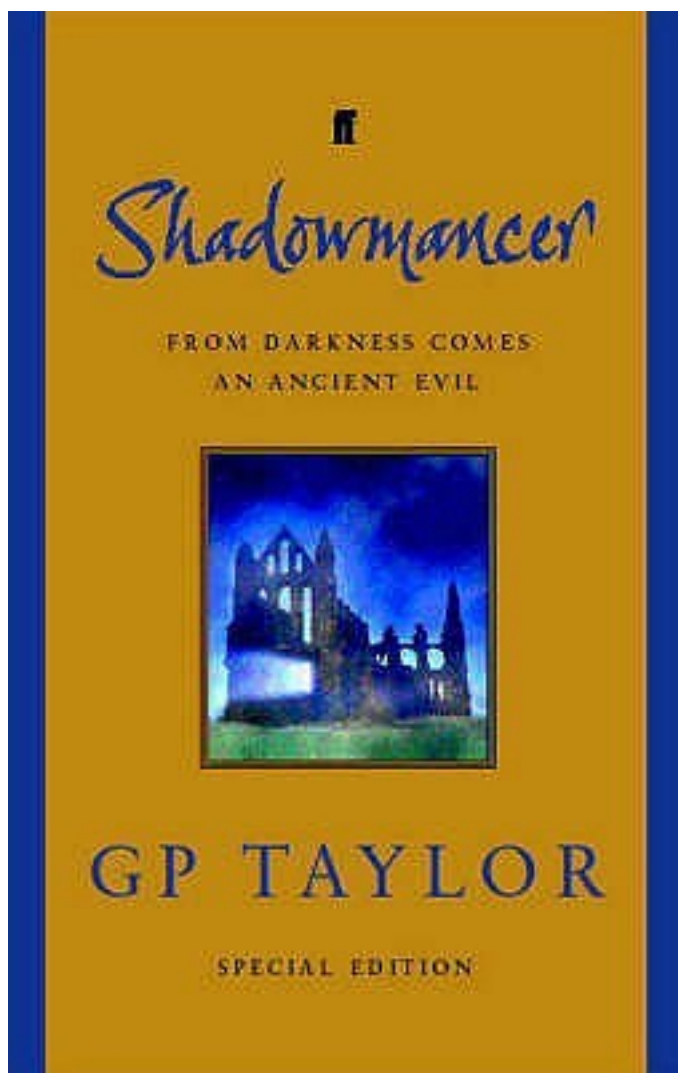

G.P. Taylor

Shadowmancer (Shadowmancer #1)



Title: Shadowmancer (Shadowmancer #1)

Author: G.P. Taylor

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Description

A special edition of the children's bestseller, in which sorcerer Obadiah Demurrall seeks to control the highest power in the universe. Raphael, Kate, Thomas - and the mysterious Jacob Crane, are out to stop him. Features new material, an extra chapter and facts about the book's location.

Insightful reviews

Sarah: Let me start off by saying: If you are not a Christian, or not interested in reading a book heavily themed in that area, you should probably stay away from Shadowmancer. Most of the negative reviews I've seen based on this book complain that G.P. Taylor bashes one over the head with his views in God and the supernatural...and that's kind of the point. This book is in no way a subtle allegory a la The Chronicles of Narnia. It makes it evident that Riathmus is supposed to be God, that he is the source of all goodness, and that without him you cannot truly be saved. If reading such material makes you uncomfortable or is a turnoff, you picked up the wrong book. I don't know a lot about the author, or what his intentions were when writing this novel, but I can only assume he crafted it for a Christian audience like myself, and that's who is going to enjoy it. The book itself is well written and fast paced, with plenty of action and nary a dull moment. However, what sets it slightly lower on the scale is the fact that the world is nowhere near as developed as it should've been. It seems like a fascinating place populated by all sorts of creatures and superstitions, but Taylor really only scratches the surface of its potential. I found the characters to be the same. They were all likeable, but again, we don't learn close to anywhere near enough about them. Overall, I found it to be a great Christian adventure novel for those not turned off by Taylor's obvious themes and allegories. It's not quite in the same realm as Narnia, but it's still a good time.

