



The Shepherd of Weeds

Susannah Appelbaum , Andrea Offermann (Illustrator)

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Back in the Kingdom of Caux after her journey to its sisterland, Ivy wakes up in a dismal orphanage alongside her friend Rue. Accompanied by a strange woman named Lumpen—who looks suspiciously like a scarecrow—the girls make their way back to Templar to plan a massive battle against the Tasters Guild, where Vidal Verjouce is making ink out of the deadly Scourge Bracken weed. Rocamadour grows darker and more dangerous with every drop.

With an army of scarecrows, a legion of birds, and her friends and uncle by her side, it's up to Ivy—the true "Shepherd of Weeds"—to wage war against the Guild, defeat her own father, and restore order to the plant world. Susannah Appelbaum's imagination soars in this stunning and utterly satisfying final volume of the Poisons of Caux trilogy.

From the Hardcover edition.

The Shepherd of Weeds Details

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ISBN : 9780375851759
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From Reader Review The Shepherd of Weeds for online ebook

Michelle says

This is the third and concluding volume in the series. Ivy and Rue find themselves trapped in an orphanage, knowing that Vidal is pulling his evil plan in place with the Scourge ink. They must escape and find a way to fight against him. Ivy begins to assemble an unlikely army; with the source of the water necessary for the ink, she gains allies in the birds and scarecrows, and must take on the title of Shepherd of the Weeds, in order to defeat him and save the kingdom.

Sugarrrr says

:(it was just meh for me.. The writing style was really confusing for me , I just could not get into liking the characters or caring about them and the story fell jus flat for me. I really wanted to like this trilogy . It just wasn't for me.

Mark says

i loved this series! i just finished the last book in the poisons of caux and i am so glad i was able to visit susannah's wonderful land of caux and become acquainted with her beloved characters. this is a land much like many i have visited, full of magic, mystery and adventure and peopled with individuals that i would gladly have as my guests and call my friends. i hope to return to this land someday in the future and introduce my own children to the wonder that is found there. very much worth the read!

Elizabeth says

I'm semi-glad that I finished The Poisons of Caux trilogy, if only because I'm a completionist at heart and I like seeing story lines wrap up—plus, if I've invested in the first two books, I may as well read the third, no matter how I felt about the first two (a la the trainwreck The Selection).

I did enjoy seeing all the characters unite together to defeat the Big Bad(s), and I liked the slight twist at the end in the hierarchy of villainy. Each hero got his or her own little moment to shine, even the ones whose loyalties were in question until that moment. Everything was wrapped up quite neatly—more neatly than I expected, considering the sloppy ending of The Hollow Bettle.

However, my main complaint of the story is still the jumping around, the darting from scene to scene and filling in the gaps later. I'm still unsure as to why the novel started the way it did, or how Ivy got in that situation. I'm still not sure how Lumpen ended up in the city, and then in the catacombs. Characters jump around from place to place with almost no explanation as to how they got there. Ivy leaves one city before her uncle and flies to another, only to ask if her uncle has arrived—as if she expected him to magically be able to travel faster than her. Also, characters end one scene doing one thing, and then, when we catch up to them again, they are doing something completely different. Is Dumbcane at the city wall with Clothilde, or is

he in the Tasters Guild making ink? Apparently he travels between both in mere minutes, being able to do Clothilde's bidding at one scene and then sneak up on Rowan in the next one.

The Shepherd of Weeds, and the trilogy in general, is a creative fantasy, which I like, and has some interesting characters, but the whole thing is such a mish-mash of time jumps, strange characterization, and at times sloppy plot, that though I was compelled enough to finish the trilogy, I also didn't much enjoy myself at the very end. The cover art is quite eye-catching, though, which is what drew me to the books in the first place, and I liked the use of different color ink in the books. Appelbaum is creative, but the story was a mess.

Shanshad Whelan says

While this a nicely written fantasy adventure trilogy with some excellent world-building, vivid descriptions, and idiosyncratic narrator voice, it somehow falls a bit flat with me.

Part of it may be the chosen child of prophecy bit. I've encountered a few too many of them recently and this one doesn't really stray from the mold. Part of it is that the narrator voice tends to distance us from actually getting attached to the characters in any real way. All of their struggles, worries and anxiety is put at one remove so that readers can't really care as much.

There are some beautiful scenes in here, but I constantly feel we're warned ahead of time in the text over what to feel or what will happen, with never a chance to experience it as it happens.

Too much of Ivy's journey and adventure is not actually her undertaking. Ivy actually does relatively little to forward her own story in any particular way, and instead seems inevitably pushed towards a specific end. I was more interested in what happened to Ivy's mother than about her.

Oh well, not a bad read all in all. And the printing job is lovely, the different color ink used on the text of each book really help to make the print job stand out from the norm, and the added pictures are a nice touch.

Henry says

This book rocks!
I love it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

B. says

Sudden prophecy fulfillment? A coronation of a princess of plants? Sorry man, what.

I couldn't exactly enjoy both previous books and not read this one, though.
