



## Shadows

By Robin Mckinley

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### Shadows By Robin Mckinley

**A compelling and inventive novel set in a world where science and magic are at odds, by Robin McKinley, the Newbery-winning author of The Hero and the Crown and The Blue Sword, as well as the classic fantasy titles Beauty, Chalice, Spindle's End, Pegasus and Sunshine**

Maggie knows something's off about Val, her mom's new husband. Val is from Oldworld, where they still use magic, and he won't have any tech in his office-shed behind the house. But—more importantly—what are the huge, horrible, jagged, jumpy shadows following him around? Magic is illegal in Newworld, which is all about science. The magic-carrying gene was disabled two generations ago, back when Maggie's great-grandmother was a notable magician. But that was a long time ago.

Then Maggie meets Casimir, the most beautiful boy she has ever seen. He's from Oldworld too—and he's heard of Maggie's stepfather, and has a guess about Val's shadows. Maggie doesn't want to know . . . until earth-shattering events force her to depend on Val and his shadows. And perhaps on her own heritage.

In this dangerously unstable world, neither science nor magic has the necessary answers, but a truce between them is impossible. And although the two are supposed to be incompatible, Maggie's discovering the world will need both to survive.

**“A delightful read.”**

—**Publishers Weekly**

**“Bound to appeal.”**

—**Kirkus Reviews**

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## Shadows By Robin Mckinley Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up-This fast-paced novel is set in Newworld, where magic is illegal and individuals who carried the gene for it had their DNA modified several generations ago. Teenager Maggie is still reeling from the death of her father when her mother falls in love with a mysterious man, Val, who's from Oldworld, where magic is still used. However, it's the shadows that follow Val that worry her and not just the fact that her mother has moved on. Soon after meeting Casimir, a cute, recent immigrant from Oldworld, things really start to get strange. When a "cobey," a dangerous gap in reality, opens up at a local park, Maggie instinctively closes it by making origami talismans out of pages from her math textbook. Once her mother and stepfather finally reveal their own histories with magic, Maggie is exposed to a side of the world she didn't know existed. This fantasy focuses on the relationships among characters. There is enough Newworld vocabulary to create and support the strange and enchanted setting, but not so much as to confuse or frustrate readers. Shadows is a dense book in parts, but teens will be motivated to keep reading by the exciting action, lovable characters, and witty dialogue.-Sunnie Lovelace, Wallingford Public Library, CTα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

McKinley's distinctive voice instantly draws the reader into an alternative America where magic, once fairly commonplace, has been genetically removed from the population. Although the government attempts to control magic with science, there are still collisions and unexplained breaks between worlds that release strange energy and beings into Newworld. Our narrator and guide is Maggie, whose mother has gotten remarried to an Oldworlder named Val. Val is accompanied by creepy shadows only Maggie can see, which makes her dislike her stepfather even more. She works after school at an animal shelter, and it is her intense love of animals that helps unravel the multiple plot threads, which include several romances and origami that can contain magical outbreaks. Fascinating backstories reveal that magic isn't as dead in Newworlders as the government would like everyone to believe. Maggie's wry and witty conversational tone is an excellent vehicle for relating her fantastic yet logical adventures. McKinley's smooth but swift pace sets the stage for a welcome sequel. Grades 7-12. --Debbie Carton

Review

"McKinley's characters and dialogue make this novel a joy: Maggie is a brash yet vulnerable protagonist, and her family, Val, and two possible boyfriends (both of whom may be magical) are well developed. . . . The culture of Newworld is a fascinating amalgam of the everyday and the strange. All in all, a delightful read." — **Publishers Weekly**

"Maggie's wry and witty conversational tone is an excellent vehicle for relating her fantastic yet logical adventures." — **Booklist**

"A winning combination of fast action, romance, likable characters and inventive language makes this YA novel hard to put down." — **Shelf Awareness**

"This fantasy focuses on the relationships among characters. . . . Exciting action, lovable characters, and witty dialogue." — **School Library Journal**

"Intricate world building is matched with rich characterization; a bit moody, a bit flighty, and all teenager, Maggie makes a relatable protagonist, and her wisecracks and astute observations help readers gain ground

in this eerily familiar but nonetheless complex world of old magic, new science, and breaks in reality.” —  
**The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

“May just be one of her most brilliant books to date. Everything in the story meshes perfectly. The characters are compelling, well-defined people who become real.” — **Examiner.com**

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Terry Carr:**

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also become a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want really feel happy read one having theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Often the Shadows is kind of publication which is giving the reader capricious experience.

#### **Thomas Tritt:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book is usually option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled Shadows can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

#### **Marissa Wegener:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled Shadows your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The Shadows giving you another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

#### **Larry Dolin:**

Is it you who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Shadows can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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