



Shadow and Bone (The Grisha Trilogy)

By Leigh Bardugo

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The first book in The Grisha Trilogy by the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Six of Crows* and *Crooked Kingdom*.

“Mesmerizing. . . . This is what fantasy is for.” ?*New York Times Book Review*

Surrounded by enemies, the once-great nation of Ravka has been torn in two by the Shadow Fold, a swath of near impenetrable darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh. Now its fate may rest on the shoulders of one lonely refugee.

Alina Starkov has never been good at anything. But when her regiment is attacked on the Fold and her best friend is brutally injured, Alina reveals a dormant power that saves his life—a power that could be the key to setting her war-ravaged country free. Wrenched from everything she knows, Alina is whisked away to the royal court to be trained as a member of the Grisha, the magical elite led by the mysterious Darkling.

Yet nothing in this lavish world is what it seems. With darkness looming and an entire kingdom depending on her untamed power, Alina will have to confront the secrets of the Grisha . . . and the secrets of her heart.

Shadow and Bone is the first installment in Leigh Bardugo's Grisha Trilogy, which is followed by book two, *Siege and Storm*, and book three, *Ruin and Rising*. This title has Common Core connections, and this deluxe paperback edition includes an interview with author Leigh Bardugo, a lost letter from Mal, discussion questions, and more.

A *New York Times* Bestseller
A *Los Angeles Times* Bestseller
An Amazon Best Book of the Year
An Indie Next List Book

“Set in a **fascinating, unique world rich with detail, *Shadow and Bone* was **unlike anything I've ever read.**” ?*Veronica Roth, New York Times bestselling author of Divergent***

"Bardugo crafts a **first-rate adventure, a poignant romance, and an intriguing mystery** all in one book!" ?**Rick Riordan**, bestselling author of the Percy Jackson series

"Rich, satisfying, and gorgeous, laced with heart-pounding action and pitch-perfect romance." ?**Cinda Williams Chima**, bestselling author of the Seven Realms series and the Heir series

"**Romantic and magical** . . . Plenty of plot twists and betrayals kept us enjoying this richly crafted adventure until the very last page. (P.S. A do-not-miss for fans of *Graceling*.)"?*Justine* magazine

"This **gripping debut novel**, with a touch of magic and romance . . . will keep readers burning the midnight oil." ?Shelf Awareness

"Danger and duplicity abound . . . in this lavish portrayal of a country reminiscent of Imperial Russia." ?*VOYA*

"A **rich fantasy landscape, an inspired magical structure, and a gratifying emotional hook keep the pages whirring by** until a final twist upends assumptions and lands us smack in the middle of a harrowing climax. " ?*Horn Book Magazine*

"Filled with **lush descriptions, intriguing magic, and plenty of twists**, this memorable adventure **offers action and intrigue mixed with an undercurrent of romance and danger.**" ?*Publishers Weekly*

"A well-drawn world, full of deceit and mythology, populated by entirely believable characters. **Full of truly surprising twists and turns, beautiful imagery and a protagonist it's impossible not to root for**, this is a great choice for teenage fans of George R.R. Martin and J.R.R. Tolkien." ?*RT Book Reviews*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, June 2012: Alina Starkov has never been anything more than yet another orphan of her country's on-going wars...until she channels magic not seen in centuries to protect her best friend, Mal. Her new-found powers attract the attention of the Darkling, the most powerful of the country's magic-wielders. He tells Alina that her magic could heal the Shadow Fold, if she can only learn to control it--and if she agrees to trust the Darkling despite the mystery that surrounds his very existence. Leigh Bardugo brings a cast of well-defined characters and a unique magic system to her lavishly imagined world, where light doesn't always conquer dark and deception runs so deep that it becomes truth. And yet, against all expectations, the bonds of sacrifice and friendship remain too strong to be severed in this thrilling debut. -
-*Malissa Kent*

Amazon Exclusive: Editor Noa Wheeler Interviews Leigh Bardugo, author of *Shadow and Bone*

Nora Wheeler: I was really struck when I was reading *Shadow and Bone* by the beautiful setting. It's not our world exactly but it feels very Russian. Can you tell me a little bit more about the setting and how it played into your writing?

Leigh Bardugo: I think a lot of people have come to expect the medieval European setting from fantasy, and I wanted to use a different cultural touchstone for my world. There's also this terrible tension between the beauty of Russian culture and the brutality of its history that just lends itself to high-drama narrative. The more I researched the more inspired I got.



NW: I truly believe that *Shadow and Bone* is a book for everyone. It's fantasy but there's plenty here for someone who's not a regular fantasy reader to fall in love with. That makes it feel different to me from a lot of what's out there. Do you agree? And if so, what do you think makes this book different?

LB: I hope you're right! I tried really hard to make the book accessible to people who might not ordinarily pick up high fantasy. I'm a fantasy writer, so I love world building. I love maps. I love all that good stuff. But the story really began for me with the relationships between Alina and Mal and the Darkling. And I hope that comes through. Some people are put off by fantasy because they pick up a book and there are 10 terms and

each one has 20 consonants and three apostrophes and you have no idea how to pronounce things and it kind of makes the book feel like work. So I tried to ease people into the world a bit more gently. That's also why I chose to tell the story from Alina's point of view. She's very down to earth, very pragmatic, has a modern sensibility. I hope her perspective will make it easier for readers to enter Ravka.

