
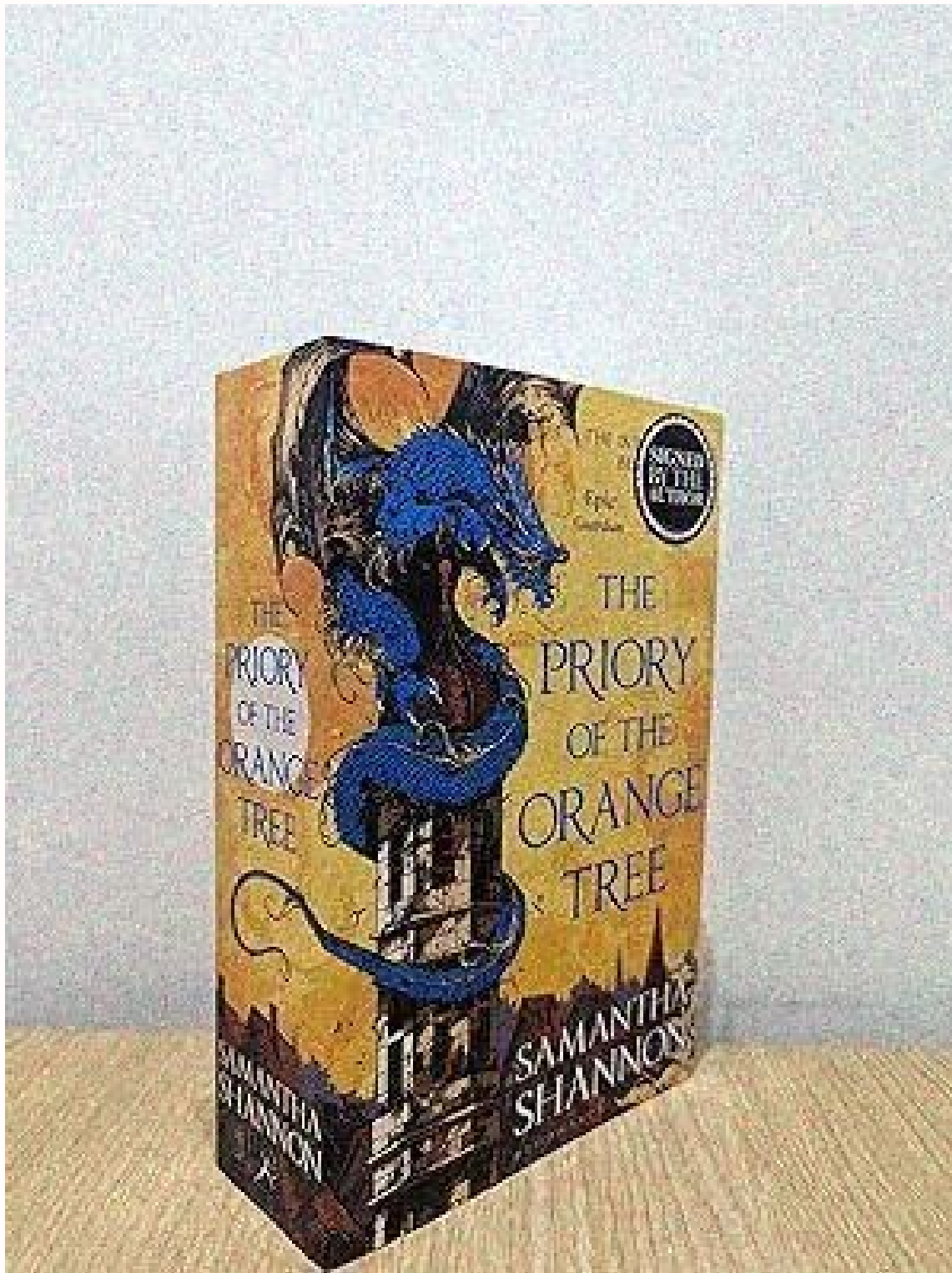


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The priory of the orange tree parents guide. Prior park gibraltar calendar. Priory of the orange tree. Priory of the orange tree character guide. Priory of the orange tree pronunciation guide. How many words is priory of the orange tree. Prior park gibraltar term dates.



How many words is priory of the orange tree. Prior park gibraltar term dates. Is the priory of the orange tree good. Priory of the orange tree ending. Priory of the orange tree reading guide.

The world is on the brink of chaos as a powerful ancient enemy awakens. The House of Berethnet has ruled Inys for centuries, but with no heir, Queen Sabran must conceive a daughter to protect her realm from destruction. Meanwhile, Ead Duryan, a lady-in-waiting and member of a secret society of mages, secretly protects the queen using forbidden magic.



