



## In Sylvan Shadows

*R.A. Salvatore*

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**In Sylvan Shadows** R.A. Salvatore

Enter the Forest of Shadows...

*In Sylvan Shadows* follows Cadderly the scholar-priest, as he leaves his home to combat the evil unleashed by the Chaos Curse. To counter Castle Trinity's plans for conquest, the cleric and his friends enter the beautiful forest of Shilmista. But among the trees and glades of the forest, Cadderly must battle a monstrous evil.

*From the Paperback edition.*

## In Sylvan Shadows Details

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## From Reader Review In *Sylvan Shadows* for online ebook

### **David Williams says**

Having failed to bring down the Edificant Library with the Chaos Curse, the evil forces of Castle Trinity have moved against the elven homeland of Shilmista Forest. The elves are outnumbered and overwhelmed. Cadderly has spent the last year trying to determine the origin of this foe Cadderly leaves to see the action up close. He is joined by the young warrior monk Danica and his fellow priest Kierkan Rufo. In the forest they meet up with their dwarvish friends Ivan and Pikel Bouldershoulder. Along the way they are forced to battle against an overwhelming foe. Will this be the end of the elven realm?

For Cadderly this is his first journey into the larger world. He is a gentle spirit and is greatly disturbed by the killing around him. Once he is forced to take part in the battle how will he be able to deal with the strain? Will he come out stronger, or will his faith reach the breaking point. Will the other priest Rufo overcome his own lack of character? Cadderly's quest for truth will propel him further than he could ever imagine.

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### **Rob says**

Cadderly keeps the book interesting but the fight scenes become soooo tedious. Far from an original plot. Probably 2.5 stars

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### **Tammie says**

The themes and plot are largely reminiscent of Tolkien's The Two Towers. As they say, imitation is the best form of flattery. I honestly felt like I was in Middle Earth, except Salvatore takes effort with his long (but vividly descriptive) battle scenes.

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### **M says**

Hey man, I know what I signed up for. Cheesy D&D fanfic, professional-grade. That's what he's delivering. It gets me through my tempo runs, and I will say that his dwarves have become less racist.

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### **Nathan Triz says**

I'm really enjoying the character development in this series. The brothers Bouldershoulder are brilliant!

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### **Marc Lalonde says**

I wondered after *Canticle* and I wonder it again: what is the deal with Pikel? He has the heart of a lion, but the seeming intelligence and literally the vocabulary of an orangutan.

Salvatore does an excellent job here of crafting a thrilling one-volume adventure while also keeping it open for the rest of the pentalogy (or "Quintet"). The quest to save the elven forest, Shilmistra, is suitably epic in heroism, while geographically contained. Cadderly's moping bogs it down in places, and for much of the time I was reading it I thought I would give this book only three stars. But then I got chills reading two segments in particular: (view spoiler). Those scenes evoked such power and emotion, I felt genuinely moved. Hokey, yes, but I am admittedly a sucker for hoke. You should see how I cry at watching *The Iron Giant*. Every damn time.

Many of the names in this series are quite a mouthful, failing to roll off the tongue: Alabaster, Pertelope, Tintagel. They look like normal names, but I persistently find them jarring.

A bigger issue is the use of over-powered characters, in this case the unstoppable Bouldershoulder brothers, who are a little too larger-than-life for my taste. I had the same issue with the *Icewind Dale* trilogy; the characters are just too able; it produces great thrills but lessens dramatic tension. Clearly, no force can stand against these daunting fighting machines. At least Cadderly is vulnerable, unlike the protagonist of most of Salvatore's *Forgotten Realms* novels, whose name rhymes with Grizzt.

Finally, a dumb comment. I appreciate that this is a five-part series, as opposed to a trilogy, in a long line of trilogies in the *Forgotten Realms* publishing universe. It keeps things a little fresher.

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### **Eric Overkamp says**

The second book, 'In Sylvan Shadows' in the *Cleric Quintet* by R.A. Salvatore follows young scholar priest Cadderly and his warrior Monk girlfriend, Danica, deep into the Sylvan Forest in order to help the Woodland Elves from extinction through an Orcish army.

Just like the first book, I found the writing to be very simple and the story not very complex or entertaining. The bad guys, although very powerful, seem to have the worst kind of luck, and just kind of come across as being quite helpless. Even though we dealt with the release of the Chaos Curse in the last book, there was hardly a mention regarding the curse or its ongoing effects here in this book. While the Dwarven brothers are somewhat funny and entertaining, I find all the characters lacking any real kind of depth, besides their constant whiney and pissy behavior.

I will read the next book in the series (as I've already purchased it) and will see if things get better by then. If not, I might just have to drop this series entirely.

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### **Michelle Raven says**

Stars: 4.5

I enjoyed this one a lot more than the first one. :)

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## **Greg Strandberg says**

This is a good book and a good series. I like the 5-book format, and I'm one of those readers that likes to see Salvatore boxed-in like that. I want a conclusion, dang it, and I don't want long, open-ended series where you can wander, like happened with some other stuff.