NW: Another thing I think makes this book so different is that the magic is very accessible. For instance, I love the idea of the Small Science, of something that looks like magic being an enhancement of what's actually around us all the time. Can you elaborate on that aspect of the story a little bit?

LB: I've just always been interested in the functionality of magic. I love *Harry Potter* and I always wondered what actually happens physically and structurally when you mutter a curse or wave a wand. I wanted to get into the nitty-gritty of how the magic worked. So the Small Science is really about manipulating matter at its most fundamental levels. It's basically magical molecular chemistry.

NW: This is a little bit of a fangirl question, but if you could meet one of your characters who would it be and why?

LB: Well, my fangirl answer would be The Darkling. Because he's gorgeous and mysterious and dangerous and all those fun things. But I would also love to meet Genya. She kind of serves as Alina's guide into this magical world of the Grisha and the political maneuvering of the royal court. She's a combination of a make-up artist, a plastic surgeon, and a sorceress--and on the surface she's the classic fairy godmother, sassy best friend character, but there's a lot more to her than that. She's been kicked around and looked down on a lot throughout her life, yet she's always managed to keep her chin up and stay fabulous. I like that, and I think she'd be really fun to hang out with.

NW: What do you want readers to take away from this book?

LB: The message at the heart of the story is basically that the things that you fear most in yourself, the things that make you different, are also the things that give you power. And that embracing them can make you beautiful. So I would love it if people took that away from the book. I would also love it if people came away from it wanting to know what happens next for Alina and Mal! Things get really intense in the sequel, *Siege and Storm*. There are some new characters and what I hope will be some big surprises.

NW: Thanks so much for talking about *Shadow and Bone* with me today.

LB: My pleasure. Thank you!

See a map of the world of *Shadow and Bone*

Click to enlarge



From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Orphaned from the Border Wars, Alina was raised by strangers with her only friend, Mal. Drafted into the army of war-torn Ravka, the pair joins their regiment on a dangerous mission into the Fold, a place where darkness reigns and nobody survives the attacks of its native, nightmarish creatures. When the two friends are attacked, Alina inadvertently summons her dormant magical powers to save her regiment. She is ripped from everything she knows and sent to be trained as a Grisha in the court of the Darkling, the most powerful magic wielder. Cut off from contact with Mal, Alina has a hard time learning to use her power. When she discovers the Darkling's plan to enslave her in order to destroy all who oppose him, she must figure out a way to stop him and find her way back to Mal. Will she learn to wield her power and save Ravka before it's too late? Narrator Amanda Dolan masterfully brings Alina's world of magic and monsters to life. Bardugo's well-developed characters in this debut novel (Holt, 2012) are enhanced by the narrator's unique voices and intonations. The transitions between action and suspense are incredible, and listeners will be totally engrossed. The twists throughout this unique plot are expertly handled by both author and narrator and keep listeners guessing. For fans of dark fantasy, adventure, suspense, and magic.—Kira Moody, Whitmore Public Library, Salt Lake City, UT(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Review

A New York Times Bestseller

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“**Mesmerizing.** . . . Bardugo's set up is shiver-inducing, of the delicious variety. **This is what fantasy is for.**” ?*New York Times Book Review*

“The **top fantasy book** to read this year.” ?*The Huffington Post*

"The darker it gets for the good guys, the better." ?*Entertainment Weekly*

“**Romantic and magical** . . . Plenty of plot twists and betrayals kept us enjoying this richly crafted adventure

until the very last page. (P.S. A do-not-miss for fans of *Graceling*.)” *Justine* magazine

“Fast-paced and unpredictable, this debut novel will be a hit with readers who love dark fantasy.” *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“This **gripping debut novel**, with a touch of magic and romance . . . will keep readers burning the midnight oil.” *Shelf Awareness*

"Danger and duplicity abound . . . in this lavish portrayal of a country reminiscent of Imperial Russia." *VOYA*

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“Filled with **lush descriptions, intriguing magic, and plenty of twists**, this memorable adventure **offers action and intrigue mixed with an undercurrent of romance and danger.**” *Publishers Weekly*

“The plotting is powerful.” *Kirkus Reviews*

“Bardugo weaves a captivating spell with lushly descriptive writing, engaging characters, and an exotic, vivid world. Readers will wait impatiently for the next installment.” *Booklist*

“A well-drawn world, full of deceit and mythology, populated by entirely believable characters. **Full of truly surprising twists and turns, beautiful imagery and a protagonist it's impossible not to root for**, this is a great choice for teenage fans of George R.R. Martin and J.R.R. Tolkien.” *RT Book Reviews*

“This is one book series you want to get hooked on.” *Seventeen.com*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Miguel Willis:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled Shadow and Bone (The Grisha Trilogy) can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

William Marquis:

This Shadow and Bone (The Grisha Trilogy) is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it info accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole info in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward

sentences but hard core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Shadow and Bone (The Grisha Trilogy) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no e-book that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

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Barbara Roundtree:

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