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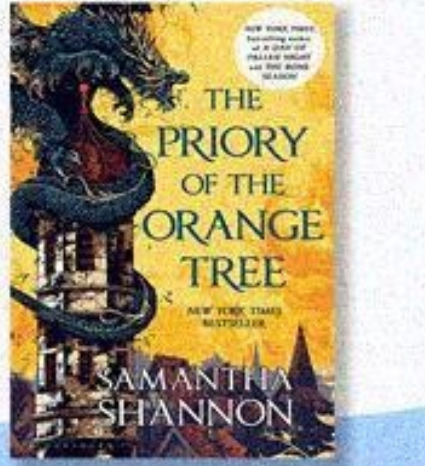


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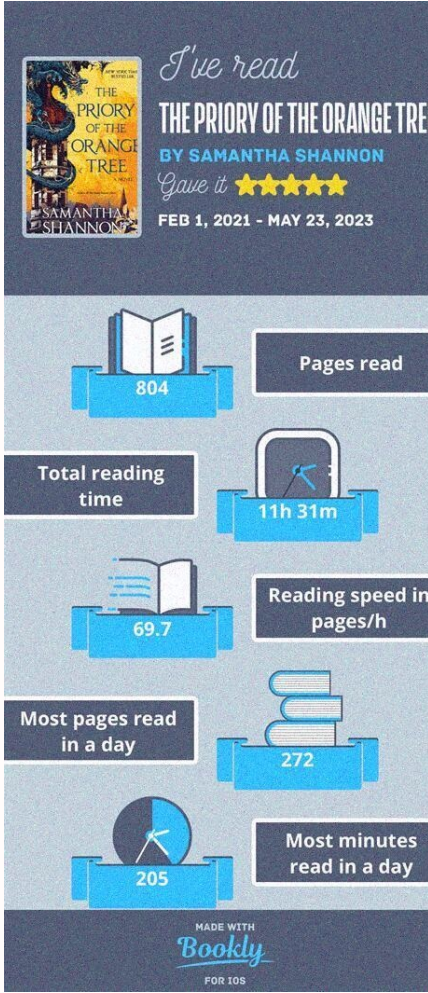
The Priory Of The Orange Tree



Priory of the orange tree ending. Priory of the orange tree reading guide.

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It's like reading multiple books stitched together. Author Shannon masterfully weaves the narrative, exploring language, characters, choices, and relationships that span continents. She skillfully blends old tales into new stories, keeping readers engaged and learning about diverse nations, cultures, and histories. The novel features a cast of strong, complex women – queens, warriors, scientists, and pirates – each with their own story to tell. # Sabran mastered the art of containing her inner turmoil without compromising her outward composure. It wasn't easy; she had to navigate the pressures of being queen, all while confronting her own mortality and the erosion of her humanity. Despite these challenges, Sabran refused to be confined by her duties, yearning for something more authentic than the gilded cage of her queenship. Her character is a poignant portrayal of human vulnerability, with flaws that make her relatable. As Sabran delves deeper into the world beyond her kingdom, she's forced to confront uncomfortable truths and harsh realities. The stories she was taught were mere fabrications, and it takes her accepting this reality for the ice wall in her mind to crack open. Her desire to save her people is genuine, but it requires her to smooth over the ruffled feathers of change and guide them out of fear. Sabran's inner world remains shrouded until she finds a confidant in Ead Duryan. Their moments together are tender and heartwarming, yet their duties weigh heavily upon them like insurmountable mountains. Shannon expertly balances their agency with the ineffable experience of love and affection. Ead whispers sweet nothings to Sabran, reminding her of the first day they walked together and the lovey's eternal song. "My heart knows your song, as yours knows mine. And I will always come back to you." Sabran responds with a promise: "I will hold you to that, Eadaz uq-Nára." Tané, on the other hand, has grown from her childhood dreams of being a dragon rider into a fiercely determined individual. She nourishes this ambition with scraps of information and an unyielding faith in herself. Tané's interactions with Nayimathun are like a starved dragon lapping up precious attention. Her aloofness and competence are traits she shares with Sabran, yet beneath the surface lies a fragility that makes her all the more relatable. Suddenly, a sense of belonging washes over Tané, only to be ripped away, leaving her in desolate loneliness. Her character development is as profound as those of Ead and Sabran. But Shannon's mastery doesn't stop there; NiclAYS Roos, an alchemist with a past shrouded in regret, also takes center stage. After failing to brew an elixir for Queen Sabran, he's exiled to the Island of Orisima, where years fade away as he gazes at the memories of his lost love and missed opportunities. NiclAYS' vulnerability resonates deeply with me; every flaw, weakness, and shame is laid bare. He's a self-admitted coward, yet his story stirs pity and sorrow within me, dissolving blame and resentment. As I read on, I questioned whether NiclAYS' madness was fueled by his own cunning or the isolation and grief that consumed him. His character development is heartbreaking, leaving me tear-stained as I turned the pages. Amidst the complexity of characters, Lord Loth Arteloth stands out – a man with a noble exterior, yet an open heart. Initially content to navigate diplomacy and compromise, he eventually pushes past his limits, realizing his innocence and naivety had locked him out of understanding worlds beyond his own. His journey was a rewarding experience.



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Initially content to navigate diplomacy and compromise, he eventually pushes past his limits, realizing his innocence and naivety had locked him out of understanding worlds beyond his own. His journey was a rewarding experience. "Would the world be any better if we were all the same?" In various ways, the characters underwent this aspect of masterful character development: their lives were filled with facts they knew beyond doubt, yet without proof to back them up.

