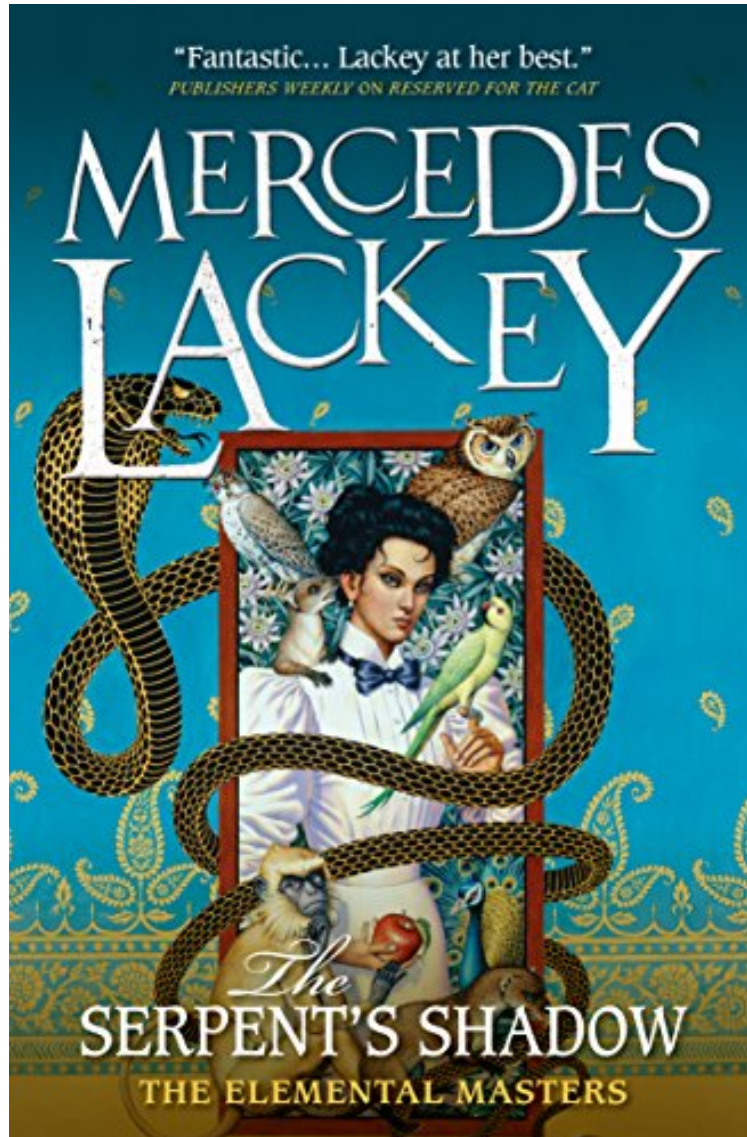


(Free read ebook) The Serpent's Shadow (Elemental Masters)

## The Serpent's Shadow (Elemental Masters)

Von Mercedes Lackey

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**Von Mercedes Lackey : The Serpent's Shadow (Elemental Masters)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Serpent's Shadow (Elemental Masters):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Readable, but not Ms. Lackey's bestVon Ein Kunde"The Serpent's Shadow" is the second installment of a new series by Ms. Lackey about the "Elemental Masters". It is set in the same universe as "The Fire Rose". Both novels are placed at the beginning of the 20th century. The difference to our world is just that there is magic afoot. Some few

people are able to manipulate and control one of the four elements: water, air, fire and earth. In this novel young earth mage Maya, a halfbreed young medical doctor from India, flees to London to avoid a confrontation with a dangerous enemy. The book takes us to a roundabout tour about "difficulties in women's life before emancipation" and "male prejudice against working women" while showing the everyday problems of a female doctor in 1909. Naturally Maya meets "Mr. Right" and learns magic from him. But her enemy is waiting, and she has to gather all her friends and the help of her very special animals to stand against her foe. All in all I was a bit disappointed by that novel. Maya is just a bit too much of a hero. She has the personality of a soft hamburger bun, where you can find no difference in taste between the bread and the paper wrapping. If compared to the "Herald Mage" trilogy, this book fades away to nothing. I am especially tired of that "preaching" Ms. Lackey uses lately. At the beginning of the 21st century I do know that emancipation of women was a great thing, that you should treat your children right and so on. I don't need to be told these things over and over again while reading a fantasy novel to entertain myself. All in all, after all that criticism, I don't say it's a bad book. It is written in Ms. Lackey's usual good style. If you have read Dorothy Sayers "Lord Peter" mysteries you will find someone very familiar in that book. Those scenes and the letters at the end of the novel are terrific and made me rate it 4 stars, else 3 stars would have been more appropriate.

