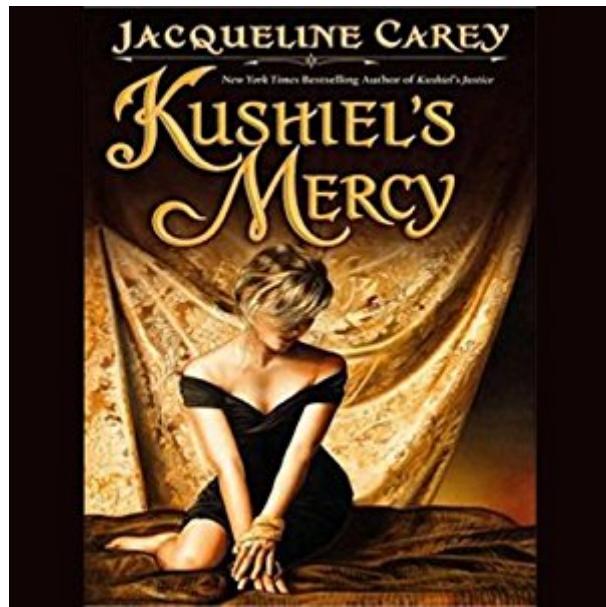


The book was found

Kushiel's Mercy



Synopsis

Having learned a lesson about thwarting the will of the gods, Imriel and Sidonie publicly confess their affair, only to see the country boil over in turmoil. Younger generations, infatuated by their heart-twisting, star-crossed romance, defend the couple. Many others cannot forget the betrayals of Imriel's mother, Melisande, who plunged their country into a bloody war that cost the lives of their fathers, brothers, and sons. To quell the unrest, Ysandre, the queen, sets her decree. She will not divide the lovers, yet neither will she acknowledge them. If they marry, Sidonie will be disinherited, losing her claim on the throne. There's only one way they can truly be together. Imriel must perform an act of faith: search the world for his infamous mother and bring her back to Terre d'Ange to be executed for treason. Facing a terrible choice, Imriel and Sidonie prepare ruefully for another long separation. But when a dark foreign force casts a shadow over Terre d'Ange and all the surrounding countries, their world is turned upside down, alliances of the unlikeliest kind are made, and Imriel and Sidonie learn that the god Elua always puts hearts together apurpose. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As the second - and please Elua, not final - cycle of the Kushiel's Legacy series comes to a close, the central question most fans will be asking is, Will Imriel and Sidonie live happily ever after? Rest assured, Carey gives us plenty of these two star-crossed lovers (complete with requisite scorching hot bedroom scenes - whee!). But she's not content with just giving us their love story, oh no. She's

not even content with giving us another of Imriel's soul-seaching, personal growth quests. In "Kushiel's Mercy," the pattern more closely resembles that of Phedre's trilogy, as Imriel finally gets his chance to save the world, and the woman he loves, from evil magic and the threat of war. Part of the joy in this book comes from the way Carey skillfully brings everything full circle. In the past, Melisande Shahrizai has been the greatest threat to Terre d'Ange and the one impediment to Imriel and Sidonie's happiness; now she is the realm's, and the princess's, only hope for salvation. In "Avatar," Phedre and Joscelin sought the secret name of God in order to bind an angel; here, Imriel and Sidonie must find the magic word that will free a demon. In "Chosen," a loyal Barquiel l'Envers held the City of Elua while Queen Ysandre raced with her army to avert a coup; in "Mercy".... Well, I'll let you read that one for yourself. Can I wax rhapsodic for a minute about the fact that one seriously undervalued character, who's been around - and maligned - almost since Day One, finally gets his due? I've had a guilty crush on Barquiel l'Envers for ages now, and it's nice to see my conviction in his wonderfulness finally justified. I love that he steps up here and that he finally gets the recognition he deserves.

Well, I've been waiting for nearly 12 months for this book. I really didn't know what to expect so I had no preconceptions about the plot. I was desperate to find out how the problem of Melisande would be resolved and looked forward to finding out what Machiavellian plot Carey would think up. In the previous 5 books this has been what I enjoyed most - the political machinations, the wicked characters who show no remorse when their actions result in thousands of deaths, the roguish characters who turn out to be loyal, brave and trustworthy and help the hero or heroine save the day. Did I get any of this? Barely. The main plotline regarding the magic spell was cheap and tawdry. If you think back to Darsanga, the 'magic' there was more spiritual in its origin (albeit from an evil source) but the Carthaginian magic is of the Derren Brown variety. It just feels like a cheap stage trick. Where was the exciting resolution of the problem with Melisande? This felt like a cop-out rather than the ironic twist that it was presented as. I know Carey has tried to bring in certain incidents and scenarios to 'echo' events in previous books. This is brave but doesn't really work - it just feels like we are getting recycled storylines that are less convincing the second time around. Although I feel this book falls way short of the standard of the previous 5 books it was still a good read. I loved the bit where Imriel is being someone else - the writing here is exciting and innovative and explores new topics. My favourite character of the whole book is Kratos - he is solid, dependable, calm and surprisingly intelligent.

The third installment of Imriel's story promises to be an epic adventure and it is. After Kushiel's Justice, there were questions to be answered: Will Imriel earn the Queen's and the realm's approval to marry Sidonie, the Dauphine? What about Melisande, Imriel's mother and traitor of Terre d'Ange? And, will the mystery of the Unseen Guild be unraveled? For those new to the Kushiel series, it brings to us great adventures full of horror, surprise, tenderness, betrayal, hope, and love. It should also be noted that although part of the plot, it does contain adult sexual material. Throughout the two trilogies, the main theme is love leads to courage. Descended from angels, the D'Angelines hold a mystery of their own: They are touched by their gods. Where other cultures hold empty rituals for their gods, the D'Angelines are guided, blessed, and cursed by theirs. Like Phedre, who is Kushiel's tool and the main character of the first trilogy, Imriel is a scion of Kushiel and a wielder of his justice...whether he likes it or not. But he's a kind person, who loves deeply and strives to be a man untainted by his mother's plots. However, throughout the world, the children of Elua are accepted by some, yet there are others who are jealous and would exploit them. Not to ruin the story, in this one Imriel and Sidonie will try to keep their promise to not break Blessed Elua's precept, "love as thou wilt," for in the end it could be what saves them. How can the traitor's spawn find acceptance when the realm see he's doing exactly what they feared: seducing the Dauphine to gain the throne? How can a son bring his own mother to her execution? And, can Terre d'Ange survive the political schemes of their neighbors?

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