Kim: For the longest time, I avoided committing to writing my complete frustration with and bitter disappointment over this book. After all, the author seems like a very nice man (despite his personal views on religion, he has defended Philip Pullman, and had to sell his motorcycle in order to get this book published), and there is a definite audience for this sort of book, made up of people who aren't likely to pay attention to anything I say. At the same time, until very recently I considered this the worst book I had actually finished (that place has now been taken by a romance written by, I kid you not, The Fae Gatekeeper of Dreams), and now its sequels, particularly the seductively named Wormwood, are out there trying to use the same tricks to make me buy them as this one did: namely an atmospheric setting, Cornish folklore, and shady characters such as smugglers and the like. Yes, the promise of adventure and magic are held out by this book . . . then snatched away, as the magical creatures, by and large, turn out to be the devil's handiwork.

This book, for all its claims to be non-denominational and a great adventure story, is basically a sermon in disguise. The villain, Obadiah Demurrall, is a vicar who decides he wants to kill and then become God. He is about as generic as evil guys come, which is one of those things that always sets me off, although for an agent of the devil that is par for the course. What I mean is, I haven't noticed a lot of extremely religious people prying into the motivations of those they cast as foes, and maybe I shouldn't be surprised that Taylor doesn't do so either. Well, all right---but

the character is a *vicar*, and presumably one of the good guys at one time. Shouldn't Taylor, a vicar himself, give him a good reason for switching sides? Heck, even Lucifer gets one, in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, a work that seems to have inspired this novel.

If you have read Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*, you know what good religious allegory should be like; namely, that it should be enjoyable by those oblivious to its religious intent. Lewis wrote of mythological creatures just as heroic and "good" as his human characters, and his Christ figure Aslan is primarily identified by the sacrifices he makes. *Shadowmancer*, less subtly, has a Christ figure who appears as both a king and a shepherd, spouting recognizable New Testament verses.

In addition to the supernatural elements that initially drew me to this books, there were characters I definitely wanted to like: Kate, a plucky tomboy, and Raphah, a mysterious boy from Cush (which, as an ancient historian, pleased me greatly) with hidden knowledge and healing powers (notice I didn't say "magical," as it is clear we are to read these as "miraculous" instead). However, their character development is subordinate to the message of the book, that all are worthy of salvation, regardless of gender or race.

In closing, let me say that another thing that made me pick up this book was the fact that at one time it had outsold one of the Harry Potter books (not sure which, but whatever one was out in 2003 or so), and I was sure it had to be good. Well, I know now why it outsold Harry Potter; I believe it that everyone who didn't want their children reading Rowling must have bought this one instead.

Dan: *Shadowmancer* was a terrible read, and I actually regretted finishing it. It started off promisingly enough, but it devolves into nothing but a religious sermon saying 'there is only one god, and everyone who worships any other deity or concept is really just worshipping the devil'. The major villain, the Vicar of the village, is so stereotypical, I was waiting for him to start twirling his mustache and cackling maniacally.

All in all, a very poorly written, poorly thoughtout, and way to heavy handed novel. Disappointing.

Alana: I picked this up from a charity store a couple of months in the past pondering it sounded fairly good. on the time i used to be unaware it used to be truly a kid's booklet yet that won't frequently an issue for me, i've got learn an exceptional many kid's books that have been incredible and loved them. in spite of the fact that this booklet simply didn't carry my focus or curiosity at all. there have been a few strong principles however the plot and characters have been over all very vulnerable and even though many kid's fable books i've got learn have had an underlying Christian/god all understanding plot that infrequently bothers me, this one lays it on method too thick and spoils the ebook even more. i used to be very disappointed. :(

Selena: I learn this many years in the past and it nonetheless sticks with me. ...But so can gum in your shoe.It used to be seriously religious, and it wasn't even refined approximately it. God confirmed up consistently to intervene with things. it truly is something to have God look and go, "Blah blah blah, now move do my bidding" yet the following he was once as a lot a personality within the tale as anyone else.The writing used to be ok at best. And in my opinion, it marginalized any girl characters that seemed within the book.At the start it appeared ok earlier than faith really bought involved. If it had stayed as "This guy's nutty and evil and utilizing faith

to get final energy for his personal greed" it is going to were fine. yet then he was once possessed or whatever and... yeah.If you are seriously non secular and do not brain a black-and-white view of the world, you would like this. For me, though, it was once too predictable and black-and-white with out heart ground. every thing that wasn't "the actual god" was once immediately evil. There wasn't even a, "well, such and such is simply an extension of belief..." No. you are wrong.It used to be like being dragged to church. Again.