**Kurzbeschreibung** From the magical mysteries of India to the gaslit streets of Victorian London, Mercedes Lackey's unique departure from her Valdemar series follows a young woman doctor as she searches for the secret behind the sorcery in her blood. Mercedes Lackey returns to form in *The Serpent's Shadow*, the fourth in her sequence of reimagined fairy tales. This story takes place in the London of 1909, and is based on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Lackey creates echoes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, pays affectionate homage to Dorothy Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey (who plays an important role under a thin disguise), and turns the dwarves into seven animal avatars who masquerade as pets of her Eurasian heroine, Maya. Some of Maya's challenges come from the fact that she is not "snow white," and she has fled India for her father's English homeland after the suspicious deaths of her parents. Establishing her household in London, she returns to her profession as a physician, working among the poor. Her "pets" and loyal servants stand guard, and Maya herself uses what bits of magic she managed to pick up in childhood to weave otherworldly defenses as well. But the implacable enemy who killed her parents has come to London to search for her; if Maya can be enslaved, her enormous potential powers can be used to the enemy's ends. Fortunately, English magicians of the White Lodge have also noted a new, powerful presence in their midst, though they're having trouble locating her, too. They send Peter Scott, a Water Master, to track her down. He finds Maya beautiful and benign, and is determined to teach her to use the Western magic she is heir to, before her enemy discovers her. Some will find the author's Kiplingesque descriptions of India and Hindustani culture offensive. Lackey describes Maya's enemy as a powerful devotee of the goddess Kali-Durga, though she carefully shows that the avatars of the other deities will not attack her, and has Kali-Durga repudiate her servant in the climactic confrontation. And, though the story is layered, its surface is as glossy and brightly colored as an action comic. But readers who enjoy late Victorian London, Sayers, Sherlock Holmes stories, and a page-turning tale will want to take this one home. --Nona Vero.com Mercedes Lackey returns to form in *The Serpent's Shadow*, the fourth in her sequence of reimagined fairy tales. This story takes place in the London of 1909, and is based on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Lackey creates echoes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, pays affectionate homage to Dorothy Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey (who plays an important role under a thin disguise), and turns the dwarves into seven animal avatars who masquerade as pets of her Eurasian heroine, Maya. Some of Maya's challenges come from the fact that she is not "snow white," and she has fled India for her father's English homeland after the suspicious deaths of her parents. Establishing her household in London, she returns to her profession as a physician, working among the poor. Her "pets" and loyal servants stand guard, and Maya herself uses what bits of magic she managed to pick up in childhood to weave otherworldly defenses as well. But the implacable enemy who killed her parents has come to London to search for her; if Maya can be enslaved, her enormous potential powers can be used to the enemy's ends. Fortunately, English magicians of the White Lodge have also noted a new, powerful presence in their midst, though they're having trouble locating her, too. They send Peter Scott, a Water Master, to track her down. He finds Maya beautiful and benign, and is determined to teach her to use the Western magic she is heir to, before her enemy discovers her. Some will find the author's Kiplingesque descriptions of India and Hindustani culture offensive. Lackey describes Maya's enemy as a powerful devotee of the goddess Kali-Durga, though she carefully shows that the avatars of the other deities will not attack her, and has Kali-Durga repudiate her servant in the climactic confrontation. And, though the story is layered, its surface is as glossy and brightly colored as an action comic. But readers who enjoy late Victorian London, Sayers, Sherlock Holmes stories, and a page-turning tale will want to take this one home. --Nona Vero