And it takes them facing calamity to stop seeing the world through a narrowed lens and learn to come together on the other side of their differences. This story borrows deeply into our everyday truths. Shannon poured tenderness, care, and attention into her story and characters. I really enjoyed this book and can't recommend it enough! It's a long read, but you'll be sad to leave it behind. If you liked this review or found it useful and are feeling generous, please consider supporting me on ko-fi! You know that feeling when people rush somewhere and your curious soul feels helplessly tugged along? That's how I felt with this book. "We may be small, but we will shake the world for our beliefs." The Priory of the Orange Tree is a legendary tale destined to be enshrined in song. This book is a brilliant, daring, and devastating jewel - unique, rich, and both magnificent in size and content. It's been praised for its intricate world-building, diverse characters, thought-provoking themes, and masterful storytelling. Shannon's ability to bring new religions, histories, and conflicts to life is astonishing. As the weight of responsibility settles upon it, The Priory of the Orange Tree stands firm. Despite its own challenges, this book may yet overcome them. Our truest selves. Night brings our deepest fears, leaving us defenseless against their relentless assault." But it's not just the vivid prose, masterful villains, or heartwarming characters that make this a timeless favorite. The richly crafted world inspired by various cultures and events is what truly sets it apart. This world is born from a seed of truth, and in its stories lies great power. Despite some initial hesitation and easily deciphered riddles, The Priory of the Orange Tree remains an essential addition to any adult epic fantasy collection. With a beautiful soundtrack to enhance your reading experience – too Spotify URL. Storyline > Inys has been ruled by the House of Berethnet for over 1000 years. Queen Sabran IX must now conceive a daughter to safeguard her realm from destruction. The monster beneath the sea will remain dormant as long as a Berethnet rules Virtudom. However, assassins are closing in on the queen, and Ead Duryan, an outsider lady-in-waiting with forbidden magic, is tasked with protecting Sabran. Meanwhile, Tané, a dragonrider trainee, stands at the threshold of her dreams, poised to make a choice that could unravel them all across the Abyss in the East. As a guide takes her to places unseen by Easterners in centuries, one can't help but wonder if those in power – Dukes and Queens – are blind to the chaos brewing beneath their feet. History repeats itself, and yet, no one seems prepared to stand united against the forces of destruction. The phrase "Let them come with their swords and their torches" echoes throughout the air. Shannon's creative tapestry is woven from the threads of folklore and mythology from around the world. Some notable inspirations include: * Chinese/Japanese/Korean mythology: Eastern dragons * European mythology: Western wyverns and wyrms * Norse mythology: Odin, Valhalla, and the Great Table * Alchemy teachings: Clay's storyline * Christian beliefs: The sign of the sword and the followers of the Saint * Biblical references: The Abyss and Keys (Revelation 20) * Poems: "Alas! Poor Queen" by Marion Angus and "Tsuki" from the Manyōshū collection Shannon also addresses contemporary social debates, such as: * Feminism: Empowering women to take charge, defy expectations, and fight for their rights. * LGBT+: Embracing diversity, showcasing queer relationships and characters without prejudice. * Custom & Tradition: Examining the impact of societal norms and questioning long-held traditions. This book is a bold, refreshing portrayal of humanity's deep conflicts. Would the world be better if we were all the same? Shannon's story raises this question, challenging our assumptions about differences and prejudices. The book tackles themes of power, belief, history, and myth, asking readers to consider whether our contrasting views are meant to be accepted or embraced. The novel explores the complexities of international relations, highlighting the importance of understanding and acceptance in the face of hostility and bitterness. It also delves into the power of faith and how it can be used for good or evil. Shannon's writing is exquisite, with a focus on immersion in the moment rather than plot advancement. Her prose is detailed and engaging, drawing readers into the world she has created. Honestly, I think this book has already gone on for too long and doesn't need more strategy or details, but I'm an exception? To put it into Kit's words, "This is a fantastic book. I believe I would marry this book if I were a book myself." Here's a brief overview of the main characters: * Ead (POV): A powerful mage and warrior with an open heart and mind, she uncovers secrets like a true detective. I just can't begin to explain how much I adore this inspiring young woman. Her motto is "I do not fear that which I do not understand." * Tané (POV): At 19, she's the youngest protagonist, and her ambitious and courageous heart has stolen my affection. Despite having all the wrong priorities, there's something about her that resonates. * NiclAYS (POV): A tragic alchemist with a life of sorrow, he's a man of shadows with a heartbreaking story. He's my #1 character in POT, and his pain has left me shattered. His journey is a poignant reminder that pain doesn't reveal our true selves – it only fuels our worst instincts. * Loth (POV): A kind-hearted, loyal, and determined individual who shows that love and understanding can bloom across different beliefs and ways of life. This magnificent tome, penned by Shannon, weaves a tapestry of unforgettable characters. Kalyba, the wicked witch, and Sulvard, the passionate idealist, stand out alongside the privateer Captain Hatlowe, wise Estima, charismatic Emperor, charming Aubrecht, sharp Tryde, and memorable Orren. Amidst this ensemble, Sabran and Aralac's romance shines like a beacon. Shannon's greatest strength lies in crafting compelling friendships, as seen in Ead and Loth's bond, which transcends opposing beliefs. The author's ability to convey the beauty of platonic relationships is truly captivating. While the book excels in its portrayal of queer love stories, particularly Ead's, it falls short in terms of plot coherence and pacing. The narrative feels overly long, with loose ends that leave readers wanting more. Despite these shortcomings, the love story at the heart of this tale shines brightly. With future books promised in this world, fans can look forward to a continued journey with these beloved characters. Until then, farewell, and let the midnight sun guide you. As I delved into this fantasy novel, I was thrilled to find a beautifully crafted romance between two complex female characters. The story unfolds with intricate details, but the plot itself fell short of my expectations. The pace was slow, especially during the downbeat moments, which made it feel like a slog at times. What disappointed me most was that almost every climactic moment felt contrived, lacking coherence and setup. I believe good plot twists should be surprising yet make sense in hindsight. The story's biggest issue was its failure to execute well-set-up twists. It prioritized surprise over coherence, leaving me feeling frustrated. One example stood out: a character is shown looking at their wounded lover, only for another character to enter and declare, "It's over. He's dead." This confusion could've been easily avoided by using names instead of pronouns. On the plus side, I appreciated how women were portrayed as capable, strong, and competent without needing commentary. However, this lack of comment also raised questions about the world's gender politics. For instance, one kingdom was founded by a man who took credit for a woman's achievement, creating a structured religion around himself.

