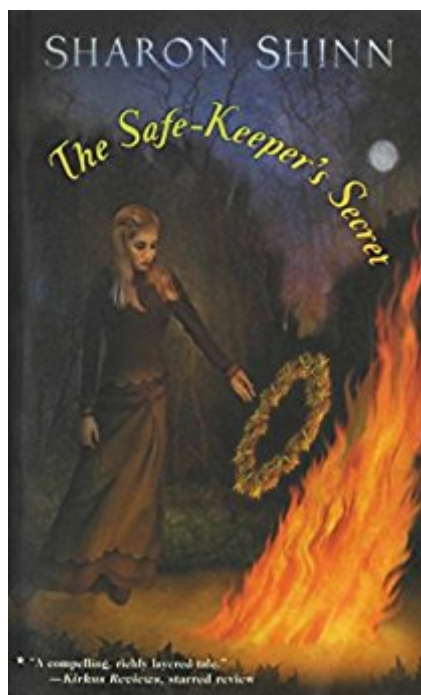


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The Safe-Keeper's Secret



Synopsis

"The most promising and original writer of fantasy to come along since Robin McKinley." — Peter S. Beagle, best-selling author of *The Last Unicorn*

Damiana is safe-keeper in the small village of Tumbleham. Neighbors and strangers alike come one by one, in secret, to tell her things they dare not share with anyone else, knowing that Damiana will keep them to herself. One late night, a mysterious visitor from the city arrives with an unusual secret for the Safe-Keeper — a newborn baby. Damiana, who is expecting her own child, agrees to take the foundling. She names him Reed and raises him side by side with her daughter, Fiona. As the years pass and the two children grow into teenagers, they must come to terms with who they are — and who they may be.

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Customer Reviews

This is the first of three novels which take place in a world where there are people who are either

born with, or magically selected for, specific purposes. In this book, the purpose is that of Safe Keeper - these are people to whom anyone can confide any secret - even of a crime, and it will be kept. The world building is lovely (which is a trait of Shinn) and the characters are believable. This book is more of a mystery, and the solution is relatively logical. It is a quick and charming read, and a lovely introduction to the two other novels in the series, 'The Truth Teller's Tale', and 'The Dream Maker's Magic'.

I thought this was a great fantasy story and loved the idea of a "safe-keeper" who is magically bound to keep any secrets told to her. I thought the story was great and, although I figured out what the big "secret" was fairly early on, I still enjoyed reading the story.

Fiona and her "brother" Reed live in a tiny village in a simple medieval-feeling culture where the magic is fairly subtle but woven deeply into society. The book is the story of their discovering who they are and what role they will play as they mature. There are many dark aspects of the story, including incest and the death of a major character, but the tone is very calm and comfortable. I liked the variety of characters the author brought to life, and the way they pulled together as a community. I look forward to reading the other books in this series, and anything else Ms. Shinn writes. Sure, I'd rather have adult novels from her existing series, but the occasional young adult book is a nice change of pace.

I was enthralled! I read this first book so fast. Very good intro into the series. Definitely recommend it if you are looking for a new series to start.

Fast moving-many surprises. Not what I expected. Really enjoyed it. Couldn't wait to start the next book in the series.

Sharon Shinn has taken us to an alternate reality, a place full of beauty and peace as well as dark secrets. This first book in a trilogy is delightful as are the other two. Each is complete in itself and I thoroughly enjoyed my visit. Damiana is a secret-keeper, she keeps those secrets others need to share but can not or will not reveal. She does not reveal their deepest secrets. As she is bearing her own child, the secret-keeper of the king arrives with a baby and asks her to take the child and keep it safe. She agrees and he is later found dead by his own hand in the forest. The safe-keeper keeps secrets, the truth-teller tells only the truth, and the dream-master gives shape to the hopes of others.

These three have great influence on the many people who live in this land. Damiana raises the child as one of her own. They live in Tumbleham, a village far from the courts of the king. Reed and Fiona live a simple life, each seeking his place in the world. Fiona wants to be a secret-keeper like her mother and Reed wishes to travel and find his place. I found the story delightful, the setting rural and peaceful, and the characters intriguing. This was a wonderful read and you will not be sorry you took a chance and read it.

Good

This was a lovely book. I ordered it simply because Sharon Shinn wrote it and I love her writing. It is more of a young adult book and that is fine, but it wasn't what I was hoping for (ok to be honest I really want more Angel series or 12 House series LOL) but it was very nice none the less. Good for early teens. Well written and interesting.

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