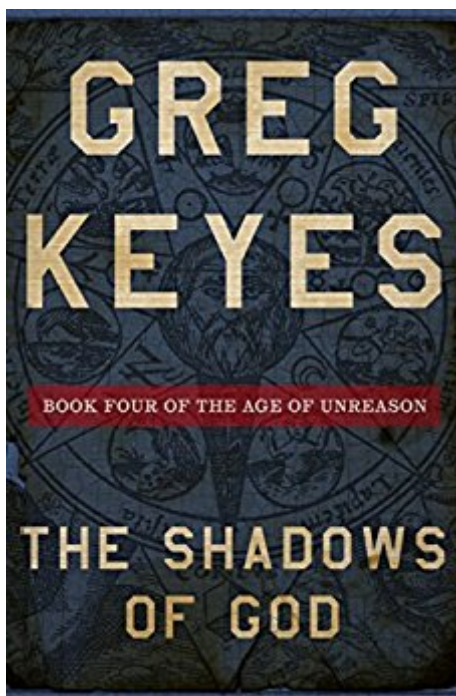


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The Shadows Of God (The Age Of Unreason Book 4)



Synopsis

Angels and demons alike watch and wait as the last warriors of old Europe invade the New World in this magnificent conclusion to the Age of Unreason alternate history series. The alchemical catastrophe that Sir Isaac Newton inadvertently unleashed late in the seventeenth century has transformed Europe into a cold, dead wasteland in the eighteenth century — much to the delight of the otherworldly malakim, who have set humanity at war with itself for the sin of dabbling in the arcane. The last inhabitable territory, the New World, is now the coveted prize of the surviving European warlords. From the West, Russian forces led by the Sun Boy, child of the powerful French sorceress Adrienne de Mornay de Montchevreuil, move relentlessly onward, leaving a trail of devastation in their wake. British troops in the East are equally merciless in their conquests. All that stands against them is a motley alliance of colonists, Native Americans, scientists, philosophers, displaced Europeans, and others led by Ben Franklin, now an alchemist of great repute, and Red Shoes, a Choctaw shaman with questionable motivations. But no matter who wins or loses, the manipulating angels and demons are always watching, and the malakim are determined to be the ultimate victors. In The Shadows of God, the Age of Unreason, Greg Keyes's magnificent alternate history series, comes to a stunning and most satisfying conclusion. It is the final chapter in a colorful, exciting, richly detailed, and ingeniously imagined chronicle of life on a damaged Earth where magic and science are on equal planes and history's icons inhabit a past that never was.

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Customer Reviews

all of the players are gathered in one place and the music, out of tune as it may be, is calling to everyone. the malakim have at last put their destructive plan into motion, ensnaring Adrienne, her son, Nico, Ben and Red Shoes. the battle for the New World is nothing more than an attempt to cover up their plans for ending mankind. if God is not with them, how can they survive?the close of this quartet is full of fun surprises. it is a triumphant flourish both happy and sad. this was a fantastic series that i've read more than once and shall continue to read

As expected, the final book of this alternate history, fantasy series does culminate in an epic and desperate battle. The nature of such battle also brings about several dramatic moments and losses of life, but I sort of felt it was not as great as I wanted it to be and I think part of the problem is the power both Red Shoes and Adrienne now command. Their power is so vast, that their battles are not as detailed as you want them, you just sort of vaguely get what happens and read on. It comes out to be like two major energy forces clashing, a blinding wave of light and the aftermath. I much prefer if the mystical aspect had been kept at a low to medium level such as the first couple of books instead of having pretty much three gods walking the Earth. All in all, the series is a good one, and I welcome the inclusion of historical figures and the such, but I do think the increase in power of some of the characters and the malakim was detrimental to the quality of the story. It reminded me of clouds fighting clouds, whereas I much rather read about humans fighting humans. Also, the nice relationship between Benjamin and Lenka turns a bit annoying, and the new character Oglethorpe becomes much more detailed and likeable than previous characters of greater importance.

This is a review specifically aimed at the Kindle version of the book - and not so much a review of the book itself. I commented previously on Kindle version of Keyes' book "A Calculus of Angles" concerning the poor job that was done in the translation to the Kindle format. I am very glad to say that the formatting issues in "The Shadows of God" are almost non-existent. This Kindle book

outshines the formatting of all the previous Kindle books in this series. Yes there is an occasional mis-translated word or spacing but they are very few and far between. With the formatting issues resolved I was able to better enjoy the story that Mr Keyes was telling rather than being hung up on trying to decipher *what* he was trying to say. The story was well told and I enjoyed this entire series of books. As far as the Kindle version goes - this last book was the highpoint of the series.

The ideas and plot in this series is unique without being so farfetched as to put this sceptical reader off. Buy and enjoy!

I enjoyed the whole series.

Good read.

Nothing makes a series more frustrating for a reader than extended delays between volumes. Unfortunately for me, not only was J. Gregory Keyes a long time in issuing this last volume in the 'Age of Unreason Series,' marketing for it was so poor that it was a year before I actually found it, and even longer until I finally started to read it. Given the scope of the series, this nearly caused me to decide not to read it. The key of the problem is that the cast of characters is immense, and seems to include everyone of note in Europe and North America from Isaac Newton and Ben Franklin to Tsar Peter the Great. At the beginning of 'The Shadows of God' Keyes spends about 40 pages re-introducing his characters. Before I gave up counting he had mentioned thirty major characters and a host of lesser. Moreover, while diligent in the matter of name-dropping, Keyes makes no effort to provide continuity between this volume and its predecessor. As such, it was a while before I remembered that Keyes had Newton discover the existence of the Malakim, angels who intersected with the human world and whose powers could be harnessed. As he and his student Ben Franklin move across Europe, great powers are set in motion, eventually leading to London's utter destruction by an aimed meteor, and a Russian attempt to conquer the world. With Europe in tatters, the action shifts to the new world, where men battle men and Malakim, and everyone who can try to destroy their enemies and take the earth for their own. In North America, invading armies of the Malakim inspired Sun Boy and James Stuart, pretender to the English Throne prepare to overwhelm the indigenous races and colonists from New England to New France. Ben Franklin is the ringleader in for those who oppose the Malakim as he tries to deal with overpowering magic, traitors on every side, and the rulers of New France, Sweden and Russia. With his family life in a

shambles, and his imagination stretched to its limits Franklin must prepare to fight a battle that truly is the apocalypse. This is primarily alternate history, based on the thesis that Newton's discoveries were of the laws of magic rather than those of science. Misled into thinking that the Malakim were harmless, Newton did not realize that these were the fallen angels, stranded on earth by God, and that many of them fiercely desire the end of man. The fascination of a new scientific system, and Keyes' great writing are what keep the series moving, and this volume is no exception, despite the slow start. The book probes the possibility of a universe based on an entirely different meta-narrative and the effects of that world on those that people it. It also questions the significance of good and evil and God's place in the entirety of corruption. Keyes created a high action plot while taking the time to investigate philosophical and emotional considerations. In the end, I found the story very satisfying, but be warned that 'The Shadows of God' would be nearly unreadable for someone who has not read the first three volumes. It is unfortunate that Keyes will probably never get the recognition he deserves for this work of science fantasy. If you have the opportunity and the time, you will find the series well worth reading.

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