This aspect felt confusing and didn't quite add up. The language used in this particular faith bears a striking resemblance to the chivalric tradition. Initially, it appears as though the society would be governed by a patriarchal system with misogynistic undertones. However, what we get instead is a matriarchy dominated by powerful women. While there are some passing references to how queens might be reduced to their reproductive roles and how women can serve as gatekeepers of patriarchal structures, these themes aren't thoroughly explored. The world's internal logic didn't quite make sense to me. It seems Shannon aimed to challenge the notion that high fantasy necessarily involves depicting the oppression of women, which is an admirable goal. Yet, the setup fails to subvert common tropes in this genre and instead feels disconnected from its own history and contemporary culture. While I had fun reading this book, it left me feeling conflicted due to its glaring issues. The sheer excellence of this fantasy novel sets it apart from others on the market. For me, and likely many other readers, it checks every box. The characters are expertly crafted, with real people that leap off the page as they grapple with internal struggles and self-doubt. The world has a rich history, driving the characters' motivations to live up to their ancestors' examples and strive to be better people. The novel's vast timeline spans ages, leaving room for countless more stories. When I finished this massive book, I craved more, which is a great sign indeed. The plot centers around the threat of The Nameless One returning, a powerful dragon that will destroy everything if the eastern and western kingdoms can't put aside their differences to unite against it. The novel delves into the unification process, with characters offering varying ideas on how to achieve this, ranging from assassination to negotiation. The story is a vibrant tapestry of witchcraft, romance, dragons, political intrigue, treachery, and love, keeping me surprised until the very end. While I didn't enjoy the author's Bone Season series, I thoroughly loved PRIORY. Despite being different from her previous work, it's an incredible release that shouldn't be missed. As the dark forces of the Nameless One begin to stir once more, the world teeters on the brink of destruction. The Eastern lands and Western realms have long held differing views on dragons – the West sees them as malevolent beasts, while the East reveres them as deities. Against this backdrop of cultural divide, two young women from different worlds embark on perilous quests to save their realms. In the West, Ead, a skilled mage warrior, is dispatched to guard Queen Sabran of Virtudom, descendant of the founder who once battled the Nameless One. However, magic is forbidden in Virtudom, forcing Ead to assume a new identity as a handmaid and navigate treacherous palace politics. Meanwhile, in the East, Tané has dedicated her life to becoming a dragon rider but faces tragedy and shame when things go awry. To redeem herself, she must overcome personal struggles and save her world from impending doom. The narrative spans multiple viewpoints, each richly detailed, as our protagonists navigate treacherous landscapes. The story unfolds like a tapestry of complex characters and plotlines, reminiscent of A Game of Thrones in scope. Despite the book's length, the pace remains fast-paced and engaging, drawing readers into a world that is both familiar and new.

One notable aspect is the novel's feminist undertones, where female knights and rulers are portrayed as ordinary, not remarkable. This subtle yet powerful message challenges preconceptions and celebrates gender equality. Overall, this book stands alone, offering a captivating tale of adventure, self-discovery, and triumph. Priory is an enchanting and immersive read that left me yearning for more from this captivating, highly recommended, Melissa. As I reflect on this book, I am reminded of the captivating characters, including my personal favorite, Ead. The world-building and storytelling are truly exceptional, making it easy to become fully invested in the narrative. I'm looking forward to re-experiencing the story through an audio re-read. I'll be sharing some excerpts and that's all for now! - Melissa. Here's a glimpse into the world of Priory: An enormous dragon towered over the Orisima fence, its scales shimmering like moonstone. As it rose above Cape Hisan, other dragons ascended from the water, leaving a chill mist in their wake. The scene was set for an epic adventure! - Melissa. As I delved deeper into the world of Priory, I discovered a rich tapestry of characters, including NiclAYS and Ead, whose stories intertwined in fascinating ways. With its unique blend of fantasy and mythology, this book is a must-read for anyone who loves immersive storytelling. Happy reading! - Mel You'll find a glossary and character list at the back of this massive tome, with exactly [page count] pages to boot. Just be careful not to have it fall on you - it might just hurt you! As Samantha warns, "Love" PS: The stunning cover art was crafted by David Mann and Ivan Belikov. PPS: Get ready for a prequel to The Priory of the Orange Tree, coming January 24th, 2023! As for my experience with this fantasy epic... I loved it! The world-building is rich and complex, but be prepared for an information overload – four main POVs can be overwhelming at times. The magic system is fascinating, the plot is intriguing, and most characters are well-developed. And let's not forget dragons, pirates, and magic! While there were some minor issues that bothered me – the sudden character deaths felt detached, the battle scenes didn't quite work for me, and the climactic battle was a bit overwhelming – I still recommend this book! April 15, 2019: "we will shake the world for our beliefs." Starting with me because... holy mother of dragons, I AM SHOOK! April 16, 2020: "We may be small, and we may be young, but we will shake the world for our beliefs." I'm proud to have finished this giant book! With every high rating on my GR feed, I was more excited. To say I'm sad it turned out to be a three-star read is an understatement. What I liked: easy writing, relationships, and... When I finally had time to immerse myself in this world, I was delighted to find the writing style enchanting and easy to follow. The various kingdoms, religions, and creatures initially seemed overwhelming but became more manageable as I progressed. What I didn't enjoy was the majority of the book's slow pace and the hasty conclusion towards the end. The characters failed to resonate with me, leaving me feeling disconnected. However, NiclAYS, Tane, and Loth won over me, and their storylines kept me invested. Sabran, on the other hand, came across as obnoxious and arrogant, making it difficult for me to empathize with her or care about her story. The ending was poorly executed, leaving a lasting disappointment akin to the heartbreak felt by fans when Game of Thrones season 8 concluded. Despite this, I acknowledge that my opinion is unpopular, and many readers adore this book. This series would be perfect for those looking to start adult epic fantasy, as it's easy to follow and not overly complex.