Anyways, this is a good series that I've read once and enjoyed and think is a good addition to the Forgotten Realms universe. And how 'bout those Snowflake Mountains! Nice place.

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## **Cody Arant says**

### **Could use another editing pass**

This book was filled with simple typos such as doubled words, poor grammar, etc. It was frequent and very distracting.

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## **James Riley says**

This is one of my favorite book series. If you liked the first one, you'll like this one.

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## **Scott says**

Book two of five in this series.

Cadderly our scholarly cleric is back along with Ivan and Pikel Bouldershoulder, Danica and all of the supremely skilled elves on a desperate, suicidal mission to thwart a seemingly insurmountable invasion until the very trees themselves join our heroes.

A good, fun story.

Salvatore is known for his fight scenes but there were just too many in this book - I would've liked a little more characters, a little more plot and a little less fighting.

Still, it was good, it was fun, it was Salvatore.

Looking forward to the next book of Cadderly's adventures.

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## **Joseph Jeffery says**

Just didn't feel the tension in this in the same way as the first book. Plus all the bickering and squabbling

between allies didn't work for me. Did love the interaction between Ivan and Elbereth though. Cadderly's doom and gloom was too much though. Compared to other PTSD examples it just came across as whiny rather than broken.

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### **Liane says**

I found this book was an improvement from Canticle.

Cadderly Bonaduce is still reeling from having his world shaken from the first novel. Set a couple of weeks after the having the Chaos Curse being unleashed on the Edificant Library, Cadderly is haunted by visions of him killing Barjin. But he doesn't have long to dwell on that, because shortly afterwards he's summoned by his higher ups to go help the elves out in the local forest, who are currently trying to fight back hordes upon hordes of orcs, goblins, giants, and orgres, sent by the evil overlords of Castle Trinity. Lead by Ragnor, and being assisted by Dorigen, one of the three wizard's of Castle Trinity, Cadderly has his hands full trying to help the elves reclaim their home, all the while trying to understand what it means to be a priest of the Deneiran order.

I thought this novel had a good start. Elbereth, the elf prince that comes to fetch Cadderly as the library's emissary, hates Cadderly from the start and vice versa. I enjoyed reading about Cadderly being petty and jealous around him, because it gave him an added depth that he lacked in the first novel - that being character flaws. Their bickering was pretty amusing to read.

Another reason the novel had a good start was because the dwarven brothers, Pikel and Ivan Bouldershoulder are off on their own adventure and not with Cadderly and company. I don't care for dwarves, or at least any that Salvatore writes. You can swap their names around and you'd never notice, because they're all the same ( exception being Pikel, I suppose ). Because of their absence, I was able to take the plot somewhat seriously.

Cadderly has to fight his morals, as he witnesses countless deaths of orcs and goblins, and is even forced to kill his fair share. This is a stark contrast to Danica and Elbereth, who are both seasoned fighters and have killed many times before. They basically just tell him to shut up and get over it. Poor Cadderly. He needs all the hugs.

As far as negatives go, the writing is still more of the same. If I have to read about Cadderly being called "the young scholar", or Rufo as "the angular man" one more time, I may have an aneurysm.

As I write this review, I'm already halfway through Night Masks, the third novel, so it's safe to say that the character Danica Maupoissant will never grow on me. She is a super powered tank, to the point of it taking away all the fun in the battles. She can crack open an orge's rib cage with her head. She can will out poison out of her veins. She can go into a meditative trance so that she can't feel pain so she can't be tortured. A single punch of her fist breaks goblin necks, etc. . .

I love my badass female heroines, but that's pretty ridiculous. Honestly, if she's that damn strong, why not just send her off to Castle Trinity and take out the head honchos for everyone else to save time?

Oh, did I mention there's a love triangle in this book? Elbereth basically immediately falls in love with Danica because of her "exotic, almond shaped eyes" and her amazeballs fighting prowess. There's implications she reciprocates his physical advances ( which she does right in front of Cadderly to boot ).

Okay, so if you include Rufo, and this random barbarian class character named Tiennek, that makes. . four guys that desperately want to bone her. Because Danica you see is not only strong, she's also described as being a smoking hot babe ( again and again and again, just in case you dare think of her as just a person ).

There's a couple of things that really bothered me.

(view spoiler)

Anyways, despite my nit pickings it was still an enjoyable read, and I liked it a heck of a lot more then Canticle. It's a good old fashioned sword and sorcery book, and it gives you plenty of entertainment. Onward to book three!

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### **Ethan says**

Salvatore sure loves his orc battles. In Sylvan Shadows is basically one big battle over an elven village. Many characters go through some interesting growth, but this book would be complete filler without it. It's OK, and I hope the next book does something a bit more interesting than elf vs orc battles.

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