her best friend, her first love. She's coming to terms with her new home.

And she's lonely.

Rein Torvald's return from his long absence helps alleviate her loneliness, but a darkness comes with him. Unsettling news about her father and the Sovereign has the potential to make her a fugitive all over again – from his world and hers.

Will Aydan allow her heart to be taken places she's never been brave enough to go? Or will the threat of danger – of the Sovereign's rage, and her father's vengeful grudge, send her running?

The Darkening Details

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From Reader Review The Darkening for online ebook

Amber Carlyle says

This was another enchanting read by Myndi. I found myself sucked into the continuing adventures of Aydan as she navigated this new world she found herself in. I felt connected to her as she moved forward and made new relationships.

There was a moment that I anticipated coming, perhaps not the how of it, but the end result. It came, and where the tangled affair of having a split heart is something that generally uninterests me, Myndi gave a gratifying and real take on it.

I am looking forward to her third book.

Meghan says

Amazing. A female author who can write real male characters. Not just testosterone muscle heads. Yay. And let's hear it for bar fight scenes. That was hilarious. This was so close to 5 stars. And I don't just give those away. About 80% through I had a little trouble with plot line and believability. I get why it played out like that, i just didnt approve. There were a few, but not too many, editing errors. My only actual personal issue is the theme running through book that u can't off the bad guys who are out to get u. Nopers. Restraining orders are pieces of paper the bad guys don't read when they come to get u. Battered women die everyday waiting for cops to show up. Just cause he isn't choking u out doesn't mean he isn't coming back to finish what he started. I think a little proactive self defense- ie dead bad guys- could have saved a lot of heart ache all the way around. I'm just sayin. Girl needs to protect what's hers.

Jennifer Eason says

Loved it!! Can't wait til book 3!

Ruth Kieffer says

I loved this book! It captured my imagination completely. The setting is fabulous! I was not disappointed with the ending of book 2 and am soooooo excited for the 3rd book to come out! I love the way she writes strong male characters and I hope that the Aydan character becomes stronger as she gains knowledge of self.

Amber says

I really enjoyed Shrilugh, the first book in this series. But I loved The Darkening even more! One thing that really grabbed my attention was a wonderful and heartbreaking plot twist. It broke my heart and excited and enticed me at the same time. There were also some mysterious elements added to the story/history of the Archethenian world that I found intriguing and made me want to keep reading to learn more. I had a hard

time putting this book down. Now I am very anxious to read book 3!

Coleen Patrick says

I read book one of the Shrilugh saga, so when I started reading The Darkening, I was already invested in one relationship. I thought I knew without a doubt who I wanted Ayden to love--until the moment in book 2 when I felt the intense conflict in her heart. Because the story pulled me into feeling her journey. My fingers curled into that moss covering the floor of Orchos' Wood, I tumbled through the curved tree-branch of the door that marks the entry to this other world, and I saw the golden glow of the Shrilugh trees...The Darkening is a great escape of fantasy, adventure, and above all LOVE.

Melinda VanLone says

The Darkening is book 2 is the Shrilugh (pronounce that Shree-Loo) Saga, by Myndi Shafer. If you haven't read book 1, you really should.

Go ahead, check it out. I'll wait.

taps foot

Sounds good, right? It is. Suffice to say, if you like romance and coming of age stories, this is a good one to curl up with. Times two, even.

Book 2 continues where book 1 left off. I don't want to offer any spoilers here, so I'll keep my comments general. At first I thought this was going to be a typical love triangle. Girl must choose which boy to keep and which to turn loose, and in doing that break his heart. There is, however, a lot more going on than just the sticky relationship triangle. I'd already grown to love the fantasy world full of Shrilugh trees (trees which glow in the dark) even if I didn't like some of the people in it, but with book 2 I can feel an epic backstory blooming as well. There's more than meets the eye, both with the "benefits" each person is born with such as telepathy or "discharge" and with the very existence of the trees themselves.

Somewhere in the middle, a twist happens that simply rocked my world, or rather, my view of the world Aydan is now very much a part of. I found myself so fascinated that I couldn't put the book down, and near the end I literally shouted with triumph. Yes. Shouted. All alone, here in my apartment, I celebrated something. I can't tell you what, because it would be a HUGE spoiler and I promised not to do that. But oooooooo....please read it so I can chat about the end!

The pace of the story is a bit slower than you might be expecting. It's not an action/adventure. It's an epic fantasy, with urban bits. It's a romance and love story, with action. It's all those things, with telepathy, glowing trees, bullies, people who will stand up to them, old fashioned victorian type manners and a modern young woman thrown in the midst of it. At one point, Rein spends just a bit of time in our world and discovers the wonder...of a shower. It's nice to see him appreciate something from our world just as Aydan comes to appreciate things from his. It's time spent with details like this that builds a rich, full world. It's all in the details, from Aydan's struggle with strange clothes to Rein's struggle with loving someone to other, spoilery things.

I'm anxious to see how Aydan grows in the next book (which I hope is on the way). She's growing up, fast, but there's still a bit to learn. So far, she's feeling her way and letting people take care of her. I have a feeling that won't last. She's finding her strength, her talents, and her womanhood all at once. I can't wait to see this caterpillar turn into a butterfly.

Dive into this for a love triangle with twists and turns and a lot of fun "benefits" along the way. This is still young adult, so no graphic sex scenes. If you're looking for steamy, look elsewhere. This one is safe for teens.

Fallon Brown says

This book had me on a roller coaster of emotions. And I loved it! It sucked me right in and didn't let go. Can't wait to read the next one.

Traci (Mad Hatter Reads) says

The Darkening is book 2 in the Shrilugh (Shree-loo) Saga and takes up directly at the end of *Shrilugh*. As the epic fantasy saga continues, the story shifts back and forth between the mortal and Archethenian realms, as well as, the points of view of several characters (mainly Aydan, Rein and Brig).

I'm not going to go into a plot summary because I can't do it without giving away some pretty major spoilers. But know that all the characters from book 1 return and there are twists and turns that I never saw coming.

I really enjoyed learning more of the history of the Archethenian families and the benefits (powers) that each family holds and are passed down. I kept trying to guess which benefits would unfold for Aydan and especially Brig, since a human changed by Archethenian blood had not been seen in centuries.

Shafer continues to let her characters shine. At first I thought *The Darkening* was going to center around the love triangle. I was pleased to realize that it's about learning how to let go of first love and dealing with the hurt and anger that arises from that loss, moving forward with adult relationships, and realizing your own individual strengths.

The pace was a little slow at the beginning of the book, but there's a lot of world development in this one as Aydan learns her history and more about the magical world she now inhabits. But by about halfway through, the pace really starts to accelerate, leading to an ending that had me staying up late once again to finish.

There's supposed to be a book 3 and I'm really looking forward to it. I think there are some great things for Aydan to accomplish and I'm so intrigued about Brig's future. I'm crossing my fingers that we won't have too long of a wait!

I received an e-copy from the author in exchange for an honest review