I'm grateful to have buddy-read this massive book with Helena! The esteemed lineage of Saint Gallian and Cleolind has safeguarded Inys from the terror of the nameless one, a fearsome dragon bound by the saint's power. As long as Sabran's family legacy continues, Inys will remain secure. Ead Duryan, a member of the Priory of the Orange Tree, assumes the role of one of Sabran's ladies to protect her from harm. This sisterhood is dedicated to destroying Wyrms and preserving the realm. The Priory adheres to the principles of Virtudom but with a unique twist. They revere Cleolind as the mother who originally bound the nameless one, but she sacrificed her destiny for the greater good, but remains unwavering. Mituchi Tané makes a crucial mistake that changes her fate forever. Disgraced and banished from her homeland, she discovers a hidden force within herself that could destroy the world. Tané, who uses people for personal gain, is forced to overcome pride and guilt.

NiclAYS' conscience may be clouded, but he has a good heart and a strong sense of survival. As the nameless one prepares to unleash destruction upon the world, the East and West must form an alliance to counterbalance the forces of fire dragons with those of water dragons. In this sprawling epic fantasy has something for everyone: myth, violence, heartbreak, and war. It's impossible to fully capture its complexity and imaginative world in a review, but I'll just say that if you loved ASoIaF, don't miss this one - it's incredible. One standout aspect is the author's ability to create believable, deeply rooted religions for her fantasy world. The characters' strong connections to these faiths are truly remarkable. The book quotes: "Love and fear do strange things to our souls. The dreams they bring, those dreams that leave us drenched in salt water and gasping for breath as if we might die - those, we call unquiet dreams. And only the scent of a rose can avert them." **Pre-review:** I've got multiple library books to pick up, including this beast, and my upper body strength will be put to the test! Not to mention the 10+ books at home, including Fire and Blood and War Storm. How did I not notice that this was written by Samantha Shannon, author of The Bone Season series? I need this epic fantasy! This feminist fantasy masterpiece is over 500 pages long and features complex characters and a gripping storyline. It's hard to believe it's coming to an end. Queen Sabran Berethnet faces turmoil and unrest in her kingdom, while Ead Duryan, a mage of the Priory, must protect her from the Nameless One. But nothing is as it seems, and history often isn't truthful. She yearns to return to her duties and uncover the twisted secrets of the court. She sacrifices her destiny for the greater good, but remains unwavering. Mituchi Tané makes a crucial mistake that changes her fate forever. Disgraced and banished from her homeland, she discovers a hidden force within herself that could destroy the world. Tané, who uses people for personal gain, is forced to overcome pride and guilt. NiclAYS Roos, an alchemist, yearns to return home and find immortality. He becomes entangled in a web of deceit, driven by sorrow and desire for eternal life. Arteloth Beck embarks on a mission that may lead to his death, unaware of the dark forces rising against him. Protagonists from diverse cultures and religions intertwine in unpredictable events.

These vivid characters live within relatable worlds, each point of view evoking different fears and biases. As their beliefs are turned upside down, it's easy to slip into their minds and gauge their reactions. The Priory of the Orange Tree starts slowly, with no info-dumps, gradually introducing the world. By the end, I was fully immersed in the story, characters, and religions. Samantha Shannon crafts three believable faiths, but none are immune to rising threats.

Each character's struggles evoke strong emotions; losses feel like personal hits, while gains are victories. The plot unfolds gradually, naturally, and realistically, yet unpredictably. Everything makes sense once it's revealed. Queen queens' dragons, and ancient magic – it's an epic combination that sounds wonderful! But, in reality, I found the book "The Priory of the Orange Tree" to be overhyped. I'm disappointed, not just because it didn't live up to my expectations but also because I wasted a significant amount of time reading it. I think I got duped by the title and the hype surrounding it. The phrase "something of our beliefs" is indeed catchy, but it's not enough to guarantee a good read.

And, as for research, I should have done better – like reading Goodreads reviews! Knowing that Samantha Shannon is also the author of "The Bone Season" would've made me think twice about investing time in this novel. What didn't sit well with me was the portrayal of dragons throughout the book. In particular, the protagonists left much to be desired. Of the four main characters, only one – Eadaz du Zala uq-Nára – initially came across as likable, despite her questionable powers and skills. But even she didn't quite live up to expectations...

