



Secret Sacrament

By Sherryl Jordan

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Secret Sacrament By Sherryl Jordan

Dreams.
Vows.
Prophecies.
Destiny.

The Navoran Empire is wealthy, powerful - -and slowly falling under the sway of the Empress's corrupt and sinister adviser.

The Shinali nation has been reduced to a single clan on a small strip of land. They cling to their traditional ways, awaiting a hero out of legend.

All Gabriel Eshban Vala has ever wanted is to be a healer. It has been this way since his seventh year, when he witnessed a brutal act he was helpless to stop. But he never forgot the eyes of the dying Shinali woman who asked him for help. From that day forward, Gabriel withstood the demands of his father, his family, and even his Empress in order to pursue his dreams of healing the sick. So what could an ancient prophecy foretelling his powerful nation's downfall have to do with him?

When a chance meeting on a lonely plain brings him into the land of the Shinali, Gabriel develops a deep respect for these people and grows more and more disenchanted with his place among the powerful rulers of the Navoran Empire. Now, caught between loyalty to his Navoran roots and love for the Shinali people, Gabriel must make a single choice. The fate of two nations hangs in the balance. And so does Gabriel's own life.

Sherryl Jordan has written an extraordinary and deeply moving tale of fate, hope, loyalty -- and the ability of one man to change destiny.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In this luminous fantasy, Sherryl Jordan surpasses her award-winning novel *The Raging Quiet* with a vividly realized story that centers on a young healer, the evocatively named Gabriel, as he moves inexorably toward fulfilling his destiny with a heroic sacrifice. Born in the urban city-state of Navora, Gabriel is also strongly drawn to the tribal society of Shinali that survives on the plain outside the city gates. He is haunted by a secret guilt, a moment from his childhood when out of fear he failed to help a dying Shinali woman. The richly detailed narrative moves quietly through Gabriel's training at the Citadel, where he learns the mystical arts of healing mind and body, and then gains in pace and excitement as he attracts the unwelcome attention of the sly and unstable Empress and is drawn irresistibly into the intrigue that surrounds her dependence on the malevolent counselor Jaganath. When Gabriel must flee the city, he retreats to the simple life of the plains people and his love for the strong and serene Ashila. But when the Navorans imprison the Shinali and then plan to destroy them, Gabriel must find the courage to make the sacrifice that will save both their nations. Themes of forgiveness and redemption, echoes of the Nazi Holocaust and the genocide of Native Americans, as well as a radiant love story illuminate this beautiful and intelligent novel for fantasy readers of all ages. (Ages 12 and older) --*Patty Campbell*

From Publishers Weekly

Jordan's (*The Raging Quiet*) fantasy creates enough drama to keep readers glued to their seats, despite characters that lack dimension. The citizens of Navora have pushed the native Shinali off their land, but a prophesy foretells a coming change: a Navoran man will help the Shinali reclaim what was theirs, and (after much of Navora has been destroyed) the two civilizations will live in peace. When the empire's powerful advisers recognize the signs that Gabriel, a young healer studying at the prestigious Citadel, may be that presaged Navoran, they will stop at nothing to thwart his destiny. They eventually imprison the entire nation and the young healer in an abandoned fort. Jordan fills her taut narrative with gripping images, such as the opening chapter in which a seven-year-old Gabriel witnesses the murder of the Shinali chieftain's daughter. Her descriptions are equally vivid when Gabriel's look-alike brother is mistakenly murdered by the advisers, when he first sees and instantly falls in love with a Shinali healer and when he applies his powers of healing to the infirm. Unfortunately, the characters themselves are not believable: Jaganath, the corrupt chief adviser to the empress, is too evil, while Gabriel's mentor at the Citadel, Salverion, is too wise and pure. But the plot's twists and turns will keep readers hooked; even though it is clear that Gabriel will fulfill the prophecy, readers will wonder how he will manage and what he will have to sacrifice along the way. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up-A young and talented healer tries to save two civilizations in this absorbing fantasy. As Gabriel learns the healing arts from wise masters, he also becomes inescapably involved in the treacherous politics of the Navoran Empire. The Empress trusts the young man's ability to interpret her dreams, while her jealous advisor Jaganath tries to discredit, corrupt, and even murder him. The villain also means to destroy the neighboring Shinali people, most of whose land the imperialistic Navorans captured years ago. Gabriel, however, develops strong ties to the native people. He respects their rights generally, then becomes personally involved as he falls in love with Ashila, a young Shinali woman. As Jaganath's hold over the Empress increases, Gabriel tries to help the Shinali find a peaceful solution. He cannot prevent the bloodshed, but eventually the young man paves the way for a more positive future by making a tragic

personal sacrifice. Jordan deftly conveys the historical and political background of her world, showing the contrast between the Shinali and Navoran peoples, and the appeal that both societies hold in the mind of the protagonist. Gabriel is an engaging hero, determined to act nobly, and yet caught up in events that often make his decisions agonizingly difficult. Though at first he seems almost too saintly, his struggles to balance personal principles with the cruelty of the real world bring out his human frailties and raise powerful questions about fate, duty, and courage.

Steven Engelfried, Deschutes County Library, Bend, OR

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Ortiz:

Now a day people that Living in the era wherever everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources included can be true or not call for people to be aware of each facts they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Looking at a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this Secret Sacrament book because book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Mary Torres:

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Warner Samuels:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Secret Sacrament it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m00re easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

Roger Lee:

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