



Shadows on the Moon

By Zoe Marriott

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A powerful tale of magic, love, and revenge set in fairy-tale Japan.

Trained in the magical art of shadow-weaving, sixteen-year-old Suzume is able to re-create herself in any form — a fabulous gift for a girl desperate to escape her past. But who is she really? Is she a girl of noble birth living under the tyranny of her mother's new husband, Lord Terayama? Or a lowly drudge scraping a living in the ashes of Terayama's kitchens? Or is she Yue, the most beautiful courtesan in the Moonlit Lands? Whatever her true identity, Suzume is destined to use her skills to steal the heart of a prince in a revenge plot to destroy Terayama. And nothing will stop her, not even the one true aspect of her life- her love for a fellow shadow-weaver.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Suzume, 16, is a shadow weaver—"one who can weave illusions from the threads of the world"—and recreate herself in any form. Her carefree life abruptly ends when her father is wrongly accused of being a traitor and is murdered. Suzume escapes using "the moon's gift." In exchange for protection and new identities, Suzume's mother marries Terayama-san, her father's best friend. However, after it is discovered that Suzume has overheard the secret whisperings between her mother and her tyrannical stepfather regarding his involvement as the mastermind behind her father's death, she must flee for her life. Suzume shadow weaves her way up society's ladder—from a lowly kitchen drudge to the coveted Shadow bride—with one goal in mind: revealing Terayama-san as a traitor and avenging her father's death. In doing so, she might have to forsake the love of her life and fellow shadow weaver, Otieno. Or does she? Zoe Marriott's riveting tale (Candlewick, 2012) puts a refreshing spin on the deadly game of cat and mouse whereby the mouse precisely calculates every small move to corner the cat. Amy Rubinate is solid in her narration of Suzume and offers subtle voice variations for the other characters. A great listen.—Cheryl Preisendorfer, Twinsburg City Schools, OH (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

"Cinderella" is reimagined as a revenge story set in an alternate feudal Japan. A dark yet very fresh fairy-tale reinvention.

—Kirkus Reviews

Beautifully written, with diverse and fascinating characters, an intriguing plot, and a romance that will steal your heart. One of the most innovative fairy-tale retellings I've read in years.

—R.J. Anderson, author of *Spellhunter* and *Ultraviolet*

Shadows on the Moon weaves a spell as deft as any by its main character. Beautiful and cruel; a mesmerizing read with an intoxicating love story.

—L.A. Weatherly, author of *Angel Burn* and *Angel Fire*

Marriott plays with the motifs of the Cinderella story in fresh new ways, recasting the classic fairy tale as revenge quest in a pseudo—ancient Japan, and her powerful exploration of familial betrayals and the personal cost of vengeance dovetails seamlessly with the more familiar fairy-tale themes of love, belonging, and multiple identities. . . The atmospheric writing, compelling secondary characters, and emotional complexity of this adaptation give it broad appeal and make it a standout addition to the perennially appealing field of fairy-tale novelizations.

—Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

A rich cultural context and strong female characters make this novel reminiscent of Kristin Cashore's *GRACELING* (Harcourt, 2008) and Arthur Golden's *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA* (Knopf, 1998). The "Cinderella" theme is interwoven with just the right strokes, creating a magical reinterpretation that is much richer than a mere retelling. Although several hot-button issues such as self-mutilation and gender identity are dealt with in an explicit manner, the fast-moving plot, intense action, and compelling characters will pull readers through to the satisfying conclusion.

—School Library Journal

About the Author

Zoë Marriott is the author of *The Swan Kingdom* and *Daughter of the Flames*. About *Shadows on the Moon*, she says, "I never liked Cinderella as a little girl. I hated the fact that she needed someone else to come along and rescue her. Then it occurred to me: what if Cinderella were strong and brave — and out for revenge all along?" Zoë Marriott lives in England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cleveland Bolton:

The e-book untitled *Shadows on the Moon* is the e-book that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you actually. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of study when write the book, hence the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of *Shadows on the Moon* from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Sandra Byrom:

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