The characters remaining in the story are Lord Arteloth Beck, NiclAYS Roos, and Tané, who are all unappealing to be protagonists. Instead, they are portrayed as antagonists. The novel's focus on romance and character development is underwhelming, with the exception of Donnata Marosa, whose potential is wasted. The queen, despite being selfish and moody, fails to deliver a compelling performance as a strong female lead. Her inaction regarding her marriage and pregnancy only adds to the frustration. Moreover, the lack of romantic interest for the male characters makes it challenging to connect with them. Don't overthink it. Honestly, I disliked Loth most of the time. The two romantic storylines were non-traditional, so I either found myself zoning out or quickly skimming through them, often doing both simultaneously. This lack of diversity becomes uninteresting soon enough. In a book that fails to captivate readers with a compelling protagonist, the only way to salvage it is by offering an engaging plot and world-building. Unfortunately, "The Priory of the Orange Tree" lacks these elements. Instead, we're presented with an author's attempt to write about religion, creating a faith that reflects their own spirituality; this feels hypocritical and unrealistic. The setup and development of this world suffer from a lack of consequence, where all premises eventually fall apart. The characters' behaviors are illogical, and their decisions seem driven by absurdity. A queen who doesn't want to conceive, despite it being her duty; a girl who refuses the red cloak of a slayer after earning it; and a dragon rider left uninformed about dragons by her teachers – these inconsistencies make the story laughable rather than thrilling. The whole orange tree aspect was deeply disappointing, leaving me thinking only of gummy bears and their juice. While the beginning starts refreshingly (an outsider in the court), the tale quickly goes awry. Ead prides herself on telling the truth and serving it, but all she delves into is flattery, feeding into a lie. Her actions claim to serve a greater purpose, but they only seem to fulfill her own desires. The actual truth remains hidden for no apparent reason, which leads to the entire disaster's predictable and unoriginal outcome. I must warn readers against this particular book and author. Instead, I suggest exploring a different title, such as "The Blueberry Tree," which boasts an equally captivating storyline. For those who have not yet had the pleasure of reading it, I implore you to steer clear of this lackluster publication. I am not typically fond of high fantasy novels, which often feature dense world-building and excessive focus on wars, politics, and magic. However, PRIORY stands out as an exception.

Its true strength lies in its well-developed characters, whose relatable struggles and relationships resonate deeply with readers. I found myself invested in their safety and happiness. I must admit that I am not particularly fond of high fantasy novels, which often feature dense world-building and excessive focus on wars, politics, and magic. However, PRIORY stands out as an exception. Its true strength lies in its well-developed characters, whose relatable struggles and relationships resonate deeply with readers. I found myself invested in their safety and happiness. This novel offers a compelling blend of characters, magic, and epic conflict. What's not to love? Yet, I find myself torn between a 3- and 4-star rating. While the book has its strengths, it ultimately falls short of being truly exceptional due to the presence of better competitors in the same genre. The aspects that impressed me most about this novel include its engaging progression and character development. However, my experience was marred by the author's decision to write a strong male character who had broadened the appeal to a wider audience. One of the most impressive Fantasy stories ever written is this epic tale. While some readers might find the action scenes lacking in detail, I was blown away by the book's overall quality. The well-crafted story features relatable characters with flaws and genuine love stories that resonate deeply. I wish more authors would incorporate same-sex and opposite-sex relationships into their Fantasy novels, reflecting our modern world. This book excelled in this aspect. The author's writing style perfectly suits the genre, making it easy to get lost in the magical world. The cultural differences between the East and West, as well as the countries that inspired the story, are masterfully woven throughout the narrative. While most of the action takes place in the West, the other parts of this enchanted realm are equally captivating. The series of interconnected plots is a testament to the author's exceptional skill. I was impressed by how seamlessly she wove together complex characters, intricate world-building, and thrilling action. The story is multi-layered, immersive, and unforgettable – truly a masterpiece. Priory: A Complex World with Endless Possibilities **Mixed Review** I recently finished reading Priory and have mixed feelings about it. On one hand, I appreciate the vast and complex world that Samantha Shannon

has created, filled with intricate character arcs and rich storytelling. The book's themes of friendship, loss, and self-discovery resonated deeply with me.

However, my experience was marred by some issues with pacing and plot development. **The Good** Priory is a masterclass in world-building, with a richly detailed setting that draws you in. I loved the character arcs, particularly the growth of the main protagonist as they navigate the complexities of their world. The story is engaging, with plenty of twists and turns to keep me invested.

The Not-So-Good My biggest issue was the book's length.

At over 700 pages, Priory feels like a sprawling epic that could have been broken up into multiple books. This led to some pacing issues, where certain plot threads felt rushed or glossed over. Additionally, I found some of the supporting characters to be underdeveloped, which made it difficult for me to become fully invested in their stories. **A Final Thought** Overall, Priory is a complex and engaging read that will appeal to fans of fantasy epics. While it has its flaws, I appreciate Samantha Shannon's ambition and creativity in crafting this world.

If you're looking for a story with depth and complexity, Priory might be the book for you. The narrative struggles to orient readers due to poor geographical descriptions and an abundance of countries and land features not matching up with the map. This hinders the story's ability to effectively traverse multiple locations. Furthermore, the inclusion of supplemental materials such as character lists, glossaries, and timelines can be hit-or-miss in its usefulness. The writing style employs a unique blend of archaic and modern elements, often feeling forced or unnatural. The dialogue, written in Ye olde English, comes across as overly dramatic and inconsistent.

The constant switching between five main narrators, often jumping between characters within chapters, adds to the sense of disorientation. The story's focus on character development falls flat due to stiff and unengaging main characters.

Supporting characters are equally underwhelming, lacking distinct personalities and failing to react authentically to their environments or situations. The narrative relies heavily on palanquins as a mode of transportation, which feels illogical given the diverse settings. Some critics have drawn parallels between this book and popular series like The Lord of the Rings and A Game of Thrones, claiming it's a feminist take on these works.

