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# Bonded: Book One Of The ShadowLight Saga, An Epic Fantasy Adventure



## Synopsis

A Bestselling YA Epic Fantasy and the #1 Norse Myths Bestseller! Here's what readers are saying about this breakout novel: FANTASTY WRITING AT ITS BEST! "Bonded is an intriguing, addicting immersion into lives of young heroes and heroines making their way in a beautiful but dangerous world. With rich descriptions of fantastic places and people—their struggles and celebrations—this is fantasy writing at its best!" "I'm captivated! Bonded totally sucked me in; I could not put it down! It's a rollercoaster of emotion! I literally teared up, laughed out loud, and gasped in surprise!" **OVERVIEW:** Hallad Avarson's vow to protect a mysterious warrior maiden pits his best friend against him, endangers the life of his little sister, and leads him into a treacherous realm of magic and intrigue. This richly imagined epic transports readers into a tale of seductive power, heart-wrenching love, and edge-of-your seat thrills, while following inspiring young heroes and heroines as they discover their abilities and destinies interweave with the fate of a captivatingly original world. More praise for Bonded: "It feels like a big budget Peter Jackson movie in my head." "This book has it all: magic, romance, humor, suspense, and a pace that keeps you reading all night long!" "I absolutely loved my introduction into the world of the ShadowLight Saga! I felt like I'd lived through an epic adventure." "An incredibly talented wordsmith with a promising career ahead of her; this book is fantastic! I can't wait for the sequel. I have to see what will happen next!" "If you like Graceling, Xena Warrior Princess, Twilight Saga, or The Wheel of Time—you'll love Bonded: Book One of the ShadowLight Saga."

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is exciting for males and females. I would say older teens and up. The story twists are exciting. The author leaves you wondering at many places. What you think is happening or going to happen is not at all what you expect. Very exciting with turns you never imagine. Keep reading!!!!

A nice epic fantasy mythology read. I liked the setting the the mythology aspects, which were woven into the story quite well. The characterisation was generally quite good, although I felt the female warriors were too stereotyped and there wasn't a lot of distinction between them, other than the two main ones who got a lot of attention. The plot was good and kept me interested, and wrapped up with a nice climax and ending, though I wasn't really sure who was leaving to go where when they all set off at the end. And a little too predictably, all the young, single main characters ended up paired with someone who they'd stumbled across in their travels. But overall a good read and I'd be interested to pick up the next one.

Bonded is the beginning of a saga about brothers and sisters, lies and truth, good and evil. A simple outing between friends turns tragic when Hallad's younger sister is kidnapped, inexplicably, magically, and without a trace. The only clue is the young woman left behind in her place, who instantly receives the blame and is curiously mute, even to claim her own innocence. In the face of his village's instant, murderous fear of her, Hallad is ordered to flee his home, save this stranger, and never come back by the village leader: his own father. Thus begins a journey that Hallad does not understand, but with his kidnapped sister's lover and the silent young woman who seems responsible for the disappearance, staggering revelations begin to unwind. A world begins to open, not only the one Hallad has always known but new ones, places he never imagined. And the further he goes, the heavier the choices begin to weigh: his missing sister or his newfound duty? His gut

feeling or the advice of wiser minds? Prophecy, or reality? And through it all, without a word, this woman, this girl, who stepped into his life so recently, stands with him with more fierce loyalty than even his own blood-sworn. The mystery of who she is and what Hallad is meant to do is a truth that only breeds more questions, and interpretations. With a fresh Norse setting and characters that seem determined to surprise at every turn, Matthews has spun a great start to a new take on what it means to be chosen, and what it means to be Bonded.

The adventures of Astrid and Hallad truly are epic as promised. You quickly become pulled into the intriguingly riveting world of shadow walking. What will happen to the official Guardian of the Svenna, and will the bond that they share make or break them? In order to find these answers you must begin reading the series by starting with book zero, "The Light Keepers," then book one is this book, entitled "Bonded," book two is "Broken." Try not to accidentally read the books out of order the way that I did. The editing errors were not terrible but I did notice them, they didn't detract anything from the book at all. Enjoy the series and Happy Reading!-Becca

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Having been a Xena Warrior Princess fan, and feeling the abyss once Lucy Lawless left the airwaves - hitting upon author Mande Matthews' YA fantasy adventure, Bonded was a thrill. Thank Odin the ShadowLight Saga is a trilogy, giving me two more sumptuous installments to anticipate. In fact, I finished reading Bonded in two sittings; one of my favorite feelings when opening a new novel. Matthews gets "two thumbs way up" of honey mead! There is such an intriguing weaving of worlds in this page-turning, romantic Old Norse epic fantasy. From page one, the story bursts off the page with luscious, richly drawn characters, verse and imagery. Her two main heroes are ingenious, underscoring the theme of duality playing like a subtle song throughout the novel. The main warrior maiden draws you in like magic - mysterious, deep, breathtakingly unique (I don't want to give away the surprises that she dished out throughout!) Bonded is full of beautiful, bawdy, high voltage personalities that played upon my heartstrings. I was blown away by Matthews' imagination, and enchanted by her use of Nordic speak and animal/nature magnetism that pulled me deeper into the story. I found myself wishing the sensitive magic many of the characters possessed could be cultivated here on Earth. Bonded literally brims with heart. Matthews draws you in with her rich narrative brushstrokes of an imaginary world that feels real and sensuous as though I was traveling with the fellowship of colorful characters I came to adore, cheer and laugh with, as I rolled along Bonded's rollercoaster ride of a tale with its humorous, sexy undercurrent. Matthews deftly explores

perspectives, and I appreciated her subtle dealings with the antagonist's position, rather than casting the old dialectic of one-dimensional good vs. evil. The cultures are fantastically woven with complex personalities and customs that bump up against each other, illuminating opposing viewpoints that only a sensitive heart can bridge. My heart leaped when Matthews offered up an extraordinary realm that will surprise you with its metaphorical implications to our real world. Harkening back to ancient civilizations that were more in tune and connected with not only all that viscerally surrounds us, but also what magic lies dormant within. I found *Bonded* to be a delicious romp through an intriguing, textural, artfully drawn landscape, rich with endearing personalities of mythic proportions who made me laugh, cry, and think. One final note: I checked out [...] website, and she has gorgeous maps and extras that add another layer of fun for us *ShadowLight Saga* fans.

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Hallard is godhi, sworn to serve the God like his father before him. and he guards his beloved half sister, Emma with the same strength of duty. the appearance of a mysterious maiden with white hair sets Hallard, his family and friends on a mission to save not only those they love but kingdoms they have never seen. so very nice to read books based on mythology. there is already a base to start with but Mande has taken great pains to lead the reader in a whole different direction. many kudos

This book is definitely OK. I don't even know what I didn't like about it, yet I had to make myself finish it. And wouldn't spend \$5 on book 2.

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