Patrick: a couple of days ago, I observed Shadowmancer within the younger grownup component of my neighborhood library and concept it appeared quite interesting. After all, i'm a tremendous fan of darkish fantasy. while I obtained approximately midway in the course of the book, I explored Goodreads a section to appear over different people's reviews. To my dismay, they have been all detrimental and had trashed the book. However, for the reason that I had already learn an important amount, i made a decision to complete it. Generally, it's difficult for me to hate anything that I'm no longer compelled to read, yet i will be able to say that some of the reviewers had a lot justification to expense the publication the best way they did.The publication begins of relatively well. It beneficial properties Parson Demurral utilizing a few kind of magic to crash an incoming send with a view to retrieve an artifact known as the Keruvim. within the moment chapter, it really is printed that he's a Vicar, that's comparable to a king or anything similar. the most character, Thomas, is without doubt one of the few commoners who speaks out opposed to Demurral. Eventually, he reveals Raphah, a survivor of the shipwreck who tells Thomas that he needs to cease Demurral from retrieving the second one 1/2 the Keruvim in any other case he'll turn into amazingly powerful. The duo quickly locate Thomas' friend, Kate, and continue to aim and forestall Demurral.The plot starts quite rushed. It nearly turns out as though it could've went like this: "Demurral's evil. i need to cease him. whats up look, there's Kate. Let's convey her too! whats up look, i discovered a sword to struggle issues with!" I by no means felt that I acquired a great feeling of Thomas or Kate's personalities or characters. It offers slightly of a quick background on Thomas, yet Kate feels similar to an empty shell of a character. the center portion of the ebook appears nearly completely desirous about Demurral with virtually no brain to our protagonist. i discovered Demurral to be the main attention-grabbing character, yet i needed so desperately to visualize what he seemed like, which used to be difficult when you consider that the one facts I've come across relating to his visual appeal used to be that he seemed a bit like a priest. The chapters with Demurral aren't too attention-grabbing either. He often talks with another characters, yet he doesn't relatively do a lot of something noteworthy. many of the time, he's speaking approximately God and the way he'll have extra energy than him.Demurral's sidekick, Beadle, wasn't too intersting either. he's defined as being a small guy with "large eyes, small ears and tufts of small black stubby hair." I imagined him as being the standard sidekick whom the villain usually kicks round and threatens for his personal enjoyment and comedian relief, a little like a Disney villain. He fairly jogged my memory of Jafar's parrot or anything of that sort.There used to be a major loss of experience within the book. i used to be hoping for a few kind of epic trip to Demurral's fort or something, yet there has been none of that. there have been however, a number of battles, yet none of them too fascinating to make observe of. The magic process too felt under-developed and never fashionable enough. close to the end, i used to be hoping for a few type of epic conflict among Thomas and Demurral, yet none of that.After all this, there's nonetheless anything i must bitch about: The non secular element of the book. Many reviewers complained approximately that as well, however it didn't trouble me at first. However, as I went deeper and

deeper into the book, it was once way more well known and much extra pointless. (BRIEF SPOILERS BELOW)The first significant incidence is while Thomas turns out to slide right into a dream and is vacationing through anyone who he refers to because the King, who's evidently God, or Riathamus as Raphah calls him. The King refers to his enemy as a "Father of Lies" and a "devouring lion," either nicknames for Satan. during the book, Raphah consistently publicizes his love for Riathamus whereas Demurrall continuously references God in nearly each chapter. However, close to the tip of the book, the spiritual enter turns into virtually overbearing. Many probably meaningless issues take place only for the sake of getting a dating to religion. I'm not only conversing in regards to the random references to Cain and capable or Adam and Eve. I'm referring scenes corresponding to the King without notice coming to Thomas and assisting him defeat an enemy through giving it a "pure blow in my name." In addition, there's a random personality who says "I AM WHO I AM." (Yes, in all caps as well.) there's additionally an apple who supplies the eater an knowing of the area and a villain who was an angel. but the majority of those occasions haven't any genuine value to the plot line whatsoever. it sort of feels like G.P. Taylor was once so wanting to upload a few kind of spiritual symbolism that he went with no matter what he may be able to stuff into the book. It was once meant to be a bit of of a reaction to the atheistic perspectives of Pullman's His darkish fabrics trilogy, yet finally ends up having a look sloppy and over-done. Supposedly, there are sequels, yet i believe one ebook is good enough for me.

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