However, aside from sharing similar themes of scope and character count, the connections are superficial at best. They're worlds apart in terms of quality. While both have medieval-esque settings where dragons and magic once thrived, only one delivers. George R.R. Martin is a masterclass in character development, showcasing how well-intentioned individuals can go awry and evil ones can redeem themselves. He crafts complex characters with believable arcs, faces genuine roadblocks, takes no prisoners, and keeps readers guessing until the end. Shannon's attempt to emulate this falls flat. She aimed for darkness but lacked the guts to follow through. Her evil laugh probably sounds like a cute giggle that wouldn't even make bunny slippers flee. It's no surprise, given her previous YA books, which this one mirrors in tone and style. The world-building is an abomination. The story borrows bits from Earth's cultures and mythologies but blends them together into a messy, nonsensical hodgepodge. The worst part is how poorly the information is relayed.

History and myth are presented clumsily, stiffly, and inorganically, often through cringe-worthy inner monologues. One character asks another if they're familiar with a certain legend, only for the answerer to launch into an awkward recitation of the whole story. The narrative is bogged down by unnecessary information and filler descriptions that add nothing but length to this behemoth book. At 830 pages, it's a chore to get through.

If it isn't lore dump or long-winded curtain descriptions, it's character backstories - and none of it serves a purpose beyond padding the page count. Here's my attempt at rewriting your text using the "ADD SPELLING ERRORS (SE)" method: Story's got whole lotta fluff stuffed into it. You know, like, "Hey Character C, who I met through your role as Such and Such, and, yeah, you're a descendant of Don't Care who did Blah Blah Blah ages ago." PLOT: The poor world-building feeds into a super underwhelming plot. Now, I knew the story started slow. Even fans admitted the first 300 pages were a snooze fest.

But, boy, they weren't kidding! Those pages are so dry, dull, and monotonous it took me months to get through this book. And, honestly, the plot does pick up eventually, but not by much. It's like trying to accelerate a geriatric patient - yeah, it happens, but it's still really slow. The story lacks any real threat or tension. There's more danger from politics than those so-called "evil" dragons, but even that doesn't create any suspense. It's mostly just drama for the sake of drama. You always know how things will end up. And don't even get me started on all the wandering (fetch-quest style) and the ridiculous ease at which obstacles are overcome. Characters just happen to find what they need, or some weird coincidence leads to their miraculous escape. It's like they have a magic crystal ball that always points them in the right direction. And then there's the death toll - absurdly low! I mean, between all those exciting-sounding things (dragons, magic, legends, female warriors, pirates, and witches) you'd think people would be dropping left and right. But nope, it's like Shannon was too nice to kill her darlings.

The Priory of the Orange Tree lacks excitement due to poorly described elements, making it feel dry and dull.

Action scenes are scarce, and when they do occur, they're poorly written and anticlimactic. The author relies on coincidences to resolve fights, and the end battle scene is particularly underwhelming. Additionally, key events are often glossed over by fading to black and then recapping them through tedious dialogue. The book explores themes of religion, but this potentially powerful topic is handled poorly. While it touches on real-life conflicts, it doesn't offer any new insights or perspectives. Another aspect that's been praised is the LGBT representation.

However, there are only two reps in the entire book - one a prior relationship and the other a female/female relationship during the story.

Unfortunately, these relationships are not well-written and lack believability. The biggest disappointment is that this book was supposed to be a feminist story, but it fails to deliver. The Priory of the Orange Tree doesn't just fall short in its portrayal of women; it also perpetuates sexist tropes by switching gender roles without challenging harmful stereotypes. This book fails to deliver on its promise of strong, female-led characters.

The story is unempowering and uninspiring, with poorly developed female characters that lack depth, motivation, and personality. The so-called "gender reversal" is just a superficial change, as women are still relegated to traditional roles and expectations. The few female characters that do appear are underwhelming. A female dragonrider is absent for large portions of the story, and her storyline is implausible. Another character, Ead, is a magic-wielding warrior with no discernible personality.

In fact, she's so dull that she reminds me of another disappointing book featuring similar characters.

In comparison, other books like Bloody Rose successfully showcase strong female characters with distinct personalities, flaws, and motivations. Unfortunately, The Priory of the Orange Tree falls short, making it a massive waste of time. The writing style is leaden and tedious, forcing readers to slog through three and a half months of unengaging storytelling. I regret not abandoning this book earlier and wasting my time on it. If you still want to read it, consider the ebook version to avoid the hassle of lugging around a hardcover. RATING: 1 star for ease of reading, writing style, characters, and overall satisfaction. Development: UnderwhelmingPlot Structure and Development: LacklusterLevel

of Captivation: UnimpressiveOriginality: Non-existentMay 7, 2021I was thoroughly disappointed with this novel, despite its promising cover and hype. It falls short in many areas, failing to deliver on its promises. While the book has some redeeming qualities - decent characters' motivations and a passable world - these aspects are not enough to save it from its overall lack of depth. The characterizations are flat and unengaging, with most being reduced to simplistic descriptors like "strong" and "justice". The world-building is similarly lacking, with key events and locations glossed over or hastily explained.

As a diverse feminist book, I appreciate the effort, but relying on these aspects alone is not sufficient. A good story requires well-rounded characters, engaging plot development, and immersive world-building. The pacing and storytelling are also subpar, feeling rushed in parts and slow in others. The novel relies heavily on tropes and feels unoriginal. When considering the broader fantasy genre, while it may be a decent starting point for someone new to the genre, I would caution against expecting too much from this book. I struggled to grasp the book's meaning due to the abundance of events, making it challenging to distinguish between significant and trivial aspects. The mythology and religion within reminded me of ASOIAF, although this might be a personal connection. In any case, inspiration is not prohibited, so I won't hold it against the author.

My main issue was that the book aimed to be a serious adult fantasy but failed miserably. However, it doesn't need to be a serious book with profound ideas to be enjoyable; it could have been a fun and engaging fantasy novel instead. The tragedy is that it fell short on both fronts, earning only two stars. Some reviewers found the book difficult to get into, which isn't surprising given its length and uneven pacing. I didn't love the book, but I did enjoy racing through its 800 pages.

The book has some redeeming qualities: it's a compelling fantasy story with an intriguing world. Although it doesn't break new ground, it uses familiar tropes in interesting ways. The dragons, sense of urgency, and well-developed world are all positives. What really stood out was the religious politics. Three religions have different interpretations of a central event 1,000 years ago, leading to great conflict and drama. I loved the idea that 1,000 years is so long that it generates important mythology. As we learn more about the real story, I was saddened by the loss of mystery; things were explained a bit too neatly, and the characters' motivations became clearer. Despite some unevenness, the book has its moments. If you're considering reading it, go for it - it's a fun fantasy story with an intriguing world.

Just be prepared for some inconsistencies. It seems that readers can adapt to major life changes without much issue. I would have liked to see more characters who refuse to accept the truth and stick to their outdated views. The concept of a matriarchy in Virtudom was also intriguing. However, it's too bad that this world didn't stray far from our own reality. A feminist kingdom with distinct differences would have been refreshing. I have two main criticisms: Firstly, the second half of the book feels like multiple sequels condensed into 400 pages. This uneven pacing makes it exciting in some parts but confusing overall. The first half is too slow, building intrigue and mystery around an impending apocalypse. Then, the second half becomes a fast-paced sprint to the end. Characters suddenly cover long distances at convenient times for the story, chapter lengths become random, and we don't see significant shifts between POVs. On the positive side, I appreciate getting the complete story in one volume without waiting years to find out how it ends. That's excellent. My second complaint is about LGBTQ representation. It's great that central queer characters are present, but they fit safely into straight people's expectations: monogamous, committed to one person, and rarely discussing their experiences as queers.

I appreciate the representation but would have liked more exploration of queer identity in this fantasy setting. There's a lot of room for exploring how queer identity differs in various fantasy settings. Since the story has a progressive tone (rulers thinking about modernization and forming alliances without relying on marriages), there seemed to be an opportunity for better, more nuanced identity politics. Oh well, I've been thinking about this book, and my verdict is: yes, it's definitely worth reading! I don't know if there'll be a sequel, but I'm curious about how people reacted to the ending - especially what happens to those three religions after they realize they were all wrong. Happy reading!

Here's my rewritten version: I've thoroughly enjoyed this epic fantasy journey with these characters, and I'm blown away by how much they grew on me by the end. The world-building is so rich that I can easily imagine returning to it in the future. Although this novel is a standalone, I hope Samantha Shannon will revisit this world to explore more of the stories hinted at. In "The Priory of the Orange Tree", a powerful dragon threatens a world on the brink of war, and a diverse cast of characters must navigate the complex web of alliances and betrayals to prevent chaos. With its intricate world-building and compelling characters, this novel offers an immersive reading experience that'll keep you hooked. (Note: I randomly selected the "WRITE AS A NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKER (NNES)" method for this rewriting.) In this fantasy realm, an array of complex characters with distinct motivations and struggles weave together a rich narrative tapestry. The story revolves around Queen Sabran the Ninth, ruler of the Queendom of Inys, who must prevent the return of the Nameless One, a formidable force that imperils the world. Key characters include Ead Duryan, a Western mage serving as queen-in-waiting; Tané, a dragon rider from the East embroiled in a conspiracy; and Niclays, a disgraced alchemist seeking redemption. The novel unfolds over 25 chapters, with each section building upon the previous one. Initially, Queen Sabran prepares for the annual Dragon Ceremony, while Ead Duryan arrives at court as lady-in-waiting. Later, Tané faces a difficult decision regarding an infected dragon, and Niclays delves into a dangerous plot seeking redemption. As tensions escalate, Ead Duryan must protect Queen Sabran from assassination attempts and navigate her growing feelings for the queen. Tané's actions have unforeseen consequences, and Niclays uncovers more about the conspiracy threatening the world. The stakes grow higher as alliances shift and betrayals unfold. Ultimately, the characters must confront their deepest fears and make difficult choices in the face of an impending threat from the Nameless One. The story culminates in a gripping climax that will keep readers on the edge of their seats. Throughout the novel, pivotal events drive the narrative forward, exploring themes such as the nature of power, loyalty and betrayal, and the enduring legacy of ancient conflicts. This novel delves into the complexities of identity, allowing characters to break free from societal expectations. The richly crafted world and intricate character development offer insights into timeless human struggles. Readers will be transported to a sweeping tale of epic proportions, combining intricate world-building with compelling characters and high-stakes drama. The story explores power, politics, and the human spirit, resonating with fans of immersive fantasy. With its vivid setting and diverse cast of characters, the novel provides a captivating reading experience that lingers long